Remembrance Day

"In Flanders fields the poppies grow . . ."

11th NOVEMBER, 1983

Front cover designed by Dorothy Hall
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State President's Notes

Continuously the news media covers events and issues of a local, national and international character.

Depending on the nature and timing of these events, minority pressure groups within the community take advantage of the situation and promulgate their cause in an attempt to obtain wider support, which would not possibly otherwise be forthcoming. Such promulgation can take many forms—public rallies, demonstrations, newspaper and television interviews, in fact, any way possible to stimulate public awareness.

The recent visit of units of the United States fleet to ports in WA was a typical example, on occasion not overlooked by a particular pressure group, and raises the question among our membership as to where the League stands on such matters as nuclear power including weapons and the visits to our ports of U.S. vessels.

Within the League's Constitution and, in particular, its aims and objectives is the power to pass in an appropriate way, resolutions which become the standing policy of the League, and which is binding on its membership until such time as by further resolutions the position is changed or perhaps reversed.

Three resolutions contained in the League's standing policy on the above subjects are of particular interest:

- Resolution No 100 submitted by the Western Australian Branch to the National Congress of 1971 reads: "That the Commonwealth Government be requested to consider the development of Australia's own nuclear power reactor."

- Resolution No 95 submitted by the Queensland Branch to the National Congress of 1976 reads: "That acquisition of nuclear weapons should be re-activated as an option for Australia's defence."

- Resolution No 97 submitted by the Western Australian Branch to the 1976 National Congress reads: "That the proposed use by American Naval Ships (whether they be nuclear or conventional) of the Cockburn Naval Base be supported, and that such ships have right of entry into all Australian ports."

A perusal of agenda items coming forward from the various states for discussion at the 1983 Annual National Congress in September, does not indicate that our membership through Sub-Branch or State Congress resolutions are prepared to seek a change to the above standing policy items.

TWO LISTENING POSTS

Are you receiving two Listening Posts at your home? Do you need two? If not, please return the wrapper of the journal you do not require.

This request is made owing to the high cost of postage and other incidentals necessary for the despatch of the journal.

LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983 — 1
Evergreen Murray Grey Stud
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T. HATCH
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2 — LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983
RSL WAR VETERANS’ HOME

The new hot-plating system for Howes Wing Residents officially commenced on June 27, 1983.

Chairman of the Board, Jim Hall, drove the first meals from the Main Kitchen down to the Frail Aged Section at midday, without mishap!

This system has ensured that the meals are not only hot, but are of a better quality.

Previously, when sent down in bulk, the food had to be reheated in the oven, or on top of the stove, which sometimes meant over-cooking, drying out, and/or burning. This meant wastage. However, the problem has since been rectified.

Several residents from the Darby and Joan Flats assisted in serving the midday meals prior to implementing the new system, which was greatly appreciated.

The response to the appeal for financial assistance has been nothing short of staggering. The total to date is approximately $8,500. To each of the below-listed groups, our sincere thanks, also appreciation not only from the Board, but also Residents of Howes Wing, and areas where the system will service in the future.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mount Hawthorn Sub-Branch</th>
<th>$25</th>
<th>Rockingham Sub-Branch</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nedlands Sub-Branch</td>
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<td>Returned Ex-Servicemen’s</td>
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<td>Sub-Branch</td>
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Jim Hall at the wheel.

Royal Australian Infantry Corps Museum

The Royal Australian Infantry Corps Museum located at the Infantry Centre, Lone Pine Barracks, Singleton, NSW, is in need for your assistance. The Museum is not seeking financial support, but any infantry-associated items which could be used in the Museum displays.

The Museum is judged the best in the Southern Hemisphere with vast displays of handguns, bayonets, rifle and machine-guns. There is also a display of memorabilia.

Displays, however, are never complete. Undoubtedly, there are many interesting infantry-associated items throughout Australia needing a permanent home and where better than in the Infantry Corps Museum. Any items would be graciously accepted.

To enhance the Museum, another display is being prepared which will depict the combat uniform worn by the infantryman in WWI, WWII, Korea, Malaya and Vietnam. The items necessary from the Vietnam era are readily available, but not so the clothing and webbing items for the other campaigns. It is hoped that some of our ex-infantrymen may still have these items and will be prepared to donate them to a permanent home for posterity as part of the infantry heritage.

The future of the Infantry Corps Museum does not only rest with infantrymen currently serving, but with everyone who has had and will have the honour to call himself an infantryman. Much support has been provided in the past in the donating of display items, but more is needed. Those old trunks and cases sitting in the shed may contain just the items for which we search. If you have items to donate please phone Major Warren Gunter (065) 788215 or write to: Supervising Officer, Royal Australian Infantry Corps Museum, Lone Pine Barracks, Milpo, Singleton, NSW, 2331.

Your donations will be acknowledged in the display. Please provide your support.

LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983 — 3
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**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act came into effect on December 1, 1982. Since that time, nearly 1100 FOI requests have been received by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. About 70% of these requests have been received in NSW alone.

All members of the Australian community can seek access to documents held by this or any other Government Department. The request:
- should be in writing;
- it should identify the document being sought;
- it should be sent to an address of the Department prescribed in the FOI Regulations (see below);
- it should contain a return address within Australia, and;
- it should specify that it is an FOI request being made pursuant to the Act.

A request form is available from the Department, but its use is not compulsory.

Veterans can request access to their personal files held by the Department and do not have to give any reason for their request. In the unlikely event that access to a particular document is refused by the Department, a veteran can appeal. How to appeal is set out in the letter advising that access has been denied. Only 2% of all requests so far received have been denied in full. Denials have occurred where the Department does not hold the document sought or believes that release of the document sought would infringe the personal privacy of another veteran. A veteran's privacy is strictly protected by the Department.

All FOI requests are liable for a charge. However, where an applicant seeks access to personal documents (e.g. personal/medical files) this type of material may be inspected for four hours and 100 pages of photocopies can be obtained free of any charge. Requests beyond these limits may attract a charge but again there is an avenue of appeal for applicants.

When a veteran wishes to make a request under the FOI Act the requests should be made to the Department's Branch Office which currently looks after the particular case. It is usually helpful to ring the Branch before making a request.

For further information contact Mr Russell McLaughlan, 11-13 William Street, Perth, W.A., G.P.O. Box F352, Perth, W.A., 6001. Tel: (09) 327 8422.

**THE STORY OF THE POPPY**

During a lull in the second battle of Ypres in 1916, Colonel John McCrae, a well-known Professor of Medicine at the Canadian University of McGill, wrote in pencil on a page torn from his despatch book, these verses:

_In Flanders' fields the poppies grow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing fly
Scarcely 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 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._

_In May, 1918, Colonel McCrae was brought as a stretcher case to one of the big hospitals on the coast of France. On the third evening he was wheeled to the balcony of his room to look over the sea towards the cliffs of Dover. The verses were obviously in his mind, for he said to the doctor who was in charge of his case: "Tell them, if ye break faith with us who die we shall not sleep."

_That same night Colonel McCrae died. Each Remembrance Day the British Legion lays a wreath on his grave — a tribute to a great man whose thoughts were always for others._

_The wearing of a poppy to keep the faith began when an American, Miss Moira Michael, read the poem "In Flanders Field" and was so greatly impressed that she decided always to wear a poppy to keep the faith._

_In England in 1919 the British Legion was formed to foster the interest of ex-servicemen and their dependants, and the late Field Marshal Earl Haig, the first Grand President, sought an emblem which would honour the dead and help the living. He adopted the Poppy as that emblem, and since then the red Poppy has been accepted as the Emblem of Remembrance. The day chosen for the wearing of these emblems was November 11, a Day of Remembrance to honour the dead of both World Wars, Korea, Malaya and Vietnam._

_Although the Red Poppy of Flanders is a symbol of modern times, legend has it that the poppy goes back even to the time of the famous Mongol leader, Genghiz Khan, as the flower associated with human sacrifice. In the 12th and early 13th Centuries, the Mongol Emperor led his warrior hordes on campaigns south to the conquest of India, and west to envelop Russia as far as the shores of the Black Sea._

_The modern story of the poppy is, of course, no legend. It is a page of history to which many thousands still with us can testify. In the years immediately following World War I, governments and indeed the whole of society had not accepted the full responsibility for those incapacitated and bereft as a result of war. Unemployment accentuated the problem. Earl Haig, the British Commander-in-Chief, LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983 — 5_
JURIEN BAY
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undertook the task of organising the British Legion as a means of coping with the problems of hundreds of thousands of the men who had served under him in battle.

In 1921, a group of widows of French ‘ex-servicemen’ called on Earl Haig at the British Legion Headquarters. They brought with them from France some poppies they had made and suggested that they might be sold as a means of raising money to aid the distress among those who were incapacitated as a result of war. These first poppies were sold in the streets of London on Armistice Day, 1921. The experiment was an immediate success as the poppy was a touching reminder of the battle fields of Flanders where the small red flower grew in profusion.

The then President of the R.S.L., Sir Gilbert Dyett, brought the idea out to Australia, and the first consignment of poppies made by the French War Widows were sold in Australia in 1921. And so the poppy was enshrined forever as the symbol of sacrifice, the reminder of courage beyond the call of duty.

Now, on Remembrance Day, the poppy is sold and worn in every corner of the earth where the British Flag flies. Where branches of the British Legion and ‘Ex-Servicemen’s organisations such as the R.S.L. are established, they will be sold and the money utilised through the local organisation itself. But also in British Embassies wherever they are established, on ships at sea which fly the British Flag, in the remotest outposts of the British Commonwealth of nations, the poppy will be worn. It is one of the few emblems that men in service uniform are permitted to wear on their uniform.

In Western Australia, the poppies are produced by those who have known the meaning of sacrifice. This year well over 100,000 will be sold. The proceeds from these sales will aid the bereaved and the incapacitated in a thousand different ways.

The growth of this Day of Remembrance is a matter of history and the funds raised annually by the sale of poppies has enabled the relief of distress among countless war veterans throughout the British Commonwealth of Nations. In W.A. the agency for distribution is the Aged Sailors’, Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Relief Fund; a statutory trust administered by the Airmen’s Relief Fund; a statutory trust administered by the R.S.L. Sale of poppies is controlled by an Act of Parliament gazetted in December, 1932, and the Act provided for the Fund (inaugurated by the League) to accumulate with interest until December, 1940, from which date distribution commenced.

The Trust consists of three members, one of whom is nominated by the R.S.L., and the Fund is applied, subject to regulations, for the benefit of aged and/or invalid ex-servicemen who are eligible for membership of the R.S.L. and widows of such ex-servicemen provided that the applicants are domiciled in W.A.

All poppy sales are controlled by R.S.L. sub-branches throughout the State and roughly 50% of the net proceeds are retained by sub-branches for their own amelioration funds.

Remembrance Day is always observed on November 11 and a wreath-laying ceremony is conducted at the State War Memorial at 11 a.m. Civic leaders and heads of the three services attend this, most impressive ceremony, together with representatives of Unit and Kindred Associations. A warm invitation is extended to the public.

A recent innovation in W.A. is the introduction of a Field of Remembrance at the War Veterans’ Home, Mt. Lawley, and is similar in procedure to the original ceremony held annually at Westminster Abbey in London.

During the ceremony, relatives and friends who wish to pay tribute to loved ones who did not return may place a small wooden cross bearing the name of the deceased in the Field of Remembrance which forms part of the rose garden at the Home and is situated immediately in front of the Fountain of Rémembrance.

**ATTENTION GUNNERS!**

All those who served, at any time whatsoever, within the 2/3rd Fl. Regt. R.A.A. are cordially invited to attend a National Re-union to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the founding of the regiment.

The National Re-union, to be held in Sydney, will commence with a Wreath Laying Ceremony and Welcome to Sydney Cocktail Party on Tuesday, April 24, 1984, and conclude with a Memorial Church Service followed by a Picnic on Sunday, April 29.

There will be opportunities galore for you to renew old friendships forged many years ago and to make new ones. Six days of events are planned, including Harbour Cruise, Cabaret Evening etc., etc. Widows of former Members of the Regiment will be made welcome.

CONTACT: Eric Lunn-Garner, Cliff-Iris Lodge, 9 Davies Crescent, Kalamunda, 6076, George Killey, 323 Old Coast Road, Australind, 6232, or Jack Quinn, Hon. Sec., 10/48 Chapel Street, Lakemba, 2195.

---

**ARE YOU MOVING?**

**PLEASE NOTIFY STATE SECRETARY**

**RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE**

**BOX C128, GPO PERTH 6001**

Reg No .................. (Sub Branch) ................................................
Surname ..............................................................
Christian Names ..................................................
Old Address ..........................................................
P/Code ..............................................................
New Address ..........................................................
P/Code ..............................................................

LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983 — 7
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Returned Ex-Service Women's Sub-Branch, RSL

The Returned Ex-Service Women's Sub-Branch continues with its activities to bring together ex-service women and to improve and widen the benefits and entitlements which are available.

A Fashion Parade by Dierdrie Horne and her ladies of "Dress Up" raised $160 for our funds, and Bring and Buys are held at every meeting. Another fundraising venture is also being organised by Terry Korbosky by the sale of teatowels, notecards, etc. Several donations have also been made by members and we are very grateful for the support we have received.

Our increase in membership entitled us to three representatives at Congress and we submitted two items: "That the Commonwealth Government be requested that all Repatriation Benefits (Medical and Hospital) as allowed to the Returned Sisters of the 1914-18 War be extended to include all Returned Ex-Service Women of the 1939-45 War," and "That the Commonwealth Government be requested that Returned Ex-Service Women, single, widowed or separated, be eligible for claims and benefits and services granted to war widows and defence widows." These were both carried.

We welcomed Mrs June Healy, who is Deputy National Secretary and a member of the Ex-Servicewomen's Sub-Branch in Canberra. Members also entertained Mrs L. Moyle, Secretary of the Ex-servicewomen's Sub-Branch in Melbourne. We thank Mr Ross, President of the Mandurah Sub-branch for his untiring efforts to obtain benefits for our paraplegic member and she is most appreciative of her improved conditions. "Light Diet" continues to keep members in touch with Sub-Branch activities, and we thank Terry Korbosky and Joan Hancock for the tremendous amount of work they do.

Cecile Hinton
President,
Returned Ex-Service Women's Sub-Branch

Mayoral Representation

The Mayor of Geraldton, Mr Phil Cooper, made an explanation at the annual Reunion Dinner of the local Sub-Branch of the RSL on June 25.

He was attending his first RSL function after the Sub-Branch had inquired why councillors were being delegated to represent the Mayor at such functions.

Mr Cooper said that as he was not an ex-serviceman, he had been represented at previous RSL functions, including the Anzac Day commemoration, by a councillor who was a prominent ex-serviceman.

In welcoming the Mayor, Mr Clem Burns, a Life Member of the RSL, said that 66 years ago on April 25, 1917, the then Mayor, Mr W.B. Fallowfield, gave an Anzac Day reception to the returned soldiers before they adjourned to form a Branch of what was called the Returned Soldiers' Association.

Nedlands Sub-Branch

Coming Events

POPPY DAY: Nedlands has for many years been proud to be among the top Sub-Branches for poppy sales. This has been mainly through the help of many of our older stalwarts and friends of the Sub-Branch. One member, aged 94, called to make sure that he was not left out this year after collecting $98 last year. If we can get helpers like this, how about more help from the younger members of the Sub-Branch. If you can help even for a short time with local sales or in Perth on November 11, please let Ted Reany, our Secretary know (tel: 386 4068), and he will give you details of when and where YOU can help.

PRESIDENT'S DINNER: This will be held on December 6 at the Hollywood Bowling Club. Arrangements are as for previous years. 7pm sherries etc. 7.30 Dinner. "Dress informal. Nominal charge for Members and Friends $5 each. Please contact your President, Wal Cloutman, 17 Wahoonga Way, Greenwood 6024. Tel: 448 4057 and make sure of a seat.

Returned Ex-Service Women's Sub-Branch

Special Poppy Day Luncheon

Friday 4th November, 1983

"A film tour through the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, with Mrs Ian Nowland — A Gallery, Guide"

All Members and friends are welcome

Miniatures may be worn

Cost $10

Tickets:
Mrs J Dowson
3 Bay View Terrace
MOSMAN-PARK W.A. 6012

Telephone: 384 6712

Note: This is an excellent opportunity for members and friends to become familiar with the painting, dioramas and relics of the Australian War Memorial.

PROGRAMME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 Noon</td>
<td>Fellowship</td>
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<td>12.30 — 1 PM</td>
<td>Buffet Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 PM — 1.50 PM</td>
<td>&quot;A tour through the Australian War Memorial&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.50 PM — 2 PM</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 PM — 2.30 PM</td>
<td>Further films</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983 — 9
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or Narembeen All Hours 64 7361

10 — LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983
The Central Law Courts are at the rear

Drinks below hotel prices
Meals and snacks available

Financial/League members are members of the club
Country members are especially welcome
Unit functions catered for

For further details contact Club Manager, Ted Steele
or telephone (09) 325 9079

Meet you at ANZAC Club

Listening Post — Spring, 1983 — 11
State Executive RSL Women’s Auxiliary

CONSTITUTIONAL
HIGHGATE/HIGHGATE
“That Rule 17 of Part (1) of the Rule Book be amended by replacing ‘20 years’ with ‘15 years.’”

CITY OF PERTH/CITY OF PERTH
“Secretaries to be supplied, on request, with list of other Branch Secretaries’ names and addresses so that correspondence reaches the Branches.”

REPARTIATION
BUSSELTON/RETURNED EX-SERVICEWOMEN
“That the Auxiliaries press the League to request the Department of Veterans’ Affairs to provide accommodation for short stay patients to give their wives or families a break from the strain and stress of continual nursing of their ex-servicemen.”

IMMIGRATION
BOULDER/MARBLE BAR
“That the Migrant intake be restricted while the Australian unemployment is so high.”

ANZAC COMMEMORATION CEREMONIAL AND MEMORIALS
HIGHGATE/HIGHGATE
“That the Auxiliaries support the League in approaching the State Government to have uniform legislation enacted throughout the Commonwealth designed to preserve and protect Memorials from vandalism.”

COTTESLOE/RETURNED EX-SERVICEWOMEN
“That the Auxiliaries support the League in its endeavour to have the present national Flag retained, and unchanged.”

MARBLE BAR/WYALKATCHEM
“That this Conference request the Education Department to include in their curriculums the holding of suitable services for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.”

NOLLAMARA-NORTH PERTH/SUBIACO
“That all schools be encouraged in an endeavour to implant in our children a greater sense of pride in their country and their Flag by a weekly Flag raising ceremony.”

GENERAL
COMO/YILGARN & DISTRICTS
“That chemists should put the directions clearly and understandably on all medicine bottles to help the Veterans and their dependants who are old and sick.”

VIETNAM VETERANS’/ALBANY
“That the League publicise the fact that all Veterans and their dependants may call upon the League for help, and advice.”

Amended with State Congress approval.

List of donations made by Auxiliaries to Bush Fire Appeal

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<th>AUXILIARY</th>
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<td>Bassendean-Guildford</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>Albany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yilgarn Districts</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Mount Barker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nollamara-North Perth</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>Perenjori</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cunderdin</td>
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<td>Ravensthorpe</td>
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<td>Cockburn</td>
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<td>Bruce Rock</td>
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<td>Subiaco</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>Three Springs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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</tbody>
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$1,695

The irony of a watchmakers’ tool

It was 1914, and a young chap at Port Hedland heard “the bugle call”. Before his departure, he went to the bank to deposit his watch repair kit in safe custody. The bank manager “hummed and hahhed” and advised that it might be better if it was placed in the safe keeping of the church — the reason being that the bank mightn’t be there, but the Church of England, definitely would.

So! The sky pilot, on being told the story, willingly offered to fulfil the task. From there the scene shifts to France, 1917.

After a heavier than usual shelling in which the dugout of a Major Hodson and signalman Clark (that’s our man) was knocked in, a signal arrived warning the O.C. Major Hodson to be ready to attack at dusk. Late in the afternoon mail arrived, including a letter for Signalman Clark. The letter was from the Parson at Port Hedland.

“Struth! Major, there’s been a fire at Port Hedland and my tools have gone up with it”, said Clark, “Hmmm! irony Clark, come on, over the top for us”, said the Major.

The said signalman Clark was 91 on January 29. A regular visitor to Anzac Club, he belonged to the 27th Battalion A.I.F. He was awarded a Certificate of Service from the R.S.L. 1928 by Colonel Collett and Sec Benson for service to the Pilbara Sub-branch.

W.A. Fleming,
Marble Bar Sub-Branch.

12 — LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983
COUNTRY SECRETARY DIES

The League has lost one of its hardest-working members with the passing of Len Martin, the Secretary of the Yilgarn Districts Sub-Branch.

A life member, Len had always been a stalwart person in pursuing the aims of the League and his loss will be greatly missed by all who knew him, especially the residents of the Yilgarn.

Always willing and ready to assist in any way he could, Len thought nothing of travelling 38 miles or so to Southern Cross for meetings of the Sub-Branch.

He was also President of the Yilgarn Pensioners League. (His war service was with the 2/2 AGH & 10th Aust Ambulance Train AIF).

Although his health had not been the best recently, Len always found time to visit Anzac House after treatment at Hollywood Hospital, The State President, the Listening Post Committee, League members and the staff at Headquarters extend deepest sympathy to his wife Grace and family.

M.C. (Mike) Hall

Girl of the Golden West Quest

It was the decision of the Girl of the Golden West Committee not to hold the competition this year. However, a meeting will be called towards the end of 1983, or early 1984, to see if we can get the support of voluntary workers for 1984. To run the quest as a successful operation, it would need the full support and commitment from Sub-Branches guaranteeing that they could and would supply candidates for 1984. Also, the quest should run from say August 1984 to April 1985, allowing the quest entrants the full use of our summer months to organise and raise funds.

APOLOGY

R88157, R. Smithson, M N. Albany, was listed in the Last Post, Winter Edition. It should read 47260. R. Smithson, (Senior), Albany.

DEADLINES FOR LISTENING POST CONTRIBUTIONS:

31 JANUARY for AUTUMN EDITION
30 APRIL for WINTER EDITION
31 JULY for SPRING EDITION
31 OCTOBER for SUMMER EDITION

2/6th Australian Infantry Battalion

A message to all former members of the Unit — Your Battalion history is in the process of being written, due for publication early in 1984. We invite you to share in the recording of the Battalion’s history in which you played a part. We are also accepting pre-payment orders at $30 per copy. For further information, contact: F. Gillen, 1 Parer Street, Burwood, Vic. 3125. Phone: (03) 288 7239, or R. (Jock) Scott, 3 Hardy Court, Bentleigh, Vic. 3204. Phone: (03) 557 5117.

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The Listening Post is the only official publication of the Western Australian branch of the RSL and is circulated to our 11,000 members throughout the State.

It has been brought to our notice that WA businesses have been approached to advertise in publications for the RSL and these have in fact been for the magazines of Eastern States Sub-branches who distribute only a handful to WA.

Westralian Publishers have sole advertising rights for the Listening Post and can be contacted on 364 9000. Please check when approached for an ad in an RSL magazine that it is for a Listening Post and ensure that your full support stays in our State and helps maintain the standard for our present excellent publication.

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President RSL
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The Australian Army Tankard is the latest in an impressive series of historical tankards that have captured the imagination of collectors everywhere.

The International Historical Foundation, through its parent organisation; The Library of Imperial History Pty Ltd, conceived the original idea of printing the history of events onto a pewter tankard, and investing this with a high relief insignia appropriate for the occasion to be commemorated.

Thus the Battle of Britain Tankard has the impressive eagle insignia of the RA F as its centrepiece, and the names of the famous aerodromes from which the "Few" scrambled to do battle; the Battle of Trafalgar Tankard has as its centrepiece a medallion taken from the original medal which was issued to every survivor of the battle and is inscribed with the name of every British ship that took part; the Churchill Tankard records the historical sequence of events that lead Sir Winston to No 10 Downing Street, and has as its high-relief centrepiece the sculpted head of Churchill used on the famous limited edition Churchill Crown in 1966; the RAAF Diamond Jubilee Tankard has inscribed the names of the 36 major aircraft flown during its 60 year history and has, as its centrepiece, the historic RAAF Crest, sculpted here for the first time as a high relief medallion.

The Australian Army Tankard is another in this proud line, celebrating some 82 years of outstanding service to our Nation. Founded in 1901 during the South African war (shortly after Federation), few fighting services have so quickly won world acclaim and renown.

This tankard is inscribed with the 20 theatres of war in which our Army has fought — from South Africa to Vietnam — and bears as its centrepiece the famous "Rising Sun" General Service Badge. Reproduced here for the first time as a sculpted medallion in high relief, it has been carefully prepared under the supervision and with the permission of the Army.

The Australian Army Tankard is made in Australia to the exacting standards laid down by the International Historic Foundation and each tankard is meticulously inspected to ensure that it conforms to this standard.

The ancient craft of pewtersmithing has been recreated in this country to an exceptionally high quality. This has enabled us to commission the production of the Australian Army Tankard in Australia, as it is most appropriate considering the service that it honours. The Tankard itself is outstanding, however, only by holding one and examining it first-hand, does this appreciation of quality become apparent.

