Final Fromelles soldier laid to rest

Ninety-four years after they fell in the Battle of Fromelles, the last of 250 Australian and British soldiers has been buried with full military honours at a ceremony in France.

KNOWN WEST AUSTRALIANS LAID TO REST

Lest We Forget

NAME                           ENLISTED
1602 Lance Corporal Allan Bennett    Blackboy Hill
1636 Private Samuel Thomas James Rider   Norseman
965 Private Arnold Holmes           Perth
1276 Private Gilbert Allen Griffiths   Trayning
1274 Corporal Robert Courtney Green     Toodyay
1226 Private Edward Nason Burney    Blackboy Hill
1226 Private Robert Grieve Moncrieff Scott   Perth
865 Corporal Leslie William Hart    Blackboy Hill

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- Conveyancing and Settlements - Emma Leys
- Enduring Powers of Attorney - David Miller
- Family Law - Tony Milne
- Motor Vehicle Accidents and General Personal Injuries - Tony Milne

WILLS AT SPECIAL RATES

Deadline for next edition: 17 September, 2010
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
RSL, PO Box 3023 Perth Adelaide Terrace, WA 6832
Email: listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au

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'The Listening Post’ is published 6 times a year, printing 10,000 copies for members, subscribers and Unit & Kindred associations.

To all Presidents and Sub Branch Secretaries, send photographs and a short article on special activities at your Sub Branch to The Listening Post. Denis Connelly, Editor

The Editors thank those members and others who went to the trouble of forwarding photos and stories of their ANZAC Day commemorations to The Listening Post. Denis Connelly, Editor

Resolution for photos are extremely important. If a low quality picture is printed it will come out pixel-lated and blurry.

The Editors at The Listening Post are dedicated to publishing the highest quality newspaper and therefore will ONLY accept digital photos emailed to listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au

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This Month In Australian Military History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31 July</td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>The advance party of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) arrives in South Vietnam</td>
<td>Colonel Ted Serong, Commander of AATTV, flies into Saigon, ahead of the main body of the AATTV which would arrive on 3 August. The arrival of “the Team” signalled the beginning of more than ten years of Australian involvement in the Vietnam War.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 August</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>Australians charge at the Nek</td>
<td>Fighting as infantry, the 10th and 8th Light Horse Regiments attacked the Turkish forces at the Nek, Gallipoli. Three waves went forward, and altogether 375 of the 600 men became casualties, a figure which included 234 dead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 August</td>
<td>1946</td>
<td>Battle of Long Tan, South Vietnam</td>
<td>Amid a tropical downpour, 108 men of D Company, 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, supported by artillery and a timely resupply by the RAAF, fought off an attack by an enemy force of more than 2,000 in a rubber plantation near the abandoned village of Long Tan. The arrival of Armoured Personnel Carriers carrying radars that could sight the action at an end. Seventeen of the Australians were killed, 113 wounded, and 24 were wounded. More than 245 enemy bodies were later counted, but many more had been taken away.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-30 August</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>2nd Lieutenant HV Throssell, VC</td>
<td>2nd Lieutenant HV Throssell, originally from Northam, Western Australia, wins the Victoria Cross at Hill 60, Gallipoli.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 September</td>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Australian attack on Hindenburg Line</td>
<td>The 1st and 4th Australian divisions were successful in breaking the forward edge of the main German defensive line across the Picardy region of France.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 September</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>Official approval given for the establishment of a military Central Flying School. Official formation of the Australian Flying Corps</td>
<td>The Australian Flying Corps went on to serve in Mesopotamia, the Middle East, and the Western Front and was the forerunner of the RAAF.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 September</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment arrives in Korea</td>
<td>The Battalion was immediately committed to the United Nation forces’ northward advance against the retreating North Koreans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 October</td>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Australian Light Horsemen take Damascus</td>
<td>The Light Horse advances in Damascus, the Syrian capital, at the end of the long and victorious advance that ended the First World War in the Middle East.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 October</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Dedication, Australian Vietnam Veterans’ National Memorial</td>
<td>The Vietnam Veterans’ National Memorial, ANZAC Parade, Canberra, was opened by the Prime Minister, the Hon. Paul Keating, MP, and honours those Australians who served and died in the Vietnam War.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 October</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>HMAS Sydney in Korean waters</td>
<td>The commencement of the aircraft carrier, HMAS Sydney’s, first patrol off Korea’s west coast made Australia the third country (after USA, and Britain) to operate a carrier in the Korean War. The carrier operated Firefly and Sea Fury aircraft.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These events are only a selected number of significant dates when Australians were involved in activities of importance. For the complete list go to: www.army.gov.au

Z Force and Reserve Forces Day at Kings Park

Z Force and Reserve Forces Day is one of Memorial for twenty three brave Australians who gave their lives under the code name RIMAU during WW II.

The Service is held at the State War Memorial in Kings Park.

It is held on the nearest Sunday to July 7, the day of their execution by the Japanese.

The service this year was held in the presence of the Governor of WA Dr Ken Michael, Warden of the State War Memorial Kevin Cass-Ryall, Bill Gaynor State President of the RSL, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs Russell McLachlan, Patron of Z Force Lt Col (Rtd) David Lewis, Capt Brett Downsing O/C HMAS Stirling and Sqn Leader Paul Webb of the RAAF.

A magnificent display of marching was in evidence by a select gathering of SAS personnel under their Commanding Officer Lt Col Bruce Willis.

Rabbi Dr Shalom Coleman CBE AM (Honorary Chaplain) conducted the service. He explained that it was his valedictory after more than thirty years.

He addressed the gathering in the following terms:

“...In World War II the rapid advance of the Nazi War Machine from Norway to the Pyrenees and Japan having joined the Nazi War Machine from Norway to the Pyrenees and Japan (following the terms:)

He addressed the gathering in the following terms:

“We know we all have. The SAS cadets must pass on to a younger generation. These are the men whose memory we should carry on where we have left off, an asset we have in our young people. They will carry on where we have left off, and they will protect our nation in the same tradition of courage and bravery expressed in today’s ceremony.

I therefore take this opportunity of thanking the members of Z Force for the privilege of being their Hon Padre for more than thirty five years.

I thank the members for their warm friendship, their hospitality and their encouragement. I bless all of them with the words of Torah “May the Lord Bless you and Keep you. May the Lord keep this face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift up his countenance towards you and grant you peace”

“May the pleasantness of the Lord be upon you and establish the work of your hands.” - SHALOM

Rabbi Dr Shalom Coleman CBE AM (Honorary Chaplain)

Gary Redmond representing Z Force in thanking the Rabbi for his service presented him with an inscribed coat-of-arms of the Force and a gift.

Future of the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal National President Reports:

There were two concerns about the future of the DFRT. The first arose because of a hiatus about the re-appointment of the President, the Honourable Patricia Leary. This has since been resolved with a temporary fix for the next 12 months. However, the Tribunal still lacks a third member and I intend taking this up with the responsible Minister after the forthcoming federal election.

The second problem arose because of an unannounced administrative move of the DFRT from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations to the Public Service; and because the move was just another part of the Public Sector Superannuation (separating the ADF from the rest of the Commonwealth Superannuation system) I also advised that I understood the President of the DFRT has significant concerns that the move might compromise the independence of the Tribunal. The matter remained unresolved at the time the federal election was called and I will take it up with the responsible minister after the election.
From the President's Pen

National President's Visit

The recent visit by our National President, RADM Ken Doolan AO provided members with an opportunity to meet the President in an informal environment and hear first hand of his vision for future directions for the RSL. Ken met with both the State Executive and the membership in attendance at the City of Belmont Sub Branch who are currently on deployment. He clearly articulated the present position of the League and made suggestions as to how we could move forward ever bearing in mind the purpose for which the League was founded – primarily to look after our mates who are in need or necessitous circumstances.

He indicated that the League needed to better focus on the needs of the younger service and ex service men and women – including reservists. Attention needed to be directed towards families, especially when serving members of the family are on deployment. Membership is important for the continued operation of the League but of greater importance is an awareness of the role of the RSL and its contribution towards the veteran and ex service community. This need to be better publicised and understood.

In his presentation he outlined the initiatives which was being experienced in the establishment of a Virtual Sub Branch where a link is formed between the RSL and servicing personnel. This has proved very popular with connections being made with over 2,000 serving members. The Service has registered with RSL and now know what we can offer by way of support to them and their families.

A further initiative - Project Reserves was outlined that was being experienced in the establishment of a Virtual Sub Branch where a link is formed between the RSL and servicing personnel. This has proved very popular with connections being made with over 2,000 serving members. The Service has registered with RSL and now know what we can offer by way of support to them and their families.

A further initiative - Project Reserves was outlined. This project, which is being experimented with on a national basis, is designed to encourage more young people to join the defence forces and to help them in their search for work. This is an important part of the overall strategy of the Department of Defence and the Defence Force to address the needs of young people who are currently serving their country.

The ‘Keeping in Touch’ project, recommended from the study by the Defence Force - was only being developed by DVA and the Department of Defence. The aim of the project is to provide ongoing recognition of separated member's ADF Service and to provide support that will ensure access to helpful information provided by DVA and defence personnel. The project will assist in the creation of pathways for members to remain connected to their mates. To this end, it is hoped that Defence will take over DVA Transition Services currently being offered. Serving members have expressed some fundamentals which they want to provide advice on seeking compensation. Navy and RAAF look like following the Army in implementing this initiative.

The RSL and other representative organisations have an interest in this proposal as our role as a support group could ultimately be seriously compromised.

Review of DVA- Funded ESO Advocacy and Welfare Services

The Review Team has provided an Interim Report to the Department. This Report highlighted and recommended changes in ESO delivery of advocacy and welfare services and governance structure in particular to TIP. Changes to the management and administration of DVA grants and future funding have been recommended. The Review Team has developed a Key Issues Paper and ESOs will have until the end of December to respond to the proposals. RSL National Veteran Affairs Committee will be debating the issues raised in the Report early August at a specially convened conference to be held in Perth.

Corporate Golf Day

On Thursday 22 July 2010 golfers turned out in force to contest the Annual RSL President’s Cup Trophy at Meadow Springs Golf Complex. A capacity field of 144 players enjoyed good conditions and a beautiful evening as always evident when golfers get together. Winners of the day were the City of Rockingham Team who also took out the Trophy for Winning Sub Branch. Well done, Rockingham. Thanks must also be expressed to our many sponsors who generously supported us and present with prizes as well as players.

It’s on again next year at the same time and place, so register when the flyer comes out to avoid missing out on a position.

Welfare Services

During July our Welfare Officer was approached for emergency relief and general welfare assistance from Ex-Service and Serving Members and their dependants.

This comprised of:

Veterans 54
War Widow/widower 16
Family Members 26
Current Serving Members 0

The presenting issues were varied with those requiring financial assistance, emotional support, crisis counselling, referral to other services and organisations, advocacy to government and agencies, visits and assistance with food vouchers and payment of utilities.

The total amount of RSL welfare fund expended this month to date is $3,738.45 including for food $1,050.00, utilities $1,345.18, accommodation $806.25 and other necessities $375.05.

The increase in expenditure is across several categories of assistance.

A number of telephone calls offering to pay power bills for veterans were received in response to the State President’s interview on Channel 7. A donation of $300 was also made in Reception.

In the WA, Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen’s Relief Fund Trust approved general grants to veterans experiencing financial hardship to a total of $5,762.69.

The Trust continues to provide monthly grants to Veterans experiencing ongoing hardship. Two new recipients have been added to this list and the monthly grants total to $3,130.00.

The Official Prison visitor Mr Terry O’Neill visited an additional two ex-servicemen at Casuarina Prison. They both applied for assistance to help them in time of urgent need. With such a project being devised to purchase books, they were fully endorsed the approach he had taken.

A further initiative - Project Reserves was outlined that was being experimented with on a national basis, is designed to encourage more young people to join the defence forces and to help them in their search for work. This is an important part of the overall strategy of the Department of Defence and the Defence Force to address the needs of young people who are in need or necessitous circumstances.

time to hand in their Charter. We understand that those who are still active will join neighbouring Sub Branches while others will join the unallotted list. Well done Upper Swan!!!

Upper Swan has provided the Archivist with seven boxes of records, photographs, and minute books. It certainly tells the history of the Swan Valley. A list of the contents of the boxes has been made and the boxes have been made available to the public to be seen.

Centenary of ANZAC Grants

The National Commission for suggestions as to how the Centenary of ANZAC may be commemorated has called for public submissions. RSL Sub Branches and local communities are urged to consider schemes and projects that meet the local level and apply for funding to facilitate their project.

Submissions close on 17 September 2010 and information and Application Form – can be accessed at: www.anzaccentenary.gov.au/submissions

AFOS Donation

Thanks to Dawesville Sub Branch for their donation of $1,500 to the Australian Forces Overseas Fund. This donation will be applied by the Trustees of the Fund towards the provision of transport to those members of the ADF on deployment overseas. WA State President at the July National Executive Meeting of the League presented this donation personally.

Poppy Day 2010

The Annual Poppy Day Appeal is to be held on Friday 5 November 2010 in the Perth metropolitan area. The Annual Poppy Day Appeal for 2010 is the only day on which Poppies may be given out in the Metropolitan “streets” – this does not include shopping malls. Local Metropolitan Councils cannot override this; local Metropolitan Councils cannot override this; local Metropolitan Councils cannot override this; local Metropolitan Councils cannot override this; local Metropolitan Councils cannot override this; local Metropolitan Councils cannot override this; local Metropolitan Councils cannot override this; local Metropolitan Councils cannot override this; local Metropolitan Councils cannot override this. The rule does not apply to Country Sub Branches.

