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There IS a threat to Australia

By Len Phenna, MBE, JP

The deteriorating international situation especially in Afghanistan, must finally have laid to rest the "no threat to Australia" syndrome.

Over the years, whenever the RSL has called for a rational and reasonable defence structure for Australia, we have been met with the catchcry "what are we defending against," "who is threatening us?" and of course, that time-worn phrase — "there is no foreseeable threat for 15 years."

Recent events dramatically underline the instability and unpredictability of the international situation, especially in Australia's area of strategic interest.

Some of the statements made by our Parliamentarians, and their attitude to defence, are reminiscent of the attitudes and policies adopted by Western Communities in the 1930's when they refused to accept the reality of Hitler's rise to power.

Public indifference on matters affecting the security of Australia and the failure of the Australian Government to take the initiative that is needed to produce an all-embracing plan for the Nation's defence, must concern each and every one of us as citizens of this country.

END TO COMPLACENCY

There must be an end to community complacency and Government inaction. What good, after all, is Social Security without National Security? We, as a nation, have possibly more to defend than any other race of people on earth. We can do it, providing we co-ordinate our resources and act as a responsible community.

There will have to be greater efficiency in industry and an increase in productivity. There must be co-operation in the community and an end to self-seeking and confrontation.

The League is firmly of the opinion that there must be an increase in Government defence expenditure to at least 3.5 percent of the G.D.P., plus a rapid development of an industrial infrastructure, the creation of an adequate manpower reserve and, above all, the replacement of sophisticated equipment.

We, as a responsible organisation, have for many years, drawn attention to national policies with which we take issue and, in particular, the continued maintenance of the Defence Force in its present reduced state on the spurious justification of an identifiable threat, when there can be no argument with the proposition that it is infinitely preferable to deter, than ultimately have to fight a war.

Further to this, we have vigorously opposed the giving of aid to countries whose ideologies oppose our own, thus assisting them in the pursuit of policies contrary to our national self-interest.

The R.S.L. is adamant that the Government and its defence mechanism must declare the military objectives, the time frame in which it intends to achieve them, and give a firm commitment to the continuing provision of increased defence funding. This must be done in such a manner as to inculcate a national will and gain or ensure the support of people in this country.

The community must be convinced that in the area of defence the truly proper and most vital first function of Government is the security of the nation and its people.
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SUB-BRANCHES

THE 64TH ANNUAL STATE CONGRESS

For the guidance of Sub-Branches the following information is given regarding the forthcoming ANNUAL STATE CONGRESS of this State Branch, starting on FRIDAY 16TH MAY, with the official opening. (Venue still to be decided).

Working sessions will be held on SATURDAY and SUNDAY 17th and 18th May, and the venue will be the Red Cross Hall, Repatriation General Hospital, Hollywood.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: 212 Bus; Stand 38, St. George's Terrace, Perth, just past Allendale Square and in front of Community Welfare Department. Bus stops at the front door of the Hospital. (If Country members advise where they are staying, Headquarters will endeavour to make arrangements to have them picked up by other Delegates.)

MEALS: Each Sub-Branch is responsible for delegates' expenses. Morning, Afternoon Tea and Lunch will be served at the Congress venue.

NOMINATIONS: Rule 25

All nominations for the position of President, Vice-President, and Committee men shall be made by a Sub-Branch at a properly constituted meeting, shall be in writing and closed with the State Secretary not less than six weeks before the opening of Congress, and all Sub-Branches shall receive notification of all nominations received not less than one (1) month before the opening of Congress, (i.e. FRIDAY, 4TH APRIL).

All nominees must be financial members of the State Branch and must signify their willingness to accept office.

All candidates for office in the League, whether paid or honorary, shall when nominated, declare themselves in full accord with the principles of the League.

Rule 26.

No full-time or part-time paid official of the State Branch shall be eligible for nomination for any position on the State Executive.

Nominations may include any financial member of the W.A. State Branch, and not merely members of their own Sub-Branch.

IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR SUB-BRANCH SECRETARIES TO ACT IMMEDIATELY.

AGENDA ITEMS: All Agenda Items for State Congress MUST be accompanied by preamble for each item, be in writing and closed with STATE SECRETARY on FRIDAY, 4TH APRIL, 1980.

IT IS MOST IMPORTANT that Sub-Branches carefully discuss any proposed Agenda items, to ensure that the subject matter comes within the scope of League activities.

Particular interest must be given to Constitutional items, and a clear and specific indication given as to the Rules which are desired to be altered.

The following are suggested as appropriate headings for Agenda items:

IMMIGRATION, DEFENCE REPATRIATION, LISTENING POST, DEFENCE SERVICE HOMES, STATE WAR MEMORIAL, ANZAC DAY, WAR VETERANS' HOME, REMEMBRANCE DAY, MEMBERSHIP, ANZAC HOUSE, ANZAC CLUB, CONSTITUTIONAL (STATE & NATIONAL), ADMINISTRATION.

DELEGATE ENTITLEMENT: ONE delegate per 75 financial members, or part thereof, and based on membership figures as at 31st December 1979, with a limit of six delegates per Sub-Branch.

An accredited delegate may be appointed from another Sub-Branch. Proxy delegates may be appointed but may only act in the absence of the Delegate from any sitting of Congress.

ANNUAL TROPHY COMPETITIONS: Entries for consideration in the various Trophy Competitions should be submitted to the State Secretary not later than FRIDAY, 4TH APRIL. Trophies will not be awarded unless sufficient entries are received to ensure a competitive interest.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT COPY OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 1979 ARE RECEIVED AT THIS STATE HEADQUARTERS BY 4TH APRIL.

Desert Mounted Corps Memorial, Mt. Clarence, Albany, W.A.

Cover Photograph by courtesy: Albany Advertiser

Overlooking one of the world's most beautiful natural harbours the Memorial is steeped in history and stands as an enduring tribute to courage and the indomitable human spirit.

Troops helped pay for Original Memorial

The bronze statuary was modelled on living troopers and their horses. Made half as big again as normal size, the statuary comprises an Australian trooper going to the aid of a New Zealander whose horse had been wounded.

The name of the N.Z. horse was "Bes" and the trooper Clutha (later Sir Clutha Mackenzie). The Australian horse on the memorial was one of the late General Bridges' chargers, but its name and that of the Australian trooper do not appear to have been recorded.

The Memorial was unveiled in Port Said in 1932

Then, during the Suez crisis in 1956, rioting mobs on the night of December 26, tore the memorial from its base seriously damaging the bronze figures.

Following the decision to restore the memorial a controversy arose as to its siting. The decision was taken to erect the memorial at Albany, because it was in King George Sound that ships of the first Australian and N.Z. convoy assembled before sailing for Egypt on November 1, 1914, and this was the last sight of Australia for some thousands of Australians.

Restored Albany, W.A. 1964

A contract for the re-erection of the granite was let in August 1960 and a Melbourne sculptor was commissioned to make a new cast of the bronze figures.

The plaster cast was forwarded to bronze founders in Milan, for casting in bronze and arrived at Fremantle in July, 1964.

When restoration was finally complete at the Mt. Clarence site, the Memorial was unveiled on October 11, 1964 by the late Sir Robert Menzies.

At the present time further repairs are being carried out by the Commonwealth Department of Works at the direction of the Prime Minister and should be completed in time for Anzac Day.
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FUND RAISING
RAFFLE

TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE STATE BRANCH

All members will appreciate that costs are soaring beyond our control and the R.S.L., being a Welfare Organisation, does not escape this problem.

In an endeavour to avoid a possible increase in subscriptions the State Executive has authorised a Raffle to be conducted to raise funds for Administration of the League.

Very soon members will receive a book of 5 tickets to sell among their friends and will be requested to dispose of these or return the book of tickets, with cash for sales and unsold tickets, within 21 days of receiving them.

This will allow the Special Committee to re-arrange the books and forward them to other members.

At the outset 4000 books will be posted and those returned will be forwarded to the balance of the members.

The Prizes are well worth winning — cost of tickets $1.00.

FIRST PRIZE A Ford Escort Two Door Sedan
SECOND PRICE A Return Trip to Melbourne for Two, by TAA.

DRAWN: State Congress, Sunday, 18th May, 1980.

RESULTS PUBLISHED: The West Australian, Wednesday, 21st May.

Your continued support is appreciated — you will be assisting the State Branch and yourselves in keeping the subscriptions down.

Help us to make the League stronger

ENROL A MATE!!

Sandwich Luncheons

The League has arranged a series of Six "SANDWICH LUNCHEONS" with GUEST SPEAKERS for Members and their friends at Anzac Club 4 Sherwood Court, Perth.

12 noon: Fellowship at the Club
12.45 pm: LUNCH — Sandwiches & Tea. Cost $1.50
1.20 to 1.50 pm: Guest Speaker.

PROGRAMME:


TUESDAY — 3rd June, 1980: Senator The Hon. F.M. Chaney, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

TUESDAY — 1st July, 1980: Mr P.C. Firkins, Director of Perth Chamber of Commerce, Author and Military Historian "Highlights" of Australian Military History".


TUESDAY — 2nd September, 1980: — Brigadier K.J. Taylor, Army Commander in Western Australia. Mrs J. Dowson, RSL Sandwich Luncheon.

3 Bay View Terrace, Mosman Park WA 6012.

NAME: _______________________________________

ADDRESS: _____________________________________

I wish to attend the Luncheons on:
Tuesday, 1st April, 1980 . . Tuesday, 1st July, 1980 ....... 
Tuesday, 3rd June, 1980 . . Tuesday 2nd September 1980

REPATRIATION REVIEW TRIBUNALS

R.S.L. Advocacy Service

Provision is made on the form to be completed when applying for a Tribunal, for an advocate to be nominated.

If any member wishes to have the services of the R.S.L. advocate, please indicate this on the application form.

AT THE SAME TIME, please write to Jim Giblett, the League's advocate, and request this type of assistance.

There have been several instances recently where appellants sought advocacy assistance only two or three days before a Tribunal hearing. This does not give time to prepare a case, let alone seek an alternative medical opinion.

It has been necessary on a few occasions to decline to provide advocacy services for members who do not contact the office until the last minute.
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PINGLELY ........... Roy Gammond, Tel. 12
BROOKTON ........... H. Rushton, Tel. 421007
KULIN ............. W. & B. Butler, Tel. 801210
WAGIN .......... D. Cresswell, Tel. 611207
DUMBLEYUNG ........ L. Kellow, Tel. 634172
"Agent Orange" is a complex matter

By H.M. Noonan, MBE, Chairman, Repatriation Committee

The news media lately have been carrying a number of stories and articles on the defoliant known as "Agent Orange". This is a very complex matter and, unfortunately, could become an 'emotive' issue. We must see that it doesn't.

It is a matter which is not going to be easily solved, and certainly not by laymen. It is going to take the combined knowledge of competent medics and lawyers to sort out the unholy mess. Fortunately, we have been able to secure the services of highly reputable practitioners from both professions and we are also fortunate in having some politicians prepared to take up the cause.

At a meeting on January 17 with State President Len Phenna in attendance the following points, relevant to the publicity given to Agent Orange and the League's role in assisting veterans with compensation claims, were discussed and recommended to the State Executive:

1. that the committee considers this is to be a moral issue beyond all political boundaries.
2. in order to assist veterans who may have disabilities either directly or indirectly associated with defoliants, an advertisement be lodged in the Press, inviting them to register with the League for help.
3. that the State Branch expresses concern at the continual manufacture of toxic defoliants in WA and call for production to cease.
4. advise the National President that we are concerned at the appointment of the Head of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in NSW to lead a study of this problem because he could be prejudiced, due to prior involvement.
5. that this Branch recommends to State Congress that the Repatriation Act be amended to include compensation responsibility for the spouse and offspring of veterans who are proven to have been either directly or indirectly affected by defoliants.
6. that the State President issues a statement to the media along the lines indicated above.
7. that the National President be requested to indicate what steps the National Executive would like this Branch to take, with regard to the compilation of a dossier containing statistical information about veterans exposed to defoliants.

Consideration was given to a letter from Fremantle MP John Dawkins, in which he indicated that two lawyers had approached him suggesting that Australian Vietnam veterans could possibly get compensation through action in US courts. It was decided that Messrs Noonan and Giblett arrange to discuss this with Mr Dawkins and seek amplification.

OTHER BUSINESS:

TRIBUNALS: A letter from the Minister advised that he was aware of delays regarding the hearing of cases in WA and that the Tribunal President would be programming more visits to Perth.

It was noted that 11 appointments had been made to Tribunals since the League's letter was sent in October, 1979. Mr Giblett advised that since the Branch wrote to the Minister, nine tribunal sittings of two weeks each had been scheduled between January and June this year.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE — REPATRIATION MATTERS: As nothing has been heard from the National Executive Repatriation Committee, news on the priority listing will have to wait until next issue.

New Quest — and a new name

We are pleased to announce the successful launching of the inaugural "Girl Of The Golden West Quest".

The Quest was launched by The Premier, Sir Charles Court, at a function held at the War Veterans Home in Mt Lawley on Friday February 1, 1980. The Premier was accompanied by Lady Court, and the Quest Joint Committee were thrilled to be honoured by their presence when their time is very much at a premium.

The War Veterans' Home provided an apt setting for the launching and Lt. Col George Woodhouse is to be commended for the arrangements made for the evening.

The Premier was introduced by the State President for Torchbearers for Legacy in WA — the Hon V.J. Ferry, who made reference to the ongoing need for such a fundraising venture and pointed to the success of the Crowning Glory Quests run in previous years.

RSL State President Len Phenna proposed the vote of thanks to the Premier and supported the new Quest concept.

CROWNING GLORY

Members of the League will be well aware of the Crowning Glory Quest, which had been conducted annually for the past 21 years. During that time 578 candidates, many of whom had been sponsored by RSL Sub-Branches, had raised $287,557 which was shared equally by the War Veterans' Homes and Torchbearers for Legacy.

In reviewing the immediate past history of this Quest, the Joint Committee felt the time was right for a change in concept and so have launched the Girl Of The Golden West Quest. They are confident that this new Quest will have greater appeal for many West Australians but are mindful that its success will be absolutely dependant on the number of candidates enrolled - and the support they receive from sponsoring committees.

Will your Sub-Branches consider sponsoring a girl?

PROCEEDS

Proceeds from the New Quest will continue to be equally shared by the War Veterans' Home and Legacy. Readers will be aware of the role played by the War Veterans' Homes.

Suffice to say that Legacy's heed increases at the rate of one new family per day being enrolled.

The new Quest offers four awards in the following categories:

- Girl Of The Golden West; runner-up
- Charity Queen (Quests top fundraiser); and
- Charity Princess (second top fundraiser).

Judging for the outright winner and the runner-up will be
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Recommended for your full support.

