Remembrance Day in the CBD 2009

Police halt traffic at main intersection as Buglers play Last Post & Rouse, Remembering those who paid the price.

Welcome Back Matt
Page 8

Pieces of the Puzzle
Page 9

Rick Hart - Proudly supporting your local RSL

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ASSISTANT STATE SECRETARY
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July 2009 Vol. 32 No. 6

for contributions to next edition.
If possible, submissions should be typed and double-spaced. Preferred method of receiving submissions is via email. Photographs can be black and white or colour. This is your journal and contributions are welcome.
Address to: The Editor, The Listening Post
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We cannot accept Newspaper Clippings for publication without express approval from the Newspaper Editor as we can infringe on Copyright Laws. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Correction 1. A reader has pointed out that we have printed the incorrect regimental number for Pte Stonehouse, in an article that appears on Page 23 & 24 of the October edition. The correct regimental number for Pte Stonehouse is WX5316. The Editors apologise to Pte Stonehouse’s relatives.

Correction 2. In the article “Portraits of Australian Heroes” Col. Serong, it was quoted that there was only one VC recipient, this is incorrect. The Australian members of ‘The Team’ won 4. Major Badcoe (Posthumous), WO2 Payne, WO2 Simpson and WO2 Wheatley (Posthumous)
The Editor of The Listening Post apologises to all ATTV Members.

Denis Connelly, Editor

We are proud of our long association with the RSL and are pleased to provide members with the following services

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On this day in History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 November</td>
<td>1914</td>
<td>First AIF sails</td>
<td>The first Australian and New Zealand contingent sails from Albany, Western Australia, bound for Egypt. Only one in three of those who sailed in the first convoy would return physically unscathed at the end of the First World War.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 December</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>Last Australian troops evacuated from Gallipoli</td>
<td>The evacuation of Gallipoli, largely planned by Brigadier General C.B.B. White, was a triumph of careful planning and bold execution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 November</td>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Germany signs armistice</td>
<td>Germany signs an armistice ending the fighting on the Western Front. The First World War ended at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 November</td>
<td>1941</td>
<td>HMAS Sydney [II] sunk</td>
<td>Sydney was lost with its entire crew of 645 men in a sudden and disastrous encounter with the German raider, Kormoran, off the Western Australian coast. The circumstances surrounding its loss remain controversial to this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 December</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Air battle over Sunchon, North Korea</td>
<td>In this, the largest air-to-air battle fought by the RAAF during the Korean war, twelve 77 Squadron Meteors met between 40-50 Chinese Mig-15s. The fight precipitated a change from an air interception to a ground attack role for No. 77 Squadron.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Veterans have new tools to manage alcohol consumption with the updated The Right Mix — Your Health and Alcohol package, Minister for Veterans’ Affairs Alan Griffin announced today.

“As the spring racing calendar and festive season is upon us, it is timely to reinforce the message that a healthier life involves the right mix of sensible alcohol use, good nutrition and exercise,” Mr Griffin said.

“There is an estimated 12,300 Australian veterans with drug or alcohol dependence or abuse, and alcohol has been a major contributor to both mental and physical health problems in the veteran community. “The Right Mix program can help veterans, and the wider community, better understand and moderate their drinking.”

The Right Mix — Your Health and Alcohol includes a website www.therightmix.gov.au and resources such as fact sheets, questionnaires and practical tips to moderate drinking.

“Understanding the effects of alcohol on the body and how it can interact with certain medications will help veterans make sensible choices about their drinking,” Mr Griffin said.

“By moderating their consumption, veterans can avoid the problems associated with heavy drinking that can lead to illness, injury and even premature death.”

The Right Mix was originally launched in 2001 as part of a project to reduce alcohol-related harm in the veteran community and address these issues in an integrated way with other physical and mental health conditions. It has been updated to reflect the recently published Australian Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking Alcohol.

“My Department’s update of The Right Mix involved consultation with veterans and members of the ex-service and Australian Defence Force communities, with the aim of making it more relevant and appealing to these groups,” Mr Griffin said.

“An education program is also underway to ensure key health professionals are aware of the revised guidelines and updated resources are available.”

Australians are encouraged to access The Right Mix website and use the interactive tools to assess their drinking behaviour.

Media inquiries: Belinda Cole 0437 863 109

“Veterans urged to Rethink the Next Drink”

The President and State Executive wish all Members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Supplied from the AWM Canberra.
As the year draws to a close we can look back on what has been a most successful year for the RSL.

Our achievements have been many and spread across all areas of our operations and service delivery to members and the community. Significant changes have been made at our local, branch and national level and aged care operations with planned development and expansion on the drawing board for all our sites. We have certainly grown - from a ‘Mickey mouse’ operation to a ‘mighty mouse’ business enterprise, which, of course, stretches our capacity to administer such an operation. Naturally, we will work through the issues and ensure we are all able to cater for our veteran community in the best possible way. Our attention to the proper conduct of our commemorative services draws fanfare and comment. ANZAC Day has exceeded all expectations throughout the State and with the support of Lotterywest and Celebrity WA we are able to honour the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women in time of conflict.

Our Charter requires us to attend to the welfare needs of veterans of all conflicts whether RSL Member or not. Through the ‘Aged Fund’ our welfare officer regularly attends to the emergency needs of those who seek RSL assistance. At the Sub Branch level Amelioration Funds are also available to deal with matters at a local level. Funding for the operation of this service is through the annual poppy day collections. I am delighted to advise that the recently completed ANZAC Day Parades in 2018 saw a total collection of just over $300,000 – a magnificent effort and one that will ensure we are able to support our veterans in these troubled economic times.

Future Commemoration Activities

The growing interest and support for Commemorative Services reflects a growing support for our past and present servicemen and women. The increase in attendance at almost every Service we conduct indicates that this interest will continue well into the future. With the centenary of the Gallipoli Landings in 2015 – just six years away we can expect a significant increase in support for our Services. Obviously we can not do this by ourselves and the direction we must take is to further engage our local communities in the presentation of the Services. We are led to believe that in the first half of 2010 the Government will make an announcement on its support for commemorative Services and activities for the period 2014 – 2018. The expectation is that there will be a requirement for ESO and Community partnerships to be formed for the presentation of such services. No doubt we will be keen to see how the planned activities will be resourced and conducted.

Jack Sue

The RSL notes with sadness the passing of Jack Wong Sue OAM DCM JP on 16 November 2009. Jack was a prominent local Chinese Australian who served behind enemy lines as a member of Z Force (also known as Z Special Unit) during the Second World War. Jack served in the RAAF and reached the rank of Sergeant. He was a regular attendee at ANZAC Day parades and always claimed the acclamation of the crowd as he and his Unit passed by. Jack was devoted to telling his story to school children and took every opportunity to interact with young children. He will certainly be missed by all who knew him as a man who served his country with distinction.

Young Australian of the Year (WA)

Congratulations goes to Trooper Mark Donaldson VC who was recently named as the winner of the WA Section of the Young Australian of the Year at a ceremony held in Government House Ballroom on the Saturday 21st November 2009. Trp Donaldson VC will be considered for the national title which will be awarded in Canberra on Australia Day eve.

Honour Avenue Group

At a recently held dedication service the Kings Park Honour Avenue Group provided their memories and decrees of deceased Servicemen and women which were then placed at the base of trees lining the roadways in the Park. Twelve plaques were dedicated before a gathering of around 200 people. The plaques represented fallen veterans of the First and Second World Wars. Those families and friends attending included wive, children, grand children as well as great grand children of many whom had carried out extensive research on their relatives.

Country Visit

Recently the Gnowangerup Sub Branch, in association with the local community mounted a display of the military history of the district in the towns Memorial Hall. Extensive research
Portraits of Australian Heroes

Alfred John Shout
VC, MC, MID

Alfred John Shout was born on 7 August 1881 to an English father, John Shout, and his Irish wife Agnes (nee McGovern). Although he was born and educated in New Zealand we have claimed him as "one of our own".

In 1900 at the age of eighteen he joined the New Zealand Contingent serving as a Sargent with the Border Horse Unit. Later he served with the Cape Field Artillery from 1903 – 1905, when he moved to Australia and settled in the Sydney suburb of Darlington. Alfred Shout married Rose Alice and they had a daughter Florence Agnes Maud. He worked as a carpenter and joiner until he joined the 29th Infantry Regiment in the Militia in 1907. He obtained his commission on 16th June 1914 in the Australian Imperial Force.

On 26th August 1914 Alfred Shout was appointed 2nd Lieutenant in the 1st Battalion and 18th November 1914, 2nd Lieutenant Shout embarked for Egypt aboard SS Africa (A19) where on 1st February 1915 he was promoted to Lieutenant.

The 1st Battalion landed at Gallipoli on 25th April 1915 and suffered very heavy losses and by the 30th April only 5 days later had lost 366 officers and men. On 27th April Lt. Shout showed conspicuous service leading his men in close, bushy country under heavy Turkish fire, exposing himself to draw fire to locate enemy positions, and having led bayonet charges for these actions Lt. Shout was awarded the Military Cross (MC). On 29th July 1915Lieutenant Shout was promoted to Captain in the 1st Battalion and 1st February 1915 he was promoted to Lieutenant.

In November 1915 a commemo-ration plaque for Captain Alfred John Shout VC, MC, MID unveiled by Governor General Sir Ronald Ferguson at Darlingtown Town Hall. This plaque is now on display at Victoria Barracks Museum, Paddington NSW.

FOOTNOTE
Captain Shouts Victoria Cross is also very notable for when it was auctioned by Captain Shout’s family; there was great concern amongst the Veteran Community that the medal could find its way in a private collection or, of more concern, overseas. But at the time of the auction Mr Kerry Stokes (Media) was a mystery buyer and paid $1.2 million for the medal to remain in Australian possession. Mr Stokes, who owns Channel 7 Network, has since donated Captain Shouts Victoria Cross Medal to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, where it remains on display for all to see.

CAPTAIN ALFRED JOHN SHOUT, VC
Date of Birth: 1882-08-08, New Zealand
Date and Unit at appointment (Officers): 1914-08-27, App 2nd Lieutenant 1st Battalion
Date of Embarkation: 1914-10-18, Embarked aboard A19 (SS Afric)
Date Promoted: 1915-02-01, App Lieutenant

Date of Honour or Award: 1915-08-04, Awarded Military Cross
Date Promoted: 1915-07-29, App Captain

Date of Honour or Award: 1915-08-05, Mentioned in Dispatches (MID).

Group Portrait of the 1st Battalion officers at their camp outside Cairo. Identified L to R: Captains Albert George Maguire, who later died of wounds in Egypt on 7 May 1915, aged 23; Major Blair Ian Stephen, who was killed during the landing at ANZAC Cove on 25 April 1915; Lieutenant Alfred John Shout (later Captain, MC, and VC), who died at sea on 11 August 1915 of wounds sustained at Lone Pine on 9 August.

REFERENCE
1. Australian War Memorial, Canberra ACT.
2. “They Dared Mightily” by Lionel Wigmore with Bruce Harding. Published by Australian War Memorial Canberra, ACT.
3. Wikipedia – Alfred John Shout VC, MC, MID
An Unsung Hero’s Five Days of Hell on Water

By Mike Southwell. Originally published in The Western Mail December 1985

History has credited the sinking of the HMAS Yarra with few words. It went down in one of the many battles between the Japanese and Allied forces for control of the Java and Coral Seas. George Odgers’ The Royal Australian Navy – An Illustrated History describes two paragraphs to the human consequences of the sinking. “Of the ships compliment of 151 a total of 138 went down with the ship or died later on the rafts. “The 13 survivors were picked up five days later by a Dutch submarine.”