Weight 18oz — more than twice the weight of tankards normally available in shops — each is an original in its own right. Classical in design, with a Georgian handle, glass bottom and silver-polished to a high gleam, these tankards bear all the features long associated with the very best of collectors’ tankards.

Designed to be the perfect commemorative for the occasion they celebrate the tankards are robust and practical — either as a display piece or as a superb drinking vessel. Given normal use and care they will not deteriorate in quality or value and, in years to come, are likely to be sought after as the definitive memento of the great events and people.

Each Tankard is inscribed on its base with its edition number and the touchmarks that certify it as genuine pewter. It is Nationally advertised at $95 for members of the public, however we are making it available to all serving and former serving members of the Australian Army at the reduced price of $85 inclusive of all charges.

On placing an order for the Australian Army Tankard, your name will be listed as a registered owner and your order will be processed within four to six weeks of our receiving it. Your order will qualify you to receive other Tankards in our Historical Series (should-you so wish) at a discounted rate, and details of this offer will be sent to you with your Australian Army Tankard by certified mail.

You can order your Australian Army Tankard by clipping out the coupon from an advertisement and sending it off, or by telephoning us. Our address is International Historical Foundation, 2 Collins St, Melbourne 3000. Telephone (03) 6541900. If you live outside the Melbourne area code of (03) you can dial (008) 331005 from anywhere in Australia for just the cost of your local call — the balance is charged to us.

High honour

Mrs Anne Leach became the fourth WA recipient of the high International Red Cross honour, the Florence Nightingale medal, at a presentation by the Red Cross patron, Lady Trowbridge.

Mrs Leach, a wartime Australian Army nurse and voluntary worker with the Red Cross for the past 30 years, said that the medal — first awarded to an Australian in 1920 — also honoured her co-workers over the years.

"An honour like this is not earned alone. I have always had wonderful people to help me," Mrs Leach said.

Mrs Leach, who retired as the Red Cross divisional commandant late last year, served with the 27th Australian General Hospital in Palestine, Syria and Egypt from 1941 to 1943.

After returning to Australia Mrs Leach (nee Metzke) married, and joined the staff of the 110th Australian General Hospital — she was in charge of the orthopaedic ward. She was discharged from the army with the rank of captain.

She was twice president of the Returned Sisters' sub-branch of the Returned Services League and the Red Cross Society has awarded her the Service Award, the Distinguished Service Award and its highest tribute, honorary life membership.
The Australian Army Tankard

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Each of these names evokes the memory of some of the finest feats of arms in modern history: Gallipoli - where the names Lone Pine, Quinn's Post, The Nek and Chunuk Bair have become synonymous with courage and mateship - and of a Nation which here, through the deeds of its fighting men, came magnificently of age.

France - where the names Passchendaele, Pozieres, Bullecourt and Villers-Bretonneux speak of mud, shells, gas and thousands of neat crôsset - cared for to this day by old comrades - but mostly their blood, of course and dedication.

On to a new conflict which came to threaten the very existence of Australia: of Tobruk and its famous "Rats": The Kokoda Trail where the myth of Japanese invincibility was shattered; Milne Bay, Buna and Bougainville, where the famous fighting reputation of the Australian Army, forged at Anzac Cove some 30 years before, was here reinforced and expanded - to the ultimate salvation of Australia.

Again in Korea where names such as Kapyong and The Hook enter the honour role of places where Australians have sacrificed their lives for their country: Vietnam of still fresh memory, where names such as Phuoc Tuy Province and Long Tan are branded into the collective memory of all those who honour valour and love freedom.

This is an enduring memorial - a magnificent inscribed traditional Tankard which will be prized not only by those who have served with the Australian Army, but by generations to come. A commemorative Tankard to own with pride, and to hand on with pride.

Each Tankard is hand-made to the exacting specifications laid down by the Army and International Historical Foundation. Silver polished to a high gleam, each weighs a substantial 18 oz (double the weight of ordinary gift-shop tankards) and with a traditional glass bottom, it is a practical drinking Tankard and a fine display piece.

Because of the high standard of workmanship involved with the production of each Tankard and the significance of this authorised edition, at just $85 each to members of the R.S.L. ($95 to the public) demand for this Tankard is bound to be considerable. Pewter is the fourth most valuable metal after platinum, gold and silver and as such is increasingly sought after.

Orders will be registered in strict sequence of arrival at International Historical Foundation*, 2 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000. As each Tankard is handmade to individual order, early application is strongly recommended. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

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WARTIME ATROCITY CLAIMED
268 LIVES

by Vic Jeffrey, Navy PRO (WA)

It is now 40 years since the Australian hospital ship Centaur was torpedoed off the Queensland coast in one of the most cold-blooded atrocities of World War II.

The Australian wartime Prime Minister John Curtin described the sinking, which cost the lives of 268 men and women, as a “deliberate wanton act violating all the principles of common decency.”

A motor passenger ship of 3,400 tonnes, the MV CENTAUR was owned by the Ocean Steamship Company Ltd and registered at Liverpool, England. It came into service in 1924 on the Western Australia — Singapore trade.

The MV Centaur was made available by the Ministry of War Transport for conversion to a hospital ship in January, 1943, for use in the New Guinea area and taken over on January 9.

Centaur was allotted the Geneva Convention identification number 47, which was painted on either bow during her conversion to a hospital ship.

For her new role Centaur was painted white with a 1.5 metre wide green band, the traditional colours of a non-combatant ship.

Huge red crosses were painted on both sides of her hull and funnel and another on the deck for aerial identification.

All the necessary formalities were completed with the Australian Government adhering rigourously to the Hague Convention, and on January 23 the Foreign Office in London was told that the Centaur would commission as a hospital ship on March 1, 1943.

This information was passed on to the enemy powers by the protecting power, Switzerland, with the Japanese Government being notified on February 5.

Centaur sailed from Melbourne on March 12 on her maiden voyage as a hospital ship, arriving at Port Moresby on April 13 and arriving back in Sydney on May 8 with hundreds of casualties from the Owen Stanley’s campaign.

She left Sydney on her second voyage on May 12 with a total of 332 people aboard, including 65 medical staff and the 2/12th Field Ambulance numbering 192 to pick up wounded from the Buna and Gona battles.

At 4.00 am on Friday, May 14, the Centaur, with blazing floodlights illuminating her white red-cross marked hull was ploughing through a swell some 64 kilometres east of Brisbane. The night was clear and all but the duty watch slept.

At 4.10 am there was a tremendous explosion and a blinding blue flash as a torpedo struck the ship well down in an oil fuel tank on the port side behind the No. 2 hatch. Immediately the bridge superstructure collapsed and the ship began to break in two.

This was followed seconds later by the funnel tottering before crashing into the decks on the buckled deck. Oil gushing from the shattered engine room ignited and the fire raced through the mortally-wounded ship.

The explosion had cut all power and the ship was in darkness apart from the light from the raging fires.

Below decks utter chaos reigned as startled dazed people clambered through darkness trying to reach the main deck.

Within three minutes, the Centaur was gone — she had made no signals and launched no boats, although two broke adrift from the ship when she sank.

When daylight dawned the sea was covered in floating oil which miraculously hadn’t ignited before the ship sank, bodies, survivors clinging to six liferafts and floating debris which was scattered over a large area. Gradually the rafts were brought together and lashed alongside each other.

Schools of sharks cruised around the rafts and were responsible for taking one man at least who had been clinging to a piece of timber.

Many of the survivors were violently ill from swallowing oil, but still joined the others in singing tunes such as “Waltzing Matilda” and “Roll Out The Barrels” to keep their spirits up. A “Bob-in” sweepstakes, to be paid later, was organised on how many hours would elapse before they were rescued.

The sole surviving nursing sister of the 12 aboard, Sister Savage, took over the rations — two gallons of water, 2000 malted-milk tablets, a small tin of chocolate tablets, prunes, raisins and meat extract. It was planned to last four days.

Friday night’s meal consisted of a lick of meat extract, a milk tablet, two prunes and a mouthful of water.

Meanwhile, tropical rain squalls lashed the drifting rafts. Several planes and a ship had been sighted on that first day, but visibility was poor and the survivors’ frantic signals were to no avail.

After darkness fell they heard motors and observed the ominous black shape of a submarine charging its batteries close by.

Calls from the submarine came clearly over the water — “Coo-e”, Obviously a decoy call from the Japanese submarine, it was called several times to no avail. This ruse had been used previously to trick Australians serving in New Guinea.

After 30 minutes during which time those on the rafts dare not move nor make a sound, the submarine finally dived, leaving the survivors alone in the intensely-cold night with light clothing.

By noon on Saturday two planes had flown over and not seen them — finally, at 2 pm, a plane and the US destroyer Mugford were sighted almost simultaneously and the survivors’ remaining smoke flares were used to try and attract their attention.

Spotted by the patrolling aircraft it dipped its nose then circled the survivors before radioing the destroyer for assistance.

LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983 — 17
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The USS Mugford searched the area in a pattern search for the Japanese submarine which had surfaced the previous night, before returning to pick up 64 survivors.

So moved by the plight of the survivors were the US sailors that a shipboard collection raised 239 pounds for the survivors' immediate needs besides donations of requisite clothing, cigarettes, soap, etc.

That afternoon the Naval Officer in Charge, Brisbane, Captain E.P. Thomas, received a signal from USS Mugford stating that she was 40 miles east of Cape Morton and was picking up survivors of the Australian hospital ship Centaur. More details later.

This was the first intimation of the torpedoing of the Centaur with the loss of 268 lives. Those lost were 45 of the ship's crew, including the Master Captain G.A. Murray, of Perth, and 223 medical personnel including 11 nurses, Colonel C. Manson, of Melbourne, who was the Military Commander on the ship, 18 other doctors and the Ship's Padres, Captain E. Laverick.

At intervals between April and June, 1943, five Japanese submarines operated off the east coast of Australia. They were I 26 of the 1st Submarine Squadron and four boats of the 3rd Submarine Squadron — I 177, I 180, I 174 or I 178.

Although Japanese records do not acknowledge responsibility, it appears either I 178 or I 180 would have been the culprit, with the former the probability.

I 178 was operating on the east coast longer than any of the other four boats, and the only one for which no victims were claimed in Japanese records. On August 25, 1943, she was sunk south-east of the Solomon Islands by the destroyer USS Paterson.

One ironic note on the loss of the Centaur was the fact she had made the headlines some five years before as the Blue Funnel passenger ship MV Centaur.

In November, 1938, her humdrum existence had been broken when in response to an SOS signal, she had dashed to the aid of a disabled Japanese whale-chaser Kyo Maru which was in danger of foundering in heavy seas off the West Australian coast.

Despite the conditions, the Centaur managed to get a line across to the stricken ship and towed her to the port of Geraldton, thus saving the lives of all on the Kyo Maru.

It was obvious by the Japanese whalechaser's condition that she wouldn't have lasted much longer in those conditions.

Not that the gesture was appreciated as it was a Japanese torpedo that claimed the Centaur less than five years later.
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DEFENCE SERVICE HOMES

The WA Office of the Defence Service Homes Corporation has provided the following information for the general benefit of Members who have a Defence Service Homes loan or who are contemplating the acquisition of a home with Defence Service Homes finance.

The information, which reflects the Corporation’s current policies and practices, is provided as a brief guide only and Members who have specific enquiries should contact the Corporation directly on the telephone numbers listed or, if the enquiry is on another issue relating to Corporation matters, by telephoning 327 8222. Future issues of “The Listening Post” will contain more questions and answers of interest to Members.

Q. I am a retired pensioner — Does this prevent me from obtaining a Defence Service Home Loan?
A. No — the amount of the loan (up to the current maximum of $25,000) is based on your financial capacity (i.e. income) to repay the amount borrowed.

It is therefore possible for a pensioner with an income of around $150 per week and no other financial commitments (i.e. hire purchase, etc) to obtain a loan of $25,000 over the maximum repayment term of 32 years. Further enquiries may be made to the Corporation by telephoning 327 8367.

Q. I served in the Australian Forces from 1951 to 1956 and am unsure whether I am eligible for a Defence Service Homes Loan.
A. Persons eligible to receive assistance under the Defence Service Homes Act include those who served in the Australian Forces and who were allotted for duty in connection with the warlike operations in Korea between June 27, 1950, and August 31, 1957, (inclusive) or Malaya between June 29, 1950, and August 31, 1957, (inclusive) and who left the last port of call in Australia or other part of the Queen’s dominions before September 1, 1957, to serve in connection with those operations.

In order for you to be eligible it would therefore be necessary for you to have served outside the boundaries of Australia in one of the areas mentioned. Further enquiries to the Corporation may be made by telephoning 327 8367.