Best wishes to all RSL Members throughout the state from
on personality, grooming, deportment and general knowledge.

The Girl of the Golden West and the Charity Queen will be offered Club Med Malaysia holidays for two. The Quest Runner up will receive a MMA 30-day Skypass for two whilst the Charity Princess will enjoy a first-class return flight for two to Melbourne with Ansett Airlines, staying at the Southern Cross Continental Hotel and sightseeing with Ansett Pioneer.

These of course are the main prizes only and are complemented by a host of awards donated by:

- Key Personnel; the Commonwealth Banking Corporation;
- Boans Ltd;
- Silhouette Figure Form International;
- J.R. Wallace & Co. Jewellers;
- Gliddon & Co;
- Mary Quant Cosmetics;
- Edward Gittos Family Haircare Centre;
- Josephine Margaret Hair Research Centre; and Carmen.

Prizes in the Quest total $10,824. Incentive prizes are offered and will be presented when girls raise the amounts of $500, $1,500, $3,000, $4,000.

The major awards will be presented at the Presentation Ball to be held at the Embassy Ballroom on Friday, November 14th, 1980.

CANDIDATES
Enrolments are open NOW.

Candidates must be 18 years and over and can be either married or single. All enquiries please to: Mrs. R.M. Porteous, Quest Promotion Officer, GPO Box N1087, Perth 6001.

Telephone: 321 9322.

The Quest is conducted by a Joint Committee representative of the RSL and Torchbearers For Legacy. Committee chairman Colin Porteous and all committee members invite your wholehearted support to ensure the success of this Quest in its inaugural year.

GIRL OF THE GOLDEN WEST QUEST 1980
The Secretary,
Girl of the Golden West Quest,
GPO Box N1087,
PERTH 6001
Phone: 321 9322 or 321 9323

Please send me the quest brochure, conditions and entry form.

NAME

ADDRESS

AGE

Minimum age, 18 years, either married or single.

DO YOU JUST BELONG?

Are you an active member — the kind that would be missed?
Or are you just content to have your name upon the list?
Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock?
Or do you stay at home to criticise and knock?

Do you take an active part to help the work along?
Or are you satisfied to be the kind that just belong?
Do you voluntarily help at the guiding stick?
Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?

Come to the meetings often and help with hand and heart —
Don't be just a member, but take an active part. Think this over, member, you know right from wrong —
Are you an active member — or do you "JUST BELONG"?

The Premier, Sir Charles Court, who officially launched "The Girl of the Golden West" at the War Veterans' Home on Friday 1st February, is pictured here with Susan Newton, of Bunbury, the first entrant in the 1980 Quest.
Greetings from Emma, & Staff of the...

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It was a sin of omission only

BY R.L. DAVIES

I am much indebted to a vigilant reader, Miss Victoria HOBBS of Como, WA, ex-RAANS, a highly-respected member of the Returned Sisters Sub-branch, and herself an acknowledged authority on Women’s National Service, for having enticed me, unwittingly perhaps, into a most enriching and edifying perusal of the annals of Army Nursing Services.

That experience turned out to be a truly entrancing and rewarding undertaking for which I am most grateful.

The very process of locating, and the subsequent combing through, the published records of military nursing services from its very beginnings with Miss Florence Nightingale in the Crimean War to its present illustrious and international high standing was, to say the least, pleasantly refreshing, and a much more informative and axiomatic presentation of the fine qualities of womanhood than does the polemical and sometimes misanthropical writings of either Germaine Greer or Esther Vilar, both of whom can and do, at times, trespass into unseemly and immodest literary diarrhoea.

Miss Hobbs justifiably points out an omission of the Award of the Royal Red Cross (RRC) from the list of Awards to Australians for Conspicuous Service as published in the last Summer 1979 issue of the "Listening Post", and goes on to suggest that the part played by women in the Armed Services has, by that omission, been largely ignored.

VIGOROUS DENIAL

As the compiler of the list and the person wholly responsible for the omission of the RRC Awards, I tender my sincere apologies to Miss Hobbs and indeed to each and every ex-member of the Women’s Services, but I deny vigorously any suggestion that the omission signifies any minimisation whatsoever of the excellent services rendered by women in all branches of the Armed Services.

The number of awards of the Royal Red Cross to Australian Service women is given hereunder as requested:

- South African War 1899-1902 (two awards);
- First World War 1914-1918 (147);
- Second World War 1939-1945 (57);

According to the Australian Government Gazette S104 dated June 15, 1977, the order of precedence places the RRC Class 1 next in line of priority after the MBE, and immediately preceding the DFC; but it should be borne in mind also that the Order of the Red Cross is conferred ONLY ON LADIES, and is further restricted to the nursing profession but not solely to military or other armed forces nursing.

-Quoting from the Royal Warrant of Queen Victoria dated 27th April, 1883; the RRC can be awarded also “for voluntary hospital services, or assisting in the operation of hospitals for sick and wounded personnel of the armed services or having otherwise performed valuable service with the Red Cross or other kindred societies”.

There are, therefore, a considerable number of civil awards of the RRC not included in the foregoing list, since those which come within the civil category are not recorded in any armed services records. There are, however, numerous other decorations which have been awarded to members of the Australian Army Nursing and other Women’s Services, even a George Medal awarded to Miss Ellen Savage, the sole surviving nursing sister of the ill-fated hospital ship Centaur.
Greetings to all RSL Members from

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$40 Per week
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Phone: 362 1545
Of the 2139 Australian Army Nurses who served overseas during the Great War, 388 were decorated for conspicuous and meritorious service.

MASSIVE EXPANSION
The 1939-45 War witnessed a further massive expansion in the combined Royal Navy, Army and Air Force Nursing Services to approximately 5,000 personnel, 3744 of whom served with the Australian Army Nursing Service in every theatre where Australian troops were engaged, consequently numerous conspicuous service decorations were won by AANS members.

Forty-five members of the AANS died on service as a result of enemy action during the World War, and of 38 taken prisoner by the Japanese forces, eight died whilst prisoners of war.

In addition to the number of conspicuous service awards to members of the AANS for conspicuous service during World War, a further 82 were mentioned in despatches (MID).

It is a fact also that of the number of Awards listed and published in the last issue of the "Listening Post", quite a number of the recipients thereof were members of the AANS as they then were, or of other women’s service units.

It is regrettable, most regrettable in fact, than an omission from a list of awards compiled by me but, in fact, written during some research into another subject altogether and subsequently offered to the RSL for the desired purpose of relieving the workload of frequently overworked League officials, with a potential spin-off to the RSL membership generally, especially to country members, should create a sense of grievance in anyone at all, even for a moment.

Having held numerous honorary offices during 38 years continuous membership of the RSL and being cognisant of the work and time involved in ascertaining specific particulars in relation to the more generally-known awards, I thought that passing on laboriously-gleaned facts was a sound idea.

The list so compiled did, in fact, exclude other orders as well as the RRC, and, as said, I compiled the better known ones, since those are the ones most often asked about. However: the best-laid plans of mice and men etc.

INTERESTING, INSPIRING
As readers will no doubt have already observed, my quest for data pertinent to military nursing beguiled me into scrutinising this interesting and most inspiring subject rather more than at first intended.

This, however, proved to be a bonus, a most entertaining exercise in mental callisthenics and one which I thoroughly recommend as unequivocal, beneficial and entertaining reading matter for filling some, at least, of one’s leisure hours.

Today’s Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps emanated from a comparatively small group of trained nurses in Sydney, NSW, in 1898, then only 25 in-number.

A lady superintendent and 24 nursing sisters, the then AANS, served with Australian troops in the South African War of 1899-1902, in which they gained for themselves widespread international recognition and great distinction and, as shown in the list in this issue, won two RRC Awards.

I hope to have an opportunity one day of writing more on the subject of the Armed Services Nursing Units, there is so much to portray and an abundance of data from which anyone, so inclined, can indulge in an ecstasy of rewarding penmanship.

Vox audita perit, littera scripta manet — which means, roughly, that the spoken word perishes, while the written word lives on.

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If you are unsure of your eligibility for a loan contact Welfare Officer W. Melvin, or the Defence Service Homes Corporation, direct on 321 0131 mentioning the "Listening Post".

Scarborough Sub-Branch Notes

The Scarborough Sub-branch held a pleasant and successful anniversary dinner at the Doubleview Bowling Club. State President Len Phenna was in attendance, and was pleased to present to Alf Brown a Life Membership certificate and badge during the evening.

The music and dancing was particularly enjoyable, together with the singing.

The annual election of officers was held in December, and the following were elected:

President: Alf Brown; senior vice-president: Joss Bartlett; junior vice-president: Jim Hugill; hon secretary: Howard Grafton; hon treasurer: Syd Lewis; assistant secretary: Syd Lewis; auditor: Roy Croxton; membership officer: Roy Kollin; committee: Norm Elms, Ben Jones, H. Walters, Doug Angus, Dick Peterson, C. Collins; trustees: Stan Trestrail, Alf Brown.

The Scarborough Women’s Auxiliary held a pleasant evening at Mr and Mrs B. Easter’s home to close the year’s activities, and prepare for the next! — Jim Hugill

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Tribute to a Great Australian

By Ross McMullin

November 18, 1979 was the centenary of the birth of a truly great Australian, who is, however, little known among his fellow countrymen and women. How many Australians are familiar with the name C.E.W. Bean? Not many — yet he is a man who should be remembered.

C.E.W. (Charles Edwin Woodrow) Bean was Australia's Official Correspondent during the Great War and returned — despite the risks he repeatedly took to obtain first-hand reports of the Anzacs in action — to edit the colossal 12-volume Australian Official History of the War.

Bean himself wrote the six large volumes on the AIF at Gallipoli and the Western Front, selected most of the photographs in the photographic volume, and edited the remaining five volumes.

This magnificent history received international acclaim for its painstaking detail and novel approach. Never before had military history been written as Bean wrote it, from the viewpoint of the front-line soldier.

Headquarters staffwork only intruded into the narrative where this was necessary. When a private performed notably, and many did, this was recorded. Every individual mentioned in the Official History was the subject of a footnote giving his unit, where he enlisted and where and when he was born.

Never before had military history been so readable. Complex manoeuvres were presented so that they could be quickly grasped by readers without prior military knowledge, and Bean's History has been the model for all war histories ever since, wherever written, and it has been highly sought after in military academies and colleges throughout the world.

SPECIAL DISPLAY

This should have been enough to guarantee him a foremost place among this century's most distinguished Australians, but his outstanding achievements do not end with the Official History. The Australian War Memorial in Canberra is commemorating the centenary of his birth with a special display which is most appropriate.

Long before the horrible carnage of the Great War ended, Bean had conceived the idea of a national war memorial.

He was the inspiration behind its creation and remained closely associated with it for more than forty years, and he founded the Parks and Playgrounds Movement of NSW in 1929, and was honorary secretary for many years.

In 1942 he convinced Prime Minister John Curtin of the need for the preservation of Australia's archival records; this resulted in the formation of the Commonwealth Archives Committee, which marked the first involvement of the national government in Australia's archives.

With all this he combined a genuine humility, a kind, generous, compassionate nature and an ability to inspire others with his gentle tolerance and visionary ideals. He was revered by many. "It was impossible for anybody to talk to Charlie Bean without feeling a better human being for it," claimed one who knew him.

Nonetheless, he did not deviate when his principles and judgement dictated the pursuit of an unpopular path. He was dedicated throughout his life to truth and to its justice and virtue in the long run, irrespective of the short-term implications.

Naturally this led him into conflict with the War Office and the censorship authorities during the war, and redoubled his determination to write the truth in the History afterwards.

WINE, WOMEN, SONG

It also led him into initial difficulty with some Australian soldiers. The men who were to storm Gallipoli were superb soldiers, strong, tough and aggressive, but on arrival in Cairo some of them played as hard as they later fought. When Bean drew attention in a despatch to their exploits with wine, women and song, consternation ensued at home.

After this filtered back to the AIF, some soldiers ashamedly admitted that Bean (characteristically) had told the truth, but others were angry. Some "hard heads" plotted to surprise him and inflict brutal retribution, and there were even dark hints that he might meet an untimely end at the Gallipoli landing.

But this Sydney lawyer-turned-journalist was largely unknown to the AIF at that stage. By the end of the war it was a different story.

Tall, thin and bespectacled, his wiry figure became well-known as he roamed far and wide in visiting different units, compiled copious notes, scoured sleep during battles, interviewed participants while their reminiscences remained fresh, and did his utmost to further the interests of the AIF in many different ways.

After his inauspicious beginning, he won universal respect and admiration for his unceasing devotion to his task, and particularly for his courage under fire — which was the acid test in the AIF.

Not for Bean the detached reporting from a distance, in safety behind the lines. When the Second Brigade received a sudden, ill-judged order to advance at Krithia in May, 1915, Bean found himself with notebooks, telescope and camera case part of the actual attack and at times in the leading group.

As the Brigade went forward against murderous fire to the rallying cry of "Come on Australians" Bean was aghast to find that he had left the camera out of the case and so had missed the opportunity to obtain the most striking war photographs ever taken.

For hours he played an active role — out in the open under continual fire — delivering messages and tending the many wounded, and he was extraordinarily lucky not to become a casualty himself.

This in fact later happened when he was wounded during the Anzacs' August offensive, but he refused to be evacuated from Gallipoli and the bullet just below his right thigh was never removed.

With the Anzacs so confined on Gallipoli there were no really safe spots, but it was very different on the Western Front. Nonetheless, Bean challenged death repeatedly in forward areas; during major battles he often made for a suitable shellhole and followed developments through a telescope.

DEDICATION, BRAVERY

The leaders of the AIF particularly held him in high esteem. They were impressed by his ready grasp of military tactics and strategy as well as his sincerity, dedication and bravery.

One Australian general who had regretted Bean's despatch about the Cairo (mis)conduct — though not disputing its truth— wrote in contemporary vernacular to his brother on Christmas Day, 1916, that "if ever there was a plucky white and straight man it's Bean and if he lives to write a book it will be fair dinkum."
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Brudenell White (whom Bean and many others regarded as the AIF's finest leader) said on his return to Australia in 1919 that Bean had "faced death more times than any other man in the AIF."

When he envisaged well before the end of the war a great national memorial enshrining Australia's deeds during the conflict, Bean naturally considered what should go in this memorial.

Both for this historical memorial, and for the official history which he was to write, it was essential that the process of collecting records should commence as soon as possible. The Australian War Records Section came into being in 1919 after much patient advocacy by Bean.

He was frequently frustrated by incompetence at the War Office and at British GHQ. Between them, these venerable bodies drove him many times to despair. It took them over six months to decide the momentous issue of whether or not Bean could have a car to get about in, and as a result his coverage of the AIF's activities during a critical period was severely hampered.