MEMORY

But one of those survivors – West Australian Alf Orton – was haunted by the awful memory of those five days for the remaining 43 years of his life.

Just before he died, Alf decided it was time to tell the story the historians had ignored. He called his memoirs Survival and began them with the words: “I will try to convey to the reader what happened to the men on the rafts and the terrible ordeal they went through.” He then gives details of HMAS Yarra’s war service from the time it left Fremantle on August 28, 1940, with Leading Seaman Alfred George Orton on board until its sinking in the Timor Sea on March 4, 1942. The Yarra’s last duty was to escort a small convoy of merchant ships from Jakarta to Darwin. Five days out the drama began.

As Alf Orton tells it: “On breaking daylight we were confronted by a task force of three cruisers and four destroyers coming at us fast. “Our Captain immediately laid the Yarra with three cruisers and four destroyers coming at us from the time it left Fremantle on August 28, 1940, with Leading Seaman Alfred George Orton on board until it’s sinking in the Timor Sea on March 4, 1942. The Yarra’s last duty was to escort a small convoy of merchant ships from Jakarta to Darwin. Five days out the drama began.

“We were soon under heavy fire as the Japs had us circled. We were taking so many hits that it was only a matter of time… we were being blown to pieces. We were unable to talk, only croak. We cursed the sharks, the sea snakes and the insects that bit us all night. By this time we had had no water or food for three days. We were burnt black by the sun and the terrible sun was beating down on us. We were not in a very good position to stop but when I wasn’t looking they’d some held their heads under. I told them to stop but when I wasn’t looking they’d do it again.

MORE LOSSES

“We were attacked again that night by the sharks and lost more men. There were 17 on our raft, with none over the sides. But we were still up to our necks in water. By this time we had had no water or food for five days and the men were throwing salt water on their faces and eating seaweed as it drifted past. Some ratings started to drink salt water and some held their heads under. I told them to stop but when I wasn’t looking they’d do it again.

RELIGION

“Only when we lost a man over the side would we look away. It is in such predicaments that men turn to religion. The Catholics on the rafts crossed themselves continually.

“The worst time for shark attacks is dusk. That evening, as the sun went down, they came in to attack. One would make a pass and then the other followed. That night they tore away the men hanging over the sides. All we could do was smash the water with paddles. We lost another 14 men that night. After that terrible night we faced a new day in rafts more buoyant because of the loss of so many men.

“I learnt that it was the leading seaman onboard and had to get some routine going if we were to survive. At 9 o’clock by my reckoning I thought it appropriate to say the prayer we all know in the navy. “We ate rubber, buttons, our singlets and anything we could to stop but when I wasn’t looking they’d do it again.

“Again I ten asked where I thought we were and I lied and said not far from Darwin. I said that if we kept paddling south we would make it as patrol boats from Darwin would be looking for us. This settled a few of them down and gave them heart. “But the truth was we were 250 miles from the nearest land. We were some day third day and it was starting to play on us all, some worse than others. The terrible sun was beating down on us. We had no water and the tin of biscuits had drifted away in the rough seas. Some ratings started to drink salt water and some held their heads under. I told them to stop but when I wasn’t looking they’d do it again.

CHREISTENING

“Like the christening of a ship I hit my head on the side of the submarine. After that terrible night we faced a new day in rafts more buoyant because of the loss of so many men. “The worst time for shark attacks is dusk. That evening, as the sun went down, they came in to attack. One would make a pass and then the other followed. That night they tore away the men hanging over the sides. All we could do was smash the water with paddles. We lost another 14 men that night. After that terrible night we faced a new day in rafts more buoyant because of the loss of so many men.

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Matthew first joined the ANZAC Club in 2006 but left for greener pastures. He returned to duty on November 2009.

The hospitality industry has always been a big part of Matthew’s life, since he was a teenager on Sydney. Matthew’s qualifications include a Higher Certificate from TAFE NSW for Club Management, and extensive work experience in the NSW Club scene at all levels. Matthew resides in Maida Vale. His hobbies include gardening, reading from his extensive library and as he says ‘tinkering with veteran cars’.

Matthew believes that the ANZAC Club will continue to attract more customers with our first class facilities and is very keen to attract more corporate functions. Matthew feels that with more corporate functions our profile in the greater community will be lifted. Mr Holyday has also reminded members contemplating holding a Christmas function at the Club to get in early as bookings are being rapidly filled. If you require a specific date and time, act now!

Matthew can be contacted at the ANZAC Club on 9287 3714 or via email anzacclub@rslwahq.org.au

RSL WA welcomes back Matthew Holyday

Continuing our series on Australian Heroes, in this article we look at an Australian Army Private who paid the ultimate price in the Korean Conflict.

Horace William Madden was born at Cronulla, New South Wales on 14 February 1924, to his father Charles Bernard Madden, a labourer, and Mother Pearl Ellen (nee Clemson). After leaving school, the young Madden acquired the nickname ‘Slim’ because of his height of over 6’. Slim Madden worked as a shop assistant in a greengrocer and considered himself a ‘fruiterer’.

On 3 July 1942 Slim enlisted in the Australian Army (Regimental No. 2400186). In August 1943 he transferred to the AIF, serving with the 8th Field Ambulance in New Guinea and later on Bougainville with the 5th Motor Ambulance Convoy Platoon. After the Pacific War hostilities ceased, Private Madden was transferred to the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces (BCOF).

Upon his return to Australia, Private Madden was discharged from the Australian Army on 2 June 1947. After his discharge Slim worked as a male nurse at Morisset Mental Hospital before re-enlisting in 1950. Private Madden joined the Special Forces being raised to serve in Korea as part of the United Nation Forces.

Joining the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) in a signal platoon working in below freezing temperatures and defending the position that was being attacked by a very determined Chinese Force. On the evening of 23 April the Chinese Forces renewed the attack on the 3RAR lines near Kapyong and Madden, being severely concussed, he was forced to surrender with a number of his mates. For the next few days Madden and his mates were forced to recover wounded and dead Chinese soldiers, all the while being exposed to United Nations air attacks. During the confusion of the Chinese attack Madden and his mates were reported as missing believed killed, as Battalion losses were reported 31 killed and 58 wounded.

After his capture his captors moved the allied prisoners to various locations in North Korea Kangdong ‘caves’ and later to Pingchang. It was during this time that Madden showed great courage and determination not cooperating with his captors. Although degraded of food because of his behaviour, resulting in severe malnourishment, he showed how many ‘tough Twins’ purchased from Korea with other prisoners. He had examples of how he tried to maintain his manhood and believe that to pursue this course must eventually result in death. This did not deter him, and for three months, although becoming progressively weaker, he continued unmatched in his resistance. He would in no way cooperate with the enemy.

Private Horace William Madden succumbed to his injuries on 6 November 1951. As his citation reads Private Madden showed considerable courage in not willing to cooperate with the enemy.

After the Korean hostilities had ceased, Private Madden’s remains were re-buried in the United Nations Memorial Cemetery at Pusan, Korea. As Horace William Madden GC was unmarried, the Governor of New South Wales, Sir John Northcott, presented Private Madden’s sister Mrs Florence Regan with his George Cross Medal on 9 May 1956 in Sydney.

George Cross (left) awarded to Horace ‘Slim’ Madden

References:
1. The Australian War Memorial, Canberra ACT
2. ‘They Dared Mightily’, Lionel Wigmore in collaboration with Bruce Harding. Published by The Australian War Memorial, Canberra ACT.

Korean War Service Record

Private
HORACE WILLIAM MADDEN GC
2400186
Birth Date : 14 February 1924
Birth Place : Cronulla, NSW
Dates of Service : 5 November 1950 to 6 November 1951
Death Date : 6 November 1951
Days in Service : 367
Heroes : GEORGE CROSS
Prisoner of War : Yes
Unit : 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Infantry Corps

From the Bunker
with Denis Connelly

Private Horace William Madden GC

Private who paid the ultimate price in the Korean Conflict.

St. James’ Palace, SW1.

30 December, 1955.

The QUBIN has been gratefully pleased, on the advice of H.M. Majesty’s Australian Ministers, to approve the posthumous award of the GEORGE CROSS, in recognition of gallant and distinguished service while a prisoner of war in Korea, on:—

1/400186 Private Horace William Madden (deceased) 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Infantry Corps

Private Madden was captured by Chinese Communist Forces on 5th April, 1951, near Kanyaong. He was a signaler attached to Battalion Headquarters at the time and received concussion prior to capture. Private Madden was held prisoner by the enemy until about 6th November, 1951, when he died of malnutrition and the result of treatment. During this period he openly resisted all enemy efforts to force him to collaborate, to such a degree that his name and example were widely known through the various groups of prisoners. Testimonials have been received by QUBIN from many units of theColour and Allied Forces which show that the heroism he displayed was quite outstanding.

Despite repeated beatings and every other form of maltreatment, Private Madden revealed no feelings of the desire to his captors. Private Madden remained cheerful and always maintained a cheerful attitude. Although degraded of food because of his behaviour, resulting in severe malnourishment, he showed how many ‘tough Twins’ purchased from Korea with other prisoners. He had examples of how he tried to maintain his manhood and believe that to pursue this course must eventually result in death. This did not deter him, and for three months, although becoming progressively weaker, he continued unmatched in his resistance. He would in no way cooperate with the enemy.

This gallant soldier’s last act on conclusion of the war was an inspiration to all his fellow prisoners.
From the Menora Gardens, please contact RSL Care WA on 9370 for the independent retiree or one that may need a little range of extra services and a wide choice of support with the first concrete pour occurring last month. In addition to this, the current construction of the physiotherapist and podiatrist, which will be Rooms have also been constructed to house a comfortable waiting area, are close to parking facilities are well appointed, modern and light, have a large and in attendance in the surgery 3 days a week. Howse Centre – in total he has about 150 patients and is “From a medical point of view, retirees are changing, in that time. “Everything we do is designed to make the lives of our residents that much easier and enjoyable and to maintain a height of independence and ease of living are what our clients want, so it made sense to accommodate this in our plans for Menora Gardens. “If you are dealing with veterans or their family members experience mental health problems as a result of their Service, I urge any veteran or veterans’ family member who wants more information about improving their mental health to contact the VVCS on 1800 011 046,” Mr Griffin said. “Even if you are dealing with My Department on compensation or other matters, don’t wait to address your mental health issues. VVCS is a free, confidential and responsive service that can provide you with the support you need when you need it most.” Mr Griffin said World Mental Health Day provided opportunity to reach out, not only to veterans, but also to widows, wives, partners, children and mates. “Almost 50,000 veterans have a mental health disability, so I understand that the treatment of illnesses such as PTSD and related conditions is very close to the hearts of those in the ex-service community.” Mr Griffin said the Government was doing more now to assist veterans and transitioning ADF members with mental health-related problems, than ever before in the history of Australia’s participation in conflicts and peace operations. “In addition to the $145 million spent on veteran’s mental health annually, the Government has allocated $92 million over four years to better meet the mental health needs of veterans and current and former serving members of the ADF, including $9.5m to my Department to implement recommendations from Professor Dunt’s Independent Study into Suicide in the Ex-service community,” Mr Griffin said. Other initiatives include $5.5 million for the Australian Centre for Post traumatic Mental Health to develop ADF and veteran-specific mental health initiatives, more free Operation Life suicide prevention workshops for people who are concerned about family, friends, mates or others in the veteran and ex-service community. The At Ease website (www.at-ease.dva. gov.au) also provides veteran-specific information on common mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and substance misuse, and links to veteran and ex-service services and other resources. “These programs demonstrate the Government’s commitment to mental health awareness and treatment across the veteran community. However, there is always more that can be done, and we will continue to do more.” The VVCS – Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service can be contacted 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 1800 011 046.  