Q. For what purpose might I be granted a Defence Service Homes Loan?
Q. Provided you are eligible to receive assistance, the Corporation can provide a loan to:
• buy a new or previously occupied dwelling, together with the land on which it is situated;
• build a house on land owned by you;
• complete a partially erected house owned by you;
• purchase land and erect a house thereon;
• enlarge a house owned by you;
• discharge an existing mortgage, charge or encumbrance on a property owned by yourself (except for persons who are entitled to a Special Rate of Pension payable under the first paragraph of the Second Schedule of the Repatriation Act, this type of assistance is at present limited to persons who have been given approval to acquire their homes with bridging finance from other sources and in cases involving special circumstances, e.g. where the terms and conditions of the mortgage are onerous and the repayments under the mortgage are creating serious financial hardship);
• acquire a hospital, sanatorium or nursing home, where the applicant is eligible for assistance on the basis of service in a nursing service.

Further enquiries to the Corporation may be made by telephoning 327 8367.

Q. I received a Defence Service Home Loan to buy my current home, but wish to move to another location. Can I transfer my existing loan or obtain another loan to assist me in the purchase of another home?
A. There is no provision under the Act to transfer loans and all such requests are treated as being requests for second loans. Under existing policy, approval may be given where an applicant is compelled for medical or other reasons beyond his control to move from his Defence Service home. Approval may be given in other circumstances where an applicant has completed more than one period of qualifying service in the Defence Forces.

Further enquiries to the Corporation may be made by telephoning 327 8391.

Concessions available to D.V.A. Pensioners

Various State, Commonwealth and local authorities have made available a wide range of concessions to certain service and disability pensioners.

As a general rule, the categories of pensioners affected by these concessions are T.P.I. pensioners, War Widows and Service Pensioners who hold a Pensioner Health Benefit Card.

Most D.V.A. pensioners would be aware of the medical benefits available to them, so in this article emphasis will be placed on some of the other concessions available.

CONCESSIONS RELATING TO TRANSPORT (PRIVATE AND PUBLIC)
Driving Licences: Pensioner Health Benefit Card holders are eligible for a reduced fee. Apply to Police Department (Tel: 325 0261).

LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983 — 21
BY COURTESY OF

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Motor Vehicle Licence: A concession of 100% or 50% of the fee (not including Third Party) is granted by the Police Department to T.P.I. pensioners and those receiving service pension at the maximum rate on the grounds of permanent unemployability. A means test is applied to determine whether a 100% or 50% concession is given. A letter of certification can be supplied by the Department of Veterans' Affairs on request.

Public Transport: MTT: Holders of Pensioner Health Benefit (PHB) Cards and Concession Fare Certificates (CFC) are entitled to reduced fares on all MTT services in the metropolitan area. Reduced fares are also available in Albany, Bunbury, Busselton, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie and Mandurah on regular private bus services.

T.P.I. pensioners are eligible for a free all-routes pass in the metropolitan area and should apply to the Community Welfare Department (Tel: 321 0244).

Disability pensioners receiving 100% or more are eligible for a free destination pass (valid for one route only) and should apply to Community Welfare.

Railway: Pensioner Health Benefit and Concession Fare Certificate holders are eligible for a reduced fare on regular Western services in country and metropolitan areas. They also receive a free single or return journey on the Gawler; and Mandurah lines and one free single or return journey on Sundays between capital cities.

World War I veterans and War Widows are eligible for concession fares on Australian National Railways.

Sea: PHB and CFC holders are eligible for half fare on ANL ships between Tasmania and the mainland.

Air: The Australian Pensioners League can sometimes assist in gaining concessions.

R.A.C.: T.P.I. pensioners are eligible for a concession and should apply through the T.P.I. Association.

Sales Tax: A sales tax exemption on motor vehicles and spare parts is available to T.P.I. pensioners.

Concessions from Local Authorities

Rates (Council): PHB card holders can apply to their local authority for a 50% subsidy on Shire Rates. An alternative is to have rates deferred, when they then become a charge against the estate.

T.P.I. pensioners and War Widows can apply to the Community Welfare Department for a certificate to allow them to claim a rates subsidy from the local council. This concession is means tested for War Widows, with the result that a War Widow who also receives an Age Pension would not be eligible for the concession.

Water: The subsidy and deferment schemes and the means test applying to Shire Rates also apply to water, sewerage and drainage rates (but not to excess water rates). Apply to Metropolitan Water Board.

Pet Licences: Dogs must be registered with local council. PHB card holders can register them at half the normal fee.

Other Concessions Available

State Energy Commission: PHB card holders and War Widows may apply to the SEC for a rebate on the supply charge.

A rebate on consumption charges has been extended by Community Welfare Department to family groups suffering hardship. PHB card holders, T.P.I. pensioners and War Widows may apply if they have dependent children. A means test is applied by Community Welfare.

Telephone Rental: T.P.I. pensioners, War Widows and PHB card holders may receive a concession of one third off the telephone rental charge. Application forms are available through Post Offices.

Sporting Events: PHB card holders can generally obtain concessions at horse racing, trotting, first class cricket, rugby league, tennis and certain sessions at some city cinemas. These concessions are provided by the organisers and have nothing to do with the State or Commonwealth Government. Non PHB card holders can obtain a letter of identification from this Department.

Domiciliary Nursing Care

Benefit: Available for those looking after chronically ill persons at home. This benefit is run by the Department of Health and applications may be made through your local doctor.

Fishing Licence: PHB card holders are exempt from the licence fee, but must still hold a licence. Apply to Fisheries and Wildlife Department, Adelaide Terrace.

Education: The Technical Education Division runs a wide range of courses in suburban and country centres. PHB card holders are exempt from fees. (Tel: 322 4434)

Land Tax: Land tax exemption is available in some circumstances to War Widows. Enquiries to State Taxation Department (Tel: 323 1444).

These are some of the more popular concessions available to Repatriation pensioners, but holders of PHB cards might be interested in a new brochure entitled "More Help for Pensioners in Western Australia", which has been published by the Department of Social Security.

This brochure, although it does not relate specifically to Repatriation pensioners, is a comprehensive guide to all concessions and assistance available to PHB card holders and is obtainable through local Social Security offices.

queries on specific concessions should normally be taken up with the authority concerned, but if you wish to contact Veterans' Affairs for information the number to ring is 327 8347.

Daytime Meet

The Rivervale-Carlisle Sub-Branch has started a daytime meeting for those members who through age or disability are unable to attend the normal night meetings. It was started in March with an attendance of 16, the eldest being a young 92. It is gratifying to see these chaps getting together and enjoying themselves. The meeting is held between 1pm and 4pm on the 3rd Tuesday of month. Although some of us pick up people without transport, we have invited wives to attend, to make it easier on some of the disabled members.

At our normal monthly night meeting we have started a knockout competition in pool, darts, and indoor bowls.

There is a reasonable turn up to the meetings, but we could do better. With the two meetings going it would be good to see some of the members who have apparently forgotten we exist, to attend.

L. W. Smith,
Hon Secretary.

LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983 — 23
Best wishes to all R.S.L. Members and their families from

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24 — LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983
WOMENS’ AUXILIARY REPORT

Into the second half of the year and we are already organising our Christmas Cheer parcels.

Since my last report, I attended the Kojonup Auxiliary Luncheon with Mrs Turner, and I was able to meet up with members of the Katanning, Mt Barker, Albany, Boyup Brook and Kojonup Auxiliaries. It was a lovely day, well attended, with many Sub-Branch members accompanying their wives — a real RSL gathering.

Bassendean-Guildford Auxiliary celebrated their 60 years of service on May 4. Members of Executive and other Auxiliaries helped make it a memorable occasion. I had great pleasure in presenting Life Membership to Mrs Gundry of the Boulder Auxiliary.

(Cockburn Auxiliary’s Fun and Friendship Day was a real fun day, with everybody enjoying the individual games. Even now I cannot work out how my team was awarded the Booby Prize.

Members of Executive and surrounding Auxiliaries were guests of the Mandurah Auxiliary when they held their Birthday Luncheon on June 21. The day started off adversely for my transport for my transport and me, but after a lot of reorganising we all eventually arrived safely. I sometimes think the horse was more reliable as transport. However, all ended up nicely and I was able to present Life Membership to Mrs McKinnie and a Certificate of Service to Mrs Brown.

Sully and I attended the Geraldton Sub-Branch and Auxiliary Dinner on June 25. Again, it was a most enjoyable evening, and I had much pleasure in giving Mrs Wick her Life Membership.

I attended the League Congress to give my report and to hear the confirmation of our Agenda items. Following a request from the League, Auxiliary members have been busy in Anzac House assembling poppies for Poppy Day. The response has been marvellous and I do thank everyone for giving their time.

I am looking forward very much to my visit to Victoria to attend the 50th State Conference of the Victorian RSL Women’s Auxiliaries. I am sure I will learn a lot about the Auxiliaries of that State. I shall be meeting some of the ladies who attended the National Congress with me, and it will be nice to catch up on all the news. I will give you a full report in the next issue.

The Armadale Sub-Branch and Auxiliary dinner in October, and the Millen and Belmont Auxiliary parties are functions I hope to attend and I am sure will be most enjoyable.

Bye for now, and best wishes to you all. Joy Ford

STATE CONFERENCE

RSL WOMEN’S AUXILIARIES

Conference this year was well attended, the best representation we have had for a while.

We held the Official Opening in the morning of the first day. Mr Turner, State President of the League, officially opened the Conference, and cheques were presented — Upkeep of State War Memorial, $870; War Veterans Home, $948.

Cup winners were announced as Country Cup, Geraldton, 51 pts; Geraldton Shield, Mt Barker, 38 pts; Katanning with 30 pts (taking the Spoon); Metropolitan Cup, Armadale with 37 pts; Ames Shield, City of Perth with 35 pts winning on a count-back from Bassendean-Guildford 35 pts (taking the Spoon).

Pennanits were awarded to Subiaco, Kambalda, NE Fremantle and Mandurah.

A book entitled “The Great Ride” by Mr Bostock was presented to the War Veterans Home Library by State Executive. Mr Turner presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Bassendean-Guildford Auxiliary for 60 years continuous service. A wreath-laying service was held at the State War Memorial prior to reassembling after lunch. Many lovely tributes were laid and the weather was kind to us with bright sunshine. The Agenda Items were well discussed and voted on, and all business pertaining to the Conference dealt with.

Our Guest Speaker, Mrs Nowlands, gave a very interesting talk on the National War Museum, showing many beautiful slides of the Museum.

Our Conference Luncheon was well attended, and a small Shield was presented to Mrs Stockin, Mrs Ames and Mrs Rowe, all past State Presidents, as a token of service. The ladies extended their thanks and best wishes to all. A very unusual Choir entertained those at the Luncheon — altogether it was a happy and fruitful Conference.

State Executive for 1983-84 is as follows:
State President — Mrs J. Ford.
Imprint President — Mrs A. Rowe, MBE
Vice Presidents — Mrs G. Rolfe, BEM; Mrs L. Preedy.
State Secretary — Mrs M. Sullivan.
State Treasurer — Mrs H. Holder.
Committee — Mesdames Angel (Bullsbrook), Bettridge (Bassendean-Guildford), Cayley (Wembley-Floreat), Chilcott (Cockburn), Evans (Vietnam Veterans), Hains (Wembley-Floreat), Johnson (Bassendean-Guildford), Jolley (Bassendean-Guildford), Minson (City of Perth), McPartland (Bassendean-Guildford), Simmons (Belmont), Taylor (Millen).

LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983 — 25
Best Wishes to all R.S.L. Members from the new Props.

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26 — LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983
Dear Sir,

Further to your conservation with Mr K. Murphy, our Sub Branch Vice President, we would like to have a Vale notice included in the next available LISTENING POST.

Mr Leonárd Charles MARTIN, Secretary for Southern Cross since 7th April 1974, first joined the RSL in about 1946 in the Collie area and has been a most active worker in both areas. Len was made a life member of the RSL in 1980 and had devoted much of his time to attending congress and running our branch as secretaries oft do.

We are left with a very large hole in our ranks and will deeply miss our old pal.

Len's army details were as follows:
WX 1449 Private L.C. MARTIN
10th AUST AMBULANCE TRAIN A.I.F.

We trust that this information will assist you.

Ron Hatch,
President, Yilgarn Sub Branch.

Lost friends . . .

During World War II, I served with a W.A. unit in the Islands Campaign, and as I will be visiting the Perth area soon I would like to hear from some of my mates or even meet them.

Ray Wallace (Slim) II Div Signals, formally Western Command Sigs, "D" Section, would like to hear from, and meet mates, during my stay in Perth, from September 23 to October 16. (Some names, J.G. Moore, C.L. Robin, John Gardiner).

H.R. Wallace,
9 Kolang Street, Blacksmiths,
NSW, 2281.