Bean was responsible for other worthwhile innovations, all achieved in spite of the British military hierarchy. He led the successful fight against the War Office for Australia's right to its own AIF war diaries. Then there was the contentious issue of photographs.

Initially on the Western Front Australia had to make do with what the British official photographers obtained on its behalf, neither Bean nor any other Australian was allowed to take any.

Enchanted with the British photographers' unwillingness to photograph anything other than what Bean regarded as "newsy" superficial distortions for the deluded British home front, he pressed for Australia to have its own official photographers.

**REAL TRIUMPH**

This was a real triumph. When Frank Hurley and Hugert Wilkins arrived in time for the Third Battle of Ypres they not only impressed the diggers with their zeal and fearlessness — Wilkins in particular performed amazing feats of camera-work in exposed positions and under shellfire — but provided an incomparable historical record for the Memorial and the Official History.

Bean's vision of what should go in the war memorial was not confined to military records and photographs. He convinced the AIF leaders of the need to obtain war relics, and so keenly was this taken up that friendly rivalry ensued between various units over which had more or better relics. In this way guns, tanks, planes and other items were acquired and returned to Australia.

War art was also part of his plan for the memorial. Where possible he ensured that artists who had enlisted in the AIF could be released to put what they had experienced on canvas for the nation. Other famous Australian artists resident in London, including Arthur Streeton, George Lambert and John Longstaff, were secured to provide a worthy pictorial collection of Australia's war effort.

In addition to diligently observing the AIF in and out of action; writing his despatches; making notes for the Official History in his diaries (he filled 226 of them during the war); haggling with the War Office; shepherding various artists, politicians, photographers, journalists and sundry visitors to specific spots at the front; taking photographs himself, when permitted; collecting trophies and relics for the war memorial; keeping a fatherly eye on the administration of the War Records Section; contributing to and assisting generally with many official and unofficial AIF publications throughout the war, such as "What To Know In Egypt", "The Anzac Book" and "The Xmas Book": answering queries from strangers in Australia anxious about relatives; and many other activities — somehow Bean also found time to influence the big decisions and appointments relating to the AIF.

Prime ministers and generals valued his advice and they could count on its sincerity, though the advice was not always what they wanted to hear.

**APPALLING CONDITIONS**

Charles Bean was an idealist. Throughout his life he retained and upheld his ideals, and one of the strongest was that the spirit and traditions of the AIF transplanted to postwar Australia could achieve wonders. The loyalty, bravery and character with which Australians repeatedly performed deeds of matchless heroism, without fuss and in appalling conditions, made a very deep impression on him.

When Bean finally took a couple of weeks off at the war's end, instead of enjoying a well-earned rest he used the time to write a book, "In Your Hands, Australians."

The message was that the ideals which inspired the A.I.F. in war should also inspire the nation in peace. Unfortunately it didn't happen. Those who welcomed the soldiers home could not appreciate the nature of their terrible experience.

Many Australians, returned soldiers and harrowed relatives alike, did not want to dwell on those horrible years of war. The ideals were forgotten or misunderstood, and what was left of them took a severe battering in the Depression.

All this developed gradually, long after Bean had returned to Australia (via Gallipoli, where he spent a few months with photographer Wilkins, artist Lambert and a Turkish officer). On arrival he visited his family in Tasmania and obtained government approval for the establishment of the War Memorial organization.

Then he gathered a small staff to assist with the Official History, insisted on guarantees that it would be free from censorship and headed off to an isolated homestead at Tuggeranong in the Federal Capital Territory to write it.

But the volumes took much more time to produce than anticipated; Bean's dedication to truth, painstaking approach and novel emphasis on the front line soldier were the reason for this, but still the volumes of the Australian Official History were completed sooner than those of other Official Histories. When they did appear they were lavishly praised throughout the world.

**SOJOURN IN HOSPITAL**

It is amazing that they appeared at all. Bean's health was never robust after the strain, exposure and lack of sleep during the war and it often gave way in the years afterwards. One sojourn in hospital led to friendship and marriage with the nurse who looked after him.

In 1924 the History was put aside while he travelled to England for a serious operation, and a kidney was removed. Typically, while supposedly recuperating, he took the opportunity to peruse military records which were unavailable in Australia.

On resumption of work in Australia, his fragile health dictated a move away from the rigorous Tuggeranong climate and the remainder of the History was completed at Paddington Barracks in Sydney.

Apart from periodic ill-health, Bean had many other demands on his time which distracted him from the History. "I have organized a Movement here to secure the reservation, while there is time, of adequate play space and also to see that it is used for the benefit of the people," he wrote to an old friend in 1935.

This Parks and Playgrounds Movement "seems to offer the only way of keeping up the digger spirit (or the Australian
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spirit) in the big cities like Sydney... But it makes huge demands on spare time."

Throughout the between-the-wars period, Bean was the recognized authority on the AIF, and was frequently approached to answer queries, sometimes obscure, which had arisen.

Books and articles by or about returned soldiers were handed to him for critical advice, and he somehow found time to overhaul them while insisting that his contribution should remain anonymous.

It was not in his nature to refuse any request for assistance but where a returned soldier was concerned he was always selfless. Inevitably there were articles, speeches, lectures and attendances from time to time where he was called upon.

**NATIONAL MEMORIAL**

And then there was the War Memorial. Conceived amidst the mud and slaughter on the Western Front as a great national memorial that would be worthy of the AIF and would attract visitors from all over the world, it was his vision, his project, and recognized as such.

Until ill-health forced his retirement as Chairman of the Board of Management in 1959 he was closely associated with the Memorial. He was regularly consulted on all major policy matters, and throughout the inter-war period he was also frequently approached for assistance.

The approach usually acknowledged how busy he must be with the History and apologised for interrupting him, but pleaded that some decision to be made or problem to be solved required his expertise.

Many artists were commissioned by the Memorial after the war for paintings on particular wartime incidents. Bean was customarily asked to suggest which artist would be most suitable. Furthermore, authenticity was critical, and Bean was invariably asked to initially provide information for the artist and to eventually evaluate the finished painting.

One artist approached the Memorial in mid-1923 with an idea for a painting, which was promptly referred to Bean for his views.

In a revealing reply, he wrote, "...I get sick of war as war; feel nothing but horror regarding 'general' pictures of it..."

"But I feel nothing but pride and intense interest in reading the actual things which our boys did in the war, or seeing pictures of them, and feel also that great constructive qualities can be imbued into the younger generation which studies them; that the actual result of Percy Black's death will be twenty sheep stations carved out of apparently hopeless desert; or the result of Murray's steadfastness and honesty and steadfastness in some youngster which will perhaps guide him through all sorts of difficulties when he is Mayor of Sydney, or town clerk or dustman even."

This letter provides remarkable insight into Bean's philosophy after the war: still idealistic; staunchly eulogistic of Australian deeds in the conflict but combining this with a fundamental horror of war; and possessed of an earnest desire to "inspirit future generations to imitate and admire" the "quality" of the AIF.

The views urged in the letter are reflected in the War Memorial today where three large commissioned paintings are positioned close together portraying the heroic deaths of Major Black, Lieutenant Greig and Lieutenant Turnour.

**GO-BETWEEN**

Bean served the Memorial well by his untiring efforts to bridge the chasm between temperamentally artistic genius and the unsympathetic public service world of annual estimates.

This was highlighted in the case of George Lambert. A volatile, brilliant artist, he revered the lighthousemen whose burden in Palestine he had eased by his irrepresible buoyancy and fund of yarns when sent as official artist to cover the desert campaign, but he was prone to ill-health and periodic depression in the postwar years.

Bean was always tolerant and helpful; he went out of his way to protect Lambert from bureaucrats who saw funds committed and no paintings forthcoming by the stipulated deadlines.

Few artists, least of all Lambert, could harness their art to the demands of the financial year. Bean went to great lengths as an intermediary.

Lambert was particularly unreliable in answering letters. When communicating with him, Bean often used reply paid telegrams; another method he used was to write with a suggestion to which Lambert had only to write "Yes" or "No" in the addressed envelope Bean provided for reply.

The superb Lambert paintings in the Memorial of the Light Horse in Palestine form their own tribute to Bean's wisdom and unassuming humanitarianism.

The Official History must remain his outstanding achievement. Despite all these diversionary activities, Bean produced a 12-volume work of monumental scholarship. The six volumes he wrote himself are masterly.

The photographic volume which he and an assistant selected and illuminatingly captioned forms a superb historical record in itself.

The other five he edited with tact and thoroughness. They were also required much labour; in Volume XI (The Home Front during the War) Bean completely rewrote contentious passages to counteract the author's pronounced Right-wing sympathies.

In addition, he wrote 12 other books on various Australian themes, several of which have come to be regarded as classics. Should he be regarded as perhaps Australia's finest historian?

Neither before nor since the Great War have so many Australians felt so proud of being Australians as were the First AIF. Many, like Bean, were idealistic nationalists. Over two decades after he commenced the Official History Bean wrote its final paragraph:

"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and bad, the greatness and smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great-hearted men; and for their nation, a possession for ever."

The magnificent story of the AIF, merited a chronicler of equal stature. In Charles Bean it most definitely had one.

**RSL BRANCH'S BIRTHDAY**

More than 30 years ago, nine men gathered in the Bicton Tea Rooms to form the Bicton-Palmyra sub-branch of the RSL.

Today there are 240 members and the branch's numbers are still growing while many other branch's numbers are dwindling.

The branch held its annual Christmas meeting on December 11 at the Edinburgh Hall, Foss Street, Bicton.

Members who attended were presented with a free copy of the RSL's magazine Roll Call featuring the first instalment of a six part series on the branch's history written by Tudor Lee, of Lee Place, Bicton.

A new president, C. Howard, was installed by the State Executive vice-president Roy Bell, at the meeting.
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LISTENING POST — MARCH, 1980
NEW QUEST LAUNCHED IN FEBRUARY

The start of a bright new year, may I wish you all a very happy and healthy 1980.

December is always a busy month for Executive, when we become “Mother Christmas” and deliver our Christmas Cheer parcels to the Hospitals and Homes. This is a most heartwarming task, and the joy of giving someone a little gift and to see the pleasure it brings is reward enough. The thanks of all go to the Auxiliaries for their wonderful support to this Fund.

Since my last report we have accepted invitations to numerous functions and we thank you all for the invitation and hospitality.

On November 28, I attended a luncheon at Council House given by the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Chaney, and on November 30 George and I enjoyed our evening with the Scarborough Sub-branch and Auxiliary at their annual dinner.

Mrs Sullivan and I attended the Returned Sisters Sub-branch Christmas Luncheon on December 1, and I attended the FUSW Christmas social afternoon on December 4. Sully, Madge, George and I were among those enjoying the Unity Cheerio Club Party on December 5.

Six members of Executive and Mrs Turner (Milen Auxiliary) drove to Northam to join the Auxiliary members at their Christmas luncheon and annual meeting. We were pleased to see these girls again and congratulate them on their years work.

Mrs Baker and I were guests of the Laurel Club at their Dinner on December 13, and members of Executive attended the War Veterans’ Home Party on December 14.

During our Christmas break, Mrs Baker, our Assistant State Secretary, had a quick trip to hospital where an operation was found necessary. We all wish Miriam a speedy recovery to good health.

Sully and Madge have been busy with their duties during the recess; there is always something to do, banking balancing the books and stocktaking ready for the audit.

George and I called in recently to see Mr and Mrs Symington, and we were pleased to see that Vi is still cholly and smiling and is able to do some beautiful work with tube painting.

Conference is just a few months away, so don’t forget to send in your agenda items, administration, capitation fees and cup competition form as soon as possible. Do try and send a delegate this year to make our Conference well attended. By coming to Conference, so much is learned of the work of the Auxiliaries and of Executive.

On February 1, the “Girl of the Golden West” Quest was launched. This is replacing the “Miss Crowning Glory” Quest, and as you know the proceeds go to the Legacy and the War Veterans’ Home. I hope that the sub-branches and Auxiliaries will support this quest and help any entrant in their district.

I was able to visit a number of Country Auxiliaries last year and hope to see some of the rest this year. I would like to visit also the Metropolitan Auxiliaries too if they will let me know when it would be most convenient to come.

Bye for now.

Joy Ford
State President

Note: All inquiries may be directed to: State President, Mrs Ford, 7 Read St, East Victoria Park 6110 (Tel. 361 3867) or to the Hon. State Secretary, Mrs Sullivan, 49 9th Avenue Maylands 6051 (Tel. 271 9725). The State Executive meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 12.30 pm at Anzac House, 4 Sherwood Court, Perth.

Percy Wright honoured

A brief but happy ceremony was performed at Ray Lodge, Villa Maria, near Busselton just before Christmas, when Percy Wright was presented with his 50 years’ service certificate.

Rather than impose upon Percy (who is 87) the strain of attending an RSL function in town, the president, secretary, treasurer and several committee members and friends went out to Villa Maria to make the presentation. Also present was country vice-president Bill Brown.

The matron of Villa Maria Homes for the Ages, graciously allowed the ceremony to be held in the dining-hall when the residents gathered for their evening meal.

In making the presentation, the president of Busselton Sub-branch John Joyce spoke of the importance of the occasion and congratulated Percy on his half-century of service to the RSL.

He pointed out that this high honour was conferred by National Headquarters in Canberra and was a rare and significant achievement. He also presented Percy with a bottle of wine, with the best wishes of the local sub-branch.

Percy joined the League in 1929 after service in the Australian army during the Great War. He served in France and Belgium as a No 1 machine-gunner, returning from the war with two service medals. We wish him long life, good health and all happiness.

D.W. Jacob

Photo by courtesy Busselton — Margaret Times
Left to right: Percy Wright accepting his 50 years’ Service Certificate from Busselton Sub-branch President, John Joyce.

LISTENING POST — MARCH, 1980 — 21
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SMURF-DAY

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Smurfs at
BP stations

A Smurf is a Smurf not a
Frog or a man
And BP is the only place on earth
you'll get service with a Smurf
Three hard workers honoured

As the accompanying emphasises, the members of the Mt Hawthorn Sub-branch having a special reason to remember the State's 150th Anniversary year, in that the League saw fit to honour three of its most loyal and hard-working members.

State Executive Harry Holder attended the annual President's night on Christmas Eve, and officiated in the presentations, ably assisted by J. Rogers, Treasurer of the Sub-branch and Jim Rawlings, a Trustee.

In presenting the Life Memberships, Mr Holder outlined the sterling service the three members had given to the Sub-branch, the League, and also its various charitable organisations.

All three served ably as president for more than one term.

TEAM CAPTAIN

Ernie also held office as Honorary Secretary for four (4) years, besides competing in ARMS games, officiating as team captain on numerous occasions.