Sub Branches are reminded that money is collected on behalf of the Trustees of the “Western Australian Aged Servicemen, Soldiers, Airmen and their Families Assistance Fund” Act 1932” which enables welfare assistance to be provided to ex-servicemen and women, their widows and dependants.

The “Western Australian Aged Servicemen, Soldiers and Airmen’s Relief Fund Act 1932” is independent of the Returned and Services League of Australia, WA Branch Incorporated and operated under the supervision of Trustees. The “Act” authorises the League and NO OTHER BODY OR PERSON to hold, manage and conduct the Poppy Day Appeal.
This series of events began with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, in Sarajevo Town Hall on 28 June 1914. It was alleged that an underground group known as the ‘Black Hand Group’, believed to have links to the Serbian government, were responsible; however, this was never proved. The Austro-Hungarian government was not pleased with the response from the Serbian authorities which caused heightened tensions between the neighbours, resulting in the Austro-Hungarians opting to stamp their authority on the Serbians crushing the nationalist movement and in the Balkans. The Austro-Hungarians did so by issuing an ultimatum to the Serbs to bring the assassins to justice effectively mollifying Serbian sovereignty. As the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey, commented at the time, “never before have I seen one state address to another independent state a document of so formidable a character”.

Austro-Hungarians expected that Serbia would reject these demands, allowing them to have a pretext to launch a limited war against the Serbs. However, they did not think that the Serbs tied with Russia would draw them into the dispute, other than diplomatic protest. Attempts by the Austro-Hungarians to exploit this situation by blaming Serbia produced a reaction across Europe resulting in mutual declarations of war by the major powers in July and August. With these developments there came into play a plethora of treaties that the nations of Europe had negotiated in previous years:

- **Austria-Hungary**, unsatisfied with Serbia’s response to her ultimatum (which in the event was almost entirely placatory; however, her jibing over a couple of minor clauses gave Austria-Hungary her sought-after cue) declared war on Serbia on 28 July 1914. Russia, bound by treaty to Serbia, announced mobilisation of its vast army in her defence, a slow process that would take around six weeks to complete.

- **Germany**, allied to Austria-Hungary by treaty, viewed the Russian mobilisation as an act of war against Austria-Hungary, and after scint warning declared war on Russia on 1 August.

- **France**, bound by treaty to Russia, found itself at war against Germany and, by extension, on Austria-Hungary following a German declaration on 3 August. Germany was swift in invading neutral Belgium so as to reach Paris by the shortest possible route.

- **Britain** allied to France by a more loosely worded treaty which placed a "moral obligation" upon her to defend France, declared war against Germany on 4 August. Her reason for entering the conflict lay in another direction: she was obligated to defend neutral Belgium by the terms of a 75-year old treaty. With Germany's invasion of Belgium on 4 August, and the Belgian King's appeal to Britain for assistance, Britain committed herself to Belgium's defence later that day. Like France, she was by extension also at war with Austria-Hungary.

- With Britain's entry into the war, her colonies and dominions abroad offered military and financial assistance, and included Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa.

**United States** President Woodrow Wilson declared a U.S. policy of absolute neutrality, an official stance that would last until 1917 when Germany's policy of unrestricted submarine warfare - which seriously threatened America's commercial shipping (which was in any event almost entirely directed to the Allies led by Britain and France) - forced the U.S. to finally enter the war on 6 April 1917.

**Japan**, honouring a military agreement with Britain, declared war on Germany on 23 August 1914. Two days later Austria-Hungary responded by declaring war on Japan.

**Italy**, although allied to both Germany and Austria-Hungary, was able to avoid entering the fray by citing a clause enabling it to evade its obligations to both. In short, Italy was committed to defend Germany and Austria-Hungary only in the event of a ‘defensive’ war, arguing that their actions were ‘offensive’ she declared instead a policy of neutrality. The following year, in May 1915, she finally joined the conflict by siding with the Allies against her two former allies. These alliances and treaties first came to the floor with the First Prime Minister of Prussia, and then Chancellor of the German Empire, Bismarck.

Appointed by Kaiser Wilhelm I in 1862, Bismarck was consumed with a desire to create a German Empire of smaller German states by engineering a war against Austria in 1866 over disputed territory in the Duchy of Holstein. This resulted in seven weeks, now known as "the Seven Week War", and ended with the complete domination of the Austrian territories. Wilhelm encouraged by Naval Minister Tirpitz embarked on a major shipbuilding exercise, determined to produce a fleet to exceed Britain's. Britain who at this time, had the greatest sea power, agreed to an alliance with Japan to limit Germany in the Eastern part of the world. Britain continued with the ship building program aware of Germany’s ever increasing fleet.

In 1904 an agreement known as the ‘Entente Cordiale’ with France resolved colonial squabbles, more significantly it did not commit each other to military aid in time of war, but it did offer close diplomatic ties. Alliances between the powers of Europe such as the Russians pledge to protect Serbia and Britain’s agreement to defend Belgian neutrality. In the interim there were a number of ‘minor’ conflicts which helped stir emotions in the year preceding 1914. Concurrent with the goings on in Europe, the Japanese launched a successful attack on the Russian Pacific Fleet in Korea at Incheon and Port Arthur in China. This action resulted in the entire Russian fleet being destroyed. Even though in Berlin it was thought the great Russian Fleet was ‘invincible’. In 1912 there was conflict between Italy and Turkey when Turkey lost Libya, Rhodes and the Dodecanese Islands; however, Turkey’s troubles were not over. After finding peace with
From the Bunker with Denis Connelly

the Italians, it found itself in conflict with smaller nations of the Balkans Territories; Greece, Serbia and Bulgaria.

THE PATH TO WAR

As for Germany, being unsettled socially and militarily with the 1912 Reichstag elections resulting in no fewer than 110 socialist deputies, making Chancellor Bismarck-Hollweg's task more difficult between Reichstag and the autocratic Wilhelm.

The social unrest became apparent to the Chancellor. As a way of avoiding unrest he promoted a short sharp war, although he could not rule out a much wider European conflict, but he hoped that this would resolve Germany's social and political woes.

On 6 July 1914 while the Austro-Hungary Government was weighing up its options regarding Serbia to offer support to Austria-Hungary no matter what it decided. Germany's unsettlement gave Kaiser the right sense of frustration that Germany could not carve out a roll of 'Grand Imperial Role' as he desired a place in the sun for the German Empire.

However the Military Commanders and government assuredly did not anticipate what was to come. A plan to attack both Russia and France on two fronts had long been expected. The so called 'Schlieffen Plan' devised by former army Chief Alfred von Schlieffen. The plan was to conquer France within a five week effort on 'The Western Front' before the Russians could be mobilised on 'The Eastern Front', which was estimated to take at least six weeks.

However, this plan did not take into account Britain's entry to war, for when Germany attacked Belgium on the 4 August 1914 Britain's ancient agreement with Belgium to recover violated Belgium territory.

A Family Affair

The First World War has sometimes been labelled, with reason, "a family affair". This is derived from the reality that many of the European monarchies - many of which fell during the war (including those of Russia, Germany and Austria-Hungary) - were inter-related.

The British monarch George V's predecessor, Edward VII, was the German Kaiser's uncle and, via his wife's sister, uncle of the Russian Tsar as well. His niece, Alexandra, was the Tsar's wife. Edward's daughter, Maud, was the Norwegian Queen, and his niece, Eila, Queen of Spain; Marie, a further niece, was to become Queen of Romania.

Despite these familial relations - nine Kings attended Edward's funeral - European politics was all about power and influence, of protection and encirclement. Thus the tangled web of alliances which sprung up in the wake of the rise of the newly united German Empire in 1871.

References:

British History, edited by Juliet Gardiner and Neil Wenborn. Published by Collins and Brown 1995

Australian War Memorial, Canberra ACT. www.awm.gov.au

www.firstworldwar.com

Mark Sweetman

Pure Massacre Book Launch

RSI State President Mr William ‘Bill’ Gaynor OAM RDF attended the launch of the book Pure Massacre by the author WO1 Kevin ‘Irish’ O’Halloran at the Western Australian University Regiment on Tuesday 22nd June 2010.

The RSL State President and the Fremantle Legacy President Rick Tonkin were hosted by the Commander 13 Brigade Brigadier Stephen Cain, Assistant Commander Colonel Mike Page and RSM 13 Brigade WO1 Shane Moyle.

While the night belonged to WO1 O’Halloran, the book launch was preceded by a service of remembrance for the five soldiers who had died recently on operations in Afghanistan. In this service the Commanding Officer John Fisher asked that we also remember former WAUR graduate Craig Oliver, who was tragically killed in an air crash in the Congo with the executive team of Sundance Mining.

WO1 O’Halloran used the events of the 1994 tour of Rwanda for his book Pure Massacre which is a record of what happened on 22nd April 1995 at a displaced persons’ camp in Kibeho, Rwanda. Kevin ‘Irish’ O’Halloran, a Platoon Sergeant at the time, pulls together the perspectives of those Australian soldiers who saw over 4,000 unarmed men, women and children die in a hail of bullets, grenades and machete blades at the hands of the Rwandan Patriotic Army.

In his book WO1 O’Halloran attempts to understand the framework in which the UN conducts its missions, and then dissect this in relation to the Australian’s role within a UN charter. As part of this analysis WO1 O’Halloran used the events of the deployment as they unfolded to highlight the strengths of the Australian Service men and women involved and contrasts this against the weaknesses associated with the UN mandate under which the Australian’s had to operate.

When the tour of Rwanda was over for the Australian military personnel they became to be the most highly decorated UN peacekeeping contingent since the Korean War.

Mark Sweetman
Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Gairdner

Charles Henry Gairdner was born on 20th March 1898 in Batavia, Netherlands East Indies (Jakarta, Indonesia). Son of Charles Arthur Gairdner, an Anglo-Irish merchant, and his wife Johanna Theodora née Bergsma; Sir Charles Gairdner grew up in County Galway, Ireland but received his secondary education in Repton, Derbyshire, England.

An active sportsman throughout his life, he represented Ireland in hockey and polo during his younger days. While Gairdner went on to achieve many great things, his younger days have always drawn attention. At the age of 18 he was pitchforked into France in command of 32 men and he knew nothing. All I knew was when we were ordered to go over the top, I led them”.

During his hospitalisation in 1917, due to a serious wound to his right leg, Gairdner developed his lifelong passion for knitting. However, this was the only pleasant component to come out of this episode. His injury would cause him pain for the rest of his life.

The McIntosh Memorial Scholarship is open to descendants of the RAAF. To be eligible, persons must be undertaking a first course of tertiary education, in any year of that course, and must reside in Western Australia.

The McIntosh Memorial Scholarship Fund RAAF Association (WA Division) Inc.

The McIntosh Memorial Scholarship is open to descendants of persons who enlisted in Western Australia for service in any branch of the RAAF. To be eligible, persons must be undertaking a first course of tertiary education, in any year of that course, and must reside in Western Australia.

Charles Gairdner was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by the United States in London on January 16th 1947. He had been appointed CBE (Most Excellent Order of the British Empire: Commander-1941), CB (Most Honourable Order of the Bath: Companion-1946), KCMG (The Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George: Knight Commander-1948) and was awarded the American Medal of Freedom. Recognised in 1948, Gairdner retired from the army in the next year. He purchased a property in County Down, Ireland, and the house he lived in there, “Tara Farm”, would hunt for two days a week. Invited to be the Governor of Western Australia, Gairdner succeeded Sir James Mitchell on 1st January 1958, and was sworn in on 11th January 1958.

Arriving in Perth on Melbourne Cup Day, 1951, Gairdner and his wife, “[we] knew nobody. Governor’s House was an island go and taxis didn’t even know where it was”. While a quiet start, Gairdner was to become one of the most popular public figures in Western Australian history.

During the ten years and three terms as Governor of Western Australia, Sir Charles Gairdner surprised Albert much success in breaking down the barriers between the vice-regal position and the man in the streets. He formed a Government House cricket club which played schools, the media, the former Trade and Labour Council, the University of Western Australia, army and navy cricket sides and Parliament House teams. It was Gairdner’s own rules that made him the 11th in the team “the lowest of the low”. Gairdner also took up a carving course, the object being to stand beside a fellow man, but was denied the chance to learn plumbing or brick-laying by the trade unions. Alongside these qualities, Gairdner had a sound memory for names and faces and an eagerness to visit the most remote parts of the State. He was also known to drive to Yanchep on a Sunday for a drink, as the Perth pubs were closed. Nevertheless he was capable of aloofness, and his administrative style was regarded as unassuming by some observers. Not an inspired public speaker, he confessed in retirement that speech-making had been absolute purgatory. Sir Charles Gairdner’s tenure was relatively free of political or constitutional crisis. The worst that occurred was the Bunbury by-election of October 1955 that showcased General Robert Hawke’s Labour government of its parliamentary majority and presented the possibility that the governor might have to exercise his reserve powers. However, the parliament went into recess and Labour won the election in 1956.

During his time as Governor, Gairdner was governor during a number of Royal visits to Perth, the earliest in 1954, was appointed KCVO (Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Royal Victorian Order-1954) and KBE (Most Excellent Order of the British Empire: Knight Commander-1960). In 1965, he opened the Narrows Bridge and television in Western Australia in 1959, hosted the Commonwealth Games in Perth in 1962, was Chief Scout from 1952-1963 and the 1962-1963 Western Australia conferred on him an honorary D.Litt. (Doctors of

Charles Gairdner died on 22nd February 1983 at Nedlands and was cremated after a state funeral. Gairdner was revered and remembered in hospital for his kind manner and the respect he showed people. Before his death, Gairdner stated that “Life is better now” but believed that preparedness for war was “the key to peace”. “If you’re not prepared for war then you must be prepared to be taken over”.

