Remembrance Day
11th November
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SPECIAL PRICES FOR R.S.L.
MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES
## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The various State Congresses for 1982 debated many items on immigration and this prompted the publishing of the League's Standing Policy on this subject in the previous edition of the Listening Post.

In my notes contained in the autumn edition of the Listening Post was listed the priority items submitted by the League to the Prime Minister and Cabinet on March 17 this year, and if members are in any doubt as to what the League is doing on their behalf the following taken from the News Release issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, following the 1982 Budget announcements, will provide some of the answers.

### Disregarding Disability Pension in Assessing Service Pension

From November 11, 1982, any disability pension received by a veteran will be totally disregarded as income when assessing the level of Service Pension and eligibility for fringe benefits. The proportion of disability pension disregarded for this purpose at present is 60 per cent.

### Eligibility for Service Pension and Fringe Benefits

The amount of allowable income for a person to qualify for the maximum rate of the Service Pension will be increased from $20 to $30 a week for a single pensioner and from $34.50 to $50 a week for a single couple. This will apply from November 11, 1982.

### Extension of Free Treatment

Entitlement to Repatriation medical and hospital treatment for all disabilities will be extended to all world War II veterans receiving not less than 50 per cent of the General Rate disability pension and receiving the Service Pension (similar to the Social Security age pension) at any rate who are not otherwise eligible. This will apply from November 11, 1982. At present, all Boer War and World War I veterans, P.O.W.'s of any war and certain other groups receive this concession.

LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1982 — 1
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Phone Mrs Johnson on 272 5411 for appointment
New Capital Works at Repatriation Hospitals

Subject to a favourable report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, construction of four operating theatres, theatre support facilities and refurbishment of four surgical wards at the Repatriation General Hospital, Daw Park, S.A., will be included in the 1982-83 Civil Works Programme, tenders for this work, estimated to cost $6.5 million will be called in March, 1983.

Four operating theatres and two surgical wards comprising 72 beds will be replaced at Repatriation General Hospital, Hollywood, W.A., at a cost of $6.8 million with construction beginning in March, 1983.

Re-opening of Wards and Employment of More Nurses

Five wards are to be re-opened in Repatriation hospitals and staff ceilings lifted to allow 115 additional staff to be employed in these wards — two at R.G.H. Heidelberg, Vic., one at R.G.H. Daw park, S.A., one at R.G.H. Hollywood, W.A., and one at Lady Davidson Hospital, Kurramurra, N.S.W. In addition, 175 extra trainee nurses are to be employed. Re-opened wards will be for treatment of entitled veterans only.

More Specialised Equipment

Specialised hospital equipment nearing the end of its functional life is to be replaced at a cost of $3.2 million in 1982-83. Provision has been made to purchase a computerised axial tomographic scanner at R.G.H. Concord, N.S.W. and laundry equipment at that hospital will be upgraded.

Funeral Benefit Increased

The maximum rate of funeral benefit paid in respect of the deaths of eligible veterans and some dependants in certain circumstances will be increased by $100 to $500 for deaths on or after November 1, 1982. The level at which indigent circumstances is conceded will be increased from $1,000 to $5,000 and the value of the family car will be disregarded in determining this.

Repatriation Benefits for Peacekeeping, Monitoring and Observing Forces

Repatriation benefits will be extended from the date of Royal Assent to representatives of Australia who served with peacekeeping, monitoring and observing forces before November 2, 1981. Previously members of such forces were eligible for benefits only after that date.

Merchant Mariners of Commonwealth and Allied Countries

Eligibility for the Service Pension will be extended from February 3, 1983, to merchant mariners of Commonwealth and Allied countries who served in a theatre of war during World War II. This was provided to Australian mariners in the 1981-82 Budget.

Full T.B. Pension Restored

The payment of disability pension at the 100 per cent General Rate for veterans who received a pension for pulmonary tuberculosis before November 2, 1978, or who before that date lodged a claim which was successful is to be restored from January 6, 1983, without retrospectivity. This pension in future will be indexed in line with movements in the C.P.I. From November 1, 1978, T.B. pensions were frozen at the 100 per cent rate then applying and were increased only if the actual assessment for service-related disabilities warranted it.

Supplementary Assistance

The maximum rate of Supplementary Assistance, also known as Rent Allowance, is to be increased by $2 to $10 a week for a single pensioner and by $1 to $5 a week for each of a married pensioner couple from November 11, 1982.

Double Orphans' Benefits

Eligibility for the double orphans' benefits will be extended on November 11, 1982, to orphans who have lost both parents (or the father is deceased and the orphan is not being cared for by the mother, adoptive parent or step-parent) and whose father was a member of the Forces and had served in a theatre of war, irrespective of the rate of disability pension paid before his death or the relationship between his death and service. For an orphan to be eligible at present, the father must have died on active service or died from a service-related cause or at the time of his death was receiving the Special Rate pension or the pension for double amputees.

Other Benefits Increased

The following Repatriation benefits will increase from November 11, 1982.

Increases to Additional pensions for Amputations or Loss of Vision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase $</th>
<th>New Rate $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One leg amputated above and one leg amputated below the knee</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two legs amputated below the knee</td>
<td>$2.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One arm amputated and one eye destroyed</td>
<td>$1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One arm amputated and one eye destroyed</td>
<td>$1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One leg amputated above the knee</td>
<td>$0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One leg amputated below the knee</td>
<td>$0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One arm amputated above the elbow</td>
<td>$0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One arm amputated below the elbow</td>
<td>$0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of vision in one eye</td>
<td>$0.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clothing Allowance

High rate | $0.20 | $2.00 weekly |
Medium rate | $0.10 | $1.30 weekly |
Low rate | $0.10 | $0.95 weekly |

Attendant's Allowance

High rate | $4.55 | $46.60 weekly |
Low rate | $2.28 | $23.30 weekly |
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Orphans' Pensions
High rate 3.20 33.20 weekly
Low rate 1.60 16.60 weekly
Two other increases will apply from November 1, 1982.
They are:

Recreation Transport Allowance
High rate 5.00 53.00 monthly
Low rate 2.50 26.50 monthly

Gift Car Maintenance Allowance
60.00 636.00 annually

Soldiers' Children Education Scheme Allowances
Increases will apply from January 6, 1983.

Primary and Secondary Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Living at home
12-14 years | 0.60  6.05 weekly
14-16 years | 0.80  8.40 weekly
16-18 years | 1.75  18.05 weekly

Living away from home
12-14 years | 1.75  18.05 weekly
14-16 years | 1.75  18.05 weekly
16-18 years | 2.90  30.10 weekly

Tertiary Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Living at home
6.33  33.25 weekly
Living away from home
9.78  54.20 weekly
Independent
9.78  59.45 weekly

Indexation of Pensions
Increases in the main Repatriation pensions to apply from the first pay day in November were announced on August 4 by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs. They follow movements in the Consumer Price Index over the six months to June 30. The increases and the new weekly rates of the main pensions are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase $</th>
<th>New Rate $</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special (T. &amp; P.l.) Rate</td>
<td>5.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Rate</td>
<td>4.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Rate</td>
<td>2.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>War and Defence Widows</td>
<td>3.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Service Pension:
  Standard Rate | 3.10 | 77.25 |
  Married Rate | 2.60 | 64.40 |

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**Services Canteens Trust Fund Education Awards**

Each year the Services Canteen Trust Fund provides financial assistance towards the education of children of ex-servicemen and women who served on full-time duty with the Australian Forces between 3 September 1939 and 30 June 1947. Education Awards are $200 each with an additional loading of $80 for the year in which the child commences secondary school.

These Awards have special significance to Service Age Invalid pensioners and widows or guardians with dependent children who will be in Years 7 8 9 or 10 in 1983. Applications are now being invited from parents or guardians of children who are subject to a means test which is based on the Gross Family Income. The Gross Family Income is the income for the year ended 30th June 1982 from all sources including family allowances but EXCLUDING Department of Veterans' Affairs war disability pensions. For 1983 Awards the Trustees have fixed the maximum allowable Gross Family Income as follows:

(a) Orphans and Children of deserted divorced or separated families:

$7000 in cases where the student is the only dependent child. A further $1,400 is allowed for each additional dependent child.

(b) Married Pensioners:

$8,400 in cases where the student is the only dependent child. A further $1,400 is allowed for each additional dependent child.

(c) Other Cases:

$7,000 in cases where the student is the only dependent child. A further $1,400 is allowed for each additional dependent child.

Enquiries will be welcome by post to:

The Education Officer
Services Canteens Trust Fund
GPO Box 71 7F
MELBOURNE 3001.

or by phone to:

Swan Barracks Perth.
Mr J. Limb Phone 328 5022, extension 130.

**MEANS TEST**

All Awards are subject to a means test which is based on the Gross Family Income. The Gross Family Income is the income for the year ended 30th June 1982 from all sources including family allowances but EXCLUDING Department of Veterans' Affairs war disability pensions. For 1983 Awards the Trustees have fixed the maximum allowable Gross Family Income as follows:

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**6 DIV. COMMANDO REGT. NATIONAL REUNION, MELBOURNE**

12th, 13th, 14th March, 1983

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         • Selling your existing home.
         • Financial arrangements.

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6 — LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1982
Distinguished Visitor

The Deputy Grand President of the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League, of which the Returned Services League is a member, was the guest of the W.A. branch recently. Major General, the Right Honourable the Earl of Cathcart CB, DSO, MC, was on his first visit to Australia. He is also the deputy speaker in the House of Lords. His first official duty was to lay a wreath at the State War Memorial, accompanied by the R.S.L. State President Mr L.J. Turner and other members of the State Executive. Following lunch at Anzac House he was the guest of the Fremantle Sailing Club when he had the pleasure of visiting the Australian entry in the America Cup, Australia II. He informed those present he had been associated with an English entry in recent years.

Other functions arranged for Lord Cathcart were, a Lord Mayoral lunch at Council House, a visit to R.G.H. Hollywood, and an informal meeting of the State Executive and their wives with other invited guests.

He visited H.M.A.S. Stirling, the War Veterans Home, Gloucester Park, and was the guest of the Premier for lunch. He was also a guest at the W.A. Hunt Club meeting at Belmont Race Course. Prior to his departure to Adelaide and later the R.S.L. National Congress in Canberra, he stated that he had been overwhelmed by the hospitality shown him by the league and other people he had met during his five day visit and hoped it would be the first of many visits to Australia, because among other places he wished to visit were Ayers Rock and to meet many more Australians.

37th Birthday Celebration

1st Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment
Townsville 12 October 1982

The 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR) was formed on 12 October 1945 as the 65th Australian Infantry Battalion and was composed originally of members of 7th Div. A.I.F.

1 RAR plans to celebrate its 37th birthday with a troop ing of the regimental colour followed by a battalion ball. The reviewing officer for the parade will be Colonel R.H. Marson, DSO, Ed (RL), the first commanding officer of the battalion and it is intended to invite other original officers of the battalion to the parade and ball.