Less combined his efforts with sports director, team captain in ARMS games, besides being active in Sub-branch amelioration activities.

Being a handy-man, Les has great calls on his time assisting past members' widows; whatever the necessity Les either attends to it personally or advises the Sub-branch. No Poppy Day has passed to my knowledge without his tin being one of the fullest.

Max, despite the handicap of only one leg is well-known in the past as a regular hospital visitor, regular delegate to Congress, and well known for his assistance to Legacy street appeal.

Boan's doorway opposite the crosswalk in Murray Street is his regular position, and on Poppy Day, Max is a regular collector in Leederville.

Ernie can no longer take an active part in RSL activities being in ill health; in fact, it is due to his courage and determination that he was able to be conveyed to the RSL Hall for the great occasion.

Only six days had elapsed since his discharge from Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital where he had been for approximately three months in a serious condition.

GENIAL MANNER

Our sincere thanks go to Harry Holder for the exemplary way in which he officiated at the awards, and his genial manner in which he mixed with all members during the evening — his manner and camaraderie does a lot to cement the good spirit between Sub-branch and Head Office.

Finally, thanks to our Trustee and legal adviser, Ron Bertram MLA, who, in the final speech for the evening on behalf of the Sub-branch, congratulated the recipients of the awards, emphasising that service such as they have given is the real reason why the RSL ‘is such a respected body in the community.

To all three new Life-Members, I add my congratulations and look forward confidently to a further long period of their loyalty and support in the affairs of the League.

F.G. NEAL
Hon Sec.

Meaning of Anzac Day Bugle Calls

Many young people are mystified by bugle calls on Anzac Day. During the service there will be two bugle calls. The first is the “Last Post”.

“Last Post” is the call sounded at 10pm each evening to inform the soldiers that they should be inside their quarters for the night. It signified the end of the day’s activities and ushered in a period of rest and quietness. It is sounded at military funerals and commemorative services to indicate that the soldier has completed his life’s work and has entered into his rest.

The second, following the reading of the Ode, is “Reveille”, the trumpet or bugle call sounded in all military barracks and camps first thing in the morning to awaken the soldiers and tell them to get up and dress. It is also sounded at military funerals and commemorative services to signify the resurrection of the body after death and the awakening of the soul into a new life.
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THE TOBRUK SIEGE 1941 MEDAL

Let's put this matter straight — this medal is not for gallantry.

It is NOT an Australian award, but a medal authorised by the World Council of the Rats of Tobruk Association, to be worn by Tobruk Veterans — i.e. any member of the Allied Forces or accredited Allied personnel, who served in the fortress (at, in, or over) during the Siege, April 9, 1941 — December 10, 1941.

Naturally, just as some people wonder why an OBE or a similar honour is awarded to certain citizens, they wonder just why is a Tobruk Medal necessary. The Medal itself is in good taste — a silver T with a short stem — laurel leaves around the edge of the T — Tobruk Siege 1941 on its face — the veteran's name on the reverse side.

The Ribbon suggesting the Africa Star has a yellow background — a narrow red — a light blue vertical stripe — wide yellow stripe — a dark blue and red vertical stripe.

When notified the Medal has been authorised, the WA Branch of the Rats of Tobruk Association decided, irrespective of other branches' intentions, it would accept applications from relatives of veterans killed in action or passed on since the War — and non-members, provided the applicants could prove to the Committee's satisfaction, the nominated qualified as a Tobruk Veteran and to hold a Presentation Ceremony.

To January 16, 1980, 454 proved applications have been received. A sub-committee was formed. After months of planning with meticulous care, a highly successful Ceremony was held on December 16, 1979, at the Subiaco Civic Hall. The hall was suitably decorated with Siege Unit flags, battle honours, flags from Australia, UK and Poland; the stage with floral decorations; a huge backdrop.

The word “TOBRUK” in high foam letters suitably marked with "bullet holes" and "shell fragments" was much commented upon.

Thirty-eight years after the Siege had ended, the remnants of the veterans who reside in WA met to receive a token of appreciation for their effort. Perhaps this will be the last time in WA that almost 300 Tobruk Veterans from Australia, the UK and Polish ex-Servicemen will assemble again.

The 38 years have been kind to some. To others, the years have hit them hard. Two came in wheelchairs and several used walking-sticks, some assisted by mates.

While there may have been little fire in their steps the spirit of the ex-servicemen still shone brightly, as, perhaps for the last time, they relished the pleasure of seeing old mates again. Some had not met since their discharge from the Services.

The actual Ceremony was excellent. His Excellency The Governor of WA accompanied by Lady Kyle, opened proceedings with a few sincere words, immediately putting the 600 people assembled at ease:

Thirty-eight widows, mothers, sisters, sons, daughters of departed veterans received the Medal first. His Excellency spoke a few warm words to each of them. Those assembled joined with MC: Eric Holmes, in reciting the Ode of Remembrance.

Then the Rats who remained stepped in their turn, in orderly manner, suggesting the years of service training had not been entirely forgotten, to receive their medal. Men such as the Bishop of Perth Brian Macdonald, Administrator Brigadier C.H.B. Norman Dr Eric Kyle (His Excellency's brother) Iven Manning (politician), Bill Keall (solicitor) Arthur Duckworth (farmer) Athol Jury (fisherman) Ellis Waring (businessman) John Hogan (miner) Paul Buddee (author and poet).

Men from all walks of life, men from Albany to Kalgoorlie to Geraldton, men who have given a lifetime of service to the welfare of ex-Servicemen and their dependants, a such as Tom Ingram and Bill Grant.

His Excellency met them all, with a word of encouragement, of kindness, with humour, with praise. No doubt he gave each a little more pride in himself — every man a feeling of being a little better for having attended.

Young people or non ex-Servicemen may wonder at these feelings. They of course — thank God — never experienced the futility of War and would not experience the bond of mateship in times of war.

There was no evidence of the glorification of War — just that feeling of mateship which helped to make the Siege the success it was.
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Best wishes to all Ex-Servicemen from

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D.L. 0302
The title "The Rats of Tobruk" was given to the defenders of the Siege in a derogatory manner by a renegade Britisher—one, William Joyce, who defected to the then enemy. He broadcast propaganda for them. His aristocratic accent earned him the title "Lord Haw Haw".

Each day he broadcast to the fortress, either dire threats of annihilation, sweet promises if they surrendered — always the fact they would lose Tobruk — lose the War.

The late and unlamented Lord Haw Haw ironically may have had one laugh over his Tobruk listeners. He would have been pleased to know each man had to pay for his honour.

The Rats did hold Tobruk — did help to win the War, and will be remembered long after Law Haw Haw is forgotten.

Douglas Le Fevre
Honorary State Secretary,
the Rats of Tobruk Association

Old Red Ensign to go

The registering of ships in Australia will enter the 20th century under legislation proposed by the Federal Government.

The legislation will grant ships Australian nationality and the right to fly the Australian national flag.

The new law will update an 86-year-old British law, under which ships are registered in Australia as British ships and allowed to fly the Australian Red Ensign.

A register of Australian ships will be set up in Canberra. All ships owned by Australian citizens and companies will be eligible to register.

Registration will be optional except for commercial ships of 12 metres or longer and more than 50 percent Australian-owned.

Minister for Transport, Mr Hunt, said that ships registered in Australia under the British system would automatically be registered as Australian ship unless the owners objected.

The Australian red ensign would be phased out and replaced by the Australian National flag.

Service Pension for Allied Veterans from February 1, 1980

Veterans of Allied countries now living in Australia today became eligible to apply for the Australian Service Pension, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Mr Evan Adermann, said.

Extension of eligibility for this pension was announced by the Government in the 1979 Budget Speech.

The Service Pension is similar to the Department of Social Security's age pension but may be granted five years earlier to ex-servicemen and women with theatre-of-war experience. It may also be granted to veterans with theatre-of-war experience who have become permanently unemployed at any age.

ELIGIBILITY

- served in a theatre of war;
- served in any enemy force;
- resided in Australia for at least 10 years;
- satisfied the income test applicable to Australian and British Commonwealth veterans; and
- have reached 60 years of age (for men) or 55 years (for women) or have become permanently unemployed.

HEALTH BENEFIT CARD

Mr Adermann said that Allied veterans, like British Commonwealth veterans, are not eligible for other Repatriation benefits granted by the Department of Veterans' Affairs but may be eligible for a pensioner Health Benefits card, which is issued by the Department of Health. This card entitles holders to free treatment for certain medical conditions, Commonwealth concessions such as reduced telephone rental, and some State and local government concessions such as lower public transport fares and council rates.

To qualify for this card, the Service Pensioner must satisfy an income test.

Mr Adermann said that any Allied veteran who believed that he was eligible for the Service Pension should apply to the Branch Office of the Department of Veterans' Affairs in his State capital.

The following Press release, issued in August, 1979, is reproduced for the information of members:

AIRCREW REUNION AT WINNIPEG: Word has been received from the Organising Committee for next year's Reunion that they are expecting some 4,000 to attend. The Winnipeg program includes a concert provided by the City's Symphony Orchestra and the Piliharmonic Choir.

After Winnipeg, the Australian contingent will be entertained by the American Legion Headquarters and by the RSL Sub-branch in Washington.

A visit will also be made to the Air-Space-Museum and the Combat Pilots' Association at the Bolling AFB. In Texas they will visit the Confederate Air Force Association and will watch an air show of restored WW2 flying machines including Spittles, Messerschmids, Flying Forts, etc.

The Officer Commanding, the Australian contingent, will be Gp Capt Hon John Waddy OBE DFC. John flew with 250 and 260 Sqs (RAF Tomahawks), 92 Sqn (RAF Spitfires) and was CO of 80 Sqn (RAAF Kittyhawks).

Inquiries should be directed to:
H: Winning, Returned Services League, Box 303, PO
Canberra City, ACT, 2601.
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PROVISIONAL ORDER OF MARCH
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1980

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Girls Australian Sea Cadet Corps

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Including W.A. POLICE PIPE BAND
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Submarine Old Comrades Assn. of W.A.
W.R.A.N.S
Merchant Navy

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1 Mounted 10th Light Horse
10th Light Horse Regiment
6th Cavalry Division
Royal Australian Armoured Corps
2/2nd Commandos
2/5th Commandos
2/9th Commandos
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‘Z’ Special Force Australia Inc.

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2/3rd Light A.A. Regiment

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Engineer Units
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Signallers
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CITY OF PERTH BAND —
FORM UP LEFT SIDE PIER STREET —
11th & 2/11th Battalions
12th/52nd Battalions

MORLEY SALVATION ARMY BAND —
FORM UP LEFT SIDE OF PIER STREET
16th Battalion
2/16th Battalion

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FORM UP LEFT SIDE PIER STREET —
28th Battalion
2/28th Battalion, 24th Anti Tank

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25th Brigade
2/43rd Battalion
44th Battalion

PERTH LADIES PIPE BAND
48th Battalion
2/48th Battalion
Korea & South East Asia Forces Association
& Vietnam Veterans

Ex-P.O.W. Association
R.A. — Association
Machine Gunners
2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion
2/4th Machine Gun Battalion

FREMANTLE LADIES HIGHLAND PIPE BAND
35

Australian Army Service Corps
Australian Army Medical Corps
2/7th Field Ambulance
2/13th Field Ambulance
Royal Australian Army Nursing Service

5TH FIELD FORCE PIPE BAND
Middle East VAD’s
Middle East VAD’s
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Australian Army Medical Women’s Service
Australian Women’s Army Service (AWAS)
New Zealanders

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FORM UP IN IRWIN ST.

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British Ex-Services Association
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140 Dunkirk Veterans Association
Canadian Ex-Service Personnel
Rhodesian Ex-Servicemen’s Association

SCOTCH COLLEGE PIPE BAND —
FORM UP IN IRWIN STREET

Polish Ex-Servicemen’s Association
Netherlands Ex-Servicemen’s Association
Greek Australian Ex-Servicemen’s Association

LISTENING POST — MARCH, 1980 — 29
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RSL BOWLS

Nearly 100 West Australian RSL Bowls members and their wives travelled to Tasmania on Christmas night for the 13th National RSL Bowls carnival.

After an impressive service at the Cenotaph, with all States participating and laying wreaths in memory of our departed comrades, proceedings began with an official lunch at Glenorchy RSL Club.

The Women's Auxiliary as usual did a fine job, just a handful of ladies took care of the catering — a great effort.

In the Jack Hamilton VC Memorial Trophy, Queensland came out just in front, winning closely from three other states, WA included.

NSW narrowly defeated WA in the Dr Syd. Kranz Trophy, while in the Sir Arthur Lee Fours a team from NSW proved too good for the rest. A team from WA finished equal third.

Bowls were of a high standard and WA bowlers did well. All are to be congratulated.

Hobart provided good weather, wonderful hospitality and a setting which lived up to all we had heard of beautiful Tasmania.

Some of our group tried other types of entertainment, including the races, trots, dogs and of course the Casino, with varying degrees of success. Most of us saw the yachts in the finish of the Sydney to Hobart race — a great sight.

To those who had a job to do, thank you and congratulations on a job well done. To all travellers, you came from many country areas, including Albany, Wagin, Darkin, Bruce Rock, Ballidu, as well as a good representation of metropolitan clubs, congratulations on the manner in which you conducted yourselves, I was happy to be your leader. — LEN PREEDY (President)

New Members on Tribunal

The appointment of ten additional members of the Repatriation Review Tribunal was announced by Minister for Veterans' Affairs Evan Adermann. Another member has been appointed to replace an original member who has retired.

The Tribunal was established to review decisions of the Repatriation Boards and the Repatriation Commission concerning entitlement to and assessment of service-related disabilities. It began operating on July 1, 1979.

The eleven appointments are:

Deputy-presidents: Colin Bernard Campbell, Oakleigh, Victoria (full-time); John Alexander Flett, Farrer, ACT (full-time); Barry John Locke, Beverley Hills, NSW (part-time); Arthur Gustave Knox, West Denistone, NSW (part-time); Rowland Patrick Hassall, East Brighton, Victoria (part-time).

Members (part-time): Alan Wharton, Pymble, NSW; Irwin Matthew Green, Mt Waverley, Victoria.


Mr Adermann said that the Government had decided to make these additional appointments in order to enable the Tribunal to deal with the number of new applications being received and to reduce the backlog of applications awaiting determination.

Awards for two

Congratulations of two of our members who have been recipients of the 50 years Service Membership Award of the RSL.

Miss Margaret Dorothy Edis was presented with her Certificate by Senior Vice-President of the RSL L. Turner at the annual sub-branch Christmas luncheon.

Miss Elva Constance England, following a small luncheon in her honour, received her Award from the President of Sub-branch, Mrs A. Leach at the Shoalwater Nursing Home, Safety Bay.