Tamaro Jones

References:

The McIntosh Memorial Scholarship Fund RAAF Association (WA Division) Inc.

The McIntosh Memorial Scholarship is open to descendants of persons who enlisted in Western Australia for service in any branch of the RAAF. To be eligible, persons must be undertaking a first course of tertiary education, in any year of that course, and must reside in Western Australia.

Tamaro Jones

The McIntosh Memorial Scholarship Fund RAAF Association (WA Division) Inc. www.generals.dk/general/Gairdner/Sir_Charles_Henry/Great_Britain.html.

Air Force Memorial Estate Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek Phone 9311 4449

Applications close on Friday, 29 October 2010.

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The history of the stained glass window is unfortunately scarce and somewhat sketchy as are any living and knowledgeable sources to obtain further information. Menora Gardens Lifestyle Manager, Kaye Ireland said, “It’s a great disappointment that we are unable to find out more about the Stocmins, but no records were kept at the time that the window was made.”

What is known is that it was made by a gentleman named Mr Vern Stocmin who was the husband of the President of the RSL Women’s Auxiliary, serving from 1949-1960. The Women’s Auxiliary was set up by women not eligible to join the RSL, but who were associated with ex-service personnel. Networks of auxiliaries were opened in each State before World War Two. The 628 Auxiliaries throughout Australia raise money and carry out voluntary welfare work, such as hospital visiting, for the League. The Women’s Auxiliary currently has a membership of 13,121 members.

Mr Stocmin donated his time to make it, while the cost for materials were covered by the War Veterans Home and some donations were made by various RSL sub-branches. The window was originally constructed and fitted into the old chapel on the Menora Gardens site which was opened in the late 1960’s and when Mrs Stocmin was still very active within the Women’s Auxiliary. When the old chapel was demolished, the window was put into storage and was always intended to be reinstated when the new developments were finished at the Menora site.

When the new chapel was at the design stage, the window was not included for fear of damaging or breaking parts of the beautiful stained glass which were quite thin and fragile at the time. The new chapel was thus constructed and subsequently officially opened on 8th April 2006 without the splendid window but some months ago the issue was raised by Menora residents as to the whereabouts of the legendary beauty. Thus, Mr Martin Foster of “Leadlighting” was called in to inspect the window and assured that he would be able to reinstate the glass to its former glory.

Mr Foster worked on the window for months, painstakingly and carefully taking apart each pane, reinstating the lead and a new jarrah frame was made to border and hold secure the window. The restored window was reinstated into a wall of the new chapel just a fortnight ago.

An inscription above the window outlines what the panes of stained glass and the rainbow of colours represent and explains the following:

“The window depicts elements of sea, land and air, which represents the armed services, navy, army and air force. The various colouring denotes the different theatres of war in which the forces of the Commonwealth served. The radiance from the setting sun streams through the window and represent those who make the supreme sacrifice serving their country here and overseas.”

For those that are unfamiliar with Aurora Australis, it is more commonly referred to as the Southern Lights and is a beautiful natural phenomenon. The words originate from the Latin “Aurora” meaning the dawn and “Australis” meaning Southern, so Aurora Australis means ‘the dawn of the South’. RSL Care WA’s Special Projects Manager, Ken Hamilton said, “The stained glass window holds great historical significance to the Menora Gardens Village, so we are extremely delighted to see the window restored and reinstated in all its glory for us to admire.”

The rededication service will be held at 10.30am and will be followed by light refreshments in the Menora Gardens Community Centre.
The Bush Wireless

With the cold spell continuing in Perth it remains an ongoing struggle for many veterans to heat their homes. The Welfare Officer has seen a substantial increase in the number of veterans requesting assistance with utility bills. Channel 7 Perth recently reported the plight of all pensioners including Veterans in regard to being unable to pay power bills and provide the basic necessities of life.

Since the report went to air the Welfare Officer has received calls from concerned members of the community offering their support. A number of donations have been received at ANZAC House and all monies received will go directly towards paying utility bills for veterans. If you are having difficulties in this area please contact the Welfare Officer at ANZAC House. Some assistance may be available to eligible veterans and their dependants experiencing financial hardship.

Do you have any gas appliances installed prior to 1980? Changes to West Australia’s natural gas supply mean that some domestic natural gas appliances manufactured and installed before 1980 could pose a safety risk and may be replaced free of charge. The changes to the natural gas supply are currently scheduled for early 2012. If you rent privately it is strongly recommended that as the tenant you contact your property agent or landlord to discuss the issue if you are unsure of the age of your natural gas appliance(s). Anyone concerned about their appliances can ring the Appliance Rectification call centre on 1800 110 464 for further information. After review by the call centre they will arrange for a licensed gas fitter to call and inspect the appliance(s).

Do You know of any ex-Servicemen in West Australian Prisons? RSL Official Prison Visitor, Mr Terry O’Neill currently visits a few prisoners in Metropolitan Prisons on a regular basis. Mr O’Neill is keen to make contact with ex-Service personnel in Western Australian prisons. If anyone is aware of ex-service personnel in this situation it would be appreciated if they could contact the RSL Welfare Officer on 9287 3707.

The WA Sailors Soldiers & Airmen’s Relief Fund Trust The Trust Fund Web Page is now up and running. To access this page go to the home page of the Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch and follow the link in PAWS. This will take you to information about the Trust Fund and an online application for assistance form. When completed, this form can be lodged directly to the Fund Administrator. For Veterans without access to the internet an application form is still available from the Fund Administrator, Ms Rosalind Howat at ANZAC House.

The Trustees meet on the first Tuesday of each month to consider applications for assistance. The Trustees will evaluate all reasonable requests for assistance. Financial grants are restricted to those that are genuinely in need and unable to pay for some item or purpose required to preserve quality of life. For further information please contact the Fund Administrator on 9287 3707 or mobile 0412 009 191.

HOSPITAL VISITS RSL has a number of wonderful Volunteers who regularly visit Veterans in Hospitals in the metropolitan area. If you would like to arrange a visitor for yourself or a loved one please refer to the Hospital Visitors List. A few of the Volunteers, as required are happy to visit lonely Veterans in Nursing Homes. To arrange a Nursing Home visit please contact the Welfare Officer at ANZAC House on 9287 3707 or 0412 009 191.

HOUSING VISITORS LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volunteer</th>
<th>Contact Number</th>
<th>Hospitals Visited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Remah Gilmore &amp; Ms Bernadine De Beaup</td>
<td>0447 007 522 As Above</td>
<td>Hollywood Private Hospital St John of God Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Shenton Park Rehabilitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr John Duffy</td>
<td>9401 5815 or 0413780278</td>
<td>Joondalup Hospital Glengarry Hospital Osborne Park Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Mike Hamess</td>
<td>9293 1076 or 0419 091 708</td>
<td>Kalamunda Hospital Armadale Hospital Bentley Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Jim Ferguson</td>
<td>9341 5303</td>
<td>Hollywood Private Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Bill Adamson</td>
<td>9295 5354</td>
<td>Mercy Hospital Swan Districts Hospital Swan Seniors Mental Health Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSL Welfare Officer</td>
<td>9287 3707 or 0412 009 191</td>
<td>Royal Perth Hospital Others as required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Noreen &amp; Mr John Nagle</td>
<td>9583 3842</td>
<td>Peel Hospital RSL Cst, Mandurah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr John Rankin</td>
<td>0438 264 371</td>
<td>Fremantle Hospital Alma Street Hospital</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Navy Cadet Exchange From Singapore

In April 2009, the National Cadet Corps (Sea) unit at the Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road), Singapore, was honoured to receive the Australian Navy Cadet unit TS MORROW from Geraldton, Western Australia during their visit to Singapore. The cadets went for a joint activity and visited a missile corvette RSS Vengeance at Tuas Naval Base. The next day they were invited to commemorate the ANZAC Day Service at the Kranji War Memorial.

In June 2010, 22 cadets and 2 officers from the unit visited TS MORROW in a return visit. The two units conducted joint-parades and undertook combined activities. They also took the opportunity to undergo a very cold and wet Adventure Training exercise conducted by the RAN at Margaret River.

The Singaporean cadets also attended a State War Memorial Service at Kings Park on 1 June 2010 at 1930 hrs. This was an opportunity not to be missed, by the cadets in particular, as they learnt to appreciate the sacrifices by allied forces in the defence of South East Asia. The service was described as beautiful by the Deputy State Warden, Colonel (Ret’d) Phillip Skelton AM and the cadets agreed it was a highlight of their visit to Western Australia.

Cmdr G Hurren
Director Development
Australian Naval Cadets

Candles from the Singaporean Navy Cadets with cadets from TS MORROW Australian Navy Cadets during a combined activity in Singapore 2009.
Plucked From Waves

A trio of fishermen owe their lives to Search and Rescue (SAR) efforts launched from RAAF Base Pearce.

AC-130H Hercules from 37SQN, the RAAF Base Pearce SAR helicopter, and a group of student pilots from 2FTS, were amongst those who conducted the rescue in waters 95km south east of Esperance. At around 5am on May 10, the three fishermen discovered their boat was taking on water, forcing a hasty evacuation in to their life raft. Fortunately they were able to activate their Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRB), alerting authorities to their distress.

What they had failed to do however was register their EPIRB prior to the voyage, leaving rescue coordinators no details of the boat in distress. At RAAF Base Pearce, the crew of a 37SQN C-130H Hercules – who were minutes from commencing their return flight to Richmond – were told to offload their cargo and prepare for a SAR mission.

They were quickly loaded with a group of volunteer observers from the base – including eight student pilots from the RAAF Advanced Pilots’ Course.

Once the C-130H arrived on scene, it took over duties from a civilian-owned Cessna which had located the liferaft.

A single orange life raft was located and after several passes overhead, the C-130H winched out the three fishermen and brought them to Esperance Hospital, where they were treated for hypothermia.

Amongst the observers were eight students on the RAAF Advanced Pilots’ Course – most of whom had just conducted their first flying sortie the previous week.

They were Officier Matthew Trayling, Tristram Gleeson, Michael Cooke, Alexander Rolfe, Ashley Kissonk, Shamon Murthy, Kieran Blair and Thomas Sawade.

Student pilot, OFFCDT Thomas Sawade, said “all the guys agreed when we got there that the seas were horrible – it looked cold, windy and the swell was massive”.

“It was good to see what we could be tasked to do in the future, and the professionalism of the team involved.”

SQNLDR Tony Rooke, said the C-Flight Commander for 2FTS, SQNLDR Tony Rooke, said the rescue would give valuable insight into their future careers.

“They will be better equipped to put into perspective why they are being asked to do many of the things that are required of them and will have a much clearer picture of their end goal,” SQNLDR Rooke said.

“By observing and interacting with currently operational ALG pilots they have been provided with an excellent example of what will soon be expected of them as junior officers and pilots in the ADF.”

FLTLT Eamon Hamilton – Air Force News

Sandakan Dawn Service – Burning of Gum Leaves

RSL WA Branch has received several enquiries concerning the burning of gum leaves at the Sandakan Dawn Service. DVA has provided the following advice and it is produced below for members information.

The Dawn Service at Sandakan, as well as those at Gallipoli and Villers-Bretonneux in France, are organised by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs. Prior to the Department taking responsibility for the Sandakan Service a number of tour groups, hosting relatives of those who perished in Borneo, had been holding services at the Memorial Park for several years.

In order to accommodate many of the established practices of these tour groups the tour leaders were asked whether there were any elements of their particular service that the relatives would like to keep and which could be included in future services.

The burning of gum leaves was a suggestion of one of the tour groups and this request has now become part of the annual service. This was captured quite poignantly by Channel 7 this year during their televised piece on the Service.

The practice of burning gum leaves is not unique to Sandakan. It has been documented that gum leaves, sent in letters from loved ones in Australia, were burnt by troops stationed overseas during both world wars to remind their families of home.

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http://wattleday.com/greatwaz.php

For more information
Office of Australian War Graves

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Visit

THE LISTENING POST August 2010
Three Springs – Arrino RSL Sub Branch Bowls.

The Carnamah Bowling Club’s recent Joe Clancy Fours Open Day, saw the local RSL Sub Branch nominate a team in honour of our former member, the late Joe Clancy, who managed the Bowling Club for 20 years!

We were led by the Sub Branch Secretary, Gunner Kikeros. His drop shorts didn’t help! Our second was Sapper Bush, and though he ducked off once to check out a tunnel, he negotiated the pock marks fairly well. Stepping up to his full rank of President, Sapper Morgan did not live up to his 17 Construction Squadron motto “a little bear will fix it.”

This left our Naval Skipper, Able Seaman Ovens all at sea negotiating the flotsam before him. We had a great day and all played some good bowls, but our Service banter was of great entertainment to our opponents. Our opposition on the day did finish 1, 2, 3 but we did get one draw and two honourable losses.

Jim and Kath Ovens.

Research undertaken by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) reveals the United Kingdom (UK) is the best place to die.

By devising a Quality of Death Index, EIU ranked countries according to their provision of end-of-life care, rating Australia second out of the 40 countries investigated. According to the Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance, while more than 100 million patients and family care givers worldwide need palliative care annually, less than 8% of this number actually receives it.

The UK was best in terms of its hospice care network, statutory involvement in end-of-life care, public awareness and training.

The top 10 were as follows:

- UK
- Austria
- Netherlands
- Germany
- Canada
- United States
- New Zealand
- Ireland
- Belgium
- Australia

The bottom ten included India, Brazil, China and Russia.

Junior Recruits recognised in memorial dedication

Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Russ Crane recently unveiled a memorial in Western Australia dedicated to the thousands of RAN sailors who enlisted as Junior Recruits (JRs).