The original officers were:

A. 65 INF BN (1945)
Maj C.B. Parbury
Maj T.E. Archer
Capt A.E. Perks
Capt D.M. Hart
Lt C.J. Taylor
Lt A.O. Osbaldeston
Lt D.E. McKinnon
Lt H.A. McGuire
Lt H.O. Murnane
Lt A.R. Lofts
Lt B.B. Hearn
Lt W. Frood
Lt P.J. Cook
Lt N.L. Cameron
Maj J.F. McCaffery
Capt D.F. Saunders
Capt, C. King
Capt J.J. Craig
Lt S. Pattinson
Lt S.W. Ness
Lt G.B. McLean
Lt H.F. McCosker
Lt A.B. Lyons
Lt W.J. Kenwood
Lt J.F. Hartbridge
Lt J. Culverwell
Lt A. Chapman
Lt J.D. Bell

B. 65 INF BN (1948)
Maj K. Thomas
Capt R. Morrison
Lt F. Ness
Lt A. Johnston
Lt J. Godwin
Lt J. Dixon
Lt G. Beardsmore
Maj A. Murnane — RMO
Lt G. Willetts
Lt J. Mulholland
Lt G. Grimsey
Lt R. George
Lt L. Clarke

Should you (or any former members) require any further details the unit contact is the adjutant, Captain Barry Henley, 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, Lavarack Barracks, Milpo, Townsville, Queensland, 4813.

CAN YOU HELP?

A British ex-serviceman who fought with an Australian Battalion in the Great War is anxious to obtain a book called "The Gallant Company," written about Australians in that conflict.

If anyone can assist please write to:— Joe Baff, 45 Rhodes Crescent, Calista, 6167 or Phone 381 7177 during business hours.
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INNALOO THEATRE
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8 — LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1982
V.C. Winner Dies

"Although handicapped by a physical disability resulting from a flying accident, has repeatedly displayed gallantry in pressing home bombing attacks from very low heights against strongly defended objectives".

This is part of the citation that was issued with the award of the Victoria Cross to Air Commodore Sir Hughie Edwards for leading a daylight raid on Bremen in July 1941. In addition to his V.C., he was also decorated with the D.S.O. and D.F.C. Other awards he was honoured with were a K.C.M.G., C.B., O.B.E. and K.St.J., thus making him the highest decorated Australian serviceman of World War II.

His untimely death recently was probably brought about by disabilities incurred during his war service.

With his appointment as Governor of Western Australia in 1974 he became only the second W.A. born to hold that position. Unfortunately, owing to ill health he was forced to retire in 1975 after only 18 months. He strove at all times to give of his best but the demands of the position and his illness were just too much for him.

The State President of the Returned Services League, Mr L.J. Turner said Sir Hughie Edwards was one of Western Australia’s most distinguished sons, who gained our admiration and respect for his outstanding achievements in both war and peace.

Why wear a Poppy?

He was fine and strong, with a boyish smile
But he’d seemed with us such a little while
When war broke out and he went away.
I still remember his face that day,
When he smiled at me and said ‘Goodbye,
I’ll be back soon, Mom, so please don’t cry.
But the war went on and he had to stay,
And all I could do was wait and pray.
His letters told of the awful fight,
(I can see it still in my dreams at night),
With the tanks and guns and cruel barbed wire,
And the mines and bullets, the bombs and fire.
"Till at last, at last, the war was won —
And that’s why we wear a poppy, son."
The small boy turned as if to go,
Then said, ‘Thanks, I’m glad to know,
That sure did sound like an awful fight,
But your son — did he come back all right?
A tear rolled down each faded cheek;
She shook her head, but didn’t speak.
I slunk away in a sort of shame,
And if you were me you’d have done the same;
For our thanks, in giving, is oft delayed,
Though our freedom was bought — and thousands paid!
and so when we see a poppy worn,
Let us reflect on burden borne
By those who gave their very all
When asked to answer their country’s call.

Sir Hughie Edwards soon after receiving his Victoria Cross.

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7TH BATTALION (A.M.F.) (A.I.F.) 39-45

MILDURA REUNION 1983

Origins of the 7th Battalion can be traced from the 4th Victorian Military Forces, through the 1st Battalion 8th Australian Inf. Reg. to 66 Inf. Battalion (The Mount Alexander Regiments — Castlemaine). Field Marshall Sir John Monash joined as a private in that regiment. Re-organised, the 7th Battalion was assembled on August 19, 1914, in Melbourne and moved to Broadmeadows Military Camp.

Arrived in Egypt on December 1, 1914. Was disbanded after World War 1.

Re-organised the 7th Battalion A.M.F. was born in 1921, later linked with 38th to become 38/7 Battalion. Reactivated on 9th Nov. 1936, this time in Mildura, it was granted the territorial title “North West Borderers”.

In 1939-40 the unit was stationed at Mt Martha and Balcombe as a training Battalion for the 19-21 year old call up.

1942 saw the unit in the Darwin area during the Japanese bombing of that city.

Returning south and then to Atherton, Queensland, for jungle training, it embarked for New Guinea, to Lae and Wau.

Later on the Cape Victory it went to Treasury Island and Munda and later to Bougainville in the Solomon Islands. It was in contact with the Japanese along the Numa Numa trail until the end of the war.

Since 1945, reunions have been held in Melbourne around Anzac Day. During the last number of years reunions that have included members wives have been successfully held in Maryborough, the second weekend of November. Mildura and Maryborough have branches of the association with headquarters in Melbourne.

Next year, with Anzac Day falling on a Monday, giving a long weekend holiday, a reunion will be held at Mildura for members and wives.

This would be the fifth such reunion, the last being in 1977, when more than 200 members took part. An extensive programme has been arranged, commencing with a Dinner Dance on the Saturday evening. A reunion cruise on the Avoca on Sunday. A visit to Wentworth Club Sunday evening. The Anzac March on Monday plus visit to Mildura R.S.L. Club. For catering arrangements, members please book early with $5 per head deposit to SEC. W. O'Donnell, 186 11th Street, Mildura. Tel: 050-23 2040.

Book Accommodation privately, motels etc. through Ron's Tourist Centre, P.O. Box 1762, Mildura. To save disappointment early booking is a must.

Letter

Dear Sir,

1983 is the centennial year for the town of Chidlow and as it was once an army camp we would like to ask you to advertise our celebrations in your news sheets and magazines.

We are holding a train ride from Midland to Northam for the families of the past and present residents and an old style picnic will be held with egg and spoon, 3-legged and wheel barrow races for the children, before returning to Midland.

On Sunday November 27th the committee are planning a “Back to Chidlow Day”. This will be held on the oval and be a fun and fair day for everyone. A Thanksgiving Service will follow with a bar-b-que tea and entertainment in the evening for those who wish to stay on.

The year will end with a Settler’s Ball in marquees on the oval in Chidlow and will be based on the type of dances held by our pioneers. It is hoped that those attending will enter into the spirit of the evening and attend in period costume.

We have a number of fund raising functions in progress this year as we are hoping to construct an Adventure Playground in the town as a permanent reminder of our centennial year. These include bottles of commemorative wine with labels printed with the Post Office, Store and Tavern on them. We are also looking at having a medallion minted to commemorate our year. We are also planning flights over Perth, the Weir, Avon Valley and Northam later in the year in an Airlines of W.A. F28 as part of our fund raising programme.

If you would like to have more information or be kept up with our news please let me know. We are also trying to get enough information and photos together to be able to print a book on our history and would appreciate any assistance you could give us in this area.

J.W. ROBERTS
Hon. Secretary, Chidlow Centennial Committee

Aust — U.S. Hero Passes Away

The following is an extract from the Australian Legion Journal:

"Mr Les Allen, known to his friends as "Bull", died suddenly on 11-5-1982. Mr Allen served with the Second Fifth Battalion of the Australian Infantry as a stretcher bearer during World War II. He was awarded the Military Medal, recommended for the Victoria Cross several times, the U.S. honored him with the Silver Star the highest military honour for a non-American, for his courageous actions in New Guinea."

LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1982 — 11
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12 — LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1982
Mr Frank E. Robins (Hon. Sec. of the newly-formed M.O.M.S. Assn) 2/39 Gardenia Road, Gardenvale, Victoria, 3185, is anxious to trace the whereabouts of former members of the Mohawk Squadrons of the RAF Nos 5, 146 and 155 (Fighter) Squadrons which operated in India/Burma during 1941-1944 period of World War II. M.O.M.S. has been formed as a tribute to the squadrons, and the first book "Mohawks Over Burma" by Gerry Beauchamp is being released in the near future. Newsletters are also being issued. To date, there are 37 members of M.O.M.S. Many Australians remain to be traced, also others who may have emigrated to this country. In particular, Mr Robins is anxious to trace the following men (all Australians) or their next-of-kin:

F/O Johnson B.R. "Johnnie" (A3372).
Ex — Adj No 5 Sqdn RAF.

Sgt Cameron Pilot.
Ex — No. 146 Sqdn RAF.

Sgt Gill "Tommy" Pilot (Weight lifter) —
No. 146 Sqdn RAF.

Sgt Collins "Jimmy" (deceased 1965) —
No 146 Sqdn RAF.

Sgt Gore Peter "Tiger" (somewhere in Qld)
No. 5 Sqdn RAF.

A Mr Matchette requests any information on the Middle East Campaign for a research paper. He is specifically looking for Battalion or Regimental publications covering their service in the Middle East Campaigns and secondly, the copy of the 2/27th Battalion's Regimental History.

It is requested that anyone who can help write direct to Mr Matchette at 726 East Townsend Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.A. 53212.

Miss Elizabeth Trevivian, of Adelaide is trying to trace the whereabouts of ex-Corporal Percival Noel Trevivian, R.A.A.F.

His last known address in August, 1946, was P.O. Box 103 Echuca, Victoria, but there is evidence that he may have been in Townsville in 1965. Any information concerning this gentleman should be sent to RSL National Headquarters.

Mr W.J. Lynch, requests any information as to the whereabouts of Mr James Rout.

Mr Rout originally came from Western Australia. He served in World War II with the No. 10. R.C., R.A.A.F., group 526 S.W. Pacific.

Any information concerning Mr Rout should be sent direct to RSL National Headquarters.

R. Regan, of 456. Uttoxeter Road, Derby, England, writes:

In 1946, I was serving in Japan as a soldier in the 2nd Batt. of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and the Regiment trooped the colours, at the Imperial Palace, Tokyo, in November-December 1946. There were, of course, thousands of Australian troops plus New Zealanders in Tokyo at the time, many of them taking photographs of the event at the Imperial Palace.

I would like to appeal for any photos of the event, due to the fact that my album of photographs was lost in a house fire a few years ago.

I would like to appeal for any photos of the event, due to the fact that my album of photographs was lost in a house fire a few years ago.

I would of course pay all postage, and all expenses incurred in getting any copies of the same.

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ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR

There is a growing movement within various sections of the community of Australia to update the words of the Australian National Anthem, “Advance Australia Fair”.