THE analysis of more than 6000 World War I military artefacts is under way at the Pheasant Wood archaeological site in Fromelles, France, as part of painstaking task of identifying the remains of 250 Australian soldiers continues. Work at the site is almost complete and the excavation contractor, Oxford Archaeology, is doing the final cataloguing and compiling of the historical finds. Fromelles project manager Lt-Col James Brownlie said articles analysed included a shoulder flash number “3”, a train ticket, leather items, buttons and remnants of uniforms. “Another item found recently of particular interest was a rare type of buckle, which may have come from an officer’s Sam Browne leather belt,” he said. Lt-Col Brownlie said such items would help in the efforts to identify some of the men. “Each item recovered with a set of remains helps to tell the story of who these men were,” he said. “We hope the meticulous work undertaken by Oxford Archaeology will give some of them a named headstone at last.” Other items of military equipment recovered include a brass oil container with a spoon for use with an Enfield rifle, toothbrushes and pocket knives. Each item is cleaned and researched in minute detail in the hope that information may assist in identifying the remains. One example was an elaborate brace fitting stamped with “Shirley President”, which was traced to a manufacturer in Massachusetts. Fragments of clothing have also been found at the site. Among them were boots and sections of uniform, a brass sleeve holder and a cardigan complete with buttons. A decision is yet to be made on where the artefacts will be housed once analysis is complete. By Chloe Wootten and Sgt Andrew Hetherington Reproduced with permission from the Army Newspaper

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR VETERAN COMMUNITY

Dr Cullen consults with Gwen Martin from RSL Pearson Village in the new consulting rooms at Menora Gardens Residential Aged Care facility.

Pieces of the Puzzle

Dr Cullen consults with Gwen Martin from RSL Pearson Village in the newly constructed rooms at Menora Gardens Residential Aged Care facility.

Sally Hamilton

Consulting Rooms at RSL Care

WA’s Menora Gardens

RSL Care WA is an innovative market leader in many ways and continues to direct and plan their villages by using detailed research into the changing population and having a personal service in a bid to find out what their clients want and need in retirement living.

Menora Gardens is an ideal example of this, in that it is shaping up to be a vibrant and lively community with just about everything at its resident’s fingertips. Not only is it nestled amongst a well established area which has easy access to local precincts, public transport and the city, inside the complex is a chapel, community centre, hairdresser, pool, library and computer stations, restaurant and bistro facilities and a gym.

Rooms have also been constructed to house a comfortable waiting area, are close to parking facilities are well appointed, modern and light, have a large and

In keeping with the rest of the village the treatment rooms are well appointed, modern and light, have a large and comfortable waiting area, are close to parking facilities and have easy access for residents.

Rooms have also been constructed to house a physiotherapist and podiatrist, which will be accommodated in the near future.

In addition to this, the current construction of the Independent Living Units at Menora Gardens has begun with the first concrete pour occurring last month. At this stage this new construction is proceeding to plan. Menora Gardens offers a broad level of living, a huge range of extra services and a wide choice of support for the independent retiree or one that may need a little extra.

For further information regarding retirement living at Menora Gardens, please contact RSL Care WA on 9370 0200.

with Sally Hamilton

THE LISTENING POST December 2009 9
Many people find Christmas a very difficult time of year. This may be due to having unrealistic expectations about the holiday season. Christmas may have previously been a time spent with loved ones who are no longer in your life. Additionally, many people have more expenses at this time of year adding further difficulties to the holiday season. Christmas is also a time of year when family members are expected to spend time together even though they may feel that they have little in common with each other. So, how can you enjoy Christmas given all these difficulties?

**Family**

Christmas is traditionally a time of family spending time together. However, these days many people have little contact with their extended family during the rest of the year and so spending time together can result in old quarrels and differences of opinion being repeated. The friction that results can lead to further family disruptions. In order to cope with these difficulties, plan ahead to lay aside differences and difficult subjects that invariably lead to arguments.

**Losses**

Christmas can also be a difficult time for people who have suffered major losses since the previous Christmas. Perhaps someone close to you has passed away since last year and memories of last Christmas when you were together are distressing for you. It may be helpful to acknowledge among the family that this was a time normally spent with that person and allow everyone to remember them in a special way. However, if the loss is still too recent or if memories are still very strong, it may be too painful to do this. It may be better to focus on challenges you are looking forward to in the New Year.

**Loneliness**

Perhaps this Christmas you are far away from your family and/or without resources to spend time with them. Perhaps you don't have any family and you are not looking forward to spending another Christmas alone. Whilst this can be reason to dread the festive season, there are alternatives. Check out what’s happening at your Sub-Branch and participate.

Many community organisations and Churches have special activities for the festive season. Mission Australia has an annual “Christmas Lunch in the Park.” This event is attended by around 1500 locals and offers free of charge a traditional Christmas lunch, companionship and a fun filled day. The event is held at Wellington Square Park, East Perth on Friday 25 December 11.30am to 2.30pm.

**A general strategy**

Whilst the above information mentions specific difficulties, there are general strategies you can put in place to ensure that Christmas is not a time of misery for you. Plan ahead to ensure that there are some enjoyable aspects of Christmas that you can look forward to. Do not over extend yourself financially. There is no need to give the most expensive presents. Plan your time so that you do not over commit yourself to attending too many events. Decide ahead of time how much alcohol and heavy food you are going to consume without negatively effecting your health. Be aware that your self talk can become a self fulfilling prophecy. If you tell yourself that Christmas will be miserable chances are that it will.

**Sources of Assistance**

Anzac House will be closed from 23 December 2009 until 11 January 2010. During this period the Welfare Officer will be contactable on mobile number 0412 009 191 should you need assistance. Other useful sources of assistance include:

- Veterans & Veterans Families Counselling Service 1800 011 046
- Carers Association Counselling Line 1800 007 332
- Lifeline 131 114

However you choose to spend the festive season I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Until next issue take care.
As far-fetched as it may seem in 1946 after the end of World War II it was possible to launch a new airline with the investment of just two dollars (Hong Kong currency).

And was done by two former World War II pilots – one an Australian, Sydney de Kantzow and the other an American, Roy Farrell. After having served in the Pacific theatre of war they decided to start flying from Shanghai with cargo and passengers. But later they decided to move to Hong Kong early in 1946, and in September of that year they registered their enterprise as an airline with the investment of one dollar each.

The fledgling airline began with two US Army surplus DC3 (C47) aircraft aptly named, Betsy and Niki. The converted Douglas DC3 Betsy’s first flight was in February 1946 and carried clothes from Sydney to Shanghai. Later in the first year Betsy carried a few passengers, oysters and even day old chicks. After the move from Shanghai to Hong Kong and the two dollar airline registration, the two pilots decided the airline needed a name. Ever the entrepreneur Roy Farrell suggested they call the airline Cathay Pacific. Cathay being the ancient name for China. Pacific because the two ex-war time pilots believed that one day the airline might fly across the Pacific Ocean.

By 1948 the airline with its DC3’s was flying between Rangoon, Singapore, Bangkok, Manila and Macau. Within those two years the airline fleet had grown to seven DC3’s, all surplus World War II aircraft and one Catalina flying boat.

By then the two pilots realised they needed more capital and a business backing. Enter the big Hong Kong trading company, Butterfield & Swire which took a majority shareholding in the airline.

In 1948, Butterfield & Swire was also a leading airline agency and had founded an aircraft maintenance company. The new airline continued to expand and in 1949 it bought its first four-engined aircraft, a Douglas DC4 Skymaster, followed soon after by its first pressurised aircraft a DC6. More expansion followed and by 1959 the airline’s regional network included Japan and Australia.

In 1962 the airline entered the jet age with the arrival of its first General Dynamics Convair 880. After that came Boeing 707’s in 1970, then Lockheed Tristars, Boeing 747-200’s and as the years progressed the fleet included the Rolls-Royce powered Boeing 747-400’s, A330 Airbuses, A340 Airbuses and the Boeing 777-300.

The airline did not forget its first cargo flights and it now has six Boeing 747-400’s and ten 747-8Fs are due for delivery in 2012.

The airline is also in partnership with Air Hong Kong, has Dragonair in the group and has a close relationship with Air China.

The Two Dollar Airline

FOOTNOTE:
Sydney de Kantzow sold his stake in Cathay Pacific in 1951 and died in 1957, left behind his wife Angela Mary (1924-2005) and son Peter. Farrell died in Vernon, Texas in 1996. He was married twice and had two sons. His son Roy C. Farrell Jr is an inventor and lives in Vernon.

Pre-arranged funerals available. Locations throughout Perth.
North Perth 15 Scarborough Beach Road, 9444 4835  South Fremantle 254 Hampton Road, 9335 4111  Victoria Park 289 Albany Highway, 9361 1185  Wangara Cnr Buckingham Drive and Wanneroo Road, 9409 9119  Midland Cnr Brockman Road & Great Eastern Highway, 9274 3866
The Orphanage at Dien Bien Phu

Capital of the Dien Bien Province

I am an old gunner, having served 9 years in 4 fd (62-68/74-77). Like many of us, I guess, I have wandered back to Vietnam to get a more peaceful view of the people. At the moment I am in Dien Bien Phu, been here twice now, this time for 2 weeks, 1 andawakey to go.

As I'm sure it would be for many of the boys who did a tour here during the war, but especially the gunners, the history of this little valley is particularly interesting and certainly a nostalgic one. If anyone would like some photos feel free to email me nevtickner@yahoo.com.au

However the main reason for writing is that I am trying to get some help for a new orphanage here in DBP. It opened last month and is sponsored by the SOS International Organisation, which she gave, then as I was pushed her for special discounts, she got me a bunch of hats from this woman's shop and others......I bought a bunch of clothes (great little bike with training wheels + helmet Au $37) and a trikey thingo (about $20) out to the kids and she got an attack of the guilts, but it just might have been my charm. Most of these children are from the ethic minority groups around here, and their inability to speak basic Vietnamese is an added problem, so many of the poor little blighters wander around in a shell shock daze, as I am sure you can imagine. But I have been visiting every day since I discovered the 2 weeks ago and can see the difference just a little love from one silly old gunner can make. So if any of you are making the pilgrimage, remember Dien Bien Phu is only $50, 50 minute flight from Hanoi. I guarantee you will get no greater enjoyment from the journey back than if you visit this little orphanage.

Vale: Jack Sue

Radiographer puts heart into her work

Many people assume that the only health professionals working for Defence are doctors, nurses or dentists – but the career of FLTLT Karen Thomas clearly demonstrates that the range is much broader. After completing the first year of a Bachelor of Science degree in medical imaging technology, FLTLT Thomas’s potential was recognised by Air Force and she was awarded an undergraduate scholarship. Following graduation as a radiographer and a year of professional development at Royal Perth Hospital, FLTLT Thomas was sent by Air Force to the peacekeeping operation Bel Isi in Bougainville where she was part of a tri-service health-professional team supporting peacekeepers from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Vanuatu.

“We were also able to provide medical help to a number of Bougainville civilians which was another important part of the operation, because their health resources were understandably very limited,” she said. FLTLT Thomas’s dedication to the field of radiography led her to leave without pay from the Air Force in order to complete a graduate diploma in sonography and a master’s degree in health science from Sydney University.