Both members trained at the Kalgoorlie District Hospital and served overseas with the Australian Army Nursing Service during the Great War.

On their return from active service they joined the Returned Soldiers Committee, now the RSL. — M. MURDOCH (Hon Sec, Returned Sisters Sub-branch)

Mrs A. Leach (left), Miss M.D. Edis and RSL senior vice-president L. Turner.

Mrs Leach and Miss England

LISTENING POST — MARCH, 1980 — 31
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ADDITIONAL BENEFITS — CONTENTS:
- Burning out of electric motors, rain water damage to furnishings, carpets, lounge, etc.
- Spoilage of frozen foods in freezer or deep freeze $200, legal liability arising out of fraudulent use of credit cards $100, full replacement value contents up to 10 years old (excluding household linen and personal effects).

PERSONAL AND FAMILY LIABILITY (Included in Contents cover only):
Covers you and any member of your family ordinarily residing with you against liability to the public anywhere in Australia and legal costs incurred in defending the suit up to a maximum amount of $200,000 included where contents insured.

MULTI RISK:
Protection against loss or accidental damage to unspecified jewellery, watches, radios, cassette recorders, furs, binoculars, pocket calculators, photographic equipment, gold or silver articles whilst anywhere in Australia/New Zealand.
Option A: $1,000 Limit any one item $300
Option B: $2,000 Limit any one item $500

CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EFFECTS:
Covers loss or damage to clothing and personal effects not otherwise insured whilst anywhere in Australia.
Option A: $300 Limit any one item $75
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PERSONAL ACCIDENT:
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Option B: Death, $10,000 Weekly $100

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Important:
Please note:
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<td>Clothing &amp; Personal Effects (Limit any one item $75)</td>
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4. Pleasure Craft

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<th>$25 per $1,000</th>
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<tr>
<td>Third Party Liability</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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<td>Additional Water Skiers</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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</tbody>
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4. Workers' Compensation: $10.30

TOTAL 1-5 $

IMPORTANT – Please supply your name, address and other particulars

Name

Home Address

Postcode

If applying for Multi Risk – Date of Birth

Mortgage

I hereby declare I have not been declined or had any insurance cancelled or renewal refused and the amounts as stated above in respect of items of property of every kind represents full value.

Signature

Date

Insurance cover to commence from

R.S.L. Sub Branch/Club

□ Tick here if you require further information, or Phone Bill Melvin at the R.S.L. on 325-9799

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BANKCARD Number

Expiry Date

Cardholder's Name as shown on Bankcard

Cardholder's Signature

Date

Amount of Premium $ __________

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LIFE MEMBERSHIPS — 1979
The following were awarded Life Membership in 1979:

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- D.H. Bruce
- D. Wignans
- J.G. Cooley
- R.R. Bell
- I.W. Manning
- A.M. Bruce
- R.J. Nyman
- L.G. Thorn
- A.W. Brown
- F.T. Williams
- H. Hardy
- A.H.L. Taylor

Osborne Park Sub-branch
City of Perth Sub-branch
Shenton Park Sub-branch
Harvey Districts Sub-branch
Highgate Sub-branch
Mt. Hawthorn Sub-branch
Scarborough Sub-branch
Nollamara-North Perth Sub-branch
Cockburn Sub-branch

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION
Mrs. C. Bruce
Mr. H.C. Smith, OBE
Mr. G. Strickland
Mr. N.E. Sharland
Miss E.M. Hall
Venerable Archdeacon M.R.D. Harford
Mr. T. Sten, O.B.E., M.A., Dip. Ed.

CERTIFICATES OF SERVICE
A highlight of the Christmas get-together of the Geraldton Sub-branch and its Women’s Auxiliary was the presentation of two Certificates of Service.
They were awarded to Sub-branch senior vice-president Graham Till in appreciation of his work as Secretary from 1976 to 1978, and to Joe Willers for “devoted membership”.
At the same function president, Ernie Gleed thanked the Women’s Auxiliary for its outstanding work during 1979. — BJB.

CODE OF CITIZENSHIP PRESENTATION
Another presentation of a framed copy of the RSL Code of Citizenship has been made in the Geraldton area.
A former president of the Geraldton Sub-branch, Clem Burns, made the presentation to the new Waggrakine Primary School.
During RSL Week in November, the Sub-branch presented framed copies of the Code to four Geraldton primary schools and to the Walkaway Primary School.
Sub-branch president, Ernie Gleed took part in a presentation ceremony at the Naval Reserve Cadets’ establishment at Geraldton, Training Ship Morrow.
He presented the RSL Shield to Ordinary Seaman Phillip Barker, as the most improved cadet. — BJB.

MTT and Services Sub-branch dance socials
8.00 till midnight
Saturday, April 5, 1980
Saturday, May 17, 1980
Saturday, June 28, 1980
Saturday, August 2, 1980
Saturday, September 13, 1980
Saturday, October 25, 1980
Saturday, December 13, 1980

Where: MTT Canteen, Kensington Street, East Perth.
Top bands: 50/50 music...spot dances...novelties etc.
Admission: $4.00 per person
Beer: $1.00 per jug (spirits — 50c full nip)
Supper provided FREE
Members, friends and visitors all Welcome
Inquiries: to Don Taylor (451 1930) MTT and Services Sub-branch.

LISTENING POST — MARCH, 1980 — 35
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Pension Difficulties

The columns of various newspapers have from time to time drawn the attention of the public to difficulties suffered by servicemen in relation to pensions and other conditions of service.

Public pressure led to the far-reaching Jess Committee Inquiry, which resulted in significant and welcome changes to pension arrangements for serving soldiers, sailors and airmen.

The Committee recommended legislation which took account of the position of ex-servicemen who had retired prior to October 1, 1972. They recommended repeal of the DFRB Act and the inclusion of all pensioners in the new legislation in so far as their pensions should be adjusted in the same manner as for persons who were members of the new scheme. This was not carried into legislation.

The old Defence Forces Retirements Benefits scheme had been recognised as a bit of a disaster. But the new legislation while helping enormously those serving after, October 1, 1972, did nothing for existing pensioners.

It was seen that anomalies, injustices and inequities existed for this class. Again public pressure was recognised by the commissioning of Duke Bonnett, then a Member of Parliament, to look into the matter.

"UNDER CONSIDERATION"

He did, and he reported to the Government in February, 1978. Ex-service organisations and individuals have inquired as to the result and have been told off by the "under consideration" type of reply.

These associations and the pensioners concerned have not been given an opportunity to make their views heard. They fear that the Government will make decisions only on Departmental advice about the Report.

This would be similar to the advice given relating to the Jess Report. It would perpetuate the disadvantages suffered by a small group who have no loud voice, but who have served their country well.

They have been patient and it now seems that the only way they can be heard is with the co-operation of the Fourth Estate. — E.C. LUNN—GARNER

From the "Canberra Times" December 17, 1979

'Neat trick' on Defence widows

Sir,—When the next annual Consumer Price Index figure is announced, Commonwealth pensions will be automatically adjusted in accordance with the CPI rate to maintain their purchasing power — with the exception of pensions for some widows with entitlements under the Defence Forces Retirements and Death Benefits Scheme.

These widows will not receive the full CPI adjustment, but may well not know that their pensions are being so eroded.

This is how it is done. Let us say a member of the Defence Forces retires at age 50 with a pension entitlement of $5,000 per annum. Then he dies. His widow is entitled to a pension which is 62.5 per cent of her late husband's pension. That is an amount of $3,125.

In 12 months' time an annual CPI increase of 10 per cent is declared. But not for the Defence widow. She will receive 62.5 per cent of the increase that her husband would have received if he had not died.

And now the unsuspecting widow becomes the victim of a very neat trick. It will be assumed that her husband had commuted his pension to the maximum extent possible; even if he had not commuted one cent of it.

So what the widow will get is 62.5 per cent of 10 per cent of $4,135. Now where did that amount come from? It is the fully commuted value of a $5,000 DFRDB pension for a man aged 50 years. Now you can see how a very neat trick is worked.

In a simple statement; the widow who has a pension of $3,125 at the time of a 10 per cent CPI increase will actually receive an increase of $258. And if you think there are a few per cents missing you are quite right. The widow's increase is not 10 per cent but 8.27 per cent; and so it will go on with each year bringing a further erosion.

The widow has no recourse against this erosion. It is a matter of law and was quietly slipped into the DFRDB Act as well as some other amendments by the Minister for Defence, Mr D.J. Killen.

However, it is probably too complicated for the widows to understand so they may never know what Mr Killen has done to their pensions.

At last not until he is retired and in receipt of his (fully commuted) parliamentary pension. Which, following the amending legislation which was quietly slipped through Parliament in the last session, should be well in excess of a quarter of a million dollars.

Which is another neat trick.

W.B. FEGAN
Chairman,
ACT Branch,
Regular Defence Forces Welfare Association
Woden.

Lt. E.C. Lunn-Garner, (Ret'd)
State Secretary,
Regular Defence Forces Welfare Assn.
(W.A. Branch)
Cliff-Iris Lodge,
9 Davies Crescent,
KALAMUNDA, W.A. 6076

Dear Sir,
Thank you for your letter of 23rd January, received today, enclosing copy of article for the Listening Post.
I have to advise that this has been passed on to our Editor and Publicity Committee.
With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,
D.H. BRUCE
STATE SECRETARY

Mr. D. Bruce,
State Secretary
RSL
4 Sherwood Court,
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Sir,
Would it be possible please to have the attached letters published in the next issue of the Listening Post.
Yours fraternally,
E.C. LUNN-GARNER
State Secretary
BEST OF LUCK TO ALL LOCAL R.S.L. MEMBERS
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Northlands

38 — LISTENING POST — MARCH, 1980
Poles at Tobruk

By GEORGE REDZIEJOWSKI

The Rats of Tobruk already have a place in history as soldiers who set an example in love of country, courage, sacrifice and endurance.

But not many people outside of ex-service personnel concern know that Polish soldiers fought and died alongside Australians in the desert campaign; and that in the siege of Tobruk the Polish Carpathian Brigade fought shoulder to shoulder with 9th Australian Division.

I should like to tell you how the Polish forces came to be at Tobruk.

After the tragic events of September, 1939, though the Polish forces had been defeated and Poland occupied by the Germans and Russians, the Poles did not abandon the hope of a further struggle to recover the freedom of their country. This fight could be waged only from territory of the Western allies.

In response to the proclamation of the Free Polish Government, new Polish units were organised abroad.

The new forces included those Poles who had escaped from internment camps in Hungary and Rumania, from Poland itself and volunteers from many other countries.

4,000 STRONG

In April, 1940, the Polish Carpathian Brigade Group was organised in Syria, under command of General Kopanski. The Brigade consisted of three infantry battalions, one reconnaissance regiment (cavalry), and artillery, with a total strength of 4,000 officers and men.

After the capitulation of France, the Brigade moved with full equipment to Palestine and became part of the British army.

In Egypt, from October, 1940, the Poles trained and performed war duties on the outskirts of Alexandria, Miens Matruh and Sidi Bagush.

In August, 1941, the British navy transported the Polish Carpathian Brigade to besieged Tobruk. The main purpose of the Brigade was to bring relief to the Australian troops, and it gradually took over a complete sector from the 20th Brigade. For some time Australians and Poles were there together.

MONOTONY

The German artillery and bombers dominated the scene. The monotonous tinned food, brackish water, the heat and fleas made life hard.

The Poles quickly understood the situation. Their loyalty and their sacrifice were equalled only by the courage and endurance of the Australians. The Carpathian Brigade lost 139 men killed. A further 467 were wounded and 15 were posted missing.

In Tobruk a friendship developed between Australians and Poles that has lasted till the present day.

On Sunday, December 16, 1979, in the Subiaco Civic Centre, Sir Wallace Kyle, Governor of WA, presented Tobruk Medals to ex-servicemen who took part in the siege in 1941.

Among the recipients were two members of the Polish Ex-Servicemen's John Michalik (Carpathian Cavalry Regiment) and Bill Redziejowski (1st Carpathian Battalion), Association in WA.

Warmest congratulations are offered to all recipients.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Army Museum of WA needs your help. It can display only what it has, and you are the people who provide the exhibits. The latest major acquisition is a so-called "Machine Gun Carrier" (Carriers, Aust Mk.1) which is mounted on the Bulwer Street frontage.

Many farmers and others purchased similar items in lieu of tractors, just after the World War and many of these now lie idle in paddocks all over the State. If you know of any such, please inform us at Anzac House.

Arrangements will be made to recover, restore and exhibit same at the Museum.

Similarly, many Sub-branches acquired odd items of memorabilia even to the size of field guns, medium machine guns etc. Where these are no longer valued, and can therefore be made available, please let us know.

All such items for buttons and badges, books and biscuits to bombs, barrels and bailey bridges, armoured cars and APCs are what we need. These are our history and unless recovered as soon as possible and preserved in our Museum, may well be lost forever.

So please, search your bottom drawer and your neighbour's home paddock and implement shed and tell us what you find.

The second need is visitors. They are coming in nicely but we could always handle more. The hours are 1330 hours to 1600 hours every Sunday, and the address is "Dilhorn", corner of Lord and Bulwer Street; East Perth.

It is your own museum, and admission is free. A light afternoon tea may be purchased for just 50c, so take the family and make a Sunday afternoon of it. — RJN.

HIGHGATE’S PROUD RECORD

In 1979, Highgate, under the Presidency of Brig George Larkin, CBE, enjoyed a very successful year and made a worthwhile contribution to the League. As well as having four members on the State Executive, two other members, Ron Ewing and Ken Broadhurst, are Trustees.

Record amounts were raised on Poppy Day and in the Crowning Glory Quest. Numbers at monthly meetings averaged 48 and Committee meetings had an average of 12 of the 18 members attending.

The highlight of the year was the Formal Dining-In Night, held as our contribution to the State’s 150th Centenary. The Minister in charge of the celebrations, the Hon Graham McKinnon, MLC, was the guest of honour.

A total of 120 attended the function which was held at the New Esplanade, and all voted it a night to remember. Among those present were 11 past presidents.

We doubt if any other Sub-branch can match that effort. Also, we have seven past presidents on our Committee. This in itself shows the strength of the Sub-branch and the continued interest shown by past officials.

The year finished on a high note when four members were named in the New Year’s Honours List. They were Des O’Neil — Knight; Jim Richards, OBE; Jim Driscoll, OBE; and Harry Noonan, MBE.

A Life Membership was conferred on Max Brice.