The National President of the RSL, Sir William Keys, has been approached on this matter and has requested that each State give some thought to providing alternative, updated words for the national anthem which would rekindle the spirit and aims of the League.

Should there be enough interest, we might possibly be able to make this a national event, with some form of the Australian National Anthem which would be updated.

Attached below is a suggested set of new words by Dr Geoffrey Paul:

Before we take any further action, we will be most grateful for your individual comments:

“Australians let us all unite and build our destiny.
The equal of our continent of timeless majesty.
Our guiding light is brotherhood extending through the land.
From mountains blue to sunburnt plains to shores of golden sand.
With strength and faith then let us sing —
Advance Australia Fair!
Australians let us all unite and build our destiny,
The equal of our sweeping sky and never ending sea.
Our guiding light is heritage of those Who went before,
And shining deeds of friendship will extend beyond our shore.
With joyful voice then let us sing —
Advance Australia Fair!”

Copyright 1982 Geoffrey Paul.

THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA IN THE WAR OF 1914-1918

C.W.E. Bean’s famous account of World War I, so long out of print, is now being re-issued by the University of Queensland Press as a facsimile of the 1942 edition. This 12-volume series is being released at the rate of two volumes per year. Volumes 1, 2, 3 and 4 are now available.

C.W.E. Bean was Australia’s official war correspondent during World War I. He went to Europe with the first contingent of the Australian Imperial Force. He observed the war at first hand at Gallipoli (where he was recommended for a Military Cross) and the Western Front.

Ever since the first volume of his history appeared in 1921, this classic account of the beginning of Australia’s military traditions has been a model for war historians. It is still sought after by military academics and colleges throughout the world.

Not only was Bean a world renowned military historian, he was the inspiration behind the creation of the Australian War Memorial and became Chairman of the Australian War Memorial Board in 1952.

All R.S.L. members should be inspired by the detailed record of the Bean volumes. They are written in an extremely readable style.

Smoking in Repatriation Hospitals

As you may be aware, the Repatriation Commission has had a policy on smoking in Departmental institutions since 1971.

Since that time, there has been considerable community emphasis on the effect of smoking on health and campaigns have been conducted to discourage persons from smoking.

Recently, the Repatriation Commission has reconsidered its policy on smoking in Departmental facilities and has decided that it wishes to take a more active and positive role on the subject. Accordingly, at a recent meeting the Commission agreed:

- A campaign discouraging smoking should be undertaken;
- All hospitals and clinical areas should be declared non-smoking areas defined smoking areas set aside. All staff should be prohibited from smoking in the presence or sight of patients.
- Smoking should be prohibited in all areas under the control of Commission where meetings and conferences are being held.
- Smoking should be discouraged in Commonwealth vehicles under the control of Commission and the Department of Administrative Services advised.
- Anti-smoking clinics should be established in each Branch.

K. Force Conference & Reunion

Departing October 22
Cost: $644.50 per person (twin share basis).
Ex-members of the Korea and South-East Asia forces are travelling to New Zealand in October to attend the 32nd anniversary national conference and reunion in Wanganui. They will then visit Rotorua, Napier, Gisborne and Wakatane where various functions have been arranged for them by the New Zealand branches. From the enthusiastic letters we have had from New Zealand in anticipation of this tour, it promises to be one full of comradeship and hospitality.

Full details of the itinerary are available on request from R.S.L. Travel, 215 Clarence Street, Sydney 2000. Ph: (02) 331 3121 or 29 7029.

Any ex-Broome resident is invited to the “Back to Broome” week to be held in 1983, the town’s Centenary year. If interested, kindly contact Peter and Jean Haynes, Post Office Box 44, Broome 6725, for further details.
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THE ROAD TO MENIN GATE

By W.A. Fleming, 2/7 Australian Infantry Battalion

In casual discussion with some chaps of the original A.I.F. I happened to mention a coloured print that hung in Sherwood Court of the painting by Longstaff of "Menin Gate."

This painting apparently was requested by the Canadian Army to commemorate years by them centred around the Menin Gate Road.

One chap present explained that the Road to Menin Gate was on the British Front in Flanders and practically every A.I.F. Division at one time or other trod that road back and forth — and is mentioned in the Battle Honours of the Five A.I.F. Divisions in France (The 1st A.I.F., O.O.B. also hung in Sherwood Court). From there the painting and its background were discussed, the general story is as follows:

Longstaff was commissioned to do the painting in 1920. For sometime he was confused, because instead of the battered ruin of Menin Gate, now stood a new rebuilt one. From that he could not see how to show the story as at war.

Perchance he visited the scene by moonlight, the Poppies were in full bloom, hence he got his inspiration. As he looked he saw the hundreds of "Tin Hats" moving up and moving back as the Army of Ghosts of the men that trod and died on that road.

The painting (6' x 4') was acclaimed when finished and was sent on tour of the Empire. I saw it myself in 1925. It was hung on the north wall of the old East wing of the Perth Museum, which was then Art Gallery.

I wonder where the replica and O.O.B. of the 1st A.I.F. ended up? They should hang again.

LEST WE FORGET

The 25th Anniversary of the Boddington RSL Hall

On May 1, 1982, the Boddington Sub-Branch held a social evening to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Boddington Hall. Several Sub-Branches attended, including Murray Districts who arrived with a bus load.

Mr and Mrs J.P. Hall, the Senior Vice President of the League, represented the State President and Executive. The night was most successful and at the conclusion of the meal dancing took place. Among the members present was the oldest member of the Boddington Sub-Branch, Mr A. Roberts, who joined the League in 1919 and is 88 years of age.

The Sub-Branch President, Secretary and members and their good ladies are to be congratulated for their organisation and hospitality for putting on such a wonderful evening.

Anzacs Day Observances at Northampton

On April 23, six members of the Northampton Sub-Branch attended School Services, three to Northampton District High School where the students arranged and held their own service, two to the Northampton Convent and one to Yuna Primary School.

The Dawn Service on Anzac Day saw 16 on parade, and attendance at the traditional "gunfire" breakfast.

The 11 am Service attendance was slightly up on last year, but attendance by the public was down. The C.M.F. unit from Geraldton provided a Guard of Honour and maintained a vigil during the service.

During the afternoon, the second round of "The Battle of the Rolling Pin" took place at the Northampton Bowling Club — for a trophy made of Sheoak and Jamwood surmounted by a rolling pin made from a Black Boy. The inaugural "battle" took place in 1981. R.S.L. Members play against the Bowling Club members and associates, and 80 players took part in the contest which was followed by a barbecue. Proceeds were handed to the Sub-Branch for distribution to ex-servicemen's welfare funds.

At the April monthly meeting of the Sub-Branch, $70 was donated to the Regional War Veterans Home at Geraldton, and adoption of a Ward under Legacy by contribution of $50 to that Association.

Veterans' Home Appeal

A record amount of more than $700 was raised at the annual Street Appeal held in support of the Regional War Veterans' Home at Geraldton.

The President of the Geraldton Sub-branch of the Returned Services League, Mr Till, handed over a cheque for $712.80 to the Secretary of the War Veterans' Home Committee, Mrs Ashplant.

The presentation took place after the May meeting of the Sub-Branch — B.J.B.

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lubrication requirements.
I attended the League Congress to give my Annual Report and Executive Members helped serve the catering at Congress.

On June 22, Waroona-Hamel Auxiliary held their Birthday Luncheon. Representatives from surrounding districts Mrs Angel, Mrs Johnson were guests at this happy function.

Executive members and many guests from other Auxiliaries helped the Mandurah Auxiliary celebrate their Birthday at a lovely luncheon in their Hall. It was my pleasure to present Certificates of Service to Mrs Watson and Mrs Robins.

Mrs Sullivan and I attended the Geraldton Sub-branch and Auxiliary Dinner on June 26, a happy night with old friends.

As a member of the Girl of the Golden West Quest Committee, I accompanied Mr Hall and Mr Aris on a visit to the Kojonup, Mt Barker and Albany Sub-Branches and Auxiliaries recently to discuss the current Quest.

I attended the Vietnam Veterans Auxiliary meeting and thank them for their welcome and hospitality.

Christmas is not far away and next Executive meeting will see us discussing the contents of our parcels, then it won't be long before we are packing and delivering them. It only seems like yesterday that we were attending to last year's parcels. Don't forget to get your donations to this fund in early so that we can do our buying.

We have received a letter from Mrs Willis, our interstate visitor at Conference, thanking us for the happy time she spent with us, and she sends her regards to the members she met at Conference.

This is a very short report this time, but I hope to have a better one next time, so until then, kindest regards to all. — Joy, Ford, State President.
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VALE
TOM SOUTAR

TOM SOUTAR was a Victorian who played for St Kilda in the Victorian Football League; he was also an outstanding runner, having won the one mile at Stawell in 1913. In 1914, he and another champion runner named Headman received an invitation to run in South Africa, but on arriving in W.A. the 1914 War had commenced, so the South African trip was cancelled. Tom joined the 10th Light Horse and served on Gallipoli until the evacuation.

It was at the start of the Sinai campaign that Tom came under the eye of Colonel Tom Todd. Tom had managed to get hold of a football and on every stop there would be a crowd playing "kick for kick". Col Todd quickly saw that Tom had the ability to create sporting activities that would keep the men fit and alert, and he asked what equipment would be of help. Tom requested a number of items which the Colonel obtained from Colonel Arnott in Cairo who was in charge of Comforts.

This started a number of activities, and football teams were picked and games played at every stop. We were lucky as all along the coast until we reached El Arish were dry salt pans which made good ready-made football grounds.

It was not long before the other regiments started football teams as well as the 3rd Machine Gun Squadron. This led to Brigade and Divisional competition so a general interest in sport was started. Divisional sports meetings were started and Tom dominated the half mile and mile events. From that time, Tom had the full co-operation of the Colonel in any project he started that would get the men fit. These activities paid off as the 10th Regiment won the final of the Australian Rules Football Championship just before the Jerusalem campaign started. These activities paid off as the 10th Regiment won the final of the Australian Rules Football Championship just before the Jerusalem campaign started. These activities continued right up to the end of the war.

When the Armistice was signed, word came that the Egyptian Expeditionary Force was to send a team to compete at the Pershing Stadium in France and Colonel Todd told Tom he was to train and try to get in this team.

There was only one tent in the Regiment at this time, which belonged to Colonel Todd. He handed it over and appointed Jack Cullen as his trainer. Tom was placed on a special diet of rum steak, much to the amusement of his pals. However, it paid off as Tom won every event he went in for up to Divisional finals and went to Cairo where he was to compete with British, Indian, and other troops who formed the Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

To the delight of the Australian Light Horse, Tom won a trip and eventually the team he was in won the final in Paris and Tom had a very nice medallion to show for it.

Tom Soutar as an individual contributed more to the morale and well-being than any other member of the 10th Light Horse and had Colonel Todd lived to see the results of his backing of Tom, he would have been suitably rewarded.

The only time Tom was away from the Regiment was when he was appointed an instructor in the Signal School at Zeitoun, which reduced his time on the Regiment strength. Only for that, he would have had more days on the strength than any other member.