During this time, she gained important real-world experience as a full-time member of the Alfred Hospital’s radiology department. While many people might have used their advanced qualifications and experience to seek greater pay and conditions in the private sector, FLTLT Thomas opted to continue serving in the Air Force. “I decided to return to full-time service because I believe that what Defence is trying to achieve with their peacekeeping and humanitarian aid operations is worth supporting, and I like being part of that,” she said.
The Australian War Memorial recently acquired a mysterious letter. It is beautifully written and decorated, but we don’t know much about it. It seems it was written by a French woman to her sweetheart, and we assume he was Australian, as the letter ended up in Australia. We do not know who they were, but we do know that the letter was written on 25 August 1918 and was sent from Saint-Sulpice-les-Feuilles in France. The writer obviously missed her soldier, and went to a great deal of trouble to decorate the letter. It seems that the two were engaged to be married, as the letter ends with the words (almost obscured with kisses) “wife to be very soon”.

As can be seen from the images below, the letter is written in broken English and is difficult to read. Below is a transcript with some minor corrections:

My Darling Little Sweetheart, Just few lines hoping that my letter find you in the best of Health. I am very well myself at present and my family the same.

Well Lovey, you see I am faithfully thinking of you not too one else only to you. You know I love you very well my Little Husband. I am never love any body else. if you [illegible, probably ‘get’] killed I stay every time with my little Baby. if you give me one. I hope to see you very soon. Darling I Dream about you last night I see you married with one else. I don’t thing you [illegible - looks like ‘daw date’].

So will close now with the best Remembrance from all my family and me. Best Love and Kisses XXX from your ever Loving Little Sweetheart. Wife to be very soon. Marthe Gylbert

This letter, and the mystery that surrounds it, created lots of interest. With the help of an enthusiastic member of the public, and her wonderfully helpful relative in France, we have since found a few more details about Marthe and her letter. Marthe and her family were evacuated from Armentières, on the French/Belgian border, to Saint-Sulpice-Les-Feuilles during the First World War. Armentières was destroyed during the war and rebuilt afterwards.

It was in Saint-Sulpice-Les-Feuilles that Marthe met her sweetheart. However, the identity of Marthe’s sweetheart and his fate remain a mystery. The two never married as he rejoined his battalion and never came back to her. Marthe’s nephew heard the story from his father but the family cannot recall his name after all these years. Marthe’s letter will be on public display as part of the Memorial’s Of Love and War exhibition opening in December.
The archive collection within ANZAC House has been the main focus of the project over the past months and will be going into the new year.

Work on the archive repository is due to commence early December with assistance from Lotterywest and work on the archive collection will begin early January. We are lucky to have within the collection minutes of the organisation back to 1916, when named the Returned Soldiers Association. The collection is a great resource for researchers interested in the history of the organisation and the history of Western Australia.

The Gnowangerup RSL Rooms were recently opened for a military display organised by Merilyn Todhunter. Both Elsie Daxon, Secretary of the Women’s Auxiliary and myself traveled down for the event, held on the 2nd and 3rd of October which was also attended by the State President Bill Gaynor and his wife Joan Gaynor. The display focused on the RSL collection and the service men and service women of Gnowangerup. A lot of the items on display were on loan from people within the community and people were invited to share what information they had to contribute to the display. The display provided an opportunity to gather information from people in the community so that it was accessible by all and raised funds for the care of the RSL collection.

The event was well attended with the initial display period being extended due to public request. The RSL collection contained a copy of The Echo which was the publication produced by the Gnowangerup RSL, a miniature war memorial and trophies awarded to the Gnowangerup Women’s Auxiliary for their fundraising efforts and community involvement. A 10th Light Horse display also featured which was the collection of Phil Sullivan. Over 50 people from the district enrolled with the Light Horse in World War I.

Colonel Collett, speaking on behalf of the RSL at the ceremony of the unveiling and dedication of the State War Memorial said:

“It is my privilege this afternoon to say a little on behalf of the ex-service men and women of Western Australia”.

“One of the objects of the RSL is to preserve the memory and records of those who suffered and died for the Nation and to erect memorials to their valour.

“You can, therefore, appreciate our feeling of satisfaction at today’s ceremony. After years of waiting and disappointment the goal has at last been reached and we realise that honour is being done to those to whom the greatest honour is due.

“Our gratitude goes to all those who have so generously assisted and I want here and now to pay a tribute to Mr E S Watt, of the State Executive, who urged us to disregard the failure of the first appeal and whose action led to the formation of the Committee of Citizens responsible for today’s success.

“This memorial is symbolic of high ideals and a great achievement. In that connection I would like you to remember this – that the sailors and soldiers saw their comrades yield up their all in circumstances that will not bear relating. The survivors alone understand the immensity of the sacrifice that was then made and they are jealous that no portion of the debt due to our great men shall remain unpaid. In all reverence they have asked for this Memorial. The site and its environment are in themselves a tribute to men who had much in their lives that was beautiful, and it is possible to imagine that their spirits looking over the calm waters may commune together and say that, so long as peace prevail, the sacrifice shall not have been in vain.

“Those of us who served in the Eastern and Mediterranean can, to some extent, understand the origin and richness of the mythology of the ancients. Those of us who left the deserts of Egypt and entered the valley of the Rhone know why the Frenchman was prepared to die for France. All of us here today, as we look around, can value that which has been held for us and be reminded of our obligation to the men and women who worked to leave us free to enjoy it. Even the grossest utilitarian may find a sermon in stone and admit that had it not been for them that which he has today would have been denied him.

“Upon the steps of this Monument is inscribed the words ‘LEST WE FORGET’. They contain a warning, a lesson and a solace. The warning is to our statesmen and other leaders to remember the price of strife and to put forward every effort to preserve peace abroad and at home. The Lesson is to the young, and it is this: ‘Every time you look on a war memorial make this resolution – that as those men went to their death, so you will go to your life.’ The Comport is to those who are bereaved – and there are many here this afternoon. To them I would say, when you visit this hallowed spot during the quiet of an evening, or on a Sunday afternoon, remember the words of Lord Plumer when opening the Menin Gate Memorial: ‘He is not missing. He is here.’

“And now, Your Excellency, on behalf of the WA Branch of the RSL, I gratefully accept the charge you have laid upon us – to guard and preserve this great Memorial erected by the people of the State.”

Although the speech was delivered on 24 November 1929, the words and meaning are very relevant in today’s world.

**The Unveiling of the State War Memorial**

**24th, November 1929**

Port Kennedy members Les Crowe and Geoff Trevor-Hunt OAM found a Vietnam Veterans Memorial which was dedicated on the 18th August this year in the caravan park at 80 Mile Beach in Northern WA.

They found it while having a 3 day stop over there with their wives Moira and Philomena.

It was erected by a group of veterans who are very keen fishermen and go to 80 Mile Beach every year.

It is situated just before you go onto the beach under a shady tree. It is well worth a look.

It is well looked after and in such a lovely spot I have attached a photo of the boys at the memorial.

Philomena Trevor-Hunt
Mount Barker Sub-branch

First and most importantly we have to thank all of those who live in this Sub-branches catchment for their generosity on Poppy Day.

Collection boxes were located in Cranbrook, Kendenup, Frankland, Porongorup and Mt Barker with the residents of those areas contributing willingly. However this acknowledgement would not be complete without thanking those people and businesses who collect on our behalf. Our very sincere thanks to Joyce Bridge at Cranbrook, Bill Phillips at Kendenup and Judy and Eddie at the Franklin Store. Last but by no means least a thank you to Di and Scott at Porongorup Store along with Mon Henderson in Mt Barker.

Our Remembrance Day service was well attended with Mt Barker, apparently, being one of the very few venues where attendance is increasing. This is due in no small part to the involvement of students from the Community College and their recitation of “Flanders Field”. Their participation reinforces the support we receive from the school. Pat Ballantyne supplied a 90th Anniversary cake with the honour of cutting the cake going to our two remaining Life members, Mon Henderson and Eric Poet. The day was finished off with a relaxed presentation by Brian Bunker about some of the characters who have been involved with this Sub-branch over the years. A very diverse bunch that were well remembered by many of the long time residents who attended the function.

A foot note to this article. Six of those present travelled over 100kms, round trip, to attend with 4 of them being in their mid 80’s. By having the annual Luncheon on Remembrance Day combined with the involvement of the school adds that extra incentive for our members to attend. We are more fortunate than some regarding the local public school. Mt Barker Community College, in that it is a combined school covering all ages from K to YR 12. In addition to the normal Principal & Deputy for High and Primary schools there is one overall Principal, Jonathan Hoskin, who is my contact. We meet approximately six times a year to coordinate College and RSL involvement. Our actual 90th Anniversary date was September 11th which, of course, is no longer a day of celebration. If any of you are visiting Mt Barker or transiting through, and want a break please ring me on 9851 2517/0417 212 361 or contact through EMAIL on mtbarkerrsl@hotmail.com.

Wayne Hood (Sub-branch President)

Thank you to Reverend Roger Wood for the conducting of his part of the service and to Gerard Wright for supplying the PA system on the day. Gerard has very generously agreed to set up this system for us next ANZAC Day which will enable those attendees outside the Memorial confines to hear the proceedings. Our congratulations to the newly formed Porongorup Scout Group who I have invited to join us for the ANZAC Day march from next year onwards.

Our annual luncheon at the Plantagenet Hotel followed the service at the Memorial. With 45 attendees it definitely makes the conducting of this event more than worthwhile. The meal prepared and served by Margaret and her staff was excellent. Pat Ballantyne supplied a 90th Anniversary cake with the honour of cutting the cake going to our two remaining Life members, Mon Henderson and Eric Poet. The day was finished off with a relaxed presentation by Brian Bunker about some of the characters who have been involved with this Sub-branch over the years. A very diverse bunch that were well remembered by many of the long time residents who attended the function.

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Wayne Hood (Sub-branch President)

The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch would like to sincerely thank the ADF Cadets, Christchurch Grammar Cadets, the St John Ambulance Australia (WA) Inc, the Salvation Army and Churchlands Senior High School Music Department for their support and participation in this years Remembrance Day Ceremony. We look forward to working with you again next year in 2010!
WA Remembers 2009
Remembers 2009

WA Remembers 2009
When looking through tours my friend Cecily and I found the tour advertised and as we knew Strzelecki was an Explorer and it went to places we had never even heard of before with really Outback names, we booked on it.

We flew to Adelaide and the next day we were picked up in a 4WD Coach driven by ‘Jingo’ our host for the next few days. Our first stop was at Port Wakefield by ‘Jingo’ our host for the next few days. We went in to Queensland and saw the INNAMINCKA on Coopers Creek at the sand hills and dry river beds we reached HOPELESS! After going through red TRACK’, leading to places like MT there was a huge notice ‘STRZELEKI We eventually reached Lyndhurst and with 2 columns of names. War Memorial was a huge stone cross with guns, to Edward Robinson AIF 8th Division died POW 25th May 1945; with gun, to Edward Robinson AIF 8th Division died POW 25th May 1945; and so saved the town. There are three Memorials with models of tractors on them and on the bank near the river park there is ‘FERGIE’ and the outline in bushes of a tractor!! They don’t forget ‘FERGIE’

There was so much of interest in the vast dry inhospitable area we covered and I must pay tribute to the courage and tenacity of the explorers and pioneers of this land.

CECILE HINTON

The Strzelecki Track: Explorers and Memorials

21 Days Gallipoli & River Cruise

1ST PERSON $12,910* 2ND PERSON $10,880*

per person, twin share. Includes return economy airfare, air taxes $700 & port charges $380 in Cat. D suite. Departing 21 April 2010.

Includes:
- Tour the Gallipoli Peninsula and attend the ANZAC Day Dawn Service
- Four nights in Istanbul
- Flight from Istanbul to Budapest
- Freedom of Choice Touring
- 14 night river cruise on a luxury APT river ship
- All meals on board, wine with dinner
- Gratuities for cruise and land staff
- Airport transfers.