We look forward to a very successful 1980 under the leadership of new President, Len Ikin, who recently retired from the position of State Manager of G.J. Coles Ltd. — HMN.
GOOD LUCK TO ALL LOCAL R.S.L. MEMBERS

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Good luck to all local R.S.L. Members from

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Best wishes to the Geraldton R.S.L. from
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Good Luck to all R.S.L. Members in 1980

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40 — LISTENING POST — MARCH, 1980
Rivervale-Carlisle
holds reunion

As all members know through circulars and notification in the "Listening Post", a reunion celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Rivervale-Carlisle Sub-branch and the State's 150th was held at Alfresco Garden Lounge.

The evening was an outstanding success, thanks to the magnificent roll-up of members and the intermixing of all members concerned.

Among those present were many members who have moved away from the district but who served the Sub-branch faithfully over a period of years in the past.

Heading the list was Lou Zappo, a foundation member who occupied all executive positions at some time; also, John Cullerton, Jim Cornish, Stan Russell, Wally Davis, Bill Gilsenan, Less Haywood, Pat Love, G. Reddall, Eddie Perk and Wally Payne. All these members at some time held executive positions.

With them, of course, were their good ladies adding the necessary atmosphere that only ladies seem to be able to provide. Speaking of ladies, it was nice to see all the members being supported by their better halves.

It was particularly pleasing to have the attendance of so many of the now extinct Women's Auxiliary, amongst whom was seen Pauline Johnson, who was president; unfortunately the Auxiliary could not carry on.

We were fortunate to have many past presidents enjoying themselves. Most of these chaps have had two or three terms of office and most have also been secretaries.

Check these names against the attached photo, and see if you can remember them: R. Blake (current president), Reg Rule, Lou Zappo, Norm Healy, Alan Richardson, Eddie Park, Evan Smith, Wally Davis and John Cullerton.

While honouring the presidents, please spare a thought for the worker of the outfit, the secretary.

Speaking of workers, make the Sub-branch Executive's work a little more pleasant by attending Sub-branch evenings held on the second Thursday of each month — and when you come, try and bring a friend.

Executive have nominated themselves to do the work; however, they would enjoy the work more if their efforts were appreciated.

We also make a call to all Korean or Vietnam servicemen to join us in our efforts to retain the benefits attained so far as to gain those that may be needed in the future.

The reunion committee, John Devenish, Aussie Darkin, Lionel Wallis and chairman Evan Smith; thank you for your co-operation and attendance at the reunion.

Special thanks to Archie Morris, Harry Moody and Stewart Finlay for their efforts which saved the Sub-branch quite a few dollars.

See you at the meetings. — EVAN SMITH

BLACKBOY HILL APPEAL

Blackboy Hill at Greenmount is no doubt well remembered veterans of the Great War, for it is from this Camp that many undertook training for military service prior to embarkation to the battlefields of Europe. Many distinguished servicemen and their Units passed through the Camp which has justly earned recognition as one of the important sites in the development of Australia as a nation.

Many stories have been told of events at "Blackboy", and it is not uncommon to hear veterans reminiscing with stories and anecdotes which serve to keep the spirit of the camp alive and in front of the modern generation.

Since the Great War the Camp has had a chequered existence. From being army barracks to accommodation for unemployed during the Depression years, the campsite gradually deteriorated, yet the stories continued but, this time, of harsh economic conditions.

Following the Depression, the camp was closed and buildings removed, leaving only the concrete floors of the timber framed and iron buildings to serve as monuments to the past. The vegetation returned and apart from well-trodden ground, little now remains of the one time great campsite.

The past 20 years have seen a revival of interest in Blackboy. The site now commands a modern primary school with large playing-fields, and a Commemorative Site which is under development by the Bellevue Sub-branch of RSL. The remainder is bush which is, unfortunately, listed for subdivision for future housing.

To ensure the Spirit of Blackboy is kept alive for future generations, community involvement in the development of a Commemorative Site has been encouraged.

Companions of Legacy, Gallipoli Legion of Anzacs, Bellevue Sub-branch RSL, and Shire of Mundaring have joinedly co-operated to develop a memorial and to landscape the site for a picnic area and memorial site. The task is an ongoing one which will, when completed, more than adequately serve to point out to generations the importance of the Blackboy site.

Since the late 1960s, the site has been used by surrounding Schools for their Anzac Day Service. More than 600 children and adults attend the annual service which is conducted by the children of Greenmount Primary School. Sunset and Dawn Services are also conducted by the Bellevue Sub-branch.

To continue the development of the Commemorative Site, the Sub-branch is launching an appeal for funds, which if successful, will attract a substantial Local Government subsidy: Stage One of the development is well under way with the construction of the retaining walls and Service area. The second stage, which is the development of user facilities, is expected to commence shortly.

Should organisations or individuals wish to contribute to this appeal, donations should be directed to "Blackboy Appeal" Bellevue Sub-branch RSL, Purton Place, Bellevue, WA, 6056. Associations and Sub-branches will be contacted in the near future with full details of development proposals together with an invitation for support.

LISTENING POST — MARCH, 1980 — 41
Greetings to all R.S.L. local members from
Proprietor David Jackson of the

COMMERCIAL HOTEL
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NATIONAL NEWS DIGEST

VALE

ERIC HAMILTON SMITH OBE
Members of the RSL were stunned to learn of the sudden death of Eric Smith, President for the State of South Australia. He was 59.
Prior to his election to the State Presidency in 1973, Eric had been Vice President since 1959.
Commissioned in 1941, he served with 2/14 Field Regiment in the New Guinea campaigns.
He was Secretary to the South Australian Local Government Association for eleven years before he retired in 1975.
The day before his death, Eric rang the National Secretary to say that he had compiled the Agenda for The Future of The League Committee, an important ad hoc committee of which he was Chairman. That Agenda was used when the committee met on 7th December.
He represented the National Executive at meetings and conferences held at Wellington, Winnipeg, Edinburgh, Israel, Auckland and Taiwan.
The League's sympathies are extended to his wife, Pat and their daughter, Rosemary.
REQUIESCAT IN PACEM

VC's WIDOW

National President of both the RSL and Korea and South East Asia Forces Association, Bill Keys, has opened an appeal to develop a fund to assist Mrs Simpson and to supplement monies already held by the National Executive for the purpose of purchasing Ray's medals. She is the widow of Rayne Simpson VC, DCM.
In addition to this, the National President has asked the Prime Minister to provide an Act of Grace Pension for her. The P.M. has replied that she will receive A$50 per week.
State Branches are asked to collect monies for these two appeals and forward these National Headquarters.

BCEL ON THE MOVE

Royal British Legion and BCEL HQ are at present located at 49 Pall Mall, a building that is about to be modernised. This will take about two years. The Officers' Association have offered BCEL a temporary home in their offices in Belgrave Square.
The move was not the only change that BCEL faced. Some of the staff are quite elderly and it was decided that they should be retired. The Book-Keeper, Mr Carvel, is 77 and the Secretary's Secretary, Miss Amy Page, is 79. Amy has been with BCEL for 56 years, having joined in 1923.
Amy is senior in years to the female staff at National HQ but our book-keeper is some 11 years senior to Mr Carvel. Edgar Kruger who served with 33 BN in WWI, is 88 years young, his mind is still as sharp as a tack and scorns the use of such modern aids as computers, calculators and adding machines.
Edgar is useful in another field, he is fluent in German and was handy to have on hand when the Afrika Korps wrote about the German segment of the Europe '78 Tour. They wrote in German.

ANZAC MEMORIAL — TEL AVIV

The Naming Committee of the Tel Avia Municipality has discovered that in 1941, the Anzac Division planted a grove of trees in Tel Avia which was incorporated in a large park in the centre of Tel Avia known as Gan Meir.
The Committee has now agreed to revive the grove and name it THE ANZAC CORNER in memory of 1914-18 and 1939-45 conflicts and of those Anzacs who planted the trees.
A plaque, bronze black embossed in stone, will carry the words in Hebrew ANZAC CORNER.
Soldiers of the Anzac Division from Australia and New Zealand who were posted in Israel in the First & Second World Wars, planted this corner during their stay in Israel in 1941, naming it ANZAC CORNER, in English.
For those of you that remember Tel Avia, the Gan Meir Park is about half way between Bet November Square and the Helena Rubinstein House.

"THE UNENDING VIGIL"

Such is the title of a publication by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The Vigil continued when 39 years after the Battle of Britain, F-Lt H. Beresford and his Hurricane were found on the Isle of Sheppey in the Thames Estuary. He was buried with full military honours.
Once every two years, the Unending Vigil continues in remote places like Grave Island off the coast of Zanibar. There a landing party wades ashore to tend the graves of 24 British seamen lost when HMS Pegasus was sunk by a German raider in August 1914.
The Commission looks after 1.7 million graves in 23,493 burial grounds in 140 countries on a budget of £8m.

REPATRIATION PRIORITIES

At the Perth Congress held in September, 1979, States were asked to list what they considered to be Repat priorities. The submissions by the States were studied at the December National Executive meeting who referred them to the newly appointed National Repatriation Committee. This ad hoc Committee is made up of experts in this field within RSL ranks. It will have its inaugural meeting in January.
From their findings, a final document will be prepared and after its ratification by National Executive, it will be presented to the Prime Minister before March next.
Last June, the National President had talks with the Prime Minister who agreed that the Executive would meet the full Cabinet in pre-Budget talks.
Repat priorities will be high on the list of these pre-Budget discussions with Cabinet.

NOW HEAR THIS!

Those of you who are on a disability pension for hearing defects may not know that Telecom have three facilities for telephone users with a hearing problem. These are volume control telephones, gliding tone callers and hearing aid couplers.
Further details may be obtained from Repat Regional offices.
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Best wishes to all R.S.L. members
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THEM

HE DID REMEMBER THEM

In 1950, Ok Hyun Ahn served with the South Korean forces. He was taken POW as a UN Forces soldier by the North Koreans but was later rescued by UN troops. The communists had him down for execution, so the rescue came only just in time.

Ahn, now a manufacturing jeweller, has made a gold medallion suspended by a gold chain and has asked that it be presented to an Australian soldier who still suffers from wounds received during the Korean conflict.

On the office scales here, the medallion and chain weighed in at 20 grams and at today's price of gold, your pocket calculator will tell you how much it is worth in money terms.

The wounded Australian soldier selected to receive the medallion is Alex Croll DFC, DFM of WA. Alex won his decorations whilst a mid-upper gunner in Lancasters, flying 71 sorties over Europe in WW2.

In Korea he served with 3 RAR and was badly wounded in the head during a bayonet attack at Battle of Chongju in October 1950.

That wound has left him completely paralysed down his left side, his right arm is useless and has to be strapped to his side. His left leg is supported by a caliper, he has never regained his speech and communicates by writing with his left hand.

Veterans' Affairs have installed in his shed an oven, a pottery machine and the necessary articles required to carry out pottery work and sculpture. Due to his disabilities and being able to work with only one hand, it takes several weeks to complete one piece of pottery.

Jack Gerke, Deputy National President of the Korea South East Forces Association has arranged for the Mayor of Belmont (WA) to make the presentation on Australia Day.

"THE DANGEROUS EIGHTIES"

Such was the title of a recent Press Release by the National President that launched the 1980 RSL Defence Paper.

Recent events in various parts of the world suggest that the decade of the eighties is potentially the most unstable and dangerous since the end of WW11. In these circumstances Australia must be prepared to defend her natural interests, alone if necessary.

Russian expansionism, her military supremacy vis-a-vis the US, the extension of her influence in the Middle East, Africa and South East Asia, the weakness of the West both in leadership and in equipment and facilities, the rise of fanatical and unstable Islam and the energy crisis all combine to make the future precarious in the extreme.

As a nation we must realise that we have more to defend than any other race of people on earth. We can do it; alone, if necessary, providing we co-ordinate our resources and act as a responsible community.

The Government must produce an all-embracing plan for Australia's defence.

There must be greater efficiency in industry and an increase in productivity. There must be co-operation in the community and an end to self-seeking and confronation.

There must be an increase in defence expenditure to at least 3.5% of the GDP, the rapid development of an industrial infrastructure, the creation of an adequate manpower reserve and the regular replacement of sophisticated equipment.

Perhaps most importantly of all, there must be a greater recognition in the community and a willingness to pay the price for it.

DEFENCE SERVICE HOMES, ANYONE?

In spite of undertakings by successive Governments to provide long-term housing loans at concessional rates of interest, the Defence Service Homes Scheme is rapidly being reduced to a state of ineffectiveness.

An examination of the loans granted and the total expenditure of the Defence Service Homes Scheme over the past five years and the forecast for 1979-80 is a clear indication of the trend. Figures are as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Loans Granted</th>
<th>Gov't Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1974-5</td>
<td>9,052</td>
<td>$m 119.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-6</td>
<td>8,732</td>
<td>109.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976-7</td>
<td>6,114</td>
<td>78.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977-8</td>
<td>6,115</td>
<td>82.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978-9</td>
<td>5,365</td>
<td>75.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-80 (est)</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>76.71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These figures indicate the Government is failing to honour its clearly expressed undertakings at the time of the 1975 & 1977 elections to maintain a satisfactory system of long-term low interest rate housing loans for service personnel.

As 1980 is an election year, the Government would be wise to look at remedial action in the 1980 Budget.

THE COLDITZ STORY

The successful TV series made good viewing. In real life, Colditz was officially known as Oflag IV-C, a special camp just off the Leipzig-Dresden road, for trouble-makers where "Bache-baiting" was a deliberate planned program achieving great ingenuity and effect.

One man who became eligible for Colditz walked boldly through the gates at Barth disguised as one of the Abwehr officers only to meet, in the wood outside, the very man whom he had impersonated.

Members of the Colditz Club will be holding a Reunion in March at the Imperial War Museum in London. The credentials to attend such a Reunion are that exclusive, it is doubtful whether there will be any gatecrashers. There are a few Australians who have the necessary credentials to be eligible to join the Colditz Club, and we wish them an enjoyable and successful Reunion.

WHEREABOUTS OF

1. JACK HUTCHINS (or HUTCHINSON) and
2. LAING FOOK-CHI also known as LINCOLN LAING.

1. Mrs Wattie Johanson, Pe Aroha, North Island, New Zealand, is seeking the whereabouts of Jack Hutchins (or Hutchinson) who was a POW in Camp 57 Italy, and believed to live originally in West Maitland.

2. Mr Leslie Che is seeking the whereabouts of Laing Fook-Chi, also known as Lincoln Laing, his brother-in-law. Mr Laing, now 61 years of age, was born in Canton of Kwangtung Province of China. He came to Australia in 1935 and worked for Mein Chun Tea Shop in Melbourne, and later he began his own business dealing with textiles and preserving ginger.

During the 1939-45 war he served in the Australian Army as a Corporal.

On 19 November 1948 he wrote to his brother, Laing Fook-Ling in Hong Kong from 33 High Street, Kyneton, Victoria, however he cannot be located at that address.