One of the most outstanding officers in the 3rd Light Horse Brigade was Major Nicholas, O.C. Machine Gun Squadron. He was very keen to get Tom to transfer to his command reportedly offered him a Commission if he would transfer, but Tom would not leave the Regiment.

On returning to Perth at the end of the war, Tom was a foundation member of the 10th Light Horse Association and served as that Association’s Secretary. He was also prominent in the West Perth Football Club, being Captain and Coach. He managed many State and Interstate teams and his contribution to W.A. football is well known. His passing was a great loss to all who knew and worked with him.

LEST WE FORGET

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LISTENING POST—SPRING, 1982—21
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Leonora
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On this sunny Easter Sunday 41 years ago, Rommel attacked Tobruk and the 12 infantry battalions defending it, the first of his blitzkrieg assaults.

It was the blitzkrieg assault led by the Panzer divisions which was responsible for the German immediate success in Poland; which was responsible for the German rampage through France, Belgium and Holland; and which was to result in the British evacuation from Dunkirk.

On this Sunday, the blitzkrieg was launched. There was a Panzer division, two motorised divisions and an infantry division. The force had 300 tanks and large Italian and German infantry accompanying forces.

By early afternoon on that day, something had gone wrong, dreadfully wrong with Rommel’s plans with the blitzkrieg principle. The tanks, instead of mopping up the retreating infantry as they had done so successfully for 14 months beforehand, found themselves turning round and coming back, many destroyed, and none of the accompanying infantry getting through the initial defence. But Rommel, good campaigner that he was, was not going to allow something that went wrong once happen again.

Two weeks later he was back. Two more Panzer divisions, and the same result — the blitzkrieg failed. And while Rommel did indeed capture a point known as Hill 209 The Salient, half of it was retaken almost immediately by a vigorous counter-attack — again something that had not happened before.

How could the German forces possibly have been so successful before? I think that the best way to put it to you is to quote the words of a captured German who had served in the European campaigns. He said: “I cannot understand you Australian volunteers. In Poland, France and Belgium, once the tanks got through the, the soldiers took it for granted they were beaten. But you are like demons. The tanks break through and your infantry still keeps fighting”.

It was the Australian infantrymen of Tobruk in those first two blitzkrieg assaults who showed to the world that determined soldiers could turn the plans and the successes of the so-called Master Race into disarray. This was the first time the Germans had been stopped, and so for those who can remember the day, this was the first victory the British had been able to speak of since the start of the war.

Rommel never again tried his blitzkrieg tactics on Tobruk, and the remaining seven months were devoted to the hard-slogging, which the infantry know so well and which has been referred to.

It is with regret that since this article went to Press the Secretary of the ROTA, Eric Holmes, has passed away. The Listening Post Committee extend their deepest sympathy to his family and the Association.
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Looking Back

By Veanie Rowe

On Friday, June 18, 1982, Wembley-Floreat R.S.L. Women’s Auxiliary held a Social Afternoon to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of their Foundation.

Originally, the Branch was West Leederville Auxiliary, but progressed to West Leederville-Wembley, then to West Leederville-Wembley-Floreat Park, then to the present Wembley-Floreat, but the changes have not altered the work done by the members during that time.

Perhaps some reminiscences of our past will set older Auxiliaries thinking about their earlier days and might give the “newer” members a little insight into what happened before their time.

It is a great pity that our original Minute Books were destroyed by a fire in the Secretary’s home, because all those beginnings are part of the League’s history. Many Branches do not have their early records, which is unfortunate, because as the years roll on, they are becoming part of the history of their districts.

However, through having one member whose family was among the original members, and over the years collecting information from the older members, we have quite a good idea as to how the Auxiliary worked in its beginning.

Most of the early work was with Amelioration, as so many of the returned men had no jobs and no pensions. The Repatriation Department was not in existence for some time, and then it took many years to sort out the problems and the necessary pension requirements. Many of the families visited by the Branch’s Trustees had little food and no warm clothing. In fact, in some cases, the children were sleeping on the floor with Dad’s Army greatcoat as their only covering.

The Auxiliaries raised money then, as now, with Paddy Markets, card nights, socials, dances and fetes, then supplied the needy families with food and blankets, and in some cases paid the rent for a period, until Father found work.

When the War Memorial for West Leederville District was to be erected, the Sub-branch and Auxiliary members canvassed all residents, house to house, door-knocking, and pledges were given for the amount the householder could afford. The members then went every week to collect this amount, in some cases 3 pence (6 cents) per week, as in those days 1 pound ($2) was a large donation. The memorial was raised by public subscription.

The Auxiliary made donations to the Soldiers’ Children’s Scholarship Trust Fund, predecessor to the Soldiers’ Children’s Education Board, from its inception, and to any calls made by the State Executive. During the war years we helped at the Phyllis Dean Canteen and made beds at Monash House in King Street. In our Minutes at this time there was a donation to Ansac House of 6 pound 6/-, for Faversham House, York, which would keep an Ex-Serviceman for a fortnight!

Our Sub-Branch ran a dance at the Perth Town hall every Saturday, about this time, and the Auxiliary members helped as the profits were to go to our own Memorial hall Fund. All sorts of efforts were thought up to help this Fund along, and later when the Hall became a fact, we donated practical things like the gas stove, hot water system and curtains.

Our records show that we visited Sunset, Lémnos, Hollywood and Glendalough, taking sweets, cigarettes, supper or afternoon tea and entertainment. We also entertained the Ex-Servicemen from Lémnos and Sunset to “High Tea” in the Leederville Town Hall, and later in our own hall, on Sunday each year, with the meal being supplied and served by the members. Our very good friend Cobbler Wright and his Concert Party supplied the entertainment. These events were always enjoyable, and looked forward to by both the patients and our Ladies.

One Memorable Tea in 1959 was an anxious event for our Treasurer, as when she had paid the accounts, she was quite sure we had overdrawn our account, and was visualising all kinds of drastic things happening to her. Someone’s husband lent her 1 pound, “just in case”, but then she had time to sort things out properly, she found that we had 5d (10c)! Large sighs of relief followed.

Another memorable occasion for our girls was, in August, 1960, when we were asked to provide tea and biscuits for the Opening of the Mathews basketball Courts. Somewhere along the way, organisation had fallen down, and there was only one power-point for the two large urns we were using. But with the urns turned full on, we couldn’t understand why the water was not getting hot. We had blown the power all round the place, including the V.I.P. tent for the Official Guests!!!

Our Treasurer, Mrs Mathews, has a unique connection with Auxiliary work, apart from the fact that she has been our Treasurer for 25 years continuously, as her maternal grandmother was a foundation member of Subiaco Auxiliary, the very first Branch in Australia, and her paternal grandmother was a foundation member of West Leederville Auxiliary. Our oldest member, Auxiliary-wise, is Mrs C. Hains, who joined in August, 1944 — a continuous membership of 38 years, with time off only for the arrival of her family.

We have worked hard over the years, doing the same things done by other Auxiliaries, and have enjoyed the work and the social contact between Branches. The Mckinlay Shield Games, Auxiliary Exhibition, Birthday Parties and the Conference Social were all looked forward to and enjoyed by all who attended. Perhaps the lack of some of these functions has diminished the “big happy family” atmosphere we used to have, but the sisterly spirit is still there, and perhaps the Fun and Friendship Days started in the last few years may bring us back to our togetherness.

Bassendean-Guildford Auxiliary was also founded in 1922, but I believe that it is going to celebrate its 60th birthday next year. Best wishes to all of them, Subiaco, and to all Auxiliaries, however “old” or “young” they are as there is still plenty of work for us to do.

LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1982 — 25
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NEW GUINEA 1942

In the latter part of 1942, my ship “Warrego” and her sister, “Swan”, made many trips from Cairns and Townsville acting as escorts to the troopships carrying troops and supplies intended for the push over the Kokoda Trail, to the north coast of New Guinea.

In Port Moresby there was only one wharf, which had to be reserved for the unloading of cargo ships bringing heavy equipment and stores.

This meant that troops had to be ferried ashore from their ships lying out in the harbour, and because our ships were quite small (only 1200 tons), we were able to berth at the inshore short end of the pier. It took about 4-15 hours to load and unload about 700 troops and their personal gear, rifle, kitbag, etc.

We were on a peculiar type of messing, Navy supplied a certain amount of our tucker (meat and bread mainly), and for our other meals we used the rest of our messing allowance to buy stores from the ships’ dry stores. As the caterer of the biggest seamen’s mess, about twice a week I bought the necessary flour, fruit, jams etc, and knocked up some jam tarts and apple squares, mince tarts on large scone trays about a yard square, to be cooked in our electric bread ovens.

When I knew we were to ferry troops, I got cooky to boil up our 20-gallon copper, and when the troops were safely settled, we were so crowded that movement was very restricted. We made about six gallons of tea, and those troops lucky enough to be in the various messes, were served hot tea and whatever happened to be on the menu that day, apple or mince tart or just a jam tart fitted with an awning.

Having brought the lads up, we knew that many of them had suffered severely from sea-sickness and would be feeling very hungry, with some time to go before they would be able to get a meal, so our lads were very happy to be able to give them a snack to help them on their way. We knew, too, that very often some of them were on their way home within 24 hours, having met the enemy within hours of landing.

I wonder if any of the members of this sub-branch were among those we ferried ashore in those dark days. If there are any, good luck to you, and hope you remember “the boys in blue”.

PEEJAY

Harry Holder Retires

It will not be the same at State Executive meetings in the future. Acting on medical advice, Harry Holder did not seek re-election at the last State Congress.

His expertise and knowledge of all R.S.L. workings and his extensive experience in pensions and other relative matters appertaining to ex-servicemen and women will be greatly missed around the table.

During his service of approximately 30 years on the Executive, he attended some 400 Executive meetings and over 4,000 Committee meetings, quite an imposing record and on that I am sure will not be surpassed easily.

During the numerous occasions the State Secretary was unavoidably absent, Harry has relieved in that capacity, and at one time he acted as State President at a national Congress which was held in Brisbane.

Many members have been assisted by him at tribunals where he acted as an advocate. He has been on every Executive Committee and been chairman of almost all of them.

For his outstanding work in these spheres he was honoured by being made a Member of the British Empire.

When the former State Secretary, Doug Bruce, assumed his office the late Bill Hood and Harry were the ones he came to for advice on League matters.

Delegates at the 1982 State Congress paid a fitting tribute to him with a standing ovation when the President announced that Harry had retired, something I had not seen or heard in all the years I have attended Congress.

Although not on the Executive, Harry will not be lost completely, because as Secretary of the City of Perth Sub-Branch he will be in ANZAC House several days a week where the sub-branch has its office. Patrons of the ANZAC Club also wished to show their appreciation to Harry because for a long period he was Chairman of the Board.

Under the guidance of the club manager Ted Steele, a presentation function was arranged in the club where Fred Hamann, a friend of Harry for many years, gave us many moments of pleasure with his piano renditions.