VADM Crane said the memorial, located at the former JR training base HMAS Leeuwin on the banks of the Swan River, Fremantle, commemorated the dedication, commitment and service of the 13,000 boys who joined as JRs between 1960 and 1984.

“It is a great honour and personal pleasure for me to have been invited here today to dedicate this memorial.”

“When I entered Leeuwin through the gates behind me in July 1970 I could never have guessed that I would one day have the great privilege of standing here today”, said VADM Crane.

Around 2,000 former Junior Recruits and their families attended the dedication of the memorial at the former HMAS Leeuwin, many travelling from interstate and some from overseas, as far away as Canada.

The memorial dedication coincided with a variety of reunion activities for the reminiscing former JRs, such as a reunion dinner and bus tours of HMAS Stirling for those who had served there from the 1970s onward. VADM Crane commented on the positive effect that Junior Recruit Training had on the young enrollees, “Many former junior recruits regard their time as junior recruits as a defining period in their lives. Very long lasting close friendships developed between junior recruits as a result of their 12 months of close quarter confinement, here at the former HMAS Leeuwin and HMAS Cerberus for others”.

Junior Recruits enlisted between the ages of 15 and 17, and after a year’s general training went onto complete their category training, before being posted throughout the Fleet. During their training, the boys were also required to complete their secondary schooling, with many going on to reach officer and senior sailer rank.

Like their earlier counterparts who started their naval careers as boy sailors in the sailing ship HMAS Tingira between the years of 1917 and 1927, many of the JRs of HMAS Leeuwin went on to experience active service. The first intake of JRs arrived at HMAS Leeuwin on July 13, 1960 and consisted of 155 recruits, all of whom were aged either 15 or 16.

In the years that followed, HMAS Leeuwin saw a further 85 intakes, while HMAS Cerberus took in another two consignments of boy sailors. Many former JRs are still in the RAN and all have served with distinction over the past 50 years.

The memorial inscription reads ‘to the memory of the boys who trained as junior recruits in HMAS Leeuwin and HMAS Cerberus and who served in the Royal Australian Navy in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping since 1960.”

By LEUT Gary McHugh

ANZAC Club
Extended hours for Congress

ANZAC Club will be open for Dinner on the Friday evening before congress

Why not come in for a splendid table'd hote style dinner and meet some of the delegates attending the congress this year or just enjoy a beverage with old colleagues at the club bar.

We will be open from 8.30am to 9pm on Friday 29 October

And all with our very attractive club prices for food and drinks.

On the Saturday morning of the congress 30 October, the Club will be open for a hearty breakfast starting at 06.30am again a chance to meet the delegates attending congress over a great value breakfast - or simply come in to say hello and enjoy a “heart starter” coffee.
Mrs Mollie Holst

Many members will no doubt recall a story in The Listening Post in 2009 with accompanying photos of an Australian lady, Mrs Mollie Holst, who resides in Drammen, Norway.

This person has been tending to graves of Australian Servicemen who sadly lost their lives during WWII for many years. Mrs Holst travels to these gravesites at her own expense and by public transport as she does not have a vehicle.

Further to this, Mrs Holst conducts an ANZAC Day Service in the Norwegian capital, Oslo, each year. I was extremely pleased when reading the Queens' Birthday Honours List to see that this lady has been awarded an OAM so firstly deserved.

Jack Edwards
21 June 2010

Australian Army – Major General John Whitelaw AO CBE

Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery
Bridges Barracks, PUCKAPUNYAL VIC 3662

Sadly I write to inform you that Major General John Whitelaw AO CBE, a prominent and distinguished gunner, passed away in Canberra on 18 June 2010.

Major General John Whitelaw was born in Melbourne in 1921. His association with the Australian Army began when he enlisted in 10th Field Brigade, Royal Australian Artillery (Militia) in 1937 as a cadet. He was commissioned on 15 March 1940 and subsequently served in artillery training units and 14th Field Regiment until 1942 when he became a liaison officer on the staff of 2nd Australian Division. In 1943 he transferred to the 4th Field Regiment and saw active service as a battery captain, troop commander and forward observer in New Guinea, Bougainville and New Britain until the end of World War 2. After nearly a year in Rabaul on movement control duties he returned to Australia and resumed civil employment. He was Mentioned In Despatches for his service as a forward observer in action in Bougainville.

He returned to active duty in 1948 as adjutant 3rd Field Regiment and later on the staff of 13th Infantry Brigade. Service followed with 1st Field Regiment as adjutant and battery commander of 'A' Field Battery. After a posting to Army Headquarters, Whitehall attended the Canadian Army Staff College in 1955 and for the next two years was an exchange officer at the Canadian National Defence Headquarters. Further staff appointments in Perth, Brisbane and Sydney followed his return to Australia in 1958. In 1966 he was transferred to the staff of Australian Army Force, Far East Land Forces in Singapore becoming Deputy Commander in 1967.

He returned to Australia in 1968 as Director of Equipment Policy at Army Headquarters and again went overseas in 1970, this time as Chief of Staff Australian Force Vietnam. He was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty and awarded the Bronze Star by the USA for this service. Appointments followed at Army Headquarters as Director of Military Operations and Plans and, on promotion to Major General, as Chief of Operations, Chief of Personnel and finally Deputy Chief of the General Staff until retirement from the Australian Army in 1978. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 1977.

After retirement he served on the Council of the National Heart Foundation (ACT), became founding Executive Director of the National Farmers Federation (1979-1985), continued his association with the United Service Institution and as patron of various associations and societies. In addition he was active in matters concerning the welfare of veterans and was national president of the Regular Defence Force Welfare Association and national vice-president of the Australian Veterans and Defence Services Council. His long standing involvement in environmental issues stemmed from his membership of the National Conservation Strategy Consultative Committee and the National Tree Program Coordinating Committee when they were set up in 1982. He continued this interest with Greening Australia as a consultant until 1996. He was given Greening Australia’s Award for Outstanding Achievement in December 1996.

General Whitelaw had a passion for Army history and heritage, particularly of the RAA. As Deputy Chief of the General Staff he established and was the founding chairman of the Army History Committee that eventually created the first Army Staff Instruction on Army Heritage and History. He was the driving force behind the construction and dedication of the RAA National Memorial on Mount Pleasant in Canberra and the creation of the RAA National Museum at North Head. He was the founding patron of the RAA Historical Society, now the RAA Historical Company. The library at North Fort holds many papers and records donated to the Regiment by John Whitelaw while the RAA Historical Company holds in trust, many movable items of the Whitelaw Gunner Collection.

His strong advocacy for the preservation of artillery heritage and history continued until very recently, evident by his chairmanship and guidance for some four years of the Historical Sub-Committee of the RAA Regimental Committee.

In addition to these historical services to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, Major General John Whitelaw served as Representative Colonel Commandant of the Regiment, a role in which he sagely guided the RAA’s history, customs, traditions and standing in the community.

Major General Whitelaw is survived by his wife Nancy and daughters Belinda, Angela and Virginia.

D P COGHLAN, AM Brigadier
Head of Regiment

Toodle Loo to Toilet Paper

Local resident Barbara Bingham wishes she had found the Hyundai bidet toilet seat years ago. “It’s marvellous”, She says. “I always wanted a bidet in my bathroom. I had heard that a BIDET would assist me, as my arthritis and bad back had made going to the loo an onerous task. I had been held back by the cost and space required by a stand-alone unit”.

Barbara says her luck changed when she saw an ad in a paper a few months ago placed by The BIDET SHOP for the HYUNDAI bidet toilet seat. It read, “This Bidet simply replaces your existing toilet seat and will automatically clean you without toilet paper”, and also it said you can install it yourself in minutes.”

After reading that, Barbara said she was so excited that she decided to call The Bidet Shop and find out more about this bidet supplied by HYUNDAI. She spoke to a gentleman called Stephen who explained that apart from the comfort factors of a heated seat and other great ideas incorporated into the bidet, the Hyundai bidet has many health benefits. He then said how the seat worked and pointed out that once you had finished doing your business, “You simply pressed the bottom wash or feminine wash button and the bidet provides a stream of warm water to clean you thoroughly. The in-built fan then dries you off with warm air, without the need for toilet paper”. Barbara said that although The Bidet SHOP offered to send out a brochure pack, she decided to order a HYUNDAI bidet seat straight away. Well it arrived 2 days later at no extra charge... She installed the seat herself and as she had been told, it fitted perfectly on her original toilet bowl. Barbara said the HYUNDAI BIDET was one of the best investments she had made in her personal health and hygiene in years and no longer finds going to the loo an issue.

“Give it a go” she says, “I did and I couldn’t be happier”.

For a brochure and pricelist, please call 1800 BIDETSHOP. That’s 1800 243 387 (freecall).

CODE: THP0608

D P COGHLAN, AM Brigadier
Head of Regiment

The Listening Post August 2010
The sub-branch charters are provided to sub-branches upon formation with the date formation was approved and the name the sub-branch will be known by. They are valuable in terms of the information they provide about the sub-branch with some of the older charters outlining changes of name throughout the sub-branch history.

The idea of the charter came about in the early 1950s as part of a program to capture the history of the sub-branches throughout Western Australia. The sub-branches were issued with the charter for a cost of 35/- and were presented with them at a function organised by the sub-branch. The date of formation documented on the charters were from Head Office records and communicated to sub-branches for their approval before printing.

In records held in the ANZAC House archives we know that the creation of the charters was a popular idea throughout the sub-branches. In correspondence from State Secretary John Chappell to the General Secretary of the League J.C Neagle in August 1950 the creation of the charters was said to be “an opportunity to bring old members back to the Sub-Branch. It has also served the useful purpose, that immediately after the presentation of the Charter, the sub-branch Secretary reads a history of the sub-branch”.

It is interesting to note that the motivation behind the creation of the charters is similar to the archive project being conducted now. The work that is going on is an attempt to capture the history of the organisation throughout Western Australia. In the words of Mr Chappell, the charters have “the effect of Sub-Branch Officers recovering, from their old records before they are lost beyond recall, interesting data concerning the Sub-Branch which will be useful at some future date for League historical purposes”.

The sub-branch charters are a valuable source of information about the sub-branches and are a significant item within the archive collection. The creation of the charters provided an opportunity for sub-branches to capture the history of their particular sub-branch. As part of the archive project we will be looking to further this initial work in capturing the history of the sub-branches of the League.

Did you know that VVCS – Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service is available to all Australian veterans, peacekeepers, their families and eligible ADF personnel?

VVCS can provide support for lifestyle, health and family matters as well as issues relating to military service. Counselling is free and confidential and experienced staff can assist veterans and their families.

In addition to counselling services, VVCS runs groups aimed to help you lead a healthier life. The following groups are scheduled to be held in WA this year.

**Heart Health** – 52 week physical health and wellbeing programme. Participants are currently being sought for the Albany, Bunbury, Busselton, Rockingham, South and East metropolitan areas.

**Lifestyle Program** – 5 day live-in group held in Margaret River. A program designed for veterans and their partners wanting to improve and enhance their relationships. 5-10 Sept, 7-12 Nov.

**Doing Anger Differently** – An 11 week anger management program. The program will help you to recognise and manage your angry feelings and prevent aggressive behaviour. Commencing 1 July.

**Sleeping Better** – Learn to sleep better with this 7 week sleep and relaxation programme. Commencing 15 October.

**Mastering Anxiety** – An 11 week programme focussing on understanding and managing stress and anxiety. Commencing 11 October.

**Building Better Relationships** – This program is designed for emotionally committed couples who want that ‘something’ back. The program aims to improve the quality of relationships through development of skills to strengthen emotional ties; develop greater mutual appreciation; communicate more effectively and share goals for the future. This program may appeal to those who have done the lifestyle program and want to continue to do relationship enhancement work. Dates to be advised.

**Post Hollywood PTSD program** – The program is designed to assist in managing the symptoms of PTSD, consolidate the learning that took place at The Hollywood Clinic and find ways of moving forward. There is also an opportunity to focus on particular areas of interest in a little more depth. Commencing 24 September.

If you need support or would like to attend one of our groups, please give us a call on 1800 011 046 or visit our website at www.dva.gov.au/vvcs

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**Hi, I’m Neil Morrison from Mandurah Hyundai. I specialise in looking after T.P.I**

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YES! Please reserve the “Lest We Forget Pocket Watch” as described in this advertisement. This ring is available for five instalments of $49.99, a total of $249.95, plus $19.99 postage and handling.

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2. FAX to: (02) 9841 3399 – 24hrs

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Cover shown smaller than actual size of 5cm diameter; chain 37cm in length

Lavish 18K gold accents
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If you are close to someone who served, the “Lest We Forget Remembrance Pocket Watch” will make a treasured keepsake for yourself or a heartfelt gift that will appreciated for years to come. It is available for just five instalments of $49.99, a total of just $249.95, plus $19.99, postage and handling. Truly incredible value! But hurry! With just 2,010 issues in the edition, demand may be intense. Reserve yours today to ensure you secure the lowest edition numbers highly sought by serious collectors. To reserve your pocket watch, backed by our 120-day guarantee, send no money now. Just complete and return the coupon today!

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2008-2010

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OAM RFD

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Trustee
Duncan Warren
AM RFD

Trustee
Kevin Trent
Croatian Consul welcomes RSL (WA)

Recently the Croatian consul Mr Hrvoje Petrušić held a function to introduce members of the Croatian War Veterans to Australian counterparts.

Mr Petrušić welcomed Mr Gaynor (President RSL WA) and delegation from the RSL to the Croatian Consulate in Perth.

After the Consul had addressed the gathering Krunoslav Samošćanec, Vice-President for the Association of Patriotic War Volunteers and Veterans of the Republic of Croatia addressed the group.

Mr Bill Gaynor then responded on behalf of RSL WA.