Anzac Day Monbulk, Victoria

I elected to attend the Anzac Day Parade in Monbulk, Victoria, and was agreeably surprised with the quiet and reverent dignity that the township observed towards Anzac Day:

Firstly, the parade through the main street was headed by the full complement of the Lilydale Pipe Band, followed by Returned Men and Women, Ladies Auxiliary, Servicemen, Scouts and Girl Guides. Upon arrival at the R.S.L. Hall, the parade formed in front of the Hall and was addressed by the President, and a service was conducted by the local Minister.

After wreaths were laid and the Last Post played I observed a small area dedicated to the fallen of all wars 1914 onwards. This bordered area is covered with small crosses each inscribed with the name of the fallen veteran and in front of every cross a small floral emblem had been placed. This was to me one of the most memorable signs of remembrance it has been my fortune to observe. On the entrance wall to the Hall, letters in flowers standing 3 foot high spelt out the word A.N.Z.A.C. This beautiful floral tribute, made each year by members of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Monbulk R.S.L. has become a tradition of the Sub-Branch.

The attitude of all present, including the children, made it very obvious that the spirit of Anzac and the remembrance of Anzac Day will always be observed.

F.G. Neal,
Mt. Hawthorn.

On the record

The Commonwealth Government has appointed me Official Historian of Australian involvement in the Malayan Emergency and the Vietnam War.

I have been granted complete access to official records, but like previous Australian official war historians starting with C.E.W. Bean, I am anxious to show what the war was like not only for the commanders and senior officials, but for the servicemen of every-rank.

If servicemen involved in Malaya or Vietnam have any personal records, such as diaries, letters, tapes or photographs, created at the time, I would be very grateful if I could see them. Any such material would be handled in strict confidence and returned promptly. Any restrictions on the use of the records would be meticulously observed. I would be happy to correct with anyone who is uncertain whether they have would be useful, or who would like further assurances on how the material would be used.

Such material or correspondence should be marked "Personal" and sent to me — Dr Peter Edwards, Official Historian, Australian War Memorial, P.O. Box 345, Canberra City, ACT 2601.

An insult

Having just read through my copy of the 'Winter 1983' issue of the "Listening Post" I wish to refer to the article on page 15 about this year's Anzac Service.

In enumerating the different bodies and others who took part in the march through the city, the writer included "48 hospital cars". This, no doubt, refers to the cars provided to take veterans unable to march to the service, and to say that they were in the march is incorrect as they were taken by other routes to Mounts Bay Road, and waited there until the whole procession had entered the Esplanade.

The progress through the city streets is a very important part of the day's proceedings, and I, and many others who were denied that privilege, regard it as an insult, particularly to the original Anzacs, and hope that the statement will be corrected in the next issue, together with an explanation as to why the cars were excluded.

S.M. Williams,
No. 733, 11th Battalion.
A special item to be arriving very soon.

Please look out for it.

Members who missed this important message the first time now have a new opportunity. The remarkable response to this programme is one reason we were requested to offer it once again.
Mr. Len Turner calls it "one of the more innovative programmes of its kind."
Look for the special invitation shown above. The invitation has a time limit so please don't delay. Another chance like this won't be available for some time.
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Belmont Sub-Branch and Ex-Services Club

With the alteration to the rules for membership of the R.S.L. allowing for a wider range of eligibility, membership of the Belmont Sub-Branch has shown a steady increase and has now reached an all-time high of 251 members.

Of these, approximately 30 joined during this current financial year, and a number of old members who had allowed their membership to lapse have rejoined. There are also nine lady members of the Sub-Branch.

The Ex-Services Club has 130 members, including ladies. Members are well catered for socially, with monthly meetings, cabarets, games nights and periodical social outings and picnics in season.

The club is gaining in popularity all the time, and it is anticipated that membership will further increase when extensions to the premises are completed by the end of the year.

Plans have been drawn up and a loan approved for extensions and improvements to the value of $50,000. Work is expected to commence very soon and should be completed by Christmas. This will modernize the facilities of the club and enable provision of further amenities, including permanent positioning of carpet bowls and installation of eight-ball and snooker tables.

The club’s Fund-Raising Committee is busy working to raise money to adequately furnish the new building.

The Publicity Committee is anxious to compile a history of the Branch for publication in the branch magazine, “The Belmont Bugle”, but efforts in this direction have been hampered by a lack of information about the early years of its existence.

The Branch was officially formed on April 15, 1929, but the only old minute books at present available date from January, 1959. If any reader has any information concerning those “missing” 30 years, it would be greatly appreciated if this could be passed on to Ann Keynes (277 3518), Mitch Cadden (277 3681), Ken Wrightson (277 2503) or Pat O’Connor (361 3694), the editor of the “Bugle”.

At the June general meeting, the Branch was honoured by the presence of Mrs June Healy (Deputy National Secretary of the League) from Canberra, who was visiting Perth for the Annual State Congress; also Mrs Joan Dowson, a member of the State Executive.

At the conclusion of business, the members and the Ladies Auxiliary were entertained by a most interesting address from Mrs Healy on the work of the national headquarters of the League. Mrs Healy expressed amazement at the large attendance of 106 at the meeting.

Included in this number were 16 visitors from the Bassendean Branch. The Belmont Branch reciprocated this gesture on August 3, when a number of members attended the Bassendean Sub-Branch meeting.

During the weekend of October 22 and 23 the Branch will be entertaining members of the Busselton Sub-Branch and their wives. This is in return for a most enjoyable weekend spent as guests of the Busselton Sub-Branch last year.

This Sub-Branch is very fortunate to have an active and enthusiastic Women’s Auxiliary. With 52 members willingly giving their time and effort in the interests of the Sub-Branch and Club. Their contribution is invaluable and greatly appreciated by all members.

Congratulations to Mitch Cadden on being elected to the Committee of the State Executive. Mitch is also the liaison officer for this Sub-Branch and Bassendean-Guildford Sub-Branch, so members of these Sub-Branches can anticipate being kept well informed of happenings and decisions made at headquarters.

Pat O’Connor

Kirribilli R.S.L.
Ex-Service Club

The WA survivors of H.M.A.S. Sydney and any ex-prisoners of war who were on the infamous Burma Railroad will be interested to hear that Val Savage (Tiny) is still active n R.S.L. Ex-Servicemen’s Club and Prisoners of War Association. Val was reported killed in action in the sinking of the Perth.

Mentioned in Dispatch for his action during the battle, he was awarded posthumously the Military Medal, but as the Irish say, turned up missing as a prisoner of war.

Although suffering from war disabilities, Val is one of the dedicated workers for all servicemen, being President or Senior Vice-President of Kirribilli R.S.L. Ex-Servicemen’s Club, the Ex-Prisoners of War Association and Survivors of the H.M.A.S. Perth Association. On all these activities he is ably assisted by his wife, Ruby (Nee Condick), of Swan Villa.

While working on the Burma Railroad and especially on the Bridge over the River Kwai the prisoners were often assisted, although their resources were limited, by the native villagers. Consequently, upon hearing that the native village was to be submerged by the damming of the River Kwai, the ex-prisoners of war, with donations and fund-raising activities, raised a considerable sum towards the establishment of a new village, for which they received an invitation to the opening ceremony which was to take place on Anzac Day 1983. Quite a few accepted and departed May 18 with their wives.

On the Sunday prior to leaving Sydney, a Commemoration Service for Anzac Day was held in the Kirribilli Club, Lavender Bay, which I was able to attend. This was quite an impressive ceremony; the march being led by the Hornsby Pipe Band and the service conducted in the Club by Father Quinn. Speeches by the President of the Club, the Mayor of North Sydney, followed by Major General Butler and the Officer in charge of A.W.A.S. Numerous wreaths were laid by all sections of the services, Cadets, Girl Guides and Boy Scouts. A very sincere service in which I was proud to participate.

F.G. Neal
Mt. Hawthorn.

LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983 — 31
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LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983
The mens triples was played at Hollywood, East Fremantle and Yokine Bowling Clubs on May 21st.
Winners          T. McIntyre, A. Collahan and A. Clows
R/U              D. Lyle, W. Strickland, R. Boyd

The mixed fours was held at the Osborne Park Bowling Club on 28/29 May five games were played and the outright winners with 5 games won were:


16th National R.S.L. Bowls Carnival, Sydney 26/12/83 - 6/1/84.
Nominations for the National fours close on 31st September and should be forwarded through the W.A. "Section". If you have not got the form, please write to Doug Sweetman, Sec. W.A. R.S.L Bowls Section, 23 Kintyre Crescent, Floreat, 6014.

Accommodation has been booked at the Auburn Travelodge. Additional accommodation may be required, in order that an indication of the number of members requiring accommodation can be assessed you are asked to notify Doug Sweetman by the 31st September.

Doug Sweetman is busy updating the “Section” records and he requires the following information:


The half yearly General Meeting will be held at the Kitson Park Bowling Club on Tuesday 13th December 1983. After the meeting a get together of members attending the 16th National Carnival, and presentation of pocket emblems, badges and Hat bands.

**NOMINATION FORM**

**W.A. R.S.L. BOWLS SECTION**

I apply for membership to the W.A. R.S.L. Bowls Section
I am a financial member of the........................................
Sub Branch R.S.L.
I am a financial member of the.........................Bowling Club
I agree to abide by and conform to the rules and constitution adopted by the section,

Surname..............................Given Names..............................
Address........................................Postcode........................................
Position usually played........................Fee $3 enclosed
Please forward to:
D. Sweetman, 23 Kintyre Crescent, Floreat Park, 6014.
Tel. 387 4158 Date..............................

---

**COMING EVENTS**

**Tuesday**

RSL Welter Race, Ascot Racecourse.
Enquiries: Tel: 325 9799

---

**Friday**

Poppy Day Luncheon, Anzac House.
Enquiries: Tel: 384 6712.
Mrs. J. Dowson

---

**Sunday**

Gunner's Day, St. Mathews Church, Guildford.
Enquiries: Tel: 349 1374

---

**Monday**

Darwin A/A Gunners Christmas Luncheon, Anzac Club.
Enquiries: Tel: 276 7253

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**LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983 — 33**
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Telex: AA92673
It is with regret that I announce the passing away of Jim Giblett, the War Compensation Officer at Anzac House in Perth. For many years he gave sterling service with his expertise and knowledge of the Repatriation Act. He was able to gain much for the veterans he advocated for at tribunals.

Jim was ill for a short time before his death, which came as a great shock to all who were close to him, both at home and at his place of work. I had the pleasure of speaking with him on many occasions. A lot of people have an idiosyncracy and I suppose Jim’s was that at intervals during the day when he was in his office one would hear a gentle tip-tap — that was him cleaning the ash out of his pipe by tapping it on an ashtray.

His war service was with the 2/48 Infantry Battalion and after his discharge he spent some time in Borneo as a missionary.

His family, the League and all veterans have suffered a great loss by his passing and sincere sympathy is extended to members of his family.

M.C. (Mike) Hall

LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983 — 35
ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICEMEN

460 SQUADRON RAFF ASSOCIATION (W.A.)

16TH BATTALION AND 4TH BRIGADE ASSOCIATION
Committee meets first Monday at 2.30 pm, elm, ANZAC Club, Perth. President: C. Sladden, 59A Henry Street, East Cannington. Tel: 456 5573. Secretary: H. Ganson, 11 Fothergill Street, Fremantle. Tel: 335 2458. Women’s Auxiliary meets same time same place.

2/18TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION

44TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION
Committee meets when called. Annual Reunion on advice. President: R. Collins, 134 Rosebery Street, Bedford Tel: 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 Tuesday each month, 2.30 pm, ANZAC Club, Perth.

2/4TH MG BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION
President: R.R. Tomkins, 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 monthly, 12 noon, on the fourth Wednesday. For further information contact either J.P. Hall, President, 173 The Esplanade, Mt Pleasant. Tel: 364 7776, J. Tood, 4 Shearer Street, Myaree. Tel: 330 3936, or Mr F.C. Pennell, 21 Siddons Way, Booragoon. Tel: 364 1097.

11TH & 2/11TH AIF BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION
President T.W. Scott, 250 Corinthian Road, Riverton. Tel: 457 4902. Secretary: C. Wragg, 18 Hubert Road, Maylands, 6051. Tel: 271 3423. Committee meets third Tuesday each month, 2.15 pm ANZAC Club, 28 St Georges Terrace, Perth.

MIDDLE EAST VAD ASSOCIATION WA
President: Mrs A J Masterton, 5/11 Wingfield Avenue, Crawley. Tel: 386 6205. Secretary: Mrs J. Munt, 9/12 Mount Street, Claremont. Tel: 384 0240. Meetings as called. Annual Reunion nearest Saturday to November 23.