The State President presented Harry with a very acceptable and suitably boxed pen and pencil set. At a given time, a huge gorilla entered the club (by some devious way I presume) and gave harry a long gorillagram that highlighted parts of his life at home, in the Army and with the League.

It would be remiss of me if I neglected to mention the part played by his wife, Maisie, who has also been a strong supporter of the League. So, on behalf of all members I thank them both for the magnificent work they have done and wish them all the best for many years ahead.

Peejay

M.C. (Mike) Hall

LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1982 — 27
A special invitation will be arriving very soon.

Please look out for it.

Members have asked about a service like this for years, and now it's available exclusively to R.S.L. members and their spouses. Len Turner has called it "one of the most intelligent programmes of its kind I've ever seen."
Look for the special invitation shown above in your letterbox. The invitation is limited, which means your reply must be postmarked by the 11th of November. Please don't delay.
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<th>Decoration</th>
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Decoration must be accompanied by their service medals, extra for log books etc. other medals required.

ALSO REQUIRED

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30 — LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1982
# GASCOYNE SUB-BRANCH

On December 18, about 70 guests were present to see Brian Magennis, the immediate Past President of the Gascoyne Sub-branch, receive a life membership of the League for his services to the League through the Sub-branch.

Among the distinguished guests were Air Commodore Ashworth, Air Officer commanding RAAF, WA, and Mrs Ashworth, Mr A. Bradrick, President of the Carnarvon Sub-section of the Naval Association, and Mrs Bradrick.

President Darryl Cochrane said when welcoming guests that the presentation of a life membership was a significant function for both the community and the Sub-branch.

Brian joined the RSL in 1959 and became the secretary of the Gascoyne Memorial Trust the same year and held the position until 1977. He was also treasurer of the Sub-branch from 1962 to 1964. Brian took on the job of Sub-branch secretary in 1970 and held that position until 1974. He was elected President of the Gascoyne Sub-branch in 1975 and continued as President to 1980. During this period the Geraldton Sub-branch received a donation of $2500 towards the building of their Regional War Service Home.

Stars from Torchbearers for Legacy acknowledging donations of $250 yearly for 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, and 1977 were received.

The Sub-branch went through a bad time in the late seventies and Brian’s prime concern was for the welfare and continuation of the sub-branch.

The Country Women’s Association did a magnificent job in supplying and serving afternoon tea and the Gascoyne Sub-branch thanks the local members for their mighty effort.

## U.S. Troop Camps

Mr Hugo R. Schramm, of the CBI Veterans Association in Westchester Illinois, U.S.A. has requested information on the movement of U.S. troops through Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Fremantle, asking names of the docks where they debarked and transit camps in each of these cities.

Anyone with information should contact Mr Hugo R. Schramm, CBI Veterans Association, 1107 S. Mannheim 220, Westchester, IL 60153 USA.

## Anti-Aircraft Gunners

Flushed with the success of the reunion in Darwin last February, the committee of the group intends to hold further functions and trips in the future.

All interested gunners and wives are invited to contact Hon. Secretary Len De Grussa on 276 7253 or write to 43 Pitt Street, Dianella, 6022.

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### Coming Events

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<tr>
<th>OCTOBER</th>
<th>QUEST ENTRANT</th>
<th>FUNCTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 2nd</td>
<td>Tracey Lane</td>
<td>CAKE STALL Maylands Shopping Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 4th</td>
<td>Cherylee Battersby</td>
<td>GOLF DAY Baywater Golf Club 8.30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Sunday 10th</td>
<td>Denise King</td>
<td>BARGAIN BONANZA Albany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 11th</td>
<td>Danielle Craig</td>
<td>DISCO NIGHT Greenwood Forrest Hotel 7.30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 16th</td>
<td>Jenny Newall</td>
<td>CABARET City Beach Civic Centre 7.30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20th</td>
<td>Donna Selby</td>
<td>QUIZ NIGHT Anzac Club 9.00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 26th</td>
<td>Diana Robinson</td>
<td>FASHION PARADE Floreat Hotel 7.30 p.m. 5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 30th</td>
<td>Tracey Lane</td>
<td>HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS NIGHT Bassendean, R.S.L. Hall 7.30 p.m $2.50</td>
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<tr>
<th>NOVEMBER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 2nd</td>
<td>Melbourne Cup Luncheon</td>
<td>ANZAC CLUB BELMONT PARK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 2nd</td>
<td>R.S.L. Cup Welter ‘Poppy Day’</td>
<td>FINAL CABARET NIGHT Redcliffe Hall, Morrison Road, Redcliffe 7.30 p.m 3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 5th</td>
<td>Cherylee Battersby</td>
<td>CABARET FINAL Mt Lawley Tennis Club 7.30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 6th</td>
<td>Jenny Newall</td>
<td>WAR MEMORIAL Kings Park 11.00 a.m.</td>
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<th>DECEMBER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 11th</td>
<td>Nollamara-North Perth Sub-Branch</td>
<td>25TH BIRTHDAY PARTY &amp; DANCE R.S.L. Hall, Nollamara 8.00 p.m.</td>
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*All sub-branches, unit associations and service organizations, are invited to contribute to this column.*

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### ALBANY SUB-BRANCH

**Memorial Service at Nurses Gardens**
October 30th, 1982 at 2.30 p.m.

**Reunion Dinner at Port of Call**
October 30th, 1982 at 6.30 p.m.
Cost $14 single

**Pilgrimage on Mt Clarence**
Sunday 31st October at 2.30 p.m.
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GIRL OF THE GOLDEN WEST QUEST

There are now twelve entrants in the Quest who are working very hard in their fundraising efforts. The support the entrants are receiving from their allocated Sub-Branches and Women’s Auxiliaries is encouraging and the Co-Ordinator, Les Aris, is appealing to all Sub-Branches and Women’s Auxiliaries to get right behind their respective entrants in their fundraising endeavours.

SOCIAL GATHERING

On Sunday the 22nd August, nine of the twelve entrants were entertained by the Quest Co-Ordinator, Les Aris, at a poolside reception at his home in Como, for the entrants to become acquainted with each other. Amongst the quests were the State Secretary, Mr Des Gibbs, and myself. Our thanks to Mrs Kay Aris for the catering and hospitality.

INCENTIVE AWARDS EVENING

On Saturday evening the 4th September 1982, between 6.30 pm and 8.30 pm the entrants were entertained at the RSL War Veterans’ Home in Mt Lawley where they received their Incentive Awards for their progressive fundraising efforts.

CROWNING OF THE GIRL OF THE GOLDEN WEST

This event will take place on Friday night the 12th November, 1982 from 7.30 p.m. to 12.30 a.m. at the International Functions Centre, 20 Parker Street, Perth. (Opposite Russell Square).

There will be dancing, and a buffet supper. The cost is only $12.50 a single with full bar facilities available for purchase. Tables will be made up in sixteens (16). If your Sub-Branch or Women’s Auxiliary wishes to make up a table or part-table please contact the Co-Ordinator for your booking, and tickets by writing to the Co-Ordinator, Girl of the Golden West Quest, GPO Box C128 Perth or ring (09) 325 9799 during office hours or (09) 367 4780 during the evening hours.

Please give this function your every support.

M.C. (MIKE) HALL

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AN officer who commanded one of the Australian Army's most highly decorated units has been appointed Commander of the 5th Military District (WA).

He is Brigadier R.D.F. (Russell) Lloyd, a West Australian, who commanded the Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam, and who was awarded the OBE for his leadership there.

Brigadier Lloyd replaced Brigadier Ken Taylor, who has been promoted to Major-General and appointed Chief of Material at the Department of Defence, Canberra.

Brigadier Lloyd took up his new appointment at Swan Barracks on June 28.

He was born in WA in 1930 and was educated at Hale School.

In 1952-53 he served in Korea with the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, during which time he won the Military Cross.

In February, 1969, as a lieutenant-colonel, Brigadier Lloyd was appointed Commander of the Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam. This unit won four Victoria Crosses — two of them during his term as Commander.

Among Brigadier Lloyd's more recent overseas appointments have been the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, Pacific Islands Regiment, and Australia's Defence Attache in the Philippines.

He returned to Australia in 1979, was promoted to the rank of Brigadier, and served in senior staff appointments in the Department of Defence, Canberra.

Brigadier Lloyd is the younger son of the late Brigadier J.E. Lloyd, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., a distinguished soldier of the two world wars, who was well known to West Australians. He raised the 2/28th Battalion and commanded it in Tobruk, and later commanded the 16th Infantry Brigade on the Kokoda Trail.

Brigadier Russell Lloyd's wife is also a West Australian, and they have four sons.

Range of Optical Appliances Extended

Since February 1978, entitled Repatriation beneficiaries requiring eye-care have been able to be referred by a Local Medical office to either an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

Recently, the Department of Veterans' Affairs approved the extension of the range of optical appliances which may be prescribed by optometrists. From July, 1982, the new arrangements will be:

- Lightweight metal frames and combination frames to be available to beneficiaries on prescription by ophthalmologists or optometrists, subject to certification by the prescriber that these are clinically necessary.

- Optometrists to be permitted to prescribe and fit contact lenses to beneficiaries, subject to Commonwealth Department of Health conditions which apply to the prescription of contact lenses.

- Optometrists to be permitted to prescribe and supply varilux lenses to eligible patients when these are indicated for reasons relating to patients' employment.

In another new arrangement, a patient now has a freedom of choice in the dispensing of a prescription. If the Department's contractor is an optical dispenser, the patient may choose that the contractor make up the spectacles and dispense them. Alternatively, he may choose that the optometrist arrange for the spectacles to be made up by the contractor and returned to the optometrist for dispensing.

LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1982 — 35
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STATE PRESIDENT MR L. J. TURNER, PRESENTS CADET I.R. PATTERSON WITH THE RSL PRIZE FOR LEADERSHIP ON PILOTS COURSE NO. 114 AT RAAF PEARCE.

INDOOR RECREATION EQUIPMENT SOUGHT

Pearson RSL Village Social and Welfare Club needs an indoor bowls carpet to complement a donation of two complete sets of carpet bowls, valued at $200 by the R & I Bank of Western Australia.

Pearson Village Social Club already provides for Bridge, Whist, Chess, Draughts, Scrabble and other indoor games for residents in their club room at Pearson Village which are used mainly during afternoon light entertainment sessions.

Enthusiastic endeavours are currently afoot to extend the indoor recreational facilities at Pearson Village, but Social Club funds are insufficient for the purchase of new equipment. Information with respect to the availability of redundant indoor recreation equipment will be greatly appreciated by the Club Honorary Secretary, Mr M. Farrell, Unit 55, Pearson RSL Village, Mount Lawley.

Observer Unit

Mr Richard Walker, of the Television Features Department of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, has requested any information on the formation and operation of the North Australia Observer Unit (1942-1945), which with a total strength of some 600 volunteers, maintained surveillance in the north of Australia.

Anyone with any information should contact Mr Walker at Television Features Department, Australian Broadcasting Commission, G.P.O. Box 487, Sydney, N.S.W. 2001.