Denis Connelly

In the confusion and emotional numbness that follows when a person dies, it can be difficult for grieving relatives to make decisions about funeral arrangements.

Bowra & O’Dea Funeral Directors, wholly owned and operated in Western Australia for more than 110 years, are now offering a special service to RSL members interested in PrePaid Funeral Plans.

There are many benefits to a PrePaid Funeral Plan:

• The peace of mind of knowing your family will not have to make burdensome decisions at difficult times.

• The opportunity to design the funeral service as you wish and not as others would like it.

• Our price inflation guarantee. By taking out a PrePaid Funeral Plan you effectively freeze the price of your funeral costs in the future.

• A PrePaid Funeral Plan does not become a part of your estate and is not subject to any administration.

• You will lessen the anguish that family may feel regarding whether they did the right thing.

• We will arrange an obligation free appointment to discuss your personal needs.

• Your PrePaid Funeral Plan can be paid in instalments.

Special extras for RSL members:

• Free extra limousine

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Bowra & O’Dea. Simply a matter of trust.

Remembering those who helped our Diggers

The Heroes Grave is in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. The grave is dedicated to the memory of the 13 local Borneo people who died in Gaol or executed for helping the Australian soldiers in Sandakan during WW2.

On the left is Ying Chieng Hiew (n.Soh) although born Sandakan now lives in Perth for the last 37 years. Her Father Kim Seng Soh is the first name on the Grave of the five who died in Kuching Gaol.

Steffoni and husband, Bob, are both members of the Borneo POW Relatives Association and Associate members of the RAE in Perth. Together with Cheing Hiew they were part of local Ryan Rowland’s ANZAC Tour Group travelling to Borneo in April this year for 16 days.

The group of 48 people which comprised of seven who were direct descendants of our Australian servicemen, two veterans of that era, another two had served in Vietnam and later Borneo plus five Scholarship winners from WA with three more tagging along from Schools in Borneo.

We attended the main Dedication Service at the site of the No 1 Camp at Sandakan for ANZAC Day.

Many other wreath laying and smaller services were conducted at the Labuan War Cemetery, Heroes Grave and Batu Lintang sites in Kuching, the Death March Sites of Paginatan, Kundasang and Ranau.

We also visited the site of our own West Australian VC winner, Les Starecich at Beaufort and the landing sites at Labuan, Brunei, plus we visited local Schools in Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan who are all actively involved in the PASS Scholarship programs.

All in all, a very hectic time, both physically and emotionally, but very rewarding.

Bob Brackenbury

Michael Munjak, Kruno Samošćanec, Bill Gaynor, Kevin Skipworth, Hrvoje Petrušić

Michael Munjak, Kruno Samošćanec, Bill Gaynor, Kevin Skipworth, Hrvoje Petrušić

Ease the pain of your family’s loss with a pre-paid funeral from Bowra & O’Dea.
Lost Medals Australia

Since 2000 Lt Col Glyn Llanwarne has been acquiring, researching and then returning lost medals to veterans or their families. He started out purchasing medals however; now he is supported through donations of ‘found’ medals and no longer purchases them.

He and his team now use all their resources for research and trying to locate families. They do this free of any charge or fee. Over the last few years many people have asked to set up a forum or have a method of asking questions so that the information can be shared. Glyn thinks that this is the easiest way. The web site will remain the prime method of advertising so the current list of medals they are researching. In many cases he will refer enquiries direct to the web site, particularly when it comes to researching Australian servicemen as there is a step by step guide already available.

RETURNED MEDAL

JAMES GORMAN

“One of the medals I received from RSL WA was the BWM awarded to 2219 Dvr James Gorman. His service record is quite extensive and shows that he came from a small town in South West WA. I found that he was buried in a town close to this so I checked the White Pages. There was one entry with the same name so I took a punt and rang them. Sure enough they are related. I found the great grand son of James. The returned medal tally is now 670.”

Lt Col Glyn Llanwarne has kindly offered to keep RSL WA informed as the Medals are returned to their rightful owners so stay tuned, or you can access the website: www.lostmedalsaustralia.com

NIKIDA JUDGE

RSL WA

16th Battalions’ Foundation

Enjoy an evening with real Australian war heroes. Men of the 2/16th Battalion, formed in Western Australia in 1940. Veterans of the WWII Middle East Campaign and the Kokoda Track.

The 16th Battalions’ Foundation Dinner
at the University Club of Western Australia, Hackett Drive, Crawley on Friday 17th September 2010 at 6.30pm
$125

Major General John Hartley (Retired) AO
Institute Director & CEO Future Directions International

will present the
Brigadier Arnold Potts Oration

For information and bookings contact
Margaret Smith 9384 4144 or 0419 914 534
margaretasmith14@hotmail.com

16th Battalions’ Foundation

The event is the major fundraiser for 16th Battalions’ Foundation to enable scholarship funding for present day soldiers to visit sites of conflict where the 16th Battalions fought and to aid veterans and their families with day to day activities.

This, being the second Oration, will be raising funds to enable a copy of the Battalions’ history to be placed in all secondary schools in WA.

Mary Goldthorpe
Chair 16th Battalions’ Foundation
Ph: 0409 085 987
Committee of the 2/16th Battalion (A.I.F.) Association Inc

Save a life: Think F.A.S.T. Act FAST!

Knowing these four letters F.A.S.T. could save your life or the life of someone else.

Strokes can happen to anyone and everyone needs to know the common signs. Being Australia’s second biggest killer, over 60,000 new and recurrent strokes occur each year.

Stroke symptoms occur in a variety of ways. There may be just one warning sign or a combination. FAST is an easy way to recognise the signs of stroke and take immediate action.

The FAST test involves asking three simple questions:
1. Face – Check their face. Has their mouth drooped?
2. Arms – Can they lift both arms?
3. Speech – Is their speech slurred? Do they understand you?
4. Time – Time is critical. If you see any of these signs, call 000 now!

Acting FAST could mean the difference between death or severe disability and a good recovery.

Strokes are preventable and treatable. The National Stroke Foundation says that controlling these risk factors can help you to reduce your risk of stroke.

1. Keep your blood pressure and cholesterol low
2. Exercise and enjoy a healthy balanced diet
3. Do not smoke
4. Limit alcohol consumption

National Stroke Week is 13-19 September 2010

Everyone is encouraged to remind their loved ones and the general public to raise awareness of the signs of stroke and to promote the FAST test during this week.

For information and advice on stroke prevention, treatment, recovery, support and National Stroke Week, visit www.strokefoundation.com.au/national-stroke-week or call StrokeLine 1800 787 653.

Upcoming Services
at the State War Memorial, Kings Park

Merdeka Day - Tuesday 31 Aug 12.00 noon. Contact Bill Adamson on 9295 5354 (Secretary of National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association)

Maltese Association - Sunday 12 Sep 12.00 noon. Contact Judy Pavia 9377 2902 (Secretary of Maltese Association of WA)

The above information is correct at time of printing.
News From the Australian War Memorial

2010 continues to be an exciting year at the Australian War Memorial. In early August the Second World War galleries will reopen after extensive refurbishments. The galleries were fully upgraded in 1999, and while they remained engaging and in good condition, some of the exhibition infrastructure had begun to show wear. The iconic German Kübelwagen will return to the gallery, while the 1942 Kokoda campaign and HMAS Sydney (II) will have new audiovisual presentations added to their displays. New items include a rare Australian armoured vehicle, the “Dingo” scout car, and a Chevrolet lorry with a captured Italian Breda light anti-aircraft gun. The Chev and Breda combinations were used by Australian troops during the siege of Tobruk in 1941.

There will also be a display highlighting how people on the Australian home front responded to the Japanese attacks and threat of invasion, which includes a beautifully restored civilian Studebaker sedan with its producer gas unit and an Anderson shelter, which was designed to protect families in their backyards.

On the art scene, multi-media artist Shaun Gladwell recently launched an exhibition preview entitled Double Field: Shaun Gladwell- Afghanistan inspired by his time with Australian troops in 2009 as part of the Memorial’s Official War Art Scheme. The exhibition, comprised of film and photography, explores soldiers’ physicality and how they are trained to react to foreign environments.

Director of the Memorial, Steve Gower, said the new exhibition is an exciting innovation to the official war artist scheme that “captures contemporary conflict in a way we haven’t experienced before”. Shaun Gladwell’s work will be on display until August 18th.

In September the official war art of eX de Medici and Jon Cattapan will go on display, both of whom were commissioned by the Australian War Memorial.

Melbourne based artist Jon Cattapan travelled to East Timor in July 2008 and spent time with Australian Defence Force units participating in peacekeeping missions. Much of Cattapan’s work focuses on the complex relationships between Australian peacekeepers and the Timorese people.

In March 2009 Canberra based artist eX de Medici became the first official war artist to be sent to the Solomon Islands. eX de Medici is well informed of the history and contemporary social issues in the Australia-Pacific region and her work also focuses on the interactions between Australian peacekeepers and the Solomon people.

Jon Cattapan and eX de Medici’s works will be on display until April 2011, at which point the exhibition will travel around Australia.

Katherine Carter
University of Virginia Intern at the Australian War Memorial

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Battle of Crete Service – Kings Park

A wreath laying ceremony in commemoration of the 69th anniversary of the Battle of Crete was held on May 30th. During the said battle Greek, Australian, New Zealand and British soldiers, fighting side by side, inflicted heavy losses on German troops, who had attempted to capture the Greek island of Crete using the first major parachute operation of Word War II. Australia made a significant contribution to the Greek campaign: 17,125 Australians fought valiantly throughout Greece: 600 of them were killed in action, 1010 were wounded and 5,100 were taken prisoners.

Sofia Choli, Greek Consul

Riverton RSL Golf Day

Saturday July 10 saw the Riverton RSL Golf Club presentation and annual dinner held at the club. Golf club members sponsor RSL and WA Police legacy. Pictured is club patron Dr Tony Thatcher, Neil Craven and his Club Championship Award and ex CPO Brett (Chief) Saunders who is the Golf Club Captain. April 2011 will be the RSL golf club’s tenth anniversary and they will be inviting past players at the Annual Patron’s Day Ambrose tournament and a celebration dinner.

Tony Thatcher

Commemorating Indigenous War Graves

Defence commemorates the service of Indigenous men and women

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, Alan Griffin, has announced that a commemorative service was held today at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Memorial in Canberra to pay tribute to Indigenous men and women who have proudly served the Australian nation. Mr Griffin was represented by Senator for the ACT, Senator Kate Lundy, at the ceremony.

Mr Griffin said, "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the Australian Defence Force share a common desire that has been encapsulated in the unified theme - Protecting Country".

"Protecting Country embraces the everyday need to protect and preserve the basic elements of water, land and air that make up the continent of Australia. For the Australian Defence Force, these elements are reflected in the Navy, Army and Air Force and how all of them work together to defend our nation.

"Equally in a military context, Indigenous men and women have proudly served our nation since early colonial days, and have continued to serve in more recent times in peacetime, border protection and armed conflict roles," Mr Griffin said.

Senator Lundy said, "Today's commemorative service at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Memorial in Canberra paid tribute to the important contribution that Indigenous Australians have made, and continue to make, to the Australian Defence Force".

"The commemoration, conducted as part of National Aboriginal and Islander Observance Committee celebrations throughout Australia, was a reaffirmation of the high regard held within the Australian Defence Force for the Indigenous Australians who have, and are serving their country.

"The service included a traditional welcome and smoking ceremonies offered by Indigenous Australians of Canberra and the region. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Defence personnel also contributed throughout the service," Senator Lundy said. The Deputy Chief of Army, Major General Paul Symon, representing the Chief of the Defence Force, and Chaplain Ivan Grant officiated over the memorial service.

Sasha Nimmo (Alan Griffin): 0437 863 109
Annika Hutchins (Kate Lundy): 0407 458 882
Defence Media Liaison: 02 6127 1999 or 0408 498 664
www.defence.gov.au

Honouring Indigenous War Graves ceremony – Kings Park

On Friday 18 June 2010 the Welfare officer and Volunteers Angie Pfeiffer and John Power put on their Purple Bras to raise money for the Breast Cancer Foundation. Thanks to the generosity of the Staff of ANZAC House and the patrons of the ANZAC Club a total of $280.40 was collected. A special thank-you to John Power who was a fearless fundraiser on the Day.

Welfare

Footpath Freedom

Winter Specials from $1490

CALL 1300 622 633 or visit www.scootersaus.com.au

Showroom: Unit 1/156 Orrong Road, Lathlain, Perth.
For many years I thought of a trip back to the areas I served in during army service in WWII.

Being computer literate I clicked onto Google Earth, then onto a very small island in the middle of Labuan Harbour, Borneo. We had a battle station on what is called Papan. To my complete surprise it looked exactly as it was the day I left, 64 years ago. I informed my wife to get packed as we were off on a trip.

I contacted the Labuan Tourist Bureau (Sharon Kenny) to enquire, regarding any restrictions to Papan Island and method of getting there if allowed as it is a lighthouse island. Their reply was instant. Naturally they wanted to know why I was coming to Labuan Island and my reason to visit Papan.

When I informed them of the fact that I was a WWII soldier from the 9th Australian Division who landed on their island in June 1945 nothing was too much effort.

Within a day or two of sending my Jess had prepared for the occasion; including Australian gum trees, Redgum’s “I Was Only Nineteen” and songs such as, John Williamson’s “Home Among the Gum Trees”, Redgum’s “I Was Only Nineteen” and many others he had a WWII 9th Division soldier to look after.

At first we did not notice the way every one placed their right hand on their heart and said thank you.

The staff in the shops would all come out onto the foot path as you ambled by and said thank you.