This special holiday experience begins with three days in the city of Istanbul. You’ll then travel to the Gallipoli Peninsula and take part in the unforgettable Anzac Day Dawn Service. Afterwards, explore the legendary ancient city of Troy before returning to Istanbul and flying to Budapest. From here, board the ms Amadagio for the 14 night cruise along the Danube, Main and Rhine rivers to Amsterdam. You’ll then travel to the Galata Bridge, the ancient quarter of the city and the Byzantine emirate. From here, board the ms Amadagio for the 14 night cruise along the Danube, Main and Rhine rivers to Amsterdam.

Includes:
- Tour the Gallipoli Peninsula and attend the ANZAC Day Dawn Service
- Four nights in Istanbul
- Flight from Istanbul to Budapest
- Freedom of Choice Touring
- 14 night river cruise on a luxury APT river ship
- All meals on board, wine with dinner
- Gratuities for cruise and land staff
- Airport transfers.

CALL 1300 514 032
www.aptouring.com.au or see your travel agent

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ANZAC DAWN SERVICE 2010 RIVER CRUISING SPECIALISTS

Our attention will put you at ease.

On APT’s Gallipoli tours, we take care of every detail, from staying overnight at Anzac Cove to bringing our own historian. They’re just a couple of ways we go beyond the call of duty to make your trip memorable.

*Conditions apply. Prices are correct at 9 October 2009 but may fluctuate due to changes in excursions, taxes and prices. Prices are per person, twin share accommodation. Price include savings. Offers not combinable. Available for new bookings only.

APRIL 2010

A departure from the ordinary

www.aptouring.com.au
A cross party delegation from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Scotland Branch visited Perth, Western Australia from 11th-13th October, as part of a wider visit to Australia and New Zealand. The delegation in Perth was led by Ted Brocklebank MSP and included 3 other Members of the Scottish Parliament - Ross Finnie MSP, Rhoda Grant MSP and Sandra White MSP.

The visit to Perth was primarily for the parliamentarians to visit their colleagues in the Parliament of Western Australia and to examine areas which would help to broaden their knowledge about how particular policies are handled elsewhere. The meetings that took place during the programme of events also allowed the Scottish delegates to share information and experience about Scotland with their Western Australian political and policy counterparts, as part of a two-way discussion process.

Scotland suffered one of the heaviest losses of life of any nation involved in the First World War. Barely a town, village or street was not affected in some way and it is vital that we never forget those servicemen and women, from Scotland, Australia and all other areas overseas, who gave up their tomorrow so that we could live today. The Scottish Regiments have been at the forefront of many major military campaigns and served shoulder-to-shoulder with other comrades from different parts of the Commonwealth.

As part of that recognition, the Scottish Parliament last year hosted a major photographic exhibition marking the 90th Anniversary of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. This exhibition charted the development of the many magnificent cemeteries and memorials and emphasised the importance of the Commission's work in keeping the names alive of those who gave their lives during times of war and conflict.

It was therefore an honour for the delegation to have the opportunity to visit the State War Memorial in Kings Park, Perth, to pay respects to the brave Australian men and women who, so selflessly gave service so that we might enjoy freedom and democracy today. In visits across many different parts of the world, it has been a great privilege, wherever possible, for the CPA Scotland branch to pay their respects in such a way to the gallantry of our Armed Forces and civilians. The service at Kings Park was handled with solemnity and dignity. Mr Ted Brocklebank MSP summarised the key role of Australia’s contribution to international conflicts and reflected on the loss of lives as a result - 7,000 Western Australians gave their lives in World War I and a further 4,000 in World War II. Western Australians also suffered many causalities in Korea, Vietnam and other post-war conflicts.

The CPA Scotland branch and the visiting parliamentary delegation would like to pay tribute to the wardens from the Returned and Services League who arranged for the delegation to lay a wreath, with special thanks to Mr Skelton and Mr Barrington who facilitated on the day.

**CPA Scotland Branch**

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**Tribute for the War Grave Memorial**

Acrossparty delegation from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Scotland Branch visited Perth, Western Australia from 11th-13th October, as part of a wider visit to Australia and New Zealand. The delegation in Perth was led by Ted Brocklebank MSP and included 3 other Members of the Scottish Parliament - Ross Finnie MSP, Rhoda Grant MSP and Sandra White MSP.

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**CPA Scotland Branch**

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**150th birthday bash**

The 150th birthday of 2/14 LHR (QMI) will be celebrated next year.

The birth of the unit that is now known as 2/14 LHR (QMI) occurred on February 17, 1869.

CO Lt Col Christopher Mills said the regiment had a long history of distinguished service from the Boer War and World War I to the modern era in East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The enduring feature of the Light Horse is that, while the mount has changed from the Water to the eight-wheeled ASLV, the soldiers continue to uphold the same values and traditions of their forebears," Lt Col Mills said. "Equipped with a world-class fighting vehicle and the ability to move forward quickly and mounted, the regiment continues to embody the Spirit of the Light Horse."

To commemorate this, a number of ceremonial and social events are planned throughout 2019. The regiment will commemorate celebrations with a memorial service and family barbecue on the regimental official birthday.

The most significant event is reserved for the regiment’s colours in the morning of the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba. Events will also be held on Anzac Day and on August 4 the regiment will remember
The 10th Australian Lighthorse Regiment AIF was the only AIF Light Horse regiment recruited in Western Australia during the First World War. The regiment was raised in October 1914 when it became apparent that Western Australia could provide more than a single squadron of mounted soldiers. The regiment joined the 3rd Light Horse Brigade in Egypt and served dismounted at Gallipoli. The regiment’s most famous actions were the charge at the Nek on 7 August 1915, and Hill 60 on 29-30 August. It was in this last action that Lieutenant VH ‘Hu’ Throsell performed the valiant deeds for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross. He was the only Australian light horseman to be so decorated during the Great War.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli in December 1915 the regiment was brought up to strength and reorganised. With the rest of the Australian Light Horse they defended Egypt from the Ottoman Army advancing on the Suez Canal. During 1916 they drove the Turks across the deserts of Sinai, participating in the battles of Romani and Magdhaba. In 1917 they were part of the Desert Column that advanced into Palestine. The regiment participated in the bloody battles to break the Gaza-Beersheba line and help capture Jerusalem. They participated in the Es Salt Raid in May 1918. In August they were one of the regiments re-equipped with swords and rifle boots, and retrained to take a more orthodox cavalry role. In their new role they took part in the rout of the Ottoman army in the Jordan Valley, a campaign the light horse referred to as ‘The Great Ride’. In September the 10th was the first formed regiment to enter Damascus. Turkey surrendered on 30 October 1918. After the end of the war, elements of the regiment saw action in putting down the Egyptian uprising of 1919. They were finally disbanded in 1920.

### The 5th Charge at the NEK

The 5th commemoration ceremony held at Parkerville on Sunday 9th August 2009 for the charge of the NEK which happened at Walkers Ridge Gallipoli on August 7th, 1915.

Approximately 60 people attended making it the most successful so far. The service started with RSL President Bill Gaynor addressing the people with an overview of the charge at Gallipoli and then the guest speaker, Captain Wayne Gardiner who is ex 10th Light Horse Regiment continuing with a most impressive description of the actual charge at the Nek, which included our own 10th Light Horse Regiment, and of battles that other Light Horse Regiments took part in on Gallipoli. The reason the service is held at Parkerville’s Children & Youth Care centre is that 2 of the boys from the school were in the 10th. With both of them surviving the charge and was possible to have a small Parade with Horses. Sydney Eaves lost an eye and was evacuated and came home early, Herbert Hallett survived only to be killed in action a couple of weeks later at Hill 60 battle. It was very pleasing to be able to have Sydney’s family there to take the flags from the Light Horse riders and place them in the Chapel. It was regrettable that Herbert’s relatives were not able to attend due to a sickness in the family.

After the service afternoon tea was served in the Hall which included a viewing of Phil Sullivan’s large Light Horse Display and Reg Stevens medal mounting display.

**Phil Sullivan Parkerville**

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**PREPAID DIVISION:** 406 BEAUFORT STREET, HIGHGATE 6003. **TELEPHONE:** 9231 5100 **FACSIMILE:** 9228 4614.
Driver training continues in WA

Driver trainers in the West are looking for nominations from WA-based units as the increased operational tempo in 13 Bde reduces numbers available for ongoing courses.

Instructional staff at WAUR are looking for students and assistant driver instructors to maintain its schedule of courses over the next six months.

Sgt Darren Dowsett, WAUR driver-trainer section, said soldiers from WA were preparing for deployment to RCB and Op Anode.

“The driver courses are still continuing in the brigade and we are just not getting the nominations coming in for instructor support or trainees to attend the courses.” Sgt Dowsett said. He said it was the perfect opportunity for units that may not have been able to get their soldiers on courses and there was flexibility to accommodate specific unit needs for vehicle training.

WAUR recently conducted a Land Rover course for 10LHR but included the Regional Force Surveillance Vehicle components to assist with the unit’s conversion from APCs.

“The students walked away with two licence codes after 16 days.”

“Welcome units to let us know what additional components they would like us to run.” he said. Sgt Dowsett said it was an ideal opportunity for individuals to improve the level of their military and civilian driving skills and for units to meet their training needs.

Keep on truckin': Sgt Stamantis, 109 Sig Sqn, and Spr Rees, 13 Fd Sqn, inspect their vehicle during driver training in Western Australia

MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM THE EDITOR AND STAFF OF THE LISTENING POST

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year!

Please note ANZAC House and Club will be closed from 23 December 2009 and will reopen 11 January 2010.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SECTION

Ex Australian, Commonwealth or Allied Navy?
Miss the comradeship?
Then join the premier Ex - Naval persons organisation in Australia.
Sub-Sections in Albany, Busselton, Carnarvon, Mandurah, City of Perth, Perth North, Rockingham and soon Fremantle.

Fill in the form below and post to;
The State Secretary
Naval Association of Australia (WA Sect.)
PO Box 556
Wanneroo WA 6946

Or e-mail for more details; NAAWAStateSec@bigpond.com or phone Douglas Valeriani on 08 94051379.

NAME; ______________________________________________________
ADDRESS; ______________________________________________________
SUBURB; _______________________ POSTCODE; _________________

Subscriptions: $25.00 annually with a $5.00 joining fee which includes lapel badge and four editions annually of the Australian Warship / White Ensign magazine.

Full membership includes Advocacy and Welfare Services, DVA, MCRS and MRCA

THE LISTENING POST December 2009 21

The Monarch Royale 3 & 4 wheel footpath scooters are now available in Australia. Experience the latest in innovation and technology coupled with sleek, newly styled body shapes. Test drive today.

Call 1300 622 633
www.scootersaus.com.au

MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM THE EDITOR AND STAFF OF THE LISTENING POST

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year!

Please note ANZAC House and Club will be closed from 23 December 2009 and will reopen 11 January 2010.
Closure of Returned Sisters Sub Branch RSL WA

This is the end of an era. It is not just the loss of yet another RSL Sub Branch, but the loss of a Sub Branch which was comprised of a special group of women having attributes which were many and varied.

A proud group of women who were prepared to do what was necessary for the good of their country, their colleagues and the individuals suffering from the horrors and madness of war, the sick and injured. Yes, they were our war nurses. 110 years of dedication, inspired and grateful for the opportunity to use these skills in a forward zone and proud, glad to be taking part in one of the greatest adventures of the 20th Century, alongside the finest young men who were called to service for their country.