"BINGO"

The Returned Services League will be conducting BINGO on the first floor at Anzac House, 28 St. George's Terrace, Perth, from 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm, every Thursday.

All Sub-branches are urged to participate and give their fullest support as it is envisaged that this will be a regular event in the future.
The League in Western Australia has lost one of its strongest advocates with the passing away recently of former State President W.S. (Bill) Lonnie after a short illness.

His time consuming efforts in connection with the work of the League was unsurpassed and it would be impossible to relate all he has done for the ex-serviceman and woman. From 1955 to 1965 he was the State President after serving a period as Senior Vice-President. Who can forget the magnificent addresses he gave each Anzac Day at the service on The Esplanade. I can recall one person saying to me a few days following such an address "I was driving along listening to the Anzac Service and when Bill Lonnie spoke I had to stop and listen, he was such a marvellous speaker that I was captivated." This man was not an ex-serviceman. What a wonderful tribute to be paid to a State President.

A member of the 2/43 Battalion during the world war, he won the Military Cross. Other honours to come his way for outstanding work in his civilian capacity were the Awards of, Commander of the Victorian Order and Commander of the British Empire. He was the foundation president of the W.A. Association of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

After his resignation as State President he maintained a very close liaison with the State Executive, and at the time of his death was one of its trustees. He was a member of a number of committees which included The Aged Fund, The War Veteran's Home Board, The Anzac Day Trust Fund and chairman of The R.S.L. Building Society.

The State President and all members of the League, together with the staff at Anzac House, extend deepest sympathy to all members of his family.

M.C. (Mike) Hall
Oldest Member is 103

Bob Hewson of Maida Vale celebrated his 103rd birthday recently. At home he received many phone calls and telegrams congratulating him. One phone call was from a former Prime Minister in Gough Whitlam. Telegrams were received from the Darling Range Sub-Branch, Mr Hayden, Mr Burke, and a personal visit from his lodge master and many people living in the district.

Bob is a life member of the League and has also received a 50 years membership certificate, and has been President of the Victoria Park Sub-Branch and was a foundation member of the Maida Vale and Darling Range Sub-Branches. His war service was with the 5th Pioneers in the Great War when he served 4 years in France and Belgium.

I had the pleasure and privilege of hosting his Suncheon for him in Anzac Club in honour of his birthday. Members of his family had come from Townsville to be with him on this occasion. He received a very warm welcome from patrons of the club when he was introduced to them.

His speech in reply would have done credit to any aspiring politician and we all were amazed at the fluency of his address in which he thanked everyone who had assisted in making what he said was one of the highlights of his birthday, and in conclusion he added “I will see you all again next year.”

A big thank you must go to his nephew George Sloane (A member of Darling Range Sub-Branch) and his wife Alice, for the manner in which they have looked after Bob.

M.C. (Mike) Hall.

ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICEMEN

460 SQUADRON RAAF ASSOC. (W.A.)
President: P.C. Firkins, C10 Perth Chamber of Commerce, 14 Parliament Place, West Perth. Tel: 312 5811.
Secretary: N.B. Johnson, 63 Kirwan Street, Floreat Park.
Bus Tel: 367 4229. Treasurer: A.F. Hogan, Reserve Bank, St George's Terrace, Perth. Tel: 320 0336. Meetings four times per year.

GALLIPOLI LEGION OF ANZACS

16TH BATTALION AND 4TH BRIGADE ASSOCIATION
Committee meets first Monday at 2 pm at PBS, 95 William Street. President: C. Sladdon, 59A Henry Street, East Cannington. Tel: 458 5573. Secretary: H. Ganson, 11 Fothergill Street, Fremantle. Tel: 335 2455. Women’s Auxiliary meets same time same place.

2/16TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION
President: A.J. Smith, 184 McDonald Street, Joondanna, 6060. Tel: 444 4748. Secretary: F.H. Sublet, 39 Pitt Street, Dianella, 6062. Tel: 275 4919. Treasurer: J. Paull, 36 Lockhart Street, Como. Committee meets first Wednesday each month at Anzac House.

44TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION
Committee meets when called. Annual Reunion on advice. President: R. Rollins, 134 Rosebery Street, Bedford (271 4448).

EX-POW ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: T.W. Scott, 250 Corinthian Road, Riverton.
Secretary: W.H.P. Hood, 93 Guildford Road, Mt Lawley, 6050. Tel: 271 5245. Meetings first Wednesday each month 8 pm, ANZAC Club Perth.

2/4TH MG BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION
President: P.R. Tonkins, 2 Devling Place, Morley. Tel: 276 8514. Secretary: C.J. McPherson, 34 Harold Street, Dianella, 6062. Tel: 276 2313. Meetings Anzac House, third Tuesday each month, 8 p.m.

THIRTY-NINERS’ ASSOCIATION
Meets Anzac House bi-monthly, on the fourth Wednesday. Further information contact either J.P. Hall, President, 173 The Esplanade, Mt Pleasant. Tel: 364 7776. Secretary: A.W. Newland, 61 Jubilee Street, Cannington, 458 8221. Treasurer: J. Todd, 4 Shearer Street, Myaree. Tel: 330 3936.

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**MIDDLE EAST VAD ASSOCIATION WA**


**RAE ASSOCIATION**

Meets Second Sunday March, June, September and November at WACA ground. Secretary: T.R. Beard, Tel: 450 3951.

**10TH LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION AIF**

Meets last Friday in February and August, 12 pm at Anzac Club. President: R. Caporn, Flat 10, WVH, 51 Alexander Drive, Mt Lawley. Tel: 271 7049. Secretary and Treasurer: R.W. Byrne, 2 birdwood Road, Melville, 6156. Tel: 330 2595.

**48TH BATTALION — 24TH ANTI-TANK COY**

President: J. B. Vanpragg, 49 Ardross Street, Applecross, 6153. Tel: 364 3778. Secretary: A.S. Thompson, 60 Kintail Road, Applecross, 6153. Tel: 364 2332. Annual Reunion. Show Week.

**LIMBLESS SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION**

(“Wingies and Stumpies”). President: E.P. (Pat) Ogders. Secretary: C.C. Brown, C/- TPI Memorial House; 88 Colin Street, West Perth, Tel: 321 5888. Meeting first Wednesday each month except January, 1.30 p.m.

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS ASSOCIATION**

President: Lt Col R.D. Arnold 6 Currajong Road, Duncraig, 6023. Tel: 448 2757 (home), 386 8766 (work). Secretary: Miss K. Atkins, 222 Scott Street, Cloverdale, 6105.

**NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC. (WA SECTION) CITY OF PERTH SUB-SECTION**

Meets fourth Tuesday of each month, 4 Brisbane Place, Perth. President: K. Nordahl, Tel: 367 3102. Immediate Past President: B. Edmondson, 322 1344. Secretary: B. Hobbs, Tel: 279 7387. Treasurer: S. Barnes, 446 3306.

**NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SECTION) INC. STATE COUNCIL**

State President: Mr J. Wallace, 56 Evandale Street, Floreat. Tel: Bus 325 3055, Pvt 387 4582. State Secretary: W.J. Skinner, 47 Glencairn Way, Parkwood, 6155, Tel: 457 7499.

**WRAAC ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)**

President: Mrs Nancy Carlson, 24 Iveston Road, Lynwood, 6155. Tel: 457 3984. Secretary: Mrs J. Bryden, PO Box 1649, Hay Street East, 6000.

**AIR FORCES CLUB (INC)**

Meets at RSL Hall, Kintail Road, Applecross. Fridays, 4.30 -11 p.m. Sundays 4.30 - 7.30 p.m. President: Mr W.L. Henderson, 60 Griffin Crescent, Manning, 6152. Tel: 450 3785. Secretary: Mrs Lake: Tel: 332 1343. All correspondence to PO Box 153, Applecross, 6153.

**Z** SPECIAL FORCE ASSOCIATION OF WA

Meetings as arranged. Secretary: B. Wakeford, 875 Beaufort Street, Inglewood, 6052. Tel: 271 3002. Liaison Officer: E.W. Dubberlin, 17 Hotham Street, Meltham, 6053. Tel: 271 1406.

**1940 DUNKIRK VETERANS ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH**

Meets first Friday each month at Anzac House 8 p.m. Secretary: J.L. Thatcher, 48a Newport Way, Balga, 6061. Tel: 342 1878. President: Mr E. Bench.

**PARTIALLY BLINDED SOLDIER’S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA *WA BRANCH INC* **

General meeting held at Anzac House, 28 St George’s Terrace, Perth at 2 pm, first Tuesday each month, except January. Secretary: D. J. Symes, 15 Siddeley Place, Dianella. Tel: 276 9950.

**2/32ND BATTALION ASSOCIATION (WA)**

Secretary Floor, Wellington Building, 158 William Street, Perth, last Monday. President: Ian Fraser, Tel: 271 4703. Secretary: R. Ross, Tel: 341 5641.

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOC. (WA)**

Meetings third Monday at ANZAC House at 8 p.m. President: Peter Kemmis, ’697 Hay Street, Wembley, 6014. Tel: 381 3348. Secretary: John Quinn, 23 Douglas Avenue, Mt Yokine, 6060. Tel: 349 1374.

**51ST BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION**

President: J. Bowra, 7 Highland Road, North Perth. Tel: 444 2585. Secretary: G. K. Baron-Hay, 24 Stanley Street, Nedlands. Tel: 386 1554. Committee meetings held quarterly, first Monday in March, June, September & December at 2 p.m. ANZAC Club, 28 St George’s Terrace, Perth.

**BRITISH EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION (INC)**

Honourable General Secretary: Mary Woollacott, Tranby House, Johnson Road, Maylands, 6051. Tel: 272 2630. Council meets fourth Tuesday each month at ANZAC House. Annual Reunion nearest Saturday to November 11, (Remembrance Day), International Ballroom, Belmont. All Correspondence to Secretary.

**GUILD OF SIGNALS UNITS ASSOCIATION IN (WA)**

Meets 2nd Tues. each month, 8 pm, Lord Street Drill Hall, President: D. Harvey, 150 Lansdowne Street, South Perth, 6151. Tel: 367 4339. Secretary: O.C. Evans, 188 Lewis Road, Forrestfield, 6058. Tel: 453 6203.

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

Meets second Monday in June, September and December at Anzac House, St George’s Terrace, Perth. Members will be notified by mail of March AGM. State President: Mr Noel Conigrave, Tel: 450 6517. State Secretary: Mr M. Cadden, Tel: 277 3681, 53 Wicca Street, Kewdale, 6105.

**TOTALLY & PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION**

TPI Memorial House, 88 Colin Street, West Perth, 6005. Tel: 321 5457. President: P.G Maley. Tel: 349 4530. Secretary: A C Subiet, 140 Coode Street, South Perth, Tel: 367 7581. General Meetings, monthly second Tuesday, at 1.30 pm, TPI Memorial House.