At the completion of the Dawn Service, Kiah (a member of the 9th Division.” We were taken from our 5 star luxury hotel the Grand Dorset at 8am by the Chief of Harbour and marine to a huge ocean going catamaran for our short trip to Papan. The captain and six crew all greeted us with the same “thank you”.

Seeing as we are not as active as we might be, two crew members were with each of us to help get on the boat then onto the jetty and up the stairs to the area where our searchlight was located.

We were told there was no rush and they had given me three hours to reflect on all those years ago.

I was able to take photos of our tent and mess area, the original keepers house was never rebuilt, the only thing different was the 10 foot high fence topped with barbwire.

Seeing we had time to spare after leaving Papan, with morning tea served on board the ship, we were taken for a cruise along the beaches involved in the landings in June 1945 then returned in an air conditioned limousine to our hotel.

Back at the hotel everyone greeted us the same and all said “thank you”. Embarrassing for a start but after a day or two one realises; these people really do mean it.

The pilot of the plane (an Australian living in Labuan) greeted us in the same manner.

When we flew back to Kota, word had spread back to the Shangri La Rasa Ria Resort, I was a 9th Australian soldier, where we were to be greeted in the same manner with their hand over the heart “thank you”.

There is not room for me to go into detail here as I would like, regarding my trip back to Borneo and the way these people feel about us. It is a great pity so many have passed on without having any idea of the gratitude these people have for the soldiers of the 9th Australian Division which I feel for sure would be shown to their children as well if they ever visit Labuan Island and let the tour guide know your dad or grandad was with the 9th.

Anyone still able to travel requiring information on Labuan Island and Sandakan, can contact me at austhobi@multiline.com.au

James V Green
President 2/3 Composite A A Regt/SL Battery.

ANZAC Day - Gallipoli, 2010 An Australians Perspective

I Left Perth, Western Australia on 21 April 2010 to travel to Istanbul where I would undertake a 21 day tour of Turkey, Syria and Jordan. At 62 years of age, I was the oldest member on the tour, consisting of 13 Australians and one New Zealander. (James, 54).

We left Istanbul on the morning of 24 April 2010 and headed to The Boomerang Bar in Ecebat on the shores of the Dardanelles, with the Australian Flag displayed on our truck for all to see and music from home that the staff in the shops would all come out onto the foot path as you ambled by and said thank you.

At the completion of the Dawn Service, Kiah (a member of our tour from Darwin) and I started the walk to Lone Pine with hundreds of fellow Australians, 3.1km which was quite long and steep at times. At one stage overtaken by the enormity of the walk, I raised my camera above the crowd and took a photo, it was Australians as far as the eye could see.

It was hard to fathom the total number of young lives lost at Lone Pine, where many of the bloodiest battles our army service in WWII soldier from the 9th Australian Division.

The following day we had a guided tour of Gallipoli, or as the Turks call it Gelibolu, visiting many of the cemeteries including ANZAC Cove, Shrapnel Valley, Chunuk Bair and the Turkish Memorial along with time to walk alone and reflect. With this year being the 95th Anniversary I will return with my son to Gallipoli to once again reflect with a silent thanks to all our fallen ANZACs.

The words, which felt so poignant and had a profound affect on our tour, are engraved in stone at ANZAC Cove written by Kemal Ataturk, the Commander of the Turkish 19th Division during the Gallipoli Campaign read:

“Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives. You are now living in the soil of a friendly country therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours. You, the mothers, who sent their sons from faraway countries, wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.”

Written by Wayne Dunham
I was a member of William's Force which commenced work in October 1942 on the Burma end of the railway which was to extend for 415 kilometres. During construction it contained along its length and beyond hundreds of camps for POWs. Not all were bad, some worse than others, not one would be called good.

There were two Japanese Railway Regiments involved in the construction, No 5 covered the Burma end No 9, the Thanbyuzayat end. In them steel construction, crossed rivers streams and gullies. Hygiene was strictly maintained in all the POW camps but in the Death Railway there was problems. One of the greatest asset in any camp was an Australian farmer in camp. What they could do with a piece of wire or any other simple item was unbelievable.

Construction the railway, Bill Haskell was a small explosion. Later examination of the mine was safe. While he was releasing the mine 'knocked about', resisting the procedure, which researchers believe will lead to an accurate and practical diagnosis of the disease. There is still no cure. Researchers are optimistic that one day, the process.” said Dr Paul Aisen, an Alzheimer's Disease and Memory Disorders Center.

Medical experts are proposing changes to the way Alzheimer's is diagnosed in order to treat it earlier before the onset of symptoms. This has been unaltered since 1984.

With the use of brain scan technology, experts expect the number of diagnoses to double or triple once the guidelines are put in place. This also includes spinal tap procedure, which researchers believe will have a yield of 15 to 30 years before dementia sets in.

The guidelines were put forward at an international conference in Hawaii this week.

Development of the guidelines, by panels of experts convened by the National Institute on Aging and the Alzheimer's Association, began a year ago due to a new understanding of the disease and new methods of detection, it was becoming clear that the old method of diagnosing Alzheimer's was outdated.

“Our thinking has changed dramatically,” said Dr Paul Aisen, an Alzheimer's researcher at the University of California.

“We now view dementia as a late stage in the process.”

Researchers are optimistic that one day, people’s lives will be simpler because of a simple test and then take drugs to halt the progression of the disease.

An estimated 220,000 Australians suffer from dementia. There is still no cure.
Army Apprentices Association

Secretary Lucas McGann
secretary@austarmyapprentice.org

The Army Apprentices Association is currently seeking any contact details of any Army Apprentices in the North Queensland area (providing they want to be contactable) and promote membership of the Association. The Association website is at http://www.austarmyapprentice.org/index.htm and contains everything about the Association including current projects, intake listings, Vale lists, reunion details, photo contributions etc.

Army Apprentices Association (National)

Secretary Lucas McGann
secretary@austarmyapprentice.org

I have taken up the role as the area representative for the Army Apprentices Association. I am trying to get together contact details of any Army Apprentices in the North Queensland area (providing they want to be contactable) and promote membership of the Association.

41st Intake Navy

40th Anniversary Reunion of the 41st Intake of Rhodes and Howden Junior Recruits into the Royal Australian Navy at HMAS Leeuwin on 9th October 1972. Reunion to be held around 9th October 2012. If you are part of this intake or know anyone who was, please register your details. More information will be disseminated via email.

Contacts: Rick (Dick) & Leslie, PO Box 1, Tunnack, Tasmania 7120
Email: mobilesaddler@activ8.net.au
Ph: (03) 6251 6196
Or
CPO J Hartnett (Jonno) 8 Indus Close, Rockingham, WA, 6168
Email: kojakjon@live.com.au
Ph: 0410 765239

Bruce Rock Vietnam Veterans Group

The Bruce Rock Vietnam Veterans Group would like to invite you to attend the tenth “Back to the Bush” Veteran’s Reunion 1st to the 8th November 2010 in Bruce Rock, WA.

Contact: Chris Pickering - 08 9061 1604 - crpick@highwayone.org.au or Merv Gould - 08 9061 1143 - mrgould@westnet.com.au

Health Story - Vitamin D and Bone Health

I am contacting you to alert you to an important health story which is very relevant to older Australians, particularly during winter – vitamin D deficiency. As you may be aware, vitamin D is an essential ingredient in aiding your body to absorb calcium, which is important in maintaining bone and muscle health. You may not know that older adults are at risk of being vitamin D deficient. In fact, Research has found that as many as 80% of women and 70% of men living in hostels or nursing home in Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia are vitamin D deficient. Studies have shown vitamin D supplementation reduced the risks of falls in the elderly by 19%

Can You Help

Please contact me if you trained or flew with my father, Walter James Peters, 425962, W/O RAAF, Bomb Aimer in Bomber Command in WW2. Enlisted Brisbane, 21 May 42, trained Narronine and Bradfield Park, then Canada training in Air Observer and Bomb & Gunnery Schools.

Bruce Rock Vietnam Veterans Group

I contacted the Australian War Memorial: 15th August 2010 at 11.00am. Ave Kings Park on Sunday 15th August 2010 at 11.00am.

Further info Please contact secretary@vvaawa.org.au or Gloria Fox 9339 7367

Navel Cadets

Does anyone have any knowledge of approximately 25 naval cadets, aged between 15 and 17, completing ‘shake-down’ training aboard HMAS Sydney II during 1941?

Any information to Peter M Weston eldenmike@hotmail.com 0403 166 089

HMAS Shoalhaven F535 1946-56

Were you a crew member of the Shoalhaven? The Shoalhaven Association will, this year, hold our AGM in Collangatta QLD in September. All Association members and ex-crew members are cordially invited to attend and catch up with past mates.

Whether you are able to attend or not, please contact Mr George Franki 9/6 Waverton Ave Waverton NSW 2060, Ph (02) 9955 9444.

Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia WA Branch

The President and Members of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia WA Branch cordially invite The President and members of all RSL Branches and Sub Branches, their partners and families to Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day 2010 at The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Pavilion May Drive via Saw Ave Kings Park on Sunday 15th August 2010 at 11.00am.

Further info Please contact secretary@vvaawa.org.au or Gloria Fox 9339 7367

Army Apprentices Association

Army Apprentices Association (National)

Secretary Lucas McGann
secretary@austarmyapprentice.org

I have taken up the role as the area representative for the Army Apprentices Association. I am trying to get together contact details of any Army Apprentices in the North Queensland area (providing they want to be contactable) and promote membership of the Association.

The Association website is at http://www.austarmyapprentice.org/index.htm and contains everything about the Association including current projects, intake listings, Vale lists, reunion details, photo contributions etc.

Intake listing now includes all Apprentices, including those that did not graduate.

A reunion is going to happen in Oct 2011 (Apprentices together 2011). Details are in the Dec Presidents Update on the website. There is also a contact list in that update if anybody wishes to organise an intake reunion to coincide with the main reunion. I attended the 60th reunion held in Albury/ Wodonga and it was an excellent event.

My contact details are: youngdj@bigpond.com 0417 639 380

Dave Young

Bruce Rock Vietnam Veterans Group

The Bruce Rock Vietnam Veterans Group would like to invite you to attend the tenth “Back to the Bush” Veteran’s Reunion 1st to the 8th November 2010 in Bruce Rock, WA.

Contact: Chris Pickering - 08 9061 1604 - crpick@highwayone.org.au or Merv Gould - 08 9061 1143 - mrgould@westnet.com.au

www.brucerock.wa.gov.au

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I am contacting you to alert you to an important health story which is very relevant to older Australians, particularly during winter – vitamin D deficiency. As you may be aware, vitamin D is an essential ingredient in aiding your body to absorb calcium, which is important in maintaining bone and muscle health. You may not know that older adults are at risk of being vitamin D deficient. In fact, Research has found that as many as 80% of women and 70% of men living in hostels or nursing home in Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia are vitamin D deficient. Studies have shown vitamin D supplementation reduced the risks of falls in the elderly by 19%

Can You Help

Please contact me if you trained or flew with my father, Walter James Peters, 425962, W/O RAAF, Bomb Aimer in Bomber Command in WW2. Enlisted Brisbane, 21 May 42, trained Narronine and Bradfield Park, then Canada training in Air Observer and Bomb & Gunnery Schools.

Bruce Rock Vietnam Veterans Group

I contacted the Australian War Memorial: 15th August 2010 at 11.00am. Ave Kings Park on Sunday 15th August 2010 at 11.00am.

Further info Please contact secretary@vvaawa.org.au or Gloria Fox 9339 7367

Navel Cadets

Does anyone have any knowledge of approximately 25 naval cadets, aged between 15 and 17, completing ‘shake-down’ training aboard HMAS Sydney II during 1941?

Any information to Peter M Weston eldenmike@hotmail.com 0403 166 089

HMAS Shoalhaven F535 1946-56

Were you a crew member of the Shoalhaven? The Shoalhaven Association will, this year, hold our AGM in Collangatta QLD in September. All Association members and ex-crew members are cordially invited to attend and catch up with past mates.

Whether you are able to attend or not, please contact Mr George Franki 9/6 Waverton Ave Waverton NSW 2060, Ph (02) 9955 9444.

Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia WA Branch

The President and Members of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia WA Branch cordially invite The President and members of all RSL Branches and Sub Branches, their partners and families to Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day 2010 at The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Pavilion May Drive via Saw Ave Kings Park on Sunday 15th August 2010 at 11.00am.

Further info Please contact secretary@vvaawa.org.au or Gloria Fox 9339 7367

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Summer Intake Navy

The 60th reunion of the Summer Intake of HMAS Sydney II during 1941?

Any information to Peter M Weston eldenmike@hotmail.com 0403 166 089
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 once each. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid.

Provided by Sudoku.co.m another.