History has been recorded in many ways, services, books, magazines, newspapers, monuments and living memorials. Many individuals stood out and were given due recognition, however, we must never forget the many, many more who went to their grave with their own memories. The Flame of Remembrance shines brightly for all who gave so much, their light must never be hidden – lest we forget.

At the end of WWII the nursing sisters returned to Australia and were readily welcomed by the WWI veterans as members of the Returned Sisters Sub Branch. Membership skyrocketed and these ladies remained dedicated and professional and contributed greatly in raising awareness of the war efforts and sacrifices made by such ‘our war nurses’.

As with so many things, time has served to pass and can no longer attend meetings. Some members remain in their own homes with some assistance; others are in hostel or nursing home care facilities (a far cry from their days of glory). All contributed greatly over the years. They served with dedication and professionalism. Their service and contribution will never be forgotten.

Honours and fame have been bestowed on some which have been well documented. I believe such honour and fame could well have been bestowed on all these women. We have heard it all before, ‘change is the only constant in life’. With change we must learn to move on, in moving on however, this does not mean we forget the past. History has been written; the Returned Sisters Sub Branch has a proud and honourable past and has served its members well.

Hearing services free to our Veterans

The noise of war is still ringing in the ears of many of our Veterans, with hearing loss widely affecting those exposed to loud noise during their service.

According to Steven Grundy, Managing Director at Australian Hearing, hearing loss is the second most common medical condition reported by war veterans and continues to cause problems for those who served for their country.

“Hearing loss is one of the legacies of war,” Mr Grundy said. “Noise is the number one preventable cause of hearing loss and wars expose people to excessively loud sounds, such as explosions and aircraft. Sometimes poor health and nutrition caused ear disease, leading to hearing loss.”

The federal government set up Australian Hearing in 1947 to help those returning from World War II, and children affected by the Rubella epidemic. Today, services are still free to all Australian Veterans and their partners, including hearing assessments, fitting a hearing aid and rehabilitation. Veterans are also eligible for free digital hearing aids, or can pay a subsidy for a top of the range device.

To find out more or to book a free hearing check, call Australian Hearing on 131 797. Australian Hearing has 108 centres around the country, and provides visiting services at an additional 285 locations.

You can also check your hearing over the telephone using Telscreen, a toll-free automated service. Call 1800 826 500.
Final Log of the Russian Convoys 1941-1945

The Arctic Convoy Veterans Association Incorparated; at a Special General Meeting, convened for the purpose, at the RAAF Headquarters in Bullcreek, on 19th March 2009 voted unanimously to wind-up.

The Convoy Veterans had maintained an unbroken sequence of monthly meetings since its inauguration over twenty years previously. The Association was founded by Alf Prout and George Thomas at the Flying Angel Club in Fremantle, where the Convoy Veterans Standard was dedicated in the Flying Angel Club Chapel.

Alf Prout welcomed the ever increasing number of veterans who arrived at his residence; for the monthly convivial assemblies. The lunches were later organised at the Nookernburu Hotel and latterly at the RAAF Headquarters in Bullcreek.

The members and the associates enjoyed many happy, friendly get togethers where reminiscences and heartfelt memories were recalled. The passage of time, and the dwindling heart felt memories were recalled. The members and the associates enjoyed many happy, friendly get togethers where reminiscences and heartfelt memories were recalled. The passage of time, and the dwindling heart felt memories were recalled. The members and the associates enjoyed many happy, friendly get togethers where reminiscences and heartfelt memories were recalled. The passage of time, and the dwindling heart felt memories were recalled. The members and the associates enjoyed many happy, friendly get togethers where reminiscences and heartfelt memories were recalled. The passage of time, and the dwindling heart felt memories were recalled. The members and the associates enjoyed many happy, friendly get togethers where reminiscences and heartfelt memories were recalled. The passage of time, and the dwindling heart felt memories were recalled. The members and the associates enjoyed many happy, friendly get togethers where reminiscences and heartfelt memories were recalled. The passage of time, and the dwindling heart felt memories were recalled. The members and the associates enjoyed many happy, friendly get togethers where reminiscences and heartfelt memories were recalled. The passage of time, and the dwindling heart felt memories were recalled. The members and the associates enjoyed many happy, friendly get togethers where reminiscences and heartfelt memories were recalled. The passage of time, and the dwindling heart felt memories were recalled. The members and the associates enjoyed many happy, friendly get togethers where reminiscences and heartfelt memories were recalled. The passage of time, and the dwindling heart felt memories were recalled. The members and the associates enjoyed many happy, friendly get togethers where reminiscences and heartfelt memories were recalled.

The final public assembly of the Members, the Associates and the Friends, took place in St George’s Cathedral at Evensong on Sunday 26th July. The standard was laid up by the Dean of the Cathedral the Very Reverend John Shepherd, assisted by the Rev Canon Tony Murray-Feast and the Rev Tim Harrison. The sequestration was performed by the Patron of the Association Captain John Lancaster AM RAN Rtd, and the lessons were read by George Main RFD RD and Geoff Taylor.

No Arctic Convoy Veterans Associations remain in Australia and there are no organised group meetings elsewhere. Such is the future we must accept, so we must be dedicated to maintain our personal commitments to our Arctic Convoy Veteran Shipmates and be satisfied that we have laid up our beloved standard in the hallowed precincts of St George’s Cathedral as a permanent memorial to the three thousand valiant men who perished in the Barents Sea.

George Main RFD RD
Secretary Rtd.

The Peaceful Bay RSL Sub-Branch Memorial Dedication

On Saturday the 15th of August the Peaceful Bay RSL Sub-Branch dedicated the memorial constructed on Peaceful Bay Road.

The memorial has been over 2 years in the planning, designing and construction. Funds where obtained for the memorials development from grants from the Government of Western Australia, Department of Veterans Affairs, Lotterywest with assistance in kind from the Shire of Denmark and a lot of local fund raising. All members of the Peaceful Bay RSL are well aware of the backing and support from the local community, with out whose help this would have been a very difficult project.

The dedication was carried out on the coldest and wettest day that can be remembered, included in the deluge were 5 or 6 severe hailstorms. Despite the terrible weather a large crowd was in attendance

Army reserve officer, the Reverend David Hosking led the service, hymns and scripture readings. Master of ceremonies was Mr Paul Harris, with special guests, Mr Terry Rayment MLA representing the Premier of Western Australia and Mr William Gaynor OAM, RFD, RSL State President. The Address was given by Commander Ron Cocking (retired).

One of the high lights of the dedication was the respectful and professional manner in which the Navy, Army and Air Force Combined cadet units from Albany carried out there duties. Rain, hail and wind did not deter them. The Catafalque Party and the Guard of Honour presented them selves with great bearing and dignity. The service was discontinued after the dedication of the memorial and before the remembrance section of the service because of a severe hailstorm.

With the help of the local Progress Association and other members of the Community and RSL a light lunch was held at the Peaceful Bay Community Hall.

Graham Bounce Secretary Peaceful Bay RSL Sub - Branch

Release Of Inquiry Into Unresolved Recognition Issues For The Battle Of Long Tan

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, announced that the Government has accepted the recommendations of the independent Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal Inquiry into Unresolved Recognition Issues for the Battle of Long Tan.

The Report recommended that:

1. Flight Lieutenant Cliff Dohle be awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the contemporary equivalent award to the Distinguished Flying Cross, the original award for which he was properly recommended in 1966 by all levels of Australian command in Vietnam.
2. No other individual awards be made to participants in the Battle of Long Tan; and
3. Delta Company, 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (RAR), be awarded the Unit Citation for Gallantry for its performance at the Battle of Long Tan in August 1966.

The Battle of Long Tan was fought on 18 August 1966 when Delta Company, 6 RAR came into contact with a much larger enemy force while patrolling outside the 1st Australian Task Force at Nui Dat in Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam. Seventeen members of Delta Company were killed during the battle, and another 21 were wounded.

“The release of the findings fulfils a Rudd Labor Government election commitment. The Government has accepted the Tribunal’s findings, and I have directed Defence to implement the recommendations,” said Dr Kelly.

“I am delighted that the Tribunal has recommended the award of an Australian Unit Citation for Gallantry to the men of Delta Company 6 RAR. This ensures that all are recognised for what was in effect a magnificent team effort. It has only been in recent years that we have come to appreciate the full significance of the battle in the context of the war in Vietnam.”

“For the South Vietnamese Government at the time it meant that the Phuoc Tuy Province was effectively neutralised as a concern. For the US it contributed to the overall effort in that it enabled resources to be focused elsewhere. For Australia it was significant because we now know that this was a planned and determined effort to annihilate the Australian Task Force before it had settled in.”

“The result of the action was not only that the enemy was prevented from achieving this objective but was never able to mount such an effort again in Phuoc Tuy Province for the remainder of the Australian presence.”

“I also commend the Tribunal for upholding the recommendation made in 1966 by RAAF command in Vietnam to award Flight Lieutenant Cliff Dohle the Distinguished Flying Cross,” said Dr Kelly.

“I would also like to thank the Tribunal for its work on this and the other matters it has dealt with or is continuing to deal with. I believe all members of the Tribunal have undertaken their work diligently, fairly and with an open mind. I continue to have complete confidence in the Tribunal.”

The release of the Tribunal’s report and the acceptance of the recommendations clearly demonstrate the Government’s commitment to the independent review of long-standing Defence honours and awards issues.”

The Tribunal’s full report is available at www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au. Further information on Defence honours and awards is available at: www.defence.gov.au/meals/ Media contacts:
Mark Sjolander (Dr Mike Kelly): 02 6277 4840 or 0407 102 220
Defence Media Liaison: 02 6127 1999 or 0408 498 664

For The Battle of Long Tan

General Meeting, convened for the purpose, at the RAAF Headquarters in Bullcreek, on 19th March 2009 voted unanimously to wind-up.
ArmY MUSEum of WA FounDAtion

The Foundation would like to acknowledge the following sub-branches and ex-service organisations who have donated to the appeal so far:

Returned Ex Servicewomen Sub-Branch

City of Perth RSL Sub Branch

Applecross RSL Sub Branch

Collie-Cardiff RSL Sub Branch

North Beach RSL Sub Branch

Womens Royal Australian Army Corps Association (WA)

Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (WA Branch)

Extremely Disabled War Veterans (WA Branch)

2/3 Machine Gun Battalion Association

Work has started on the new Post 1945 gallery and our fund-raising efforts are turned towards raising the funds for the new World War II Gallery. Five dollars (the price of a cup of coffee!) from every member will make it happen.

RegardS tom Goode

Appeal Coordinator

Army Museum of WA Foundation

Mob: 0419 900 751

Atta East Timor Veterans

Requesting contact with any East Timor Veterans who may have served on Patrol Base Sparrow in September 2000.

Please contact Brian O’Neill with any information you may have on 0428 118 388

CALLING EX SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE RSL

Are you seeking some part time paid work? Maybe even a full time job? Do you have trouble understanding the jargon of the job market or do you consider yourself to be less competitive because of your age? If so, an ex-service organisation established in Western Australia, run by ex-servicemen and women may be able to assist you with your job seeking problem. The Corps of Commissionaires (the Corps) is a commercially based, not-for-profit organisation that aims to provide employment opportunities for all ex-service men and women through direct employment or job placement. The Corps markets the quite unique characteristics and skills acquired through military service. In particular we sell loyalty, integrity, devotion to a duty of service, self discipline, trustworthiness and readiness to accept responsibility. The Commissionaires are highly regarded by all the Corps’ clients.