**REGULAR DEFENCE FORCES WELFARE ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)**

For enquiries contact either the President or Secretary. President: Lt Col R. K. Hill, MC, RL, 183 Hamilton Street, Queens Park Tel: 458 9203. Secretary: Lt E C. Lunn-Garner, R9 Davies Crescent, Kalamunda, Tel: 293 1409.

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ASSOCIATION OF WRENS WA BRANCH
Meets fourth Thursday of each month, 7.30 pm, ANZAC House, 28 St Georges Terrace, Perth. President: Mrs Jean Washford, 4/99 Seventh Road, Armadale. Tel: 399 6230. Hon Secretary, Mrs Doreen O’Grady, 122 Duke Street, Scarborough. Tel: 341 5640.

WRANS SUB-SECTION NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
Meets the Third Tuesday of each month, ANZAC House, 28 St George’s Terrace, Perth. President: P.D. Ingram, (Mrs) 13/55 Second Avenue, Mt Lawley, 6050. Tel: 271 1826. Secretary: A. Weetman (Mrs) 2/55 Second Avenue, Mt Lawley, 6050, Tel: 272 1446.

CORVETTE ASSOCIATION OF WA

THE BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION
President: Brigadier L.H. Rush, 1 Senate Street, Claremont, 6010. Tel: 384 3092. Hon Secretary: John Noble, 24 Lincoln Towers, 133 Lincoln Street, Highgate, 6000. Tel: 328 4541. Meets third Wednesday of each month, in Functions Room of ANZAC Club, Perth, 7.30 p.m.

THE SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENT REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION WA, BRANCH
President: Lt Col Deane Hill, 14 Stanbury Way, Booragoon, Tel: 364 7752. Secretary: Mr Sam McDonald, 12/10 Fletcher Street, Yokine. Tel: 344 3363. Treasurer: Mr Ray Gould, 22 Finchley Crescent, Balga. Tel: 342 5128.

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44 — LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1982
In Flanders Fields

In Flanders Field the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Poppy Day

The wearing of our national memorial flower, the Flanders Poppy, came about almost internationally. Col. John McCrae, a Canadian doctor, was present at the second battle of Ypres and the gas attacks which were mounted, then, resulting in many casualties. Somehow his poem “In Flanders Fields” found its way to “Punch” and a French YMCA Secretary, MME. Guerin, saw an American woman, Miss Michael, wearing a poppy. From this meeting, combined with the impact of the poem, grew the idea of having poppies manufactured in France and using the profits from sales to assist the women and children of that war-devastated country. Major-Georg Howes, working with the disabled, approached Earl Haig, Brunel Cohen and others and the first British Legion poppy day was held in 1921. The idea spread until the Flanders Poppy was recognised for the memorial flower it is today.

The Flanders Poppy had already been adopted by national conventions of returned soldiers in England, Canada, Australia and the U.S.A. Countries chose November 11, Armistice Day, for the wearing of the poppy in remembrance.

There is no fixed price for a poppy and donations range from $20 to mainly 20 cents or thereabouts.

Mothers, wives, widows and relatives joined together with the male volunteers who have always turned up and came together to sell poppies to help those now in need who served their country in her hour of need. There are never enough helpers, and new-comers are always welcome. One of the busiest times of the year is poppy day and immediately prior to it. The boxes of flowers have to be “pinned”, they have to be sorted into bags for ease of handling, and the collection boxes have to be clearly labelled to show the object of the street collection. Collecting is not an easy job, especially when the box gets heavy and it’s a bleak day, and not everyone who stops or passes is very polite. Mind-reading comes into it long before a prospective “collectee” arrives at point B for box – eyes are steadily on the opposite side of the road, a window display is too, too interesting, a pipe needs attention, or a child tucking in – no sale!

But it’s wonderful to see a smile and a hand fumbling in purse or pocket, or a child holding out a coin, for then it’s a pleasure to pin on a poppy as a reward.

Besides the loyal groups, there are the collectors who have collected on the same spot, for the same long hours, for 30 to 40 years. They have their regular “customers” who wouldn’t buy a poppy from anyone else. They get to their stand early and often stay till about 4 o’clock – a long and usually a very cold day.

Others go down to the railway stations and bus stops, often at 6 am to catch the early workers, and that’s no fun either on a cold and wet morning.

Each collector has a funny or wry story to tell and all love the tinies whose eyes light up when they see the bright red flower.

We’ve all been buttonholed by someone with a grievance, or who wants a pension then and there, or whose uncle’s stepfather was a hero on Gallipoli, and we all listen patiently. If they want to talk to a perfect stranger, then let them have a little time to do so. Each year brings new faces to replace those who have gone before, remembered and missed for their generous gift of their time. So when you see a poppy seller, think of the thousands who have given services and of those whose money has helped our comrades for the past 50 years.

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THE HERO WHO CHOSE TO DIE

By Ross McMullin

It was fifty-one years ago last March, Australia's most famous and popular fighting general of the First World committed suicide.

In both his commands (he led the 7th Battalion on Gallipoli and the 15th Brigade on the Western Front), Harold "Pompey" Elliott was renowned for his reckless and inspirational courage, which was not unusual in the A.I.F. But such courage was unusual for a general on the Western Front. While others rarely emerged from their rearward headquarters, Pompey preferred to lead from the front, believing that his presence might be decisive in a critical situation. And it frequently was.

This fighting general was an ebullient, proud and exacting commander, but his men soon learned the truth beneath the intimidating exterior he had a fond regard for them; as the Official Historian, Dr C.E.W. Bean, recorded, there was "deep respect and affection for his nobility, his virile leadership and soldierly thoroughness".

He had a certain grandeur about him. He was a big man who appealed to the men he led, whether they were rugg- ed, hardboiled individuals or idealistic young Australians (like Archy Hamilton, for those readers who have seen the film "Gallipoli"). Part of this appeal was their gradual awareness that Pompey would vigorously protest against any ordered operation that he did not consider feasible.

Pompey was forthright, blunt and impulsive, and stories about him flourished; one admirer in the A.I.F. wrote during the war that "yarns about Pompey . . . are bandied from mouth to mouth. You tell one of them yourself, and immediately someone answers with a better!"

But the very qualities which endeared him to his men (and their relatives with whom he and his men corresponded) alienated him from his superiors, prevented his promotion to the divisional command he coveted, and caused him much personal anguish.

Born at West Charlton in 1878, young Harold showed early signs of distinction. Dux of Ballarat College, he interrupted a brilliant scholastic career at Melbourne University to enlist in the Boer War as a private. He returned a lieutenant with the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Now intensely interested in the theory and practice of warfare, he joined the Commonwealth Militia and by 1913 was a lieutenant-colonel in command of the 58th Infantry Battalion C.M.F. (Essendon Rifles).

He had also become a prominent Melbourne solicitor, and a devoted husband and father.

But the art of war fascinated him. He read voraciously about historic campaigns, ancient and modern, and became familiar with the strategies, tactics, masterstrokes and errors which had decided great battles. He later claimed that this reading was merely to make him a proficient exponent of warfare, but he also nursed a personal ambition to emulate the fame of the great commanders.

This expertise accounted for his eagerness and preparedness when war broke out in August 1914, and also for the nickname by which he became universally known as Pompey, a sobriquet inspired by the outstanding Roman general of that name.

Appointed to command the Seventh Battalion, Pompey sailed with his men to Egypt for the tough, tedious training prior to the Gallipoli landing.

He was a severe but purposeful disciplinarian. To Pompey discipline was not an end in itself, but a means of welding together a formidable fighting unit drilled to obey orders instinctively.

He decided to cut down on swearing and imposed a fine for each offending word. His men responded by adapting their language ("you lousy shilling", "two-bob it", and so on) and by bribing Egyptian newsboys to shout outside Pompey's tent "Egyptian Times — Very goote news — Death of Pompey the bastard!"

One parade found one of his men bareheaded. No excuse was acceptable, boomed Pompey, exhorting the unfortunate to use his initiative, and future mistakes would be harshly punished. Next parade Pompey found his own hat missing, and the only obtainable substitute was ludicrously and embarrassingly small. Some weeks later Pompey's neatly packaged hat was received in Australia by his wife through the post.

More serious business was ahead. He landed at Anzac with his battalion but a bullet in an ankle removed him from the firing line for over a month.

A few days after his return to the front the Turks penetrated an important, A.I.F.-held tunnel. It was low, narrow and pitch black, as Pompey recalled: "Every step you made . . . echoed . . . and at every turn you might expect a bayonet stuck in your ribs. Frankly I was afraid to go, but since I could on that very account not order anyone else to go, I went forward myself to investigate". Such action was typical of Pompey, who emerged unscathed from the ensuing skirmish.

After this, one of his men wrote home "I would follow my Colonel anywhere even to certain death. He is my ideal soldier, the best loved man in the battalion. God bless him". The mother of another recorded "My boy spoke of Colonel Elliott performing the bravest deed he had ever heard of . . . His men think the world of him!"

Pompey was prominent at Lone Pine, one of the biggest Gallipoli battles. The Turks shelled an inexperienced and unnerved Seventh Battalion company which he steadied by his presence alongside them under fire. He then directed the furious fighting to stave off the desperate Turkis counter-attack, during which no fewer than four of his men won the Victoria Cross, one after Pompey had told him "I don't expect to see you again, but we must not lose that post".

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The particular engagement recreated in the film "Gallipoli", the charge at the neck, was devastating because of the quantity (and especially the quality) of the casualties, who comprised several hundred, incurred in a pointless sacrifice. Let this serve, then, as a perspective for the appalling debacle of Fromelles, the A.I.F.'s first major engagement on the Western Front, where grossly negligent British staffwork was responsible for the loss of 5533 Australians in one night.

Before the A.I.F. crossed to France, Pompey had been promoted to command the newly-formed 15th Brigade. It was slaughtered at Fromelles. Pompey had grave misgivings beforehand about the operation—which he had expressed to the British General Staff. The man he spoke to agreed it would prove "a bloody holocaust". Nonetheless, the attack was ordered.

The Germans expected it and bombarded the men about to go forward. Casualties were severe, but Pompey buoyed their spirits as the shells rained down. His men fought bravely, but the cause was hopeless. Afterwards he grieved the shattered remnants of his brigade with tears streaming down his face. Very few of those who saw this spectacle ever forgot it.

When another ill-judged attack was proposed in appalling conditions later in 1916, Pompey insisted that it was "sheer madness" but was unheeded; the attack proved costly but the 15th Brigade, now reinforced after Fromelles, had been withdrawn and was not involved (because of his objections, so Pompey believed).

Early in 1917 the Germans retreated. Two specially-formed units were selected to advance and harass the withdrawal, and Pompey was appointed to command one of them. He relished this opportunity to implement traditional tactical strokes of open warfare, and was extremely successful. However, even here he felt frustrated by inhibiting (but perhaps prudent) limits imposed by superiors nervous of his impulsiveness, and on one occasion he was severely reprimanded for attempting to exceed these limits without informing his flanks or superiors.