Crossword

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Crossword

Across
1 Scottish skirt
5 Decompose
8 Unrefined metal
11 School group
14 Father
18 Boredom
19 Spr. month
20 Defeat
21 Three
22 Unwilling
24 Array
25 Eye infection
26 Head motion
27 Sedan
28 Unfashionable
29 Avenue
30 Intolerant people
33 Novels
36 Ocean
37 Land worker
39 Spiny plants
40 Rome’s country
41 1
42 Cruel
44 Practical joke
48 Vowel
50 Discredited
53 Symbols
57 Noises
61 Opposition
62 Be
63 Hive dweller
64 Teaspoon (abbr.)
65 Bend in a shepherd’s staff
66 Hot air balloon
67 Hollers
68 Compass point
70 Midwestern state
71 Ably
72 Snaky fish
74 Goddess
76 Long-term memory
77 Sold at a discount
79 Pro
82 French “yes”
84 Nigerian capital
86 Escudo
88 Escudo
91 Pro
92 Put
93 Referee
94 Reduced (abbr.)
95 To be in debt
96 Corporation (abbr.)
98 Pouch
99 Speak
101 Foot extension
102 Religious group
103 Wagon pullers
105 Utilize
106 Man’s best friend
108 National capital
112 Nigeria’s capital
113 Curse
115 Dagger
117 Stormace sere
119 Jury
122 East northeast
123 Clock
126 Distress call
127 Rejoin
128 British river
130 Swing
133 Girl
134 Pixies
136 Picture book
137 Soft drink
138 Pear type
141 Capital of Jordan
144 Ice house
147 Nape
148 Adam’s wife
152 Birdballplayers
154 Add two
155 Needle
158 Flightless bird
159 Lumber
160 Advertisements
162 Compass point
163 Type of mushroom
165 “Remember the ___”
166 Time period
167 Volume (abbr.)
168 Elver
169 Crunchy
170 Mumble
171 Compass point
172 Female sheep
173 Crafty
174 To incite
175 __ Jones Industrial
176 Root
177 Alas
178 __ Jones Industrial
179 __ Jones Industrial
180 __ Jones Industrial
181 __ Jones Industrial
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199 __ Jones Industrial
200 __ Jones Industrial

Down
1 Jack
2 Outer’s opposite
3 Drag
4 Degree
5 Kid
6 Visual
7 Meeting
8 Has
9 River (Spanish)
10 Tails
11 Stitch
12 Jeweled headdress
13 Dainty
14 Swiss mountains
15 Contractor snake
16 Operatic bass
17 Alsatian (2 wds.)
18 Extremely long time periods
19 Try
20 Basic’s opposite
21 Falls over
22 Carved Polynesian pendant
23 Potato sprouts
24 Girls
25 Drink noisily
26 Bible chapter division
27 Grow older
28 North northeast
29 Endemic
30 Both
31 Wagon pullers
32 Rejoin
33 Foot extension
34 Ship initials
35 Lease
36 Tails
37 Essence
38 Girls
39 Tails
40 Ship initials
41 Lease
42 Wagon pullers
43 Chair
44 Drill noisily
45 Both
46 It
47 North northeast
48 Envelope
49 Wi
50 Scream
51 Noses
52 Polish
53 North northeast
54 Wagon pullers
55 Drill noisily
56 Chair
57 North northeast
58 It
59 Polish
60 Envelope
61 Scream
62 Polish
63 North northeast
64 Wagon pullers
65 Drill noisily
66 Chair
67 North northeast
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70 Envelope
71 Scream
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94 Wagon pullers
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186 Envelope
187 Scream
188 Polish
189 North northeast
190 Polish
191 Envelope
192 Scream
193 Polish
194 North northeast
195 Polish
196 Envelope
197 Scream
198 Polish
199 North northeast
200 Polish

Jokes

I was at work in a jewellery store when two teenage girls came in. One asked to see some silver crosses because she wanted to buy one for her boyfriend to wear on a chain around his neck. I took them to the religious section and after looking for a couple of moments she pointed out three of them. “Can I look at that one, that one, and the one with the little man on it?”

“Oh,” I replied. “You mean Jesus?”

Readers Digest June 2010

A Sunday school teacher asked the children as they were on their way into church, “And why is it necessary to be quiet in Church?” One bright little girl replied, “Because people are sleeping.”

A woman was pregnant with twins. Shortly before they were due, she was in an accident and went into a coma. Her husband was away on business, unable to be reached. While in the coma she gave birth, but the only person around to name them was her brother. When she came to and discovered she had given birth and her brother named the babies, she freaked out, as he wasn’t too bright. She asked him their names. “Well, the first was a boy, I named her Denise,” he said.

The woman sighed with relief. Then he said, “The second was a boy, so I called him Denephew.”

From Readers Digest July 2010
A recent donation to the Camden Museum of a set of photographs has revealed an amusing story of an incident which occurred at the Camden Airport during World War Two. I defy you to read the article without a chuckle.

At the start of the War in 1939 the Camden Airfield was a privately owned facility of the Macarthur-Onslow family. The story of the family offering the airfield to the Commonwealth Government for its use during the War and of the frustrations of attempting to recover it after the war has been told elsewhere.

Once the government had it for Air Force use, it quickly expanded with both the RAAF and the British RAF training their people there. It became known as the Central Flying School at Camden. By early 1942 it was in active use for a variety of uses and normal wartime security measures meant that the public did not always know what went on at the airfield. Approval had been given for the United States forces to also use the field.

On 20 February 1942 the first American aeroplane was due to land at Camden and there would have been considerable interest amongst those who knew of this new development. The first aircraft approached the airfield. It was a US-made Curtiss P40E Kittyhawk fighter of the United States Army Air Force (USAAF).

As it made its landing something went badly awry and it managed to hit and demolish the Camden Airfield control tower. It then careened on and hit one of the hangars and a mobile petrol unit. The American pilot, Second Lieutenant James H Archercald was not injured, but the duty pilot who was unlucky enough to be in the control tower at the time suffered three broken ribs and a fractured collar bone. In the resulting mess it was hard to separate out the hangar from the plane.

Despite their years in service both Sappers were on their first operational deployment.

The United States Forces Arrived with a Bang

The control tower was only a small corrugated-iron cabin on an elevated stand with a small hut at its base. So it was no grand structure, but it was the only one we had. And you can imagine what a spectacularly embarrassing event it must have been for the Americans as their first aircraft managed to cause such havoc. Fortunately, what could have been a more tragic accident was limited to injury to just one man.

The internet site, Military Aircraft Crashes in NSW in WWII, states that on 27 February 1942, a USAAF P-40E Kittyhawk crashed at Camden. The records show the cause of the crash as “Taking off after attempting high speed landing” and the nature of the crash as “Crashed into duty pilot - car & hangar”. The type of damage was described as “Engine may be salvaged”.

The Kittyhawks were apparently quite dangerous to fly. Of the 330 Kittyhawks delivered to the USAAF by March 1942, 140 had been wrecked in training accidents in Australia. For example the 49th Pursuit Group lost 30 Kittyhawks in NSW within two weeks of receiving their aircraft. A corporal in charge of a refuelling crew in Queensland said “You won’t have any trouble finding your way to Darwin. Just follow the trail of crashed Kittyhawks, you can’t go wrong!”

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Despite their years in service both Sappers were on their first operational deployment. They had trained for their roles and both Darren and Jacob understood the risk. They knew it would be their job to move in front of their combat team comrades, looking for signs of the improvised explosive devices that the Afghan insurgent has made his weapon of choice. It is a risk that defines the courage of the Sapper and the nature of the role that our deployed engineers must master. Clearing a route in front of your mates requires special courage, teamwork and much skill using detection equipment and explosive detection dog together. This would have been Jacob and Darren with Herbie, unsung heroes on a high threat task clearing the way for their team mates. I have nothing but admiration for them and their fellow sappers that do this everyday in Afghanistan.

As a Sapper community we have a number of things that we must now ensure are undertaken. First and foremost we need to ensure that the families of both Darren Smith and Jacob Moerland are supported during this time of grief and sadness. I have always had a lot of faith in our Sapper family and the way we have supported our families in time of need. Secondly, we will ensure that both Darren and Jacob are laid to rest in a manner befitting the sacrifice that they have made to their team mates, the Army and the Australian community. They are true heroes of this nation with a special place in history.

Lastly, we must learn what lessons there are to learn from this tragedy so that we can continue the task that both these young men valued and were committed to. Their families’ statements show us that they believed in what they were doing and they inspired others. We must stay focused and as a team apply ourselves to the continuing dangerous tasks ahead.

While Darren’s and Jacob’s task of leading the way for others has passed to their fellow sappers, they will not be forgotten in our Sapper family.

John Wrigley - The District Reporter

Head of Corps Royal Australian Engineers order of the Day

To Fellow Sappers,

It is with much sadness that we learn of the untimely deaths of Sapper Darren Smith and Sapper Jacob Moerland during operations in Afghanistan this week. Another improvised explosive device has claimed further toll on our brave sappers in combat.

I thank Elaine Webster of Barrack Heights for the photos which came from her father’s wartime album of his time stationed at Camden.

John Wrigley - The District Reporter

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning. We will remember them. Lest we forget.

Navy
N388175; Goodman, Michael – Boddington
LPLX799270; Murray, Des – Mt Hawthorne

Army
WX22956; Balcombe, Alan – Bedford-Morley
5/2032; Drew, Kingsley – City of Rockingham
WX9130; Fotheringham, Hugh – Kondinin
NX9161; Haiven, WII – Central
5411259; McIntyre, Donald – City of Mandurah

Navy
571559; Nelson, Eric – Kulin
WX27810; Scottford, Ronald – Albany
1452400; Selwood, H – Bulliabennok
WX41856; Proke, John – Osborne Park

Air Force
A57010; Bill, Ian – Nollamara
46964; Fitzgerald, Lj – Bunbury
46415; Howie, Clive – Gosnells
85405; Smith, Morgan – Bunbury
46964; Fitzgerald, LJ – Bunbury
None of our men got ashore there. The harbour was full of warships and transports. We had had to be on board by 9 o'clock and we did not arrive in the men wounded in the Cocos Island action.

On board the troopship we were quartered down in 12 o'clock and stow hammocks and blankets. From 6.15am to 8am we had to fall in for roll call and physical drill; from 9am to 11am we had to shave and get cleaned up for rifle parade at 10am. Musketry Drill kept us going until 12 o'clock. We were then boarded at 12 o'clock until 2pm for dinner and a spell, after which we had either drill, sports or addresses or lectures held where we could catch our breath and get from 5pm and were then free for the evening which we spent in playing games, reading, concerts and other amusements. Muster card games were played.

We left Cocos and proceeded uneventfully until we saw the great preparations for the first time. The moon was rising and in the fading light the Xanadu I made majestic and mystifying the brain of the spectator with thoughts of the countless ages that those oriental statues stood for and the war images of victory and defeat, abundance and famine, grandeur and poverty they had been witness to. We barely had time to sleep, as it seemed then, we were aroused by the reveille and gazed on a scene which was to be our daily outlook for 12 weeks. We were kept at work until 12 o'clock when we were given leave until 4pm the following day. In the Red Sea it was hot when we sailed through the Suez Canal. We saw the great preparations that were being made by the British Troops assisted by the Indians in anticipation of a Turkish attack. We knew that the British were in our midst as we passed through.

We were anchored in Port Said Harbour for 1 day, and then went out of sight of the shore for week while the other boats went on to Alexandria to disembark. We had previously been informed when near Aqaba that we were to go to Mena Camp in Egypt for 6 months training before going to the Front, whether that would be in France or elsewhere we did not know.

We disembarked at Alexandria in the early part of December. We had one hour's leave which we spent in looking around Alexandria before being entrained on a train to the olden days are much in evidence. In the fields and the windmills of the island during our training. We covered the whole of the island during our training. There were all sorts of different localities scattered about. The population in all is about 6000, mostly Greeks. The women work in the fields and spin wool. Boys and girls shear the sheep. Everything is very old fashioned and must have remained in the same condition for thousands of years. The ploughs drawn by oxen are used in the fields and the windmills of olden days are much in evidence. During our stay we practiced landing operations in the early morning.

On 24 April 1915, about 2pm, our Company were embarked on the transport 'Suffolk' when she sailed for Lemnos Island where we arrived at midnight. We were off duty during a that time and spent the next two nights along the line finding our mark here and there. I stopped one of these nights and entered my head behind the left ankle of the island from which we could see the land ahead of us and the destroyer was on one of the oars. Before we got into action and were very pleased at the prospect. At 8pm we got as near the engine room as possible to keep warm. We were in full marching order, our kit was on wheels and the tracks we carried on our shoulders.

The destroyer towed a number of rowing boats in which we were to land. When the destroyer stopped we could hear the destroyer. We were very cool and we got as near the engine room as possible to keep warm. We were in full marching order, our kit was on wheels and the tracks we carried on our shoulders.

Turning this weapon against the attacking aeroplane, he shot it down in flames. Rhodes was taken to Alexandria in HMS Kipling, his only possessions a pair of shorts and a dressing. This was about dusk, 8pm, I should think. I was taken on a stretcher on board a pinnace and put on board a trawler hooked up to a hospital ship when we reached harbour. We covered the whole of the island during our training. There were all sorts of different localities scattered about. The population in all is about 6000, mostly Greeks. The women work in the fields and so on. Boys and girls shear the sheep. Everything is very old-fashioned and must have remained in the same condition for thousands of years. The ploughs drawn by oxen are used in the fields and the windmills of olden days are much in evidence. During our stay we practiced landing operations in the early morning.

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We were now beginning to realise that we were tasting war, but had not yet fully grasped the situation. I jumped into the water up to my waist. When we reached the shore we were ordered to charge and we were in two lines as a covering party while the main line was being dug in on the right hand side of us which were about 300 yards in advance.

About 3pm I was laying in a cart taking shots at the enemy when we saw them advancing. The bullets were spluttering and shells were bursting all around. Presently a machine gun got to work and I left the cart and ran for shelter along the line of mark finding my mark here and there. I stopped one of these nights and entered my head behind the left ankle of the island from which we could see the land ahead of us and the destroyer was on one of the oars. Before we got into action and were very pleased at the prospect. At 8pm we got as near the engine room as possible to keep warm. We were in full marching order, our kit was on wheels and the tracks we carried on our shoulders.

I remember little of my voyage home.

Valentine Henry Solomon: 1894 - 1960
The George Cross Island Association Reunion 2004 gave me the opportunity to revisit Malta. I knew that if I put off visiting the Island again after 64 years it was doubtful I would ever do so. Visiting Grand Harbour, the Docks, the infamous “Gut”, Valetta, Sienna, the country towns and villages evoked memories of both happy and sad days of Malta at war.