The Corps was originally formed in the UK in 1859 by all the Corps’ clients. In Western Australia, the Corps opened for business on 1 November 1996 and we currently have about 80 members in work. We are a membership based organisation where every one from the CEO Dick Lawler down pays a small annual membership fee. The main types of work we undertake ranges from static security services protecting property contained and on display in public buildings, security and information services at the larger office complexes and car parking security in the central business district. The Corps in WA is continuously seeking to recruit ex-service men and women for the above range of work in full time, part time and casual positions, mainly in the Perth metropolitan area. A period of Regular or Reserve Service in the Australian Defence Force or other countries of the Commonwealth is the basis of entitlement for membership of the Corps and a pathway to employment and fraternal association. Ex-service men and women are eligible to apply if they have seen operational service, three years regular service or six years reserve service and do not possess a criminal record. We apply no upper age limit and we also cater for ex service persons who don’t wish to work full time, or are unable to do so, (such as TPI Pensioners). The only fitness criterion is that you be fit enough to stand for quite long periods usually required by the type of work you may be being considered to undertake or be allocated. We would welcome members of the RSL who may wish to participate and who meet the fitness criterion.

For further information about work opportunities with the Corps of Commissionaires in Western Australia, please contact us on 08 9321 3392 or email us at corpscom@iinet.net.au between 0830 and 1600 Monday to Friday. We’d be glad to talk to you at your convenience to explore the possibility finding a mutually beneficial arrangement.

RA (Dick) Lawler
CEO

MEDAL FOUND

Inscription reads “2621 Pte A.M. Pickering, 5 PNR. BN.A.I.F”. The medal was found on a public bus between East Perth and Perth back in 1975. Please contact RSL Headquarters.

RESEARCH FOR THE BOOK

Research for the third book in the Aussie Soldier Series is now underway - Aussie Soldier Peacekeeper (this includes Peakeepers, Peace Enforcers, Observers, Humanitarian and Reconstruc- tion Operations). As usual not all questions need to be answered; alternatively you have the option to just send us a story – your story.

Also the second book in the Soldiers’ Tales series (very short stories, quotes and anec- dotes) is being put together so if you have any story on anything military send it through. Also send any photo-to’s you think appropriate – the best photo will be used as the cover for this book.

Thank you all for your time and please feel free to share this amongst others who you know have served.

Denny Neave
Phone: (02) 9918 2168 Fax: (02) 9918 2396

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SANDAKAN 1942-1945

Stories of the local people who heroically helped the Australian PoWs. By Doreen Hurst and contributors.

Price $30 per copy, postage $10.95 for 1 to 5 copies

Please pay by cheque/money order only and send to: PO Box 3091, WESTON CREEK ACT 2611.

Most of the book is first-hand experience as many of the contributors’ chapter headings give a stark picture of life under Japanese military rule.

The last member of the underground, Mr Chin Chee Kong, died in Kota Kinabalu on 2 June 2009. In his dedication, Owen C. Campbell OAM BEM, writes, "This book will give a clearer picture of the suffering of the people of Sandakan under Japanese occupation during World War II."

He adds, “I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Sandakan for their help, for the food and medic- cine which they smuggled to give to us even though they could have lost their lives. "Even after my escape, and the escape of my comrades, I could not have survived with out the support of the local people. Their generosity and courage will not be forgotten.”

All monies from sales will be given to the grandchildren of the members of the underground and the indigenous people who saved the lives of escapes from the death marches.
Colditz Prisoner of War Records Now Online

ancestry.com.au

More than 100,000 records of WWII British and Commonwealth POWs have been published online for the first time.

Records include British and Commonwealth personnel imprisoned between 1939 and 1945 in Germany, Austria and Poland.

Thousands of Australians may find British ancestors in this collection. These POW records have never before been available online.

27 August, 2009: Coinciding with the 70th anniversary of the start of World War Two (1st September, 1939), Ancestry.com.au has launched online the British Army Prisoners of War, 1939-1945, which contain the records of more than 100,000 prisoners of war (POW) captured during the conflict, including the names of many ancestors of living Australians.

Almost ten million Australians, or more than 45%* of the Australian population, claim first generation UK heritage meaning that many Australians with ancestors who fought for or alongside the British Army may be able to find ancestors in this collection.

Included are the records for all British Army personnel held in Germany, Austria and Poland during World War Two, and also hundreds of Australian troops. They were compiled by the German military authorities under the 1929 Geneva Convention, which requires opposing forces to notify each other of captured combatants.

The POW camp a soldier was held in would depend on where he was captured and his rank. The Stalag (base camps) held ratings and general personnel, while the Oflags housed officers only.

In addition to the POW records, Ancestry.com.au has also published online the UK Army Roll of Honour, 1939-1945, featuring the records of all British Army personnel killed in action during WWII.

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The ‘Roll of Honour’, contains more than 170,000 names and was compiled between the end of 1944 and 1949. Details include the perished soldier’s name, rank, date of death, service number, birthplace, residence, branch at enlistment and regiment at death.

Ancestry.com.au Partnership Development Manager Brad Argent comments: “These records will be very helpful for all Australians with ancestors who fought with the British in World War Two or for anyone who is interested in researching this period in history. Their release is particularly significant given that so few records from this time are available for people researching their family’s military history.

Department Of Veterans’ Affairs Arrangements During Christmas And New Year

Veterans will be able to access key services throughout the Christmas and New Year period, the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Alan Griffin said.

The Department of Veterans’ Affairs’ offices will close between 5pm on Christmas Eve and 9am Monday 4 January 2010, however key services will continue to be available to the veteran community during this period, including:

- crisis counselling – VVCS–Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service offers 24-hour crisis counselling through Veterans’ Line. This service is available toll free on 1800 011 046 to veterans and peacekeepers of all conflicts, their families and eligible members of the Defence Force;
- transport – if transport is not booked prior to the Christmas period, it will need to be paid for up-front and reimbursement can be sought from DVA at a later date;
- hospital admissions – doctors can admit DVA patients into hospital and request admissions approval, where required, when DVA re-opens on Monday 4 January 2010;
- Defence Service Homes Insurance – help with policy and claim enquiries is available 24-hours a day on 1300 552 662, while payments can be made on 1300 304 989, for the cost of a local call or via the website www.dsh.gov.au.

Pension pay days will not be affected by the Christmas shutdown arrangements.

“I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all veteran, defence force and ex-service communities and their families, a safe and happy Christmas and New Year,” Mr Griffin said.

Media inquiries:
Belinda Cole 0437 863 109

The editorial team encourages all Veterans to contribute stories to The Listening Post for publication. Keep articles short and to the point (no more than 300 words).

Send all articles and photos (high resolution) to the Editor at listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au.

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The LiSTeNiNg POST December 2009

Successful

and British Governments have been very pleased with their staff, for their hard work and dedication through this excavation. Both the Australian and British Governments have been very pleased with their performance, “said Mr. Combet.”

Greg Combet, Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science, announced that the archaeological excavation at Pheasants Wood, Fromelles, France, has now successfully concluded. “A total of 250 sets of remains and 120 artefacts have been excavated from six graves. This is lower than the previous estimate of 300 remains,” said Mr. Combet. “An early analysis of the remains and the artefacts indicates that a large number of those recovered appear to be Australian.”

The focus of the project will now fall upon the identification of the remains and their reinterment at the purpose-built Mortuary Cemetery. “The burials will commence on 30 January 2010 where the British and Australian Governments will consider the results and determine any appropriate further action that should be taken.”

While identification of the remains is an extremely complex process that may take many months, and in some cases years, every soldier will be buried initially without a permanent headstone. “The remains will continue throughout February until every soldier is laid to rest with full military honours. Members of the public are welcome to visit the site during reburials and view the proceedings from outside the cemetery.”

This information will be presented to the Joint Identification Board in March 2010 where the British and Australian Governments will consider the results and determine any appropriate further action that should be taken. “While identification of the remains is an extremely complex process I remain hopeful that we will be able to identify a number of those that have found.”

“As the formal identification process is a complex process that may take many months, and in some cases years, every soldier will be buried initially without a permanent headstone. “The burials will commence on 30 January 2010 and continue through February until every soldier is laid to rest with full military honours. Members of the public are welcome to visit the site during reburials and view the proceedings from outside the cemetery.”

A commemorative event to open the cemetery is scheduled for the 94th anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles on 19 July 2010. “I would like to take this opportunity to thank Oxford Archaeology, and all of their staff, for their hard work and dedication throughout this excavation. Both the Australian and British Governments have been very pleased with their performance,” said Mr. Combet.

Fromelles Excavation Successfully Completed

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Sudoku

The editors have included a new puzzle to test both our younger and young at heart readers. Sudoku is included in this and future editions of 'The Listening Post'.

Look upon this quiz as stopping the onward march of Alzheimer’s Disease!

Sudoku is a logic-based, combinatorial number-placement puzzle. The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid.

Veterans’ Needs Shape Review Of Advocacy Services

Minister for Veterans’ Affairs Alan Griffin today provided an update on the review of Government-funded veteran advocacy and welfare services.

Mr Griffin said an ageing population of veterans and war widows, and an increasing number of younger ex-service members and their families meant that support delivery may need adjusting.

“Advocacy and welfare services need to be responsive to the different service experiences and needs of the ex-service community, both young and old,” Mr Griffin said.

“Ex-service organisations (ESO) provide many of these services, however, we see less younger veterans joining these organisations and they may not have access to their entitled support.

“Also of concern is that ESOS are supporting an ageing veteran community with complex welfare needs, relying on a similarly ageing volunteer force to do so.”

The Department of Veterans’ Affairs is undertaking the Review which will examine the Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) program, Training and Information Program (TIP) and Veteran and Community Grants Program — looking broadly at the interdependencies and interactions between the three programs.

“Over the past few weeks, my Department has conducted focus groups with key stakeholders, and invited ESO leaders and BEST grant applicants from across Australia to make submissions to the Review process,” Mr Griffin said.

“Individual members of the veteran community can contribute their views through online submissions or by writing directly to the Review Team.”

Mr Griffin said the Review will also consider recommendations in Professor Dunt’s suicide report regarding advocacy arrangements for the veteran community.

“The Review will help inform further improvements to advocacy and welfare support to the ex-service community,” he said.

For more information about the Review, including the Terms of Reference and to make a submission, visit www.dva.gov.au/grants.

Media inquiries only: Belinda Cole 0437 863 109
Boer War Memorial needs Assistance

To the Editor,

I am forwarding this for the 60th Anniversary of WRAAC Celebration. WRAAC Association (NSW) has begun planning for the Corps 60th Anniversary celebrations back at the WRAAC School site at Georges Heights in Sydney. Although the Army has left the area the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has done an amazing job in restoring most of the buildings for reuse by a variety of tenants while still retaining the military look including Building numbers, street names and THE MIRROR!

Details are to be finalized but we envisage gathering on Saturday 12 February 2011 at the Guard House (the Kathleen Best Memorial Gates are now in Canberra at the entry to the Commandant’s house at RMC Duntroon), a brief formal ceremony, lunch, then the opportunity to wander down Memory Lane with family and friends through the WRAAC School area, to the Officers Mess (now an upmarket Tea Room), magnificent newly created Lookout across the harbour and revealed gun emplacements where the Officers quarters were, and down to Chowder Bay. There will be a Formal Dinner on Saturday evening then, on Sunday 13 February, a service at the Garrison Church in The Rocks followed by further fellowship, and a luncheon Harbour Cruise with family and friends if there is sufficient support.

The 2011 Committee’s current focus is on building a database ideally e-mail of former WRAAC members, ARA, CMF and Ares who we can then contact with full details and expressions of interest. So, we are relying on YOU to track down old friends so we can make this a weekend to remember.