In the great Allied offensives at Ypres, Pompey was outstanding at Polygon Wood. During this battle he was gassed, his brother-in-law and his exceptionally-gifted brother were both killed, and he had to contend with a breakdown of the British division on his right. Despite all this he was magnificent: Bean concluded that "the driving force of this stout-hearted leader . . . was in a large measure responsible for this victory". Afterwards he wrote a characteristic report harshly critical of both the British division and his superiors, who then ordered its removal from the official records.

When the awesome German attack in March, 1918, seemed to be deciding the whole war, the A.I.F. was then sent to plug the various gaps where the British were giving way. Stricken, desperate French peasants were abandoning their homes and property, but when they saw Australians marching to defend their sector they retreated, encouraged by Australian assurances of "fine retreat mate".

Pompey was in his element, but was dismayed to discover widespread looting by British soldiers and their officers. Pompey ordered that any officer he caught would be "summarily, and publicly hanged in the Market Square". The looting stopped. As he wryly observed, no one "seemed inclined to make of themselves a test case under the circumstances". Reports of unnecessary British withdrawals reached him at Villers-Brettonneux, the scene of his crowing achievement. Another characteristic order ensued, calling on his men to rally these troops, and if they showed "any hesitation" to shoot them.

Villers-Brettonneux was the key to Amiens and its defence had been entrusted to Australians. However, they were relieved by a British division in which Pompey had little faith and he deployed his men ready to counter-attack if, as he anticipated, the British were unable to ward off the German attack he expected. Sure enough, the Germans did attack and broke through. Pompey spent a most frustrating day with his men in position waiting for approval to strike. It eventually came, the plan adopted was essential his, and the night counter-attack was brilliantly successful. That was the end of the dangerous German thrust to Amiens.

Another remarkable Pompey story near the end of the war occurred at Peronne, where his brigade's progress across the Somme River was too tardy for his liking. So he left his headquarters, strode forward alone, under enemy observation and fire, to a reportedly impassable bridge, urged his men across, and then trod on a loose beam and plunged spectacularly into the water. He was uninjured although he had considerable difficulty in scrambling out. The entire divisional communications were blocked as signallers busied themselves circulating the message far and wide that "Pompey's fallen in the Somme".

By this time Pompey's brigade was, as Bean observed, "a magnificent instrument", and the fame and popularity of its formidable and recklessly brave commander was known back in Australia as well as throughout A.I.F.

Nevertheless, he was discontented — a deep grievance weighed heavily upon him. In 1918 there was a vacancy for divisional command to which he believed he was entitled, but he was overlooked. This supersession, as he subsequently described it, was certainly a harsh blow to his intense pride, and also to his personal longing to join the ranks of the great commanders. He protested vehemently, and no explanation would mollify him.

Regarded as difficult and impulsive, the reason why he was passed over despite his obvious attributes was his "lack of judgment". His hostility towards anything British was notorious. Although there certainly were instances which justified his attitude, his prejudice was indiscriminate and evidence of a wayward streak in his temperament.

Excitable and headstrong, he had not made life easy for his superiors. On appointment as brigadier he had immediately sought the removal of three of his allotted four battalion commanders — his assessment was vindicated in each instance — and he had continued to call a spade a spade ever since.

He returned to Australia as one of the conquering heroes. Acting Prime Minister Watt, a close friend, persuaded him to stand for the Senate. Venerated by his men and their relatives, a household name (anyone surmised Elliott was liable to be nicknamed Pompey), he topped the poll in Victoria.

However, just like Pompey the Great of Roman times, Australia's Pompey was unable to follow his remarkable military achievements with similar distinction in the sphere of politics. A staunch upholder of law and order and political conservative, Pompey was inevitably anti-Labor, or Nationalist as they then were. But he was not one for petty party politics, and he fearlessly aired his views and frequently disturbed the Nationalist leaders.
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What was tragic was his obsession with his wartime supersession, which seemed to intensify as the war receded. Intemperate tirades on the issue in the Senate were frequent, and his increasingly erratic utterances drew accolades from strange sources, including a bitter enemy of the nationalists, the pro-Irish Labor Attorney-General in Queensland, J.A. Finhely. Pompey wrote to several high-ranking A.I.F. generals including Sir John Monash asking why he had been superseded back in 1918 in order to have their replies recorded for posterity. Monash was not the only one genuinely concerned that the sense of grievance was so pronounced. In addition, Pompey commemorated anniversaries of Fromelles with incisive lectures relentlessly exposing the blunders which produced that disaster, and he drenched Bean with lengthy submissions designed to aid the Official History.

His stature within the community was not diminished by his tendency to fight the war all over again. He never left the pedestal upon which returned soldiers placed him, and he was unceasingly and undemonstrably generous to them. Premier Lawson was grateful for his leadership of the volunteer special constables during the 1923 Victoria Police Strike. He still found the time to pursue an active career as a solicitor, notably for the City of Melbourne Corporation, and, his stature within the profession was reflected in the senior positions he held in the Law Institute of Victoria. In 1927 he was at last given the divisional command that was so important to him, and became Major General Elliott of the Australian Military Forces.

The Great Depression added to his inner torment. Although a bitter critic of aspects of the Federal Capital Commission’s land policy, Pompey had nevertheless involved himself financially in Canberra’s development and advised others to do so. During this era of uncertainty and gloom, legal firms crashed, solicitors suicided and clients became anxious about investments. Pompey was disturbed about his financial and moral position if both his investments and others made on his advice failed; his fierce pride meant that shame and disgrace would be insufferable.

Sadly, his mind seems to have become unbalanced. His oppressive worries about his own financial position had no valid basis that Watt and others could ascertain, and in fact the Commonwealth in 1930 paid his controlling company 5000 pounds annual rent for office accommodation in Canberra. Certainly, as with so many returned soldiers, the effects of gas and wounds were taking their toll. And always preying on his mind was the supersession grievance — as Pompey himself wrote, “it has actually coloured all my post war life”.

At the news of his death in March 1931, there were abundant tributes to his gallantry and magnificent leadership, and multiple versions of various Pompey stories were circulated. There was an impressive funeral as befitted the man if honoured; hundreds of returned soldiers marched, with former Prime Minister S.M. Bruce among them as just another soldier, and awed and wondering schoolchildren lined the streets. A conspiracy of silence, with vague references to “nervous illness” and “haemorrhaging”, muzzled the cause of death.

Three weeks later the self-proclaimed returned soldiers’ newspaper, Smith’s Weekly, informed a shocked public that Pompey had bled to death after severing an artery with a razor; Smith’s highlighted it as a noble deed worthy of a great warrior, but badly misjudged its readership. Some returned men discussed punitive arson or window-smashing and an angry group gathered outside Smith’s building threatening violence, but cooler heads prevailed.

So Pompey Elliott, beloved and respected general, solicitor and Senator, ended his life. It is very sad that serenity was denied him. As an A.I.F. general observed, “he could have been a happier man and the war would have been won just the same”. Many battling ex-diggers were struggling for survival in the Depression with their best years far behind them; at the news of his death, and the manner of it, they must have felt a dark shadow extinguish a light in their own lives.

The inscription on his headstone reads: “A valiant soldier, a great citizen, an upright man. This was a man”. Indeed he was.

The writer of this article wishes to increase his knowledge of POMPEY ELLIOTT. Anyone who knew Pompey, or served under him, or knows information or anecdotes about him (or his family), is asked to write to Ross McMullin, 74 Rae Street, North Fitzroy; 3068. Confidentiality, if desired is guaranteed.

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Two Minutes

By Ivor S. Richards

Not saints, not heroes, they were men,
Seeking not glory’s flame,
Their job was there, they saw it through,
Yet, did they die in vain?

“A war to end all war” they said,
The scheming Fates looked on
And laughed, the screaming shells descried
Divinity in man.

Ours is their task to carry on,
To make this land we love
A better, cleaner, purer place,
Their dying faith to prove.

Lest we forget, with mem’ries false
In life’s new-born excitement,
The Exile’s grinding wheels stand still
In peace, a double moment?

The searing hurt of lonely hearts
Dims with the passing years,
A Nations debt, we dedicate
‘Two Minutes’, they are theirs.

(Ivor Richards was a resident of Southern Cross in the early 1930s. It was during this period that the above poem was written.)
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Brownes Dairy will bear some of the cost and their advertising Agency Paton Davies (Aust) Pty Ltd other the cost.

We are very grateful to them.
CORRECTION
WINTER LAST POST
MERRITT K. WX18893 2/4 Commando Gosnells
Due to a printing error this name appeared as MERFIT K.

APOLOGY
WF57117 WHEELES CES Albany — was inadvertently listed in the last post of the Listening Post. Winter addition.

LIST OF MEMBERS DECEASED
BLANKENSEE V. 7090. 2nd Tunneling Co., Subiaco.

BURVILL E.W. WX3627. HQ L CF C Como.
BUTLER E.E. 7215. 16th Battn, Albany.
CAIN J.W. WX730. 2/11 Bn, Coolgardie.
CORNISH C.H. 406014. RAAF Highgate.
DALTON P.C. WX5044. 2/32 Aust Inf Bn, Manning.
DUNSTAN E.A.R. 13096. 28th Bn, City of Perth.
EVENSEN S.B. WX5629. 2/7th Bn, Applecross.
FISHER R. WX6995. 2/13 FD AMB, Claremont.
FORREST J.R. 2089. 4th Army, Donnybrook.
FRANZ A. 5/2720. 22 Const Sqn, Denmark.

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KNOX W. WX21129. 2/5 ASD Wembley-Floreat.
LINTON D.B. WX390540. 6th Aust Infantry Batt., Busselton.
LITTLETON H.C. 14837. 2nd Div Sig Co, Boddington.
LYALL H. WX44733. 2/1 GD Regt., Mandurah.
MARSH E.A. N78463. 2nd Div Sig Coy, Yokine-Joondanna.
McLENNAN L.F. WX2170. 2/11th Bn, Mandurah.
McLERNON B.H. F4253. RAN Central.
McSWEENEY C. W16376. Aust Med Corp, Mt Lawley-Inglewood.
MERFIELD B.A. WX13875. 2/4Lt A/A Bty Albany.
MILLS J.T. F4013. RAN Gnowangerup-Borden.
MORLEY C.L. 46898. RAAF City of Perth.
NEWMAN C.E. WX18192. 2/28th Btn Millen.

PELHAM H.H. 1320. 4 TMB 4th FA Lake Grace.
PELL T.C.F. W8084. 61TH Div Sigs Claremont.
REEKS F.W. 296329. RAAF Nedlands.
SEE H.T. 4140. 11th Batn Cottesloe.
SHALDERS E.H. WX17459. 2/43 Bn Bunbury.
THOMAS W.A. WX6416. 2/6 Fd Pk Cottesloe.
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BUCKINGHAM PALACE

16th July, 1982.

Dear M. Turner,

I am commanded by The Queen to thank you and all delegates recently assembled at the 66th Annual State Congress of the Western Australian Branch of the Returned Services League of Australia, for your kind message of loyal greetings.

Her Majesty received this message with much pleasure and was touched by your kind good wishes for herself and her family.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

L. J. Turner, Esq., MBE.

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