Any information concerning Mr Laing Fook-Chi would be appreciated by Mr K. Schultz, National Secretary, RSL, Box 303 P.O. Canberra City ACT. 2601.
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CALL IN FOR A FRIENDLY MEAL OR A CUPPA
Returned Services League Supports Government Stand on Russian Invasion

The action taken by the Australian Government and the Prime Minister to condemn in unqualified terms the Russian invasion of Afghanistan should receive the united support of the Australian community. The National President of the Returned Services League of Australia, Sir William Keys, said this in a statement released in Canberra.

It is now important that the extent of the world community's abhorrence of Russian aggression should be made clear not only to the Russian Government but also to the Russian people.

The RSL in supporting the Government's stand, calls on political parties, industrial organisations, trade unions, service bodies and the Australian community generally to add their voices to strengthen Australia's expression of condemnation.

To add weight to this protest and to get the message through to the Russian people the following steps should be taken:

1. The Olympic Games should be moved from Moscow and held at another venue — failing this they should be boycotted.
2. Cultural and sporting exchanges between Russia and Australia should be suspended.
3. Joint trade arrangements should be deferred.
4. Activities of the Russian Embassy should be placed under the strictest surveillance and, in view of the recent security crisis in Japan, the Australian Government should take steps to ensure that similar problems do not occur here.
5. In view of the known operations of KGB agents, access to Australian ports for Russian cruise ships and cargo vessels should be terminated forthwith.

Finally, the Australian Government should not only take these actions but should urge a similar response from other member countries of the United Nations. Only if the strongest possible diplomatic and political moves are taken now, said Sir William, are there any prospects of preventing an escalation of Russian aggression.

RSL Plans for Mobilisation Essential

"The Government should take early steps to develop plans for the mobilisation of Australia's resources should this be necessary", the National President of the RSL Sir William Keys, said this in launching the Phoenix Defence publication "Problems of Mobilisation of Defence of Australia" in Canberra.

He said that the Russian invasion of Afghanistan created a situation that directly threatened Australia's interests and security and in these circumstances Australia's defence measures were grossly inadequate.

Sir William said that matters of priority were:

1. The development of mobilisation plans.
2. The creation of a National Security Council representing major interest groups in the community.
3. The development of an effective industrial infrastructure.
4. Plans for regularly up-dating sophisticated equipment especially for the RAN and RAAF.
5. A build up in the manpower reserve from the present 30,000 to approximately 200,000.
6. The development of a greatly improved defence infrastructure for communications and transport including port facilities, air strips and road and rail networks.

"Australia cannot afford to drift any longer in a defence vacuum in a world that is unstable to a perilous degree", said Sir William.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

It has possibly, exercised several minds, other than mine, that the traditional recital of the fourth verse of Laurence Binyon's "Ode to the Fallen" which reads "They shall grow not old etc" could well be replaced with more appropriate words for recital at a burial or cremation of an aged ex-service person.

The traditional recital of Binyon's Ode of Remembrance is, I know, very dear to all English-speaking ex-service associations and especially so to the membership of the RSL — so much so, in fact, that one hesitates to suggest any change in procedure in case one's motives are misconstrued.

I feel firm belief and hope, that the traditional recital of "This be the verse that men mouth" will, and RSL meetings and gatherings will continue to be observed as it always has been over many years, because, in my opinion, the immortal words set down by Laurence Binyon, which we all know so well, have done more than any other writing or utterance to nourish and sustain that strong bond of comradeship which exists between ex-service personnel of divers nationalities and creeds wherever the English language is spoken or understood.

I remember, and will continue to remember them, at the going down of the sun, and in the morning. Nevertheless, a re-arrangement of wording, more appropriate for recital at a funeral service for an aged ex-service person, other than the traditional "They shall grow not old" may be more generally desired that we suspect.

I hope readers will respond by expressing their opinions through the "Listening Post".

As an example of what might be considered more appropriate in such an instance, where advanced age does tend to negate the traditional "They shall grow not old," I submit the following: as a more compatible style in phraseology:

"Yest now, old friend; we bid you sad adieu
And we commend, the service you did render.
At evening's fall, and in the morning too,
WE WILL REMEMBER.

This is but a sample of wording which could, perhaps, be somewhat more acceptable to both the reciter and bereaved relatives, in many instances where death is but a natural consequence of old age.

There are, undoubtedly, many other readers whose capabilities in written English far exceeds any that I possess, and with this in mind I look forward with the keenest interest to reading, in due course, a multiplicity of submissions of verse or arrangements of words wholly appropriate to the special requirement of compatibility with old age.

This is, I think, a matter which merits the widest possible publicity, and one on which every reader, and indeed every ex-service person, should be invited and encouraged to write and express their particular viewpoint and also their choice of suitable words with which to mark the demise of aged ex-service personnel with all possible decorum.

R.L. DAVIES

LISTENING POST — MARCH, 1980 — 47
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48 — LISTENING POST — MARCH, 1980
CAN YOU HELP?

I am seeking the whereabouts of old ship mates and go a shore oppos.

Johnny Taylor, Ross James Smith and myself were members of the 1st. HMAS Voyagers crew. We were the three Sailors who were in the first landing craft landing commandos at Bentano Bay Timor, we were also the three sailors who rowed Voyagers' kedge anchor out in the whaler at Bentano Bay Timor during the sinking of Voyager at Bentano Bay in September, 1942.

Johnny was originally from Mackay in Queensland. He and I were members of class R 77 at HMAS Cerberus. Photo above.

Johnny, Ross and I were three of the first ones to volunteer for Radar when it was first introduced into the RAN.

While a member of Voyager's crew, I was A/B Radar, Johnny Turner, B 3256. I later became L/S Radar and a member of the commissioning crew of HMAS Shropshire.

I understand that Ross is or was a licensee of an hotel in the Perth area.

Sorry that I am not able to remember all your names, lads, however I can be contacted at Box 590, Ge fingdon, WA 6530.
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War Relics in New Air Museum
A.F.A. Exhibition Open

Although the new Air Force Association Aviation Museum at Bull Creek covers the history of civil as well as military aviation it is true that the influence of two major wars on the development of aircraft technology has been an important factor in the conquest of the air. The Museum reflects this fact and any ex-serviceman interested in the achievements of the Australian Flying Corps in the 1914/18 war, or the contributions of Australians to the R.A.A.F. and R.A.F. efforts in World War II, will find much to look at and many reminders of past years.

The aircraft on display include a Wirraway and a Vampire of the immediate post-war period, while entrance to the museum permits the visitor to enter the enclosure housing the impressive Lancaster bomber which was moved to this site from Perth Airport last year. A close examination can be made of this famous aircraft and such details as the bomb racks and rear gun turret can be inspected at close range.

The technique of illustrating the progress of aviation, from the first dreams of flight through each period of development to the jet age, by a series of displays arranged in chronological order is most effective. Each display contains wall mounted murals and panels of smaller illustrations backed up by engines, propellers, components and other relics relevant to the particular period, and actual aircraft where appropriate.

Although the displays are largely self explanatory those responsible for setting out the exhibition have provided a great deal of technical and historical information for those who wish to avail themselves of it. This can be supplemented by a comprehensive and well illustrated booklet on sale with many other souvenirs at the museum kiosk.

The museum is on Benningfield Road, just off Leach Highway at Bull Creek and is open on Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Admission is $1.50 for adults and 50 cents for children with concessions for pensioners, students and families. Ample off road parking is provided.

F.L. Purser
Hon. Curator

The DeMolisselle replica. Note mounted photograph of RSL AFA State President with Douglas Bader.

A view of part of the museum interior.
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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Returned Ex-Service Women's Sub-branch RSL

A warm welcome and greetings to all Members attending this 32nd Annual General Meeting of the Sub-branch. In this middle year of office, I am pleased to report to you that our organisation and this Sub-branch in particular has a memorable year and entered into the spirit of the State's 150th Anniversary.

FUNCTIONS: Our 150th Anniversary Luncheon at the Sheraton Hotel, attended by 400+ guests was certainly an event to be remembered. The Convenor, Mrs Dowson and her committee spent many hours in planning the fabric of this occasion and are to be congratulated on an outstanding success. The pièce de resistance, was the special display of the Women's Service Uniforms accompanied by pictorial presentations of unit gatherings and individual activities whilst in the Services. There was tremendous empathy and the whole function, in the words of Rostow, "took off". A wonderful start to our sesquicentennial year. The raffle run by Mrs Cannon netted $729 and overall we were able to donate some $650 to the Restoration of the Memorial Fund. Here, I would like to acknowledge with gratitude, the help given by Red Cross personnel, who, dressed in period Nursing Uniforms, lent just the right atmosphere to the occasion.

2. Members and their families and friends joined to journey to Garden Island and to inspect HMAS Stirling. Our thanks to Mrs Dowson for arranging this outing.
3. In February I attended the WRAAC Assn. Service of Remembrance and a following luncheon as your representative.
4. Accompanied by the Secretary the opening of the Women's Auxiliary Conference was attended.
5. We also attended a preview of the exhibition "Our Nursing Heritage" arranged by the Sisters, at the Navy Memorial Centre. An intriguing and meticulously arranged display with many unique items included and all delicately and tastefully arranged.

Other functions attended are included in reports e.g. National Congress. The end of the year was celebrated by a Christmas party and it was so relaxed and pleasant in all aspects that guests and members enjoyed a stress free evening in a lovely garden setting. Congratulations to Mrs Ford and the arrangements made by the Social Committee.

MEMBERSHIP: Always a most important item in any organisation, made a forward leap at and after the Luncheon. Our Membership now stands at 145 and thus enables us to send 2 delegates to Congress. Another Membership Pennant was awarded to Congress this year, but regretfully we did not have our application for the Newidge Cup in on time. Our liaison officer, Mrs Dowson reported that the Sub-branch was 14 members above all other branches in recruiting new members and thought that we would have had a good chance in carrying off the Cup.

MEETINGS:

The Day-Time meetings in May, July and September proved to be popular with those members who find travelling to meetings at night inconvenient. There was an average of about 20 Members attending. A number of those who attend at night meetings were amongst those of July and September. There was however, a different section of Branch members present from those usually attending Friday night meetings. The inability of either the Secretary or of the Treasurer to attend Day-time meetings, places the President in a very difficult position. It is most unsatisfactory to have to enlist the kind offices of someone present to take the Minutes and from the President view point, such a situation is quite untenable. At the conclusion of meetings, Members have stayed for lunch together or for just a cup of tea. This encourages friendship and provides a climate for getting to know new members. It is hoped that the problem outlined above can be solved should Day-Time meetings continue.

STATE CONGRESS:

Mrs Dowson and I attended as your delegates and enjoyed the debates and ideas aired by attending Branches. The opening was deemed to be the best ever held and a delightful feature was a presentation for services rendered, to Mrs Bruce, wife of the State Secretary. She was surprised and delighted and everyone joined in her pleasure at being so remembered.

NATIONAL CONGRESS:

I attended the opening of Congress, representing the Sub-branch. The Parmelia Hilton Hotel was the venue. Many important issues were debated at this Congress and we all hoped that the delegates would be guided to make wise and beneficial decisions on our behalf. I attended on behalf of these delegates at Anzac House, Governor's House and a wreath laying at the War Memorial. Our own function at the C.T.A. Club was a very happy and friendly party even with the bold gate crasher. From letters subsequently received, all the delegates enjoyed our party too and voted it one of the most relaxing and friendly of all functions they attended.

ANZAC DAY:

Miss Mary Critch attended the Anzac Eve Ceremony at the War Veterans' Home and Mrs Ford and I laid the wreath at the Dawn Service. Many people were present at the Service which is always impressive and meaningful. Later we joined members for the march and service on the Esplanade.

POPPY DAY — REMEMBRANCE DAY & RSL WEEK

RSL week commenced the first week in November culminating in Poppy Day, the Poppy Day Dinner, then the Remembrance Ceremony and the Concert in the Entertainment Centre.

We managed to sell our quota of poppies — 100 odd — but sufficient. Members were not available to man a stall in the City to sell Poppies. The Poppy Day Dinner in a Pavilion in the Claremont Show Grounds was well attended by Members of the Sub-branch. Sir Douglas Bader was the guest speaker. On membership drive day, during RSL week, members attached to the Middle East VAD's Assn., dispensed morning and afternoon teas at Anzac House. Two new members were enlisted for the Sub-branch. Several schools were visited by Mrs Dowson to attend on Remembrance Day and to offer a gift of flags.

On Remembrance Day, Mrs Sinclair and I laid a wreath at the Memorial on your behalf and Mrs Hinton attended the service at the War Veterans' Home. The concert in the afternoon is reported to have been a success and one of our Members had a "stand on" part and was on television.

DONATIONS: Our largest donation was to the War Memorial Restoration Fund.

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<td>The Lord Mountbatten Fund</td>
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54 — LISTENING POST — MARCH, 1980
Fund raising by individual members has done much to lift our bank balance. Special mention must be made of the efforts of Miss Korbosky and Mrs. Hall. Our grateful thanks to these members for their dedication.

Speaking of dedication, leads me to commend Miss Mary Critch who is suffering all the pangs of the birth of her book. Her perseverance could be crowned with success this year. It is auspicious being the beginning of a new decade. We are ready to give any help needed in the furtherance of Mary's work.

GUEST SPEAKERS: During the year several Guest Speakers were able to come and give us some interesting information to Members on subjects of interest. Mr. Enwright, from the Agricultural Dept., came to tell us how to cope with our plant’s ailments. Mr. Kegg gave us some fascinating photography hints and studies and Mrs. Harvey told us of her journeys into Afghanistan and the Old Silk Caravan trail. In view of the present situation in that country her talk was prophetic.

BLINDED SOLDIERS: Mrs. Hall has coped with the suppers mostly single handed. She has done a tremendous job and we thank her sincerely. I feel sure that the Blinded Servicemen and their wives also bless her.

HONOURS: Members of our Sub-branch have been singled out this year for commendation. In the New Year Honour list, Mrs. Margaret Ford was awarded the M.B.E. Margaret has given pleasure and entertainment to thousands of people and it is gratifying to see that her talents are appreciated.

Mrs. R. Donaldson-Birchie to us all was a Dame of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, later in the year. Bestowed by Her Majesty the Queen, this is a great honour for Members of the Order for outstanding and loyal service. Well done!

HOSPITAL VISITING: Mrs. Hinton and Miss Perry have visited our Members in hospitals and institutions and they have also kept an eye on Mrs. Coleman in Mandurah. Perhaps this coming year we could do a little more for this handicapped ex-service women. We all sincerely thank our hospital visitors for their untiring efforts on our behalf.