RAE EX-SERVICEMEN’S ASSOCIATION WA
Meets second Sunday, March, June and September, WACA Ground. Secretary: T.R. Beard, Tel: 450 3951.

10TH LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION AIF
Meets socially first and third Friday each month, ANZAC Club, 12.00 pm. AGM: Last Friday in August. President: S. Treasure, 53 Hotham Street, Bayswater. Tel: 271 4074. Secretary and Treasurer: R. Byrne, 2 Birdwood Road, Melville. Tel: 330 2595.

48TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION
President: D. Maclean, Unit 2, 50 Endeavour Avenue, Bullcreek, 6155. Secretary: T.H. Easom, 5 Lanark Street, Mt Lawley, 271 2929. Meetings and Luncheon held at the Carlton Hotel, 248 Hay Street East at 11.30 am on the third Monday of each month.

2/28TH BATTALION — 24TH ANTI-TANK COY
President: J.B. Vanpragg, 49 Ardross Street, Applecross, 6153. Tel: 364 3776. Secretary: A.S. Thompson, 60 Kingston Road, Applecross, 6153. Tel: 364 2332. Annual Reunion: Last Friday each September.

SUBMARINE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: A. Hole, 79 Hale Road, Wembley Downs 6019. Tel: 341 2648. Secretary: M.E. Pearson, 361 Railway Avenue, Armadale 6112. Tel: 339 5640. Meets in ANZAC House, third Thursday of each month, 8 pm (December excepted).

POLISH EX-SERVICEMEN’S ASSOCIATION SUB-BRANCH NO. 9

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (INC)
President: T.F. Bushe-Jones, 63 Gravity Street, Beckenham. Tel: 451 0327. Secretary: D.F. Hall, 18 Halse Crescent, Melville. Meets second Wednesday each month, TS “Canning”, Corner Braybraise Road — Arm- strong Road, Wilson, 6107.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA SECTION) INC. STATE COUNCIL

WRAAC ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: Mrs E. Stewart, 15 Ewing Street, Bentley 6102. Tel: 451 3085. Secretary: Mrs J. Bryden, 54 Westview Street, Scarborough 6019. Tel: 341 2460.

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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 1342. All correspondence to PO Box 153, Applecross, 6153.

"Z" SPECIAL FORCE ASSOCIATION OF WA
Meetings as arranged by Committee. Liaison Officer/Secretary: Lt. Col. E.W. Dubberlin, ED, RL, 17 Hotham Street, Meltham, WA, 6053. Tel: 271 1406.

LIMBLESS SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION
("Wingies and Stumpies"). President: E.P. Odgers. 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. Armold, 6 Currajong Road, Duncraig, 6023. Tel: 448 2757 (Home), 386 8766 (Work). Secretary: Major G. T. Mellor, 177 Westview Street, Scarborough, 6019.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: Major K.M. Weir, (Ret), 277 St Brigid's Terrace, Doubleview. Tel: 446 1142. Secretary: Mr O.C. Evans, 188 Lewis Road, Forrestfield, 6058. Tel: 453 6203. Treasurer: Mrs J. Hanley, 16 Miller Avenue, Redcliffe, 6104. Tel: 277 3007.

KOREA & SOUTH EAST ASIA FORCES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
Meet second Monday in June, September and December at Anzac House, St George's Terrace, Perth. Members will be notified by mail of March AGM. President: Mr Noel Conigrave, Tel: 450 6517. State Secretary: Mr M. Cadden, Tel: 277 3681, 53 Wicca Street, Kewdale, 6105.

TOTTALLY & PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION
TPI Memorial House, 88 Colin Street, West Perth, 6005. Tel: 321 5457. President: P.G. Maley. Tel: 349 4530. Annual General Meeting, second Tuesday in December, 1.00 pm, TPI House.

REGULAR DEFENCE FORCES WELFARE ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
For enquiries contact either the President or Secretary. President: Lt Col: R.K. Hill, MC, RL, 1893 Hamilton Street, Queens Park Tel: 458 9203. Secretary: Lt. E.C. Lunn-Garner, Room 9, Davies Crescent, Kalamunda. Tel: 293 1409.

RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (WA DIVISION) INC
Five branches and seven groups meet monthly at Air Force Memorial Estate, Bullcreek Drive, Bullcreek. Air Force Association Club open to members daily. State President: Mr L. Gordon. Further information obtainable from State Secretary: Mr A.V. Elliott. Tel: 332 7205.

ASSOCIATION OF WRENS WA BRANCH
Meets fourth Thursday of each month, 7.00 pm, ANZAC House, 28 St George's Terrace, Perth. President: Mrs Jean Washford, 4/99 Seventh Road, Armadale. Tel: 339 6230. Hon. Secretary: Mrs D. V. Rawe, 14 Joel Street, Hilton Park. Tel: 331 1427.

WRANS SUB-SECTION NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
Meets third Tuesday of each month, ANZAC House, 28 St Georges Terrace, Perth. President: Mrs P.D. Ingham, 13/55 Second Avenue, Mt Lawley 6050. Tel: 271 1826. Secretary: Mrs J. Ballantyne, 15a Ellesmere Road, Mt Lawley 6050. Tel: 271 1911.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY COVETTES ASSOCIATION (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.

SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION
President: Lt Col Deane Hill, 14 Stanbury Way, Booragoon. Tel: 364 7752. Secretary: Mr J. Baldwin, 20 Beagle Street, Mosman Park. Tel: 384 1875. Treasurer: Mr Ray Gould, 22 Finchley Crescent, Balga. Tel: 342 5128.

NEW ZEALAND FORCES ASSOCIATION
President: Mr Bruce Crowley. Hon Secretary: Mr Ronald Cridge. Tel: 341 7510. Enquiries welcome.

1940 DUNKIRK VETERANS ASSOCIATION WA 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: G. Cooper, 54c Meakers Way, Girrawheen, 6064.

PARTIALLY-BLIND SOLDIERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA "WA BRANCH INC.
General meeting held at Anzac House, 28 St George's Terrace, Perth at 2.00 pm, first Tuesday each month, except January. Secretary: D. J. Symes, 15 Siddley Place, Dianella. Tel: 276 9950.

2/32ND BATTALION ASSOCIATION (WA)
Secretary: A. Lawford, 119 Grand Promenade, Doubleview, 6018. Tel: 446 3362. Treasurer: Col Edmiston, 54 St Andrews Way, Duncraig, 6023. Tel: 447 7984.

LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983 — 37
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FEDERATED TB SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN’S ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
Second Floor, Wellington Buildings, 158 William Street, Perth, last Monday. President: Ian Fraser, Tel: 271 4703. Secretary: R. Ross, Tel: 341 5641.

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, Tel: 322 1344. Secretary: B. Hobbs, Tel: 279 7387. Treasurer: S. Barnes, Tel: 446 3306.

51ST BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION
President: H. Bowra, 7 Highland Road, North Perth. Tel: 444 2585. Secretary: G. K. Baron-Hay, 24 Stanley Street, Nedlands. Tel: 366 1554. Committee meetings held quarterly, first Monday in March, June, September and December at 2 p.m. ANZAC Club, 28 St George’s Terrace, Perth.

BRITISH EX SERVICES ASSOCIATION (INC)
President: J.G. Buxton, BEM. Tel: 446 4320. Honorary General Secretary: Mary Woolacott, Tranby House, Maylands 6051. Tel: 272 2630. All correspondence to PO Box 66, Maylands 6051. Office, The Old Peninsula, 219 Railway Parade, Maylands. Tel: 272 5006. If no answer ring 272 2630. General Council meets fourth Tuesday each month at ANZAC House, Perth.

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION (BRANCH 1210 WA)
President: F. Taylor, 11 Anzac Street, Bayswater. Tel: 271 1192. Secretary: Mrs A. Oldham, unit 6/4 Pearson Place, Floreat Park. Tel: 387 6241. Meets fortnightly. In regard to meetings, telephone Mr T. Taylor as above or Mr Maitland (Chairman) on 448 1994.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

GUARDS ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC)
President: Mr John Hunt, GG. Tel: 383 1340, (after 7.30 pm). Secretary: Mr Harold Scrivens, LG. Tel: 274 4696, 8 Harford Avenue, Viveash, 6056.

‘Z’ SPECIAL FORCE
Z Special Force Australia Inc. Chairman: Jack Sue, Tel: 321 4979, 321 4771.

AUSTRALIAN LEGION OF EX-SERVICEMEN & WOMEN (INC) WA BRANCH
State President: Mr T. Bastow, OAM, CD, 120 Lawrence Street, Bedford. Tel: 271 8509. Honorary State Secretary: Miss R. Shepherd, CD, 30b Edeline Street, Spearwood 6163. Tel: 418 1587. Details of sub-branch meetings, please phone 418 1587.

NETHERLANDS EX-SERVICEMEN’S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
President: Mr H. Westhoff, 56 Weston Drive, Swanview. Tel: 294 1575. Secretary: H.R. De Jongh, 36 Sanderson Street, Embleton, Tel: 271 9817. Meets fourth Wednesday each month. Association Headquarters, 8pm, 8 Hehir Street, Belmont. All correspondence to: The Secretary, NESAA, PO-Box 219, Morley 6062.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
Meets third Monday at ANZAC House at 8 pm. President: Peter Kemmis, 697 Hay Street, Wembley, 6014. Tel: 381 3348. Secretary: John Quing, 23 Douglas Avenue, Mt Yokine, 6060. Tel: 349 1374.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM VIETNAM (WA) AATTV (WA)
President: P. White, 7 Netley Street, Morley, 6062, Tel: 276 9360. Secretary: N. Mathews, 39 Godwin Avenue, Manning, 6152, Tel: 450 2076. Meetings: Swan Barracks Sergeants Mess, after ANZAC Day March. King’s Park Memorial, 4.30 pm, every July 31 — Birthday Reunion.

2/13TH FIELD AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION
President: A. Jamieson, 53 Vallencia Ave, Churchlands. Tel: 446 4591. Secretary: L. McCarthy, 31 Marradong St, Coolbinia. Tel: 444 1927. Details of meetings — contact Secretary.

2/7TH FIELD AMBULANCE VETERANS ASSOCIATION
Ring Mr E. Randolph. Tel: 387 5813.

2/43 BTN ASSOCIATION WA DIVISION
President: R.W. Tilby, 15 Davidson Road, Attadale, 6156. Secretary: K.C. Porteous, 5/99 Davies Road, Claremont, 6010. All correspondence to the Secretary.

GALLIPOLI LEGION OF ANZACS
Meets ANZAC House, on third Tuesday of the months of February, May, August and December, at 2.15pm. Secretary: G. D. Shaw, 4/66 Broadway, Nedlands, 6009. Treasurer: J. Anderson. PO Box 164, Claremont, 6010.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN’S ARMY SERVICE ASSOCIATION (AWAS)
President: Mrs Alice Corry, 4 Nottingham Street, East Victoria Park, 6101. Tel: 361 2824. Secretary: Mrs N. Angwin. Tel: 450 1833. Treasurer: Mrs P. Gilchrist. Tel: 361 5254.

LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983 — 39
Successful Congress Motions 1983

ADMINISTRATION
NORTHAMPTON/GERALDTON
"That Sub-Branch capitation fees paid by any member directly to State Headquarters be refunded to the Sub-Branch as soon as practicable."

GERALDTON/GERALDTON
"That Sub-Branches be refunded as quickly as possible their share of the membership fees paid directly to the State Branch."

REPARTITION
RIVERTON/RIVERTON
"That Veterans of the UK Armed Services residing permanently in Australia for a period in excess of ten (10) years and are holders of the Certificate of Citizenship — who receive a service pension - and who, on the basis of income, quality for fringe benefits, or a Veteran who is an ex prisoner of war can be considered to eligible for free medical treatment and/or admission to Repatriation Hospitals in cases of disabilities accepted as service related."
Amended with State Congress approval

MARGARET RIVER/ONGERUP
"That the Australian Government be approached for all ex-servicemen and women 65 years of age and over to be entitled to free medical benefits under Repatriation."
Amended with State Congress approval

RETURNED SISTERS/NOLLAMARA-NORTH PERTH
"That an amendment be made to Regulation 66 of the Repatriation Act to enable medical and hospital benefits to be given to Returned Sisters and ex-Servicewomen of the 1939-45 war, as are currently available to Sisters of the 1914-18 war."

RETURNED EX-SERVICEWOMEN/MANNING
"That the Commonwealth Government be requested that all Repatriation benefits (medical and hospital) as allowed to the Returned Sisters of the 1914-18 war be extended to include all Returned ex-Servicewomen of the 1939-45 war."