Please respond to Gai, as she is the Co-ordinator: Gai Hutchison wraac@live.com.au

Thank you for taking the time to read and please contact any other members you know, who aren’t online. I am emailing every lady in schoolfriend.com.au

Cheers Patty Bartrim Web Manager
http://wraacmemories.freehomepage.com

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

CHECK SALES
FOODWEB AERATES
EL GONE NICK NH
TOTE YARNS EDDY
ERR T AKEM EEL
SAMS MS SCAR DEEPER LOKCS
DEL URN SHIELD HATUS
ALHEAD MOSES SIR
AGORA EMU
KNEW CLIMP GRID
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WILDDO WESMAN
GUSTO SEPAL
Joint Afghan-Australian Operation Supports Security in Oruzgan

A joint Afghan National Army, Australian Defence Force, Dutch and US operation has responded to a call from Afghan locals to remove the threat posed by Taliban insurgents from the Mirabad area, located east of Tarin Kowt.

A combined force was successfully air-lifted by helicopter into the region in a major air mobile operation on the 25th of September with ground operations commencing immediately. The operation is progressing well with the discovery of several improvised explosive devices and weapons caches. Code-named Operation ‘Baz Panje’, meaning ‘Falcon’s Talon’, the operation is seen as a critical step in spreading the coalition’s influence into the area by building a new patrol base.

The Commanding Officer of the Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force-2, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Connolly, said the Mirabad area has had a limited security presence over the last few years.

“This is a method of expanding the Afghan Development Zone from Tarin Kowt out to the east. This is how ISAF works its counter insurgency operation by expanding this bubble of security to the east so that we can expand development and reconstruction efforts also in the east,” said Lieutenant Colonel Connolly. The launch of Operation Baz Panje has been greatly assisted through the work of the Australian Special Operations Task Group and its partner forces, including the Afghan National Security Forces, through the conduct of a series of coordinated operations in the area. “The Mirabad Valley is a place that has been dominated by the Taliban insurgency for the past seven years and in fact the young people in the valley have become used to having no legitimate governance structure over them instead being dominated by the insurgency,” he said. Alongside their Afghan Army colleagues, the Australian soldiers and other coalition forces have spent weeks planning the operation before carrying out detailed air insertion rehearsals in the days leading up to the operation.

Lieutenant Colonel Connolly said the ongoing operation also marked the growing capability of the Afghan National Army’s 4th Brigade. “It’s extremely important because it allows us to expand the area of operations of the 4th Brigade of the Afghan National Army and in doing so, it will allow the new infantry battalion, the 3rd Kandak, to establish itself in a new area, spreading security out to the east of Tarin Kowt through the Mirabad Valley,” said Lieutenant Colonel Connolly. “They’ve seen a lot of fleeting visits by the coalition forces and what they need to see now is a persistent presence, particularly from the Afghan National Security Forces.”

After the forces were air-lifted in, a series of meetings with key local leaders were held to understand local issues and help build stronger relationships. At the same time, soldiers began securing the area from insurgent influence. “What we’ll see during the operation is clearance of the Mirabad Valley, the establishment of a secure position by Australian and Afghan forces and then the building of a significant patrol base which will allow the 3rd Kandak to establish itself in that area,” said Lieutenant Colonel Connolly. “In the future, the Afghan Kandak that is established in the Mirabad Valley will be mentored by Australian Forces, so from our perspective we have a lot of interest in making sure the valley is properly cleared, that it’s properly secured and that the best standard of facility is established there for Australians and Afghans to work together side by side in the future,” he said.

Media contact: Defence Media Liaison: 02 6127 1999 or 0408 498 664

Order of Australia Khun Kanit

By decree of the Governor General of Australia, Khan Kanit Wanachote of Home Phu Toey Resort, Tarsau, Thailand, was recently awarded an honorary Order Of Australia Medal (OAM) in the Honors and Awards system of Australia.

Khan Kanit Wanachote, a citizen of the Kingdom of Thailand, has served the Australian Community by his contribution to the preservation of Australian/Thailand history generally. In particular, he has assisted significantly in perpetuating the memory of the privations and sacrifices of Australian Military personnel and the selfless dedication of the medical personnel during the construction of the Burma Thailand Railway in World War II. At the same time he has assisted in reinforcing the establishment of the repatriate of Australian of the Year, Sir Edward Dunlop.

A chance meeting occurred between Sir Edward Dunlop and Khan Kanit Wanachote whilst travelling up the Kwai Noi River hoping to locate the Kannyu and Hintok River Camps, which were in the region of Hellfire Pass.

In 1987 a touring party visited the scene of Hellfire Pass where Sir Edward dedicated a memorial in the pass, predicting that the area would become as well known as Gallipoli. After Weary’s death some of his ashes were taken back to Thailand. A part of the ashes were buried in Hellfire Pass. The balance was floated down the Kwai Noi from Home Phu Toey Resort in a Loy Krathong ceremony overseen by Khan Kanit Wanachote. First the ashes were blessed as those of an “enlightened soul” in a Buddhist ceremony organized by Weary’s medical friends. As they floated down the river on a candle-lit miniature boat at dusk, ten others followed, five launched by Thais and five by Australians. The night finished with fireworks and Weary’s name spelt out in letters of fire on the hillside.

The dominant feature of Home Phu Toey Resort is a replica of a POW camp. The Weary Dunlop museum, dedicated by Khan Kanit to his friend “Weary”, overlooks the park guarded by a huge carved wooden statue of “Weary” Dunlop.

Sir Edward’s son and other relatives formally opened the Dunlop Museum on 24 April 1997. This man was eminently suitable for recognition by the Australian Honours and Award system, notwithstanding by an honorary award due his non-Australian nationality.

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Residents of the small rural community of Wagin, located 235 km south-east of Perth, will long remember and honour their 2009 Remembrance Day.

In front of an audience of almost 550 school children, visitors and local residents, a Great War Brass Tablet that honours the one hundred and twelve men from the Wagin District who died in World War I, was finally installed, unveiled and dedicated in a Memorial Wall at the Wagin District High School.

The entire ceremony was video-taped and together with copies of the Order of Service, Program and details of the 112 men will be placed in a time capsule located at the rear of the Memorial Wall and the Tablet.

The actual unveiling was undertaken by four descendants of nine of the men whose deaths are recorded on the tablet. All told, almost sixty descendants travelled to Wagin from all over Western Australia to attend the ceremony.

The four descendants invited to unveil the tablet the three Griffiths brothers Francis, Stanley and Gilbert and their uncle Charles Griffiths; brothers John and George Orr; Capt. Vernon Piesse and Lt. Charles Piesse and Sgt. Leslie Oliver. Capt. Piesse was the officer of the 10th Light Horse who, after uttering the now famous words, “Gentlemen, we have ten minutes to live”, launched and led his unit’s disastrous attack at the Nek on the 7th. August, 1915.

Sgt. Oliver was awarded a Military Medal for overcoming a German gun crew with his .303 rifle and bayonet and, despite being seriously wounded, rescued a wounded Australian from “no man’s land” and carried him back to the Australian’s forward trenches. He was evacuated to the United Kingdom, but later died of his wounds in a London hospital.

During the ceremony, President Ian Menzies of the Wagin R.S.L. outlined the fascinating history of the tablet.

Designed and cast at Wilson’s Engraving Works in Perth in 1919, it was originally unveiled in the Wagin Town Hall in October 1919. It remained there until 1946 when it was re-located to the Wagin Bowling Club. As an after thought, he decided to look behind the heavy wooden cover over the fireplace. To his surprise and delight he discovered the brass tablet, dirty and dusty but in remarkably good condition, at the rear of the fireplace.

At that time the Wagin District High School was designing a Memorial Wall to honour past students and the offer was made to install the tablet as the centrepiece of the wall.

Funding from the Department of Veterans Affairs has been sought to install security lights and a heavy duty laminated glass cover to protect the tablet. The Wagin R.S.L. has also assisted the school to purchase and install three new flagpoles with financial support from the Shire of Wagin.

A five man detachment of the Avon Valley 10th Light Horse Memorial Troop participated in the ceremony. Six Year 6 students from the Wagin District High School were sworn in as warders “to honour and preserve the War Memorial of Wagin (of which there are five). Their identifying badges were presented by the Hon. Terry ‘Tuck’ Waldren MLA, Member for Wagin and Minister for Sport and Recreation; Racing and Gaming and Deputy Parliamentary Leader. The Wagin R.S.L. Ceremonial Team are to be congratulated on the organisation of the entire ceremony, while the Wagin District High School and the Ladies’ Auxiliary Team and Affiliates of the Wagin R.S.L. also provided a superb luncheon for 180 official guests.

After ninety years, the Great War Brass Tablet has finally come home.

Ian Menzies

The Veterans

They ask us why we do it, why we still parade.
Now that we are getting old and just a little frayed.
It’s not for the sake of glory or the medals on our chest,
It’s simply that we’re comrades who stood the final test.
On the 6th June that fateful day, a day we’ll never forget,
Many laid down his life and paid the final debt.
So when you see a veteran, give the man your hand,
For those medals on his chest were won in foreign lands.
And when God asks the question “Who are you my son?”
I will proudly answer him, “Sir, I’m a veteran!”

By Leonard Langdon Reproduced by kind permission of “This England Magazine”

The Final Inspection

If you’ve a place for me here, Lord,
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don’t, I’ll understand.
There was a silence all around the throne,
Where the saints had often trod.
As the soldier waited quietly,
For the judgment of his God.

If you care to offer the smallest token of recognition to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It’s the Military, not the politicians that ensures our right to freedom.

It’s the Military, not the poet, who has given us the freedom of speech. It’s the Military, not the politicians that ensures our right to freedom of speech.

It’s the Military, not the politician who has given us the freedom of speech.

If you care to offer the smallest token of recognition and appreciation for the military, please pass this on and pray for our men and women who have served and are currently serving our country and pray for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for freedom.

IAN MENZIES
Dear Denis,

I was pleased to speak to you this morning in regards to a Christmas card sent by my father while he served in France during World War I.

Please find enclosed a copy of the Christmas card, together with a copy of the message written by my father. The message is in Greek, I have attached a translation.

My father enlisted in 1915 and was allocated to the 16th Battalion. He got pneumonia and was discharged shortly after.

After recovering he applied for enlistment again in late 1915 and was sent to London for recovery and then during the War he was gassed. He was enlisted again in late 1915 and was allocated to the 16th Battalion. He got pneumonia and was discharged shortly after.

After recovering he applied for enlistment again in late 1915 and was attached to the 11th Battalion (City of Perth Regiment).

During the War he was gassed. He was sent to London for recovery and then was discharged on Christmas Day in 1919.

Regards,
Mick Michael

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Christmas poem by Aussie soldier

It was the night before Christmas,
He lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house,
Made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney,
With presents to give,
And to see just who,
In this house, did live.
I looked all about,
A strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents,
Not even a tree.
No stocking by mantle,
Just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures,
Of far distant lands.
With medals and badges,
Awards of all kinds,
A sober thought,
Came through my mind.
For this house was different,
It was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier,
Once I could see clearly.
The soldier lay sleeping,
Silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor,
In this one bedroom home.
The face was so gentle,
The room in disorder,
Curled up on a poncho,
Of whom I'd just read?
Was this the hero,
An Australian soldier.
Not how I pictured,
A sober thought,
With medals and badges,
On the wall hung pictures,
Just boots filled with sand,
A strange sight I did see,
In this one bedroom house,
He lived all alone,
It was the night before Christmas,
Aussie soldier

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AMAZING HEROES

Serving our Veterans for over 60 years and still number one in veteran care.