HMAS Vendetta and the four other destroyers of the V and W Squadron from Australia were assigned to the 10th destroyer squadron of Admiral Cunningham’s Mediterranean fleet at Malta. We arrived in December 1939 and were soon exercising at sea. The war had not reached the ‘Med’ and, with the French fleet as allies, we sailed supreme in Mare Nostrum, as the Romans called it. Two battle fleets were a magnificent sight and we five little Australian destroyers were proud to be a part of it; destroyer escort to this mighty armada.

We escorted convoys taking troops to Marseilles, exercised in the Atlantic and various harbours. On 5 March 1940 I had my 21st birthday in Marseilles, visiting the cabarets and dancing the night away. The French and British armies in the North would defeat the Germans, Poland would be liberated and the war would be over in no time. How quickly things changed. We evacuated troops from Marseilles to Palestine, the French fleet became our enemies and we returned to Malta.

Vendetta was feeling her age after months at sea and it was decided to put her in dock at Malta for a refit. Grand Harbour was a vast contrast to a hammock on the dirt floor of our tunnel dockside in Malta. Just a few years before, I would have been ecstatic to revisit the Island. Today I knew opportunity to revisit Malta. I knew imagination Reunion 2004 gave me the chance to revisit Malta. I knew I would not be able to put the Island as I left with the memory of the war and its impact on Malta.

Wartime Memories of HMAS Vendetta’s Malta Sojourn World War II

By Gordon Hill ex-Supply Assistant - RAN

HMS Vendetta was a 3,300 ton destroyer. She was a vast contrast to a hammock on the dirt floor of our tunnel dockside in Malta. Just a few years before, I would have been ecstatic to revisit the Island. Today I knew opportunity to revisit Malta. I knew opportunity to revisit Malta. I knew I would not be able to put the Island as I left with the memory of the war and its impact on Malta.

The ship’s company was divided in two. One half went to live and work with the British army RA 4th Coast Regiment and the other half went to live and work with the French army RA 4th Coast Regiment. The ship’s company was divided in two. One half went to live and work with the British army RA 4th Coast Regiment and the other half went to live and work with the French army RA 4th Coast Regiment.

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Two battle fleets were a magnificent sight and we five little Australian destroyers were proud to be a part of it; destroyer escort to this mighty armada.
**Corvettes: Defending Australia in Her Darkest Hour.**

The defence of Australia in the Second World War was a close run affair, and today’s younger generation do not realise that many Perth houses had their own bomb shelters dug in to the garden as a precaution against the coming Japanese bombings. It was only the last ditch efforts of the Allies and our soldiers, sailors, air force, combined with a unified civilian effort, which stopped the Japanese just short of the Australian mainland.

Ted Delaney’s book (Corvettes: Defending Australia in her darkest hour) is a great example of the courage and endeavour that helped turn around the war and save Australia. After volunteering, this boy from Bassendean, as a young 17 year old, was placed in an enclosed cattle truck and sent off by train to the Eastern States for naval training. In January 1943 Ted was drafted to a new corvette, HMAS Gladstone, which became his home until March 1946. Anti-submarine warfare was a key role for the corvettes and they used ASDIC to track submerged submarines. What is not well known is the amount of German and Japanese submarine activity off our coast, and during hostilities some 37 allied ships were attacked. The Gladstone constantly sailed through the area where the Japanese submarine I-177 had sunk the AHS Centaur. A feature of this history is the personal bits of life that the big histories ignore. False teeth were a rite of passage for most young Australians in the war years, and Ted’s false teeth met a grisly end in a rugby match at Milne Bay in 1943. Fortunately Ted didn’t swallow the bits and carried on naval duties with his plate taped together. Working in shallow waters around New Guinea required the ship’s crew to take soundings. The shotput-like sounding ball weighed 14 lbs. As the crew members discovered, when the ship changed course during a sounding it didn’t pay to be in range of the swinging lead ball.

This is not a history about the generals, admirals and prime ministers—this is the real stuff of history. Time is passing and it is important to record authentically how the typical boys next door helped save Australia in her darkest hour. Ted Delaney’s unpretentious and ethical book does just that. This book will be a valuable resource in any library.

Dr Neil MacNell

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**36 DAYS**

- **Hugh Dolan**

The untold story of the ANZAC assault, 25th April 1915

The powerful new account of the build-up to the military campaign that shaped our nation.

Macmillan Australia / Trade Paperback
Publication Date: 27 July, 2010
ISBN: 9781405039857 / RRP $34.99

In 36 Days, author Hugh Dolan tells the previously untold story of how the ANZAC forces planned a precise, complex and daunting seaborne assault on a heavily fortified shore. For the first time Dolan has revealed the details of an amazing military exploit which, until now, has been overshadowed by the campaign that followed.

Using sources gathered from archives scattered across the globe, 36 Days pieces together the few short weeks during which time the ANZAC forces planned the landing of 32,000 men on a foreign and hostile shore.

The landing was a triumph of the tactical abilities of the ANZAC forces, demonstrating their ingenuity and flexibility in comparison to the disaster of the British landings further south. Written with extraordinary narrative vigour, relying on exhaustive research and a true insider’s knowledge of the military world, this is the untold story that sheds a fresh light on the original ANZACs.

About the Author: Hugh Dolan is a Squadron Leader in the Australian Air Force, a life that he enjoys and recommends to others. He is currently researching the air battles over Gallipoli at the Australian Defence Force Academy. He has worked in minor headquarters’ roles in Australia and overseas. His military career started 15 years ago with enlistment in the British Army as a private. He served in Bosnia as a junior NCO and witnessed the importance of military intelligence in operation planning. He confesses that he initially joined the army after barely graduating with a master’s degree in history from Oxford University to pay overdue bills and to see how history is written.

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**Vietnam War ‘Diggers’**

There has been considerable interest in a sculpture of two service men during the Vietnam War that has necessitated an explanation of the statues origin. The sculpture was purchased by the RSL for $5,000 in 2009 and has been located in the Board Room at ANZAC House since. As a result of our very resourceful ANZAC House Manager Mr Matthew Holyday, the sculpture was relocated to the dining room for all to see and enjoy. The sculpture on display at ANZAC House is one of two that were produced; the other is at the Army Headquarters in Canberra. The original is now the Army Memorial on ANZAC Parade, Canberra. The memorial was commissioned by the Australian Government as a gift to the Australian Army in 1988. All sculptures were created by Smith Sculptors in Gidgegannup, who also created the HMAS Sydney Memorial in Geraldton, WA, which was opened in 2001.

Denis Connelly
Recipe

**English Toffee Cheesecake**

- 1/2 pack ANZAC 300g Biscuits
- 100g butter, melted
- 400g cream cheese, softened
- 300 ml cream
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 1 tbsp caramel topping
- 2 tsp gelatine
- 1 tbsp hot water
- 100g English fudge squares, melted
- Cinnamon to serve

1. Place the ANZAC Biscuits into the work bowl of a food processor and process until Biscuits resemble coarse crumbs.
2. Add the melted butter to the work bowl and process until well combined.
3. Press ANZAC Biscuit mixture into the base and sides of a 20cm spring form tin (press mixture with a flat-based glass for best results). Refrigerate.
4. Beat the cream cheese, cream, vanilla and caramel topping until smooth. Dissolve the gelatine in the boiling water and pour into the mixture and mix until well combined.
5. Pour the mixture over the prepared base and dollop the melted fudge into the cheese cake mixture and swirl with a skewer.
6. Refrigerate for two hours until firm.
7. Serve dusted with cinnamon in wedges with a little caramel or toffee syrup.

SERVES: 5-8
PREPARATION TIME: 15 mins

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**Reports from Cadets on the STS Leeuwin February 2010**

I would like to thank the RSL for sponsoring my voyage on the STS Leeuwin as one of the winners of the RSL “Spirit of ANZAC” Award, during February 2010. This was my third voyage on the Leeuwin but I definitely got more out of this voyage than the others. Some of the best experiences I gained on this voyage were climbing the main mast while the ship was underway and taking charge at sail setting and handling as first mate on the final day of the voyage. One again, thank you for sponsoring my voyage.

**Aidan Gallagher**

The STS Leeuwin was an amazing experience that taught us many things such as how to steer the ship, how to navigate as well as which sails to move to turn the ship around. We also had to climb to the top of most of the sails as well as the climb to see the plaque at the very top. It was good to meet new people and to be put in a situation where straight away you needed to work as a team otherwise the task at hand could not be completed. I would like to thank the RSL for giving me the opportunity for this amazing life experience.

**Kirsty Roberts**

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**Nashos WA Reunion 2010**

On 5 June Nashos WA had a get together at Gosnells WA which saw around 80 National Servicemen and their partners attend. As the day proceeded new friendships grew and new members joined the group. Nashos in attendance were from intakes starting in 1951 up to 1972. The group formed with only 5 members in 2008 and now they have 183 members, with half the members in other states around Australia. The group will be meeting again at Ogdens in the Gosnells Hotel at midday on 4 December for their end of year reunion.

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**Brigadier A T J Bell**

**OBE, MID**


Ding Bell was a fine man. He was a very good leader of our Corps. He graduated from RMC IN 1933. He served with KG V Bengal Sappers and Miners in India pre war and was OC 7 Fortress Coy, Adjt RAE 6 Div, Brigade Major 19 Ind Brigade Crete, OC 2/2 Fd Coy CRE I Corps Tps, CE BCOF, BCGS FARELF and Engineer in Chief .

He served in India, Middle East, South West Pacific Area, Japan, Singapore.

He was born in 1913. He was active in ANZAC Day Melbourne for many years and since his move to Perth has been a prominent personality in the Perth ANZAC Day march. He attended Waterloo Dinners until very recent years and is a genuine character of the Corps.

Ding Bell is a man who has left his mark and done fine service for his Country and Corps.

**Mick Ryan**
Media Releases

For More Information on any of these media releases visit http://www.dva.gov.au/news_archive/Pages/index.aspx

39 West Australian Students Win Defence Technical Scholarships – 6 May

Alan Griffin, Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, announced that 39 students from Western Australian feature amongst the 760 recipients of the Defence Technical Scholarships 2010.

Government Calls For Submissions On Pharmaceuticals Review – 7 May

Delivering on an Australian Government election commitment, Minister for Veterans’ Affairs Alan Griffin released the Consultation Paper for the Review of War Caused Disabilities and Pharmaceutical Costs and encouraged veterans to have their say on its findings.

Chief of Navy Outlines the RAN’s Strategic Vision – 4 June

The Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Russ Crane, AO, CSM, RAN, has unveiled the blueprint for Navy’s future, launching the new edition of Australian Maritime Doctrine in Canberra.

Veterans’ Health Week Bigger And Better In 2010 – 4 June

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, Alan Griffin, announced $695,413 in funding for Veterans to have their say on its findings.

Bomber Command To Be Honoured In Nation’s Capital – 4 June

Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, Alan Griffin, paid tribute to the service and sacrifice of Australia’s air and ground crew who served in Bomber Command, the deadlast branch of the armed services during the Second World War.

$695 000 to Support Local Initiatives for Australian Veterans – 23 June

Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, Alan Griffin, announced $695,413 in funding to support initiatives that promote good health and wellbeing for veterans and widows across Australia.

Parliament Passes Budget Bills to Benefit Veteran Community – 25 June

Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, Alan Griffin, welcomed the passage of the Budget Measures Bill through Parliament, delivering benefits to veterans and ensuring more veterans were recognised for their service.

Sailor Remembered By His Mates – 2 July

Leading Seaman Andrew Wakely of Bentley, Western Australia has been remembered by family and fellow sailors of the Royal Australian Navy, at a moving memorial service held at Fremantle Maritime Museum.

How Should Australia Mark the ANZAC Centenary? – 6 July

Australians are being called on to share their ideas on how the ANZAC Centenary is commemorated in the lead up to 2015 the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, Alan Griffin, said.

Army Iroquois Choppers Become National Treasures – 6 July

Greg Combet, Minister for Defence Materiel and Science, announced, in Townsville, that a squadron of Army helicopters will soon be despatched to towns across the nation. For more information visit www.defence.gov.au

Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels remembered 65 years on – 9 July

The Australian Government has honoured the invaluable assistance provided by the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels to Australian soldiers who served in the Kokoda Campaign during the Second World War.

2010 Sir Edward Dunlop Medical Research Appeal – 12 July

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, Alan Griffin, launched the annual Sir Edward Dunlop Medical Research Foundation 2010 Silver Jubilee fundraising appeal and called for Australia’s support.

Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal inquiry into recognition of service with the Commonwealth Monitoring Force - Rhodesia 1979-80 – 12 July

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, Dr Mike Kelly, announced that the independent Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal will inquire into recognition of service with the Commonwealth Monitoring Force - Rhodesia 1979-80.

F-111 Maintenance Workers Encouraged to Come Forward – 13 July

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, Alan Griffin, called for all those involved in F-111 fuel tank maintenance between 1973 and 2000 to come forward to check their eligibility for compensation and health care. For more information visit http://f111.dva.gov.au or freecall 1800 555 323

Female Veterans Well Being Research Project


For further information contact: Dr Samantha Crompvoets, Principal Investigator – The Australian National University – Tel: (02) 6125 1310 or (m) 0406 732 313. Email: Samantha.crompvoets@anu.edu.au

RSL SHOP

These products are also available from participating Sub Branches

NATIONAL SERVICE Men’s Memorial Canberra 2010 COMMEMORATIVE MERCHANDISE

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Vietnam Collection 2010

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NSM Medallion in Sleeve: $12.00

Order Form

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AMAZING

Stories

Our Veterans secured our future
Hollywood looks after theirs.

COMMEMORATING THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN - AUGUST 18TH 1966

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