RETURNED EX-SERVICEWOMEN/RETURNED SISTERS
"That the Commonwealth Government be requested that Returned ex-Servicewomen, single or widowed or separated, be eligible for claims and the benefits and services granted to war widows and defence widows."
Amended with State Congress approval.

MILLEN/CANNING DISTRICTS
"That local medical officers, subject to the health of the Veteran, be permitted to prescribe medication covering a longer period of time."

MILLEN/MILLEN
"That irrespective of the pharmaceutical list used in prescribing medication for Veterans that local medical officers have regard to the rapid advance in medical science and be given flexibility to prescribe accordingly."

NOLLAMARA-NORTH PERTH/NOLLAMARA-NORTH PERTH
"That the Commonwealth Government be strongly urged to rescind all directives denying Veterans medicines/drugs etc, be it before or after 1 March 1983 especially those prescribed for ex-pows and that authorisation for these life sustaining drugs etc remain in the hands of the Veterans' doctors."

RIVERVALE-CARLISLE/NOLLAMARA-NORTH PERTH
"That the Department of Veterans' Affairs recognise treatment of ex-service personnel by chiropractors."

KALGOORLIE/BOULDER
"That the League (State Branch) endeavour to have included in the 1983-84 State Government Budget benefits a 50 per cent reduction in motor car registration and third party insurance for service pensioners, similar to those of the State of Victoria."
Amended with State Congress approval

BUNBURY/ALBANY
"That immediate steps be taken to have delays minimised in the hearing of appeals against decisions by the Department of Veterans' Affairs."

HIGHGATE/HIGHGATE
"The Minister for Veterans' Affairs be approached with the request that the processing of pension eligibility for ex-Service Personnel and their dependants be expedited, particularly with regard to applications made by widows who have become eligible due to judgements handed down in recent years by the Federal, Supreme and High Courts of Australia."

SCARBOROUGH/ROCKINGHAM DISTRICTS
"That the disability pension be disregarded as income in assessing rebate of rent for ex-servicemen in State Housing Accommodation."

SCARBOROUGH/SCARBOROUGH
"That all World War I Veterans and their wives be granted free travel on all State controlled transport services."
Amended with State Congress approval.

DEFENCE
GOSNELLS/GERALDTON
"That the Commonwealth Government be requested that two vessels of Australian Register be equipped for operation of vertical takeoff aircraft and helicopters in an emergency or in a military situation."

APPLECROSS/APPLECROSS
"That an adequate and efficient network of air and sea-borne elements be raised to give reasonable security to those portions of the North-West coast of Western Australia which are at present not covered adequately."

APPLECROSS/APPLECROSS
"That a representation be made to the Commonwealth Government to have the present gaps in radar surveillance of the North West coast of Western Australia filled as soon as possible by the installation of appropriate radar facilities."
GERALDTON/GERALDTON
"That the Commonwealth Government be requested to
ensure an adequate Defence programme for the North-
West coast and North of Australia."

RIVERTON/COMO
"That the Commonwealth Government be requested to
investigate the feasibility of keeping the Australian Cadet
Corps."

ANZAC DAY
GERALDTON/COTTESLOE
"That the format for the ANZAC Day Service be amended,
to meet the present day demands: that the National Song
"Advance Australia Fair" be included in the service." Amended with State Congress approval.

COMO/RIVERTON
"That all units taking part in the parade on ANZAC day
be requested to carry the Australian National Flag in
addition to their unit colours."

AUSTRALIAN FLAG
RIVERVALE-CARLISLE
"That the feelings of ex-service people regarding the
changing of the Australian Flag be brought to the notice
of the Commonwealth Government."
Referred to Item 38 with State Congress approval

RIVERTON
"That the RSL requests the Commonwealth Government to
ensure the retention of the Australian Flag in its present
form despite attempts of minority groups and individuals
to change the design." Amended with State Congress approval.

CÓMO/RIVERTON (Item 38)
"The Returned Services League of Australia, WA Branch
(Incorporated) deplores any action being taken to alter or
replace the Australian National Flag and earnestly and
wholeheartedly supports the retention of the Flag in its
present form, and strongly recommends that the public be
urged to take more interest in this, our National
Emblem."

RETURNED SISTERS/RETURNED
EX-SERVICEWOMEN
"The RSL advises the Commonwealth Government of its
support to retain the Australian Flag in its present form."

COTTESLOE/GERALDTON
"The State Branch approaches all Government, Semi
Government, and Schools to fly our National Flag daily
during business hours, Monday to Friday."

WAR VETERANS' HOME
RETURNED SISTERS/MARGARET RIVER
"That efforts towards the provision of nursing home facil-
ities for ex-service men and women at the War Veterans' Home be maintained."

UPPER SWAN/NORTHAMPTON
"That the War Veterans' Home be upgraded to include
partially incapacitated members."
Amended with State Congress approval.

STATE WAR MEMORIAL
CITY OF PERTH/CITY OF PERTH
"That all Sub-Branches be requested to continue subscrib-
ing to the State War Memorial Fund."

RIVERVALE-CARLISLE/HIGHGATE
"That the State Government of Western Australia be
requested to enact special Legislation to punish persons
convicted of damage, vandalism or desecration of war
memorials throughout Western Australia."
Amended with State Congress approval

FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MILLEN/BELMONT
"That the Commonwealth Government be asked not to
aid Vietnam whilst Vietnamese troops remain in Kampu-
chea as such a proposal is against the Association of
South East Asian Nations as well as Japan and China."
Amended with State Congress approval.

MOUNT BARKER/RIVERTON
"That the League takes every step possible to prevent any
aid whatsoever going to Vietnam."

IMMIGRATION
SOUTH PERTH/CITY OF PERTH
"That the Commonwealth Government be requested to
hold a referendum on Immigration with the following
question being put to the people — "Are you in favour of
Asian and non-European migrants being allowed into
Australia?"

GENERAL
RIVERVALE-CARLISLE/RIVERVAL-
CARLISLE
"That Congress instructs the State Executive to reconsid-
er their decision with a view to holding the Girl of the
Golden West Quest in 1984."

CITY OF PERTH/CITY OF PERTH
"That appropriate historic pictures be hung in ANZAC
House and that an RSL library be re-established."

NOTICE OF MOTION
CITY OF PERTH/CITY OF PERTH
"That Congress strongly urges that the Federal Govern-
ment introduce the recommendation of Mr Justice Toose
with respect of payment of the Medibank Levy proportion-
ately to the assessed rate of the veteran's disability
pension."

22 Squadron R.A.A.F.
PRESENT AND PAST MEMBERS
Would current and past members/personnel of 22 Squadron R.A.A.F. who could perhaps attend a reunion to be arranged in Perth, W.A. please send their name, address and telephone number to either of the following ex members and please also advise other service details.

T.D. (DEN) NORRISH
177 Broom Street, Cottesloe, 6011
Telephone: 364 5550

A. (LEX) N. SMITH
10 Leopold Road, Nedlands, 6009.
Telephone: 386 2642

LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983 — 41
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LETTERS

Puffing on

I was astounded that Mike Hall did NOT emphasise smoking in his comment on the recollections of a M.O. Those fags kept them going and his experience would tell him that a smoke in dangerous circumstances kept up morale. It did with me on Gallipoli and France, and since then I have smoked a pipe, three packets of tobacco a week and my lungs are OK.

IT IS THE DRAWBACK WHICH DOES THE DANGER. Sorry you missed the point.

G.D. Shaw, L M R S L,
Broadway, Nedlands.

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ARAY HONOURS VC WINNER

The Swan Barracks Soldiers’ Club recently had a name-change and at the ceremony was ex-W02 James Gordon VC, who gave the Club approval to name it after himself. Pictured at the opening ceremony were (from left) the President of the J.H. Gordon VC Club, CPL Kimberley Isbister, ex-W02 J.H. Gordon VC and Commander 5 MD, Brigadier R.D.F. Lloyd. J.H. Gordon was awarded the VC in Syria during WWII on July 10, 1941, when he attacked an enemy machine-gun position and killed the four gunners with his bayonet, allowing other members of his company to advance.
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BEWARE THE IDES OF COMMUNISM

With the present high rate of unemployment and the apathetic attitude of the Australian people, we must forcibly, if necessary, bring to the notice of all Australia the dangers of a Communist takeover.

This is the moment when they attack — as has been done in other countries. They will continue to do so until complete world domination is theirs, unless we stop them in the meantime.

During my visit to Russia in 1967, I was speaking to a student who had completed three years of a five-year course in what is called “leadership”, and he openly stated to me that the communists had never started a war, all they did was disrupt the people and then come along and liberate them from their troubles and assist everyone by attending to their wants in the communist way — which is well known!

Of course, while in this frame of mind people would grasp at anything to alleviate the position they had allowed themselves to fall into, and only when it was too late would the majority realise how they had been conned by the communists in giving away their freedom and becoming vassals of a scourge that has cursed the world for so long.

I feel the work to be done will be a colossal job because, although members of the R.S.L. are converted, there are many who will call us “warmongers”, “troublemakers” and “don’t know what we are talking about”. We must be prepared for a drop-out of members for a time, but I am sure that if put to the populace in the right concise manner we will be able to convince everyone that we are doing it for the benefit of all Australia, if we wish to remain a free people with the right of speech, the right to travel, the right to live where we wish, and finally the right to change our friends in all parts of the world.

M.C. (Mike) Hall

State War Memorial Restoration Appeal

Resolution 44 of the 67th Annual State Congress was carried as follows: “That all Sub-Branches be requested to continue subscribing to the State War Memorial Fund.”

At present, there are insufficient funds to carry out the following necessary work:
1. Complete raking out and repointing the joints of 1939-45 semi-circular memorial.
2. Painting and jointing of the obelisk.
3. Repairs to lettering on the eastern side of the memorial.
4. Descale and repaint of wrought iron work of main memorial and undercroft.
5. Treat all stonework to reduce the effects of vandalism by paints.

6. Remove grass lawn from 1939-45 circular memorial and replace with suitable tiles for safety considerations.
7. Replaster and repaint walls and ceilings of the crypt.

Therefore, in addition to the works carried out this year at a cost in excess of $7000, the above works will require additional funds totalling in excess of $20,000.

While the Government will meet part of these costs, their contributions are not available until about 12 months after the outlay of funds. The works stated above must be carried out urgently, and your contributions are desperately needed to bolster the current, non-existent memorial Fund.

Therefore, any donation you may care to make would be most gratefully accepted. All cheques should be made out to the “RSL State War Memorial Restoration Appeal.”

Sir William Keys said he had asked the Governor-General to refer to the Youth Charter in his address to the RSL National Congress on September 12. This would, in effect, launch the RSL Charter on Australian Youth and it was therefore important that each Sub-Branch be organised and ready to take up this new challenge by early September.

RSL Youth Charter

An RSL Charter on Australian Youth is to be launched by the Returned Services League of Australia.

This information was received at the July meeting of the Geraldton Sub-Branch.

The National President, Sir William Keys, said the RSL had nearly 2000 Sub-Branches throughout the nation and it was by these Sub-Branches that the Youth Charter must be implemented in practical terms in their local urban and country areas.

The Charter says the League appreciates that each new generation of Australians contributes to the strength and vitality of the nation. It believes, therefore, that the youth of Australia should have the opportunity of involvement in the future development, welfare and security of our nation. The Charter says youth must be able to consolidate their self respect and be accepted as part of our society.

CUNDERDIN REUNION

Former trainee pilots of 44 Course, December 1943-January 1944 now hold an Annual Dinner in Perth approximately March/April.

A few are “missing” and any assistance in locating them would be appreciated by contacting Len Warene, 242 Grand Promenade, Doubleview, 6018. Tel: 341 3418.


LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983 — 45
SUB-BRANCH LIAISON OFFICERS
1983-84

EXECUTIVE MEMBER:
TURNER L J
HALL J P
R J NYMAN
BRUCE D H
CADDEN M L
CLOUTMAN W T G
COOK L E
CRUDE D
DOWSON D J (Mrs)
DUFFIED J A
GREENHALGH M R
HALL M C
HEALY N R
KWIECINSKI Z T
McDONALD A E
MINSON J G
O’LOGHLEN P M
STEVENSON D H
SURRIDGE W J
VERDI F G

SUB-BRANCHES:
(Millen)
South Perth
(Applecross)
Yanchep-Two Rocks, Wanneroo, Nollamara-North Perth
(Belmont), Bassendean-Guildford
(Nedlands), North Beach, Osborne Park, Yokine-Joondanna
(Vietnam Veterans), Kelmscott, Rockingham & Districts
(Upper Swan), Bayswater-Meltham
(Ex-Servicewomen), Mosman Park, Cottesloe, Bicton-Palmyra
Subiaco, Fremantle City
Shenton Park, Cockburn, Mount Hawthorn
(City of Perth), Bellevue, Mount Lawley-Inglewood
(Rivervale-Carlisle), Riverton, Darling Range, Taxation
Welshpool, Chidlow-Mt Helena, Glen Forrest
Maylands-Railways, Gosnells
(Canning Districts), Medina, North East Fremantle
(Kensington), Armadale, Bedford-Morley
Wembley-Floreat, Returned Sisters, Scarborough
(Highgate), Como, Manning
(MTT & Services), Claremont, Victoria Park

STANDING COMMITTEES
1983-84

ANZAC CLUB
N R Nealy
W T G Cloutman
L F Cook
M C Hall
A E McDonald
W J Surridge
E Steele (Secretary)

Co-opted Members: P Pearson, CMG, OBE, JP
Commodore R H Percy, CBE
(Ret)
Colonel L G Clark, MBE (Ret)
Air Commodore J W Hubble,
CBE, DSO, AFC & bar (Ret)

ANZAC DAY
L J Turner
J P Hall
M C Hall
R J Nyman
P Pearson
D H Gibbs (Secretary)

Co-opted Member: Lt Col M A Count, MBE

DEFENCE
N R Healy
M L Cadden
D Cruden
J A Duffield
M R Greenhalgh
Z T Kwiecinski
A E McDonald
J G Minson
E H Stevenson

Co-opted Members: K Broadhurst, FRAIA, ARIBA
P Pearson, CMG, OBE, JP
R N Stone, AM JP

FINANCE
L J Turner
J P Hall
N R Healy
E H Stevenson
R J Crisp (Accountant)
D H Gibbs (Secretary)

Co-opted Members: K Broadhurst, FRAIA, ARIBA
P Pearson, CMG, OBE, JP
R N Stone, AM JP

FUNCTIONS
R J Nyman
W T G Cloutman
D J Dowson
M C Hall
A E McDonald
J G Minson

46 — LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983
### LISTENING POST/PUBLICITY
- M C Hall
- D H Bruce
- D J Dowson
- M R Greenhalgh
- P M O’Loghlen
- L F Cook (Secretary)

### MEMBERSHIP
- R J Nyman
- M L Cadden
- W T G Cloutman
- D J Dowson
- Z T Kwiecinski
- A E McDonald
- E H Stevenson
- F G Verdi
- B N Swan (Secretary)

### REPATRIATION, WELFARE & COUNSELING SERVICES
- J P Hall
- W T G Cloutman
- D Cruden
- J A Duffield
- J G Minson
- E H Stevenson
- F G Verdi
- C J Williams
- B N Swan (Secretary)

### STATE/NATIONAL CONSTITUTION
- R J Nyman
- D H Bruce
- L F Cook
- M C Hall
- N R Healy
- Z T Kwiecinski
- P M O’Loghlen

### VETERANS’ AFFAIRS
- J P Hall
- W T G Cloutman
- D Cruden
- M R Greenhalgh
- A E McDonald
- E H Stevenson
- W J Surridge
- F G Verdi
- C J Williams
- Co-opted Member: H Holder

### WAR VETERANS’ HOME BOARD
- J P Hall
- L J Turner
- D H Bruce
- R J Nyman
- W J Surridge
- R J Crisp (Accountant)
- B Slater (Secretary)
- Co-opted Members: K Broadhurst, FRAIA, ARIBA

### STATE CONGRESS/AGENDA
- R J Nyman
- M L Cadden
- M C Hall
- E H Stevenson
- W J Surridge

### STATE CONGRESS — SUB-BRANCH TROPHIES
- L J Turner
- J P Hall
- M C Hall
- R J Nyman

### Future of The League — Planning & Development
- L J TURNER
- J P Hall
- R J Nyman
- D H Gibbs (Secretary)
- Co-opted Members: K Broadhurst
- R N Stone
- P Pearson

### Poppy Day
- D H Bruce
- M L Cadden
- D J Dowson
- J A Duffield
- M C Hall
- P M O’Loghlen
- F G Verdi
- Co-opted Members: Mrs J Ford
- T K Evans

### War Memorial
- L J Turner
- J P Hall
- R J Nyman
- Co-opted Members: K Broadhurst
- R N Stone
- D M Fitzhardinge

### AD HOC COMMITTEES 1983-84

**LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983 — 47**
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48 — LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983
“GROUND STAFF BLOKES”
(By a Fighter Pilot in the Western Desert)

We blokes of the Air Crews seem to get all the praise for the knocks we give the Wops and the Nazis, but you can take it from me, the chaps of the Ground Staff are doing the hard work. They are the cogs that keep us flying and they are the dynamite that blasts the enemy.

They are never off the job; they live alongside our fighters in the holes they have dug in the ground; they seldom sleep. When night falls they keep on working, and they work by touch. If they must have light, they pull a blanket over their heads and do the job in a pinpoint or light from a masked torch. They're marvellous.

Sometimes we come back a bit “shot up” by the enemy. The ground staff seize hold of our crates, and there is no rest for them until they have put us in the air again. Raids can come and raids can go, but the blokes on the ground seem too busy to notice the falling bombs. And they get plenty too, for one of the favourite targets of the Hun is the dispersal area, and that is where these boys are living and working.

Let me tell you something about what happened the other night. Two aircraftmen were working on one of the fighter landing grounds, with bombs dropping all about them. Suddenly an incendiary bomb dropped on a canvas covering and started a blaze. The two lads scrambled on the aircraft, undid the burning cover and got it away before even the fuselage was scorched. They then brushed the dust off their hands and went on with the job. That's the ground staff.

Another chap found an unexploded anti-personnel bomb beneath the wing of the fighter he was looking after. A few minutes later he reported that he had disposed of it “using every precaution.” It turned out his precautions consisted of hauling the bomb away with a piece of rope three feet long. That's the ground staff, too.

For my part, I'd rather have done a fighter sweep of a beat-up of Rommel's panzers. I'd have been less nervous anyway.

These chaps are only pals, and we are proud of it. They would do anything, and work any hours to keep us in the air. In dust-storms and heat, in darkness and cold night dews, they keep the fighters primed. Their aircraft servicability record is higher than that of any other squadron in the desert. That is all the reward they ask — to keep that record for themselves. Our crates are always ready, refueled, reloaded, guns and fuselage repaired and patched, engines purring smoothly, “Rarin' To Go.”

They're a job without heroics, with nothing but hard work in cramped conditions, when they can't work any longer, they drop into holes in the ground alongside their aircraft and fall into the deep, sound sleep of exhaustion, oblivious of the bombs and ground strafing that goes on about them.

Just two blankets in a hole in the ground, with camel bush laid above in the too optimistic hope that it will keep out the dust, the rain, the cold, or the heat — that is their “Home.”

At the crack of dawn, they are out again, gulping down a mug of hot tea, warming up their engines, testing the aircraft to ensure that they are in perfect condition.

It's great to have a bunch of boys like this looking after your fighter. Half the battle is to know your crate is safe beneath you, and with chaps like this, you can go up against the Jerry or the Wop, certain the boys below have not let you down.

I "DIPS ME-LID" to the Ground Staff — they're tops.

INADEQUATE DEFENCE RANKING

The State President of the RSL, Mr Len Turner, said in Geraldton on June 25, that the subject of Defence had not ranked as highly as it should when Commonwealth allocations were being made.

Mr Turner was replying to a toast to the RSL proposed by the Mayor, Mr Phil Cooper, who referred to the League's motto, “Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty.”

The State President also referred to the League's endeavours aimed at retaining the Australian flag in its present form, and he was strongly supported in this regard by a number of presenters, including the MLA for Greenough Mr Reg Tubby.

Mr Tubby said the Australian flag was part of our national heritage and should be retained with pride because any decision to change it would be an insult to those who had served the nation-under this flag and those who had paid the supreme sacrifice.

Mr Tubby, who was proposing the toast to the Geraldton Sub-Branch, said Geraldton residents were very proud of the important part it played in the life of the community.

The Sub-Branch President, Mr Graham Till, expressed delight that the Sub-Branch had won the Collett Cup for the twentieth time as the outstanding country Sub-Branch, and the Women's Auxiliary the Country Cup for the twentieth time as the outstanding country Auxiliary of the year.

Mr Turner presented Mrs Pearl Hodgson with a Certificate of Service for devoted service to the Geraldton Sub-Branch and a similar Certificate was presented to Mrs Valma Wick of the Women's Auxiliary, by Mrs Joy Fbd, State President of the Women's Auxiliary.

Acknowledging a toast to the Women's Auxiliary by Mr Peter Barden; the State President said 46 hospitals and homes were now being visited in the metropolitan area.

Other toasts included Important Visitors by Mr Fred Heath, response by the Dongara Sub-Branch President Mr Les Hanstrum; Outside Helpers by Mr Clem Burns, reply by Lieutenant Peter Jones; and Toastmaster by Mr Frank Sharp, response by Mr Norm Barndon.

Naval Reserve Cadets from TS Morrow were thanked for their excellent work as stewards at the Reunion Dinner.

LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983 — 49
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50 — LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983
DEFENCE OF AUSTRALIA

The Australian Defence Association (ADA) is a National Body of affiliated State associations, with the Secretariat located in Melbourne. The Association was initially formed in Western Australia in 1975 under the Chairmanship of Air Marshall Sir Valston Hancock.

At the time, and even now, there seemed little initiative by both Government and the population as a whole, to ensure we had an adequate defence force, to both defend the country or to be seen as a viable deterrent to any would-be aggressor. There are many in the community who are greatly concerned that our defence effort is not only inadequate, but seen to be declining. Many of these people joined the Association to arouse public interest in this deficiency.

Readers of the Listening Post may well remember how neglected our defences were in 1939. How fortunate were that it was two years before any enemy approached our shores in strength. Surely such a lead time will never be available again.

The Association spread to other States, and saw the formation of a National Body two years ago. Many quality submissions have been made to the various National policy makers to such an extent that the Association is accepted Australia-wide as a competent body in the defence debate area. The coming production of a National ADA Journal further illustrates this point.

In Western Australia the Association has participated in defence oriented seminars and organised numerous functions with distinguished Australian and International guest speakers. There have been visits to various defence establishments and US Naval organisations. We have a panel of qualified speakers who have been guest lecturers at numerous local functions. A regular newsletter keeps members up to date on defence subjects, and submissions are made at the State level on defence matters whenever called for.

The Association is non political, although it is critical of the defence policies of the major political parties. It is refreshing that our membership contains supporters of all major political parties, who rather feel that a bi-partisan approach to defence by the two main political groupings is essential for the viability of long term defence planning. Indeed, as a result of Western Australian experience, we encourage members to join, and become active in a political party of their choice, with a view to contributing significantly to the defence debate. After all, in the end result, our political representatives are very responsive to the will of the electorate. Upgrading of defence is unlikely to occur, unless the voters strongly express such a requirement.

The National Body of ADA has adopted a Statement of Views on National Defence which proposes a new approach to solving problems. Significant items are as follows:

(a) The defence philosophy of a nation should be formed by the community itself and articulated by its parliamentary representatives. It should not be the exclusive preserve of the Defence Department, and should be subject to intense public debate.

(b) Such a philosophy should acknowledge that Australia must face the reality that there is no great and powerful friend able, no matter how willing, to aid us in defence in all circumstances.

(c) An aggressor will threaten Australia not merely on the basis of our forces in being, but also on the basis of our mobilisation capability within the time frame of the attack, or the warning time. In our view, deterrence must deter the threat rather than the attack itself. This will only be achieved by having substantial and supported forces in being, either as regulars and/or rapidly mobilisable reserves, to support our foreign policy.

(d) Previously, the formulation of strategic policy in Australia has invariably been based on the identification of some threat to National security. ADA's view is that Australia should concentrate on medium level conflicts that could arise in our strategic area of interest with only very short warning and the capabilities to deal with such conflicts or threats. Such forces are also capable of playing a role in wider conflicts.

(e) ADA believes that the formulation of a strategic policy ought to be based on identifiable national interests, rather than the identification of threat. Australia's national interests which must be defended have never been publicly identified, even in general terms.

(f) Force structure must be based on a defence philosophy and a strategic policy. The current "core force" concept is inadequate, in that it is not structured to meet this philosophy and policy. The "core force" is used to describe a policy of acquiring the widest range of military equipment in such small quantities that the capability of the force to act against even quite low level threats, is severely constrained.

(g) Threats can only be met if we have a substantially larger threat deterrent force in being; forces which, because of their existence, will tend to discourage the emergence of a threat because we are demonstrably able to deal with it.

(h) The rapid advance in technology results in a huge gap between Australia acquiring the most complex military equipment available only from the most advanced industrial nations, and what Australian industry can maintain. A philosophy which regards highly complex equipment as the best for Australia has not been fully justified.

(i) Industry, in terms of defence needs, is technologically backward. A move to less complex equipment could have