LIGHT DIET: The link between members of the Sub-branch is this periodical which reports matters of interest to members, snippets of gossip and general news keeping us abreast of happenings. We are much indebted to Terry Korbosky, Joan Hancock, Gerry Smith and her sister Cecily, for getting the news on time and to all these contributors too. News in the life blood of Light Diet, so please keep it rolling in Members.

YEAR OF THE CHILD. 1979: Besides being the 150th Anniversary of our Swan River settlement, it was the Year of the Child. Our Sub-branch sought a means to commemorate this and found that the Spastic Centre had a need for an “assessment machine”. The cost $225. The amount and need was discussed and the money voted to be donated for the machine. The Vice President Miss Korbosky and Mrs. Ford accompanied me to the Spastic Centre to present the cheque and to see one of the machines being used. Seeing these children reminded me of a poem which goes something like this:—

A child is a lovesome thing, Got Wot!
Though sometimes...sadly...Not!
A child is a lovesome thing...God!...Wot!
If...not.....Why not?

We have tried to do something about that last line, even though only in a small way. Hopefully some children, will benefit and be stronger and happier because of our help.

WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM: Many of our dear friends have passed away this year and the Sub-branch is that much diminished by their loss, but, they dwell in our hearts and we will always remember them.

CONCLUSION: I wish to pay tribute to my Office Bearers, without whom the Sub-branch could not function and to the Members who have so loyally supported the organisation. The Hon. Secretary, Miss Geraldine Smith, who has been a tower of strength to me through a number of ambiguous thick and thin periods is now about to desert her post for the familiest of reasons — retirement. Her expertise will be sadly missed, but her rest period is not begrudged. I look back on 1979 as an eventful period, full of interesting functions and pageantry. It was a year when the Sub-branch became known for itself, fort support and innovation. The political climate is unsettled, socio-economic change is increasing at an accelerating rate and one wonders how to cope with these rapid changes. As we go forward into this new decade, I wish you encouragement to meet the challenge of a changing world, flexibility of mind to accept the changes and courage to uphold the tenets of our organisation.

Heather McManis

IN THE HONOURS LIST

Congratulations are in order for those members of the RSL who were recently honoured:
Sir Desmond O'Neil, Highgate Sub-Branch
J.D. Clarkson, O.B.E. Highgate Sub-Branch
F.S.T. Haywood, M.B.E. J.P. Scarborough Sub-Branch
H.M. Noonan, M.B.E. Highgate Sub-Branch & State Executive Member
G. McR. Bunning, AO. Cottesloe Sub-Branch
L.R. Shearer, OAM. Bicton-Palmyra Sub-Branch

MEDALS FOUND

We have been notified by the Police at Three Springs that Constable R.A. Limpus (4464) has found medals belonging to a Veteran of the 1914-1918 War.
There is an inscription on the medals. These medals were found in the Three Springs area.
If you have lost them or you know of anyone who has please contact Constable Limpus on (099) 54-1016 and quote the inscription to him.

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ARE YOU A VIETNAM VETERAN?

More than 250 Vietnam Veterans attended the special meeting conducted by the State Branch of the RSL at Rivervale Sub-branch Hall on 14th February, where it was agreed, by those present, to make application to form a community of interest Sub-branch of the RSL rather than form an association.

Mr John Evans, an Organic Chemist from Melbourne spoke on the intensity of the defoliant programme in Vietnam and the toxicity of the compounds used. He advised of the work carried out in America, and by the World Health Organisation on the problems associated with the use of these chemicals and their effects on human neurological and body functions. These effects have been known scientifically for a long time and all the information is available in Australia. He advised Veterans to stick together as a group, remembering that they, as individuals, are not the only ones with this problem. He also stressed that they must forget the word 'Agent Orange' as this was only one of the chemicals used in the Vietnam Programme.

Pointing out that when a spray was seen, it would not be known whether it was Agent Orange, White Blue or Malathion, and therefore what is being considered is chemicals in general.

Mr Merv Chambers, a Vietnam Veteran, and organiser of the Vietnam Veterans in Western Australia, spoke on the problems faced by Veterans and believed that many had not lodged claims of any kind, with the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The State President, Len Phenna, urged all Veterans to contact the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the RSL immediately if they believed they, or their families, have been affected by Chemical Warfare during their service in Vietnam.

The State Branch of the RSL has engaged a firm of solicitors in Perth, to act on behalf of Vietnam Veterans', through a firm of solicitors in America, currently representing thousands of American Veterans in respect to their problems arising from effects of chemicals used in Vietnam.

Interested Veterans may contact Merv Chambers on Phone 451 4585.

W. Bruce
State Secretary

State Secretary, Doug Bruce, visited Kellerberrin Sub-Branch for annual dinner on 29th November, 1979 and presented Certificate of Service to L.W. Gunn (left) and Ken McNeil (right). Also 50 Year Service Award to F.H. Nicholl (centre).

Mr. Harry Holder, Sub-Branch Secretary pinning Life Membership Badge on State Secretary, Doug Bruce, at a function held by the City of Perth Sub-Branch, while President Mike Hall looks on.

George Podmore, Kellerberrin Sub-Branch was unable to attend the dinner due to illness and State Secretary presented him with a Certificate of Service at his home. Mrs. Podmore and George in the garden of their home, with the Certificate.
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LIMBLES SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION
(“Wingies and Stumpies”). President, E.F. (Pat) Odgers. Secretary, C.C. Brown, Room 38, 1095 Hay St, West Perth. Tel. 321 5888. Meetings first Thursday each month except January.

28th BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION
Meets Anzac Club (Visitors Room) 2.30 pm second Thursday. President: J. Brown, 33 Paddington St, Nth Perth 6006. Secretary: R.T. Boyes, 84 Crossan St, 31 Williams Rd, Hollywood. 6230. Annual re-union Tuesday of Show Week at 2.30 pm.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC. (WA SECTION)
CITY OF PERTH SUB-SECTION
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NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SECTION) INC; STATE COUNCIL
State President: F. Metcalfe, J.P., 2402 Albany Hwy, Gosnells. Tel. 398 2340. State Secretary: W.J. Skinner, 28 Wilberforce St, North Beach. Tel. 447 3148 or 444 5611.

WRAAC ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: Mrs Nancy Carlson, 24 Iveston Rd, Lynwood, 6155. Tel. 457 3934. Secretary: Mrs B. Freeman, 56 Sussex St, Spearwood. Tel. 418 2953.

“Z” SPECIAL FORCE ASSOCIATION OF WA
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PARTIALLY BLINDED SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA * WA BRANCH INC
Meetings held each month at Anzac House, 4 Sherwood Court, Perth at 2pm first Monday each month, except January. President: W.H. Grant, B.E.M., C.D., Phone: 367 4471. Secretary: D.J. Symes, 15 Siddeley Place, Dianella. Tel. 276 9950.

2/32nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION (W.A.)
Secretary: A. Lawford, 119 Grand Promenade, Doubleview 6018. Tel. 271 6492. Treasurer: Col Edmnston, 54 Mount Lawley, 6053. Tel. 444 2588.

FEDERATION TB SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN’S ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)

AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOC. (WA)
Meetings third Monday at Anzac House at 6pm. President: Peter Kemmis, 37 Selby St, Wembley, 6014. Tel. 381 3348. Secretary: John Quinn, 23 Douglas Ave, Mt. Yokine, 6060. Tel. 3349 1374.

2/13th BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION
President: H. Bowra, 7 Highfield Rd, Nth Perth. Tel. 444 2585. Secretary: G.K. Baron-Hay, 24 Stanley St, Nedlands 386 1554. Committee meetings held quarterly at 4 Sherwood Court. (RSL H.Q.) 2pm on second Monday each month.

BRITISH EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION
President: G. D. Willetts, QM, 13 Croxton Pl, Nth Beach, 6020. Tel. 447 5670. All correspondence: The Hon Gen Sec., PO Box 308, Kalamunda 6067. Tel. 293 3465. Secretary: Mary Woolllcot, 121 Peel Rd, Roleystone, 6111. Tel. 397 5817.

GUILD OF SIGNAL UNITS ASSOCIATION IN (W.A.)
Meets second Tuesday each month 8.00pm Lord St, Drill Hall, Perth. President: Doug Harvey, 150 Landiown Rd, Kensington, 6151. Tel. 367 4359. Secretary: Dick Koch, 42 Parkside Ave, Mt. Pleasant, 6153. Tel. 364 4828.

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Council meets first Tuesday each month at Anzac House. Annual General Meeting second Tuesday August (Anzac House). Annual Re-union nearest Saturday to 11th November (Remembrance Day) Subiaco Civic Centre.

KOREA & SOUTH EAST ASIA FORCES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)

Meets second Monday in February, April, June and July at T/Anzac House, 4 Sherwood Court, Perth. Members notified by mail of October A.G.M. State President, Mr Jack Gerke, 1 Gerald St, Como, 6152. State Secretary M. Cadden, 53 Wicca St, Kewdale, 6105. Tel: 277 3681. Executive Committee meets when required.

TOTALLY & PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION

TPI Memorial House, 88 Colin Street, West Perth 6005. Tel. 321 5457. President: D.G. Maley. Tel. 349 4830. Secretary: D.W. Penny. General Meetings, monthly, second Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.

REGULAR DEFENCE FORCES WELFARE ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)

For all enquiries contact President, W/Cne D. T. Coughlin, 114 Empire Avenue, Wembley Downs 341 2393, or Secretary, Lieut. E. C., Lunn-Garner, R. 9 Davies Crescent, Kalamunda. Phone: 293 1309.

RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)

President: R. Goldspink, 31 Cooper Rd, Morley, 6062. Secretary: D. Le Fevre, 16 Kennedy St, Melville 6156. Tel 330 2420. The committee meets 2nd Tuesday each month.

SUBMARINE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

President: Mr C. Costeur, 107 Gildergircle Street, Scarborough, 6019. Secretary: Mr J.W. Appleton, 9 Thorley Way, Lockridge 6054. Tel. 279 1638. Meets in Anzac House, fourth Wednesday of every month, 6pm (December excepted).

POLISH EX-SERVICESMEN'S ASSOCIATION, SUB-BRANCH NO.9

President: George Redziszowski, MC. Tel. 361 6294-Hon. Secretary: S. Zaleski Tel. 274 2303. All correspondence to: P.O. Box 692 GPO, Perth WA 6001.

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (INC)

Meets at Riverton Sub-branch RSL Hall, High Road, Riverton. Second Wednesday each month, 8pm. Secretary: E.A. Taylor, 85 Claisebrook St, Maddington 459 5747.

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION (BRANCH 1210 WA)

President: Adrian Bell, 158 Nollamara Avenue, Nollamara. 6060. Tel. 349 1446. Secretary: Audrey Brown. Meetings fortnightly, Tuesday nights at 8pm, 131 James St, Guildford, WA. Dances held every Saturday night, Bingo Thursday nights.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Meeting every 4th Wednesday, Cameron Barracks, Canning Highway, Victoria Park. President: W. Smith. Tel. 467 5430. Secretary: K. Trent. Tel. 367 7794. All correspondence to Cameron Barracks.

GUARDS ASSOCIATION OF W.A., (INC)

Meets in Visitors Room, Anzac House, on third Friday every month at 8:00pm. President: Mr D. Cross. Tel. 276 3495. Secretary: Mr T.W. (Bill) Scott. Tel. 457 4902.

Z SPECIAL FORCE

Z Special Force Australia Inc. Chairman: Jack Sue, 321 4979 321 4771. Managing Secretary, K. Scarfe. Tel. 095 27 1703

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(INC) W.A. BRANCH

State President, Mr J.T. Bastow, 120 Lawrence St, Bedford. Tel. 271 8509. State Secretary: Mr T.P. Ingram, 100A Petra St, Bicton. Tel. 339 1470. Details of Sub-branch Meetings, please phone 339 1470.

2/2nd COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

Meetings 1st Tues. at 8pm. President: G. Maley, 61 David St, Yokine, 349 4530. Secretary: A. Wares, 16 Waverley St, Dianella 276 4304.

NETHERLANDS EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSN. OF AUG.

President: J. Van Der Moezel, 31 Jackson Ave, Karrinyup, 6018. Tel. 341 1798. Secretary: J. Freund, 88 Garling Street, Wijljege, 6156. Tel. 337 3625. Meets 4th Wed. E/M. Druids Hall 8pm. All correspondence to Box 87, P.O. Wembley, 6014.

PEGASUS ASSOCIATION OF W.A.

(Ex Paratroopers, Glider Pilots, and Airborne Forces) For details of meetings and social events, contact the President J. Malin, 139 Howes Crescent, Dianella (276 8721) or Secretary: P. Tooher, 40 Jervoise Street, Dianella (276 8545).

DECEASED LIST

NOTIFIED DECEMBER 1979

1979

HUMPHREY, G.M. 5 Staffs. Moora

MAY 1979

McRAE, B.W. W59784 7th Aust. Fd. Amb. Como

AUGUST 1979

WILSON, G.E. 486547/1 Royal Signals. Wanneroo & Districts

SEPTEMBER 1979

BADDAMS, F.A. T/282815 R.A.S.C. Bunbury

CHARLESON, H.G. 80393 RAAF. N.E. Fremantle.

PERICH, A. WX36451 28th Bn. Bayswater

OCTOBER 1979

HOFMANN, E.T. 804161 RAAF. Albany.
KINGDOM, W.H. 2503 13th L.H. Subiaco
LANTON, J.J. 4357 32nd Bn. North Perth
LAWSON, S.T. 2769 5th Bn. South Perth
MOIR, J.A. 205887 R.A.M.C. Bicton-Palmyra
MONK, G.W. WX25898 2/2 Tank A. Rgt. Denmark
McCoy, J.N. WX87262 5 Aust. Div. City of Perth
McKay, D.W. WX4769 2/7th Fd. Regt. Claremont

NOVATSIS, N.L; W78018 H.Q. Central
RYAN, R.T. WX27472 28th AIB. Mandurah
SMITH, J.P. 46732 RAAF. Geraldton
ALFORD, R.C.S. QX53094 7B/Pod. South Belmont
ARCHER, L.R. WX48192/2/Fd. Park Bunbury
BAGOT, A.G. Royal Navy, Wongan Hills
BAIRD, J.W. WX15219 10 O.V.P. Subiaco
BARRETT, A.J. 7211 16th Bn. Kalgoorlie
BARRIE, J. WX31187 11th AIB. Kalgoorlie
BEALE, J.A. 19137 RAN, N.E. Fremantle
BECKER, H.A. WX41012 2/16th Bn. Bedford

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(a) False representation that goods or services are of a particular standard, quality or grade, or that goods are of a particular style or model;
(b) False representation that goods are new;
(c) False representation that goods or services have sponsorship, approval, performance characteristics, accessories, uses or benefits which they do not have;
(d) False representation that he or it has a sponsorship approval or affiliation or it does not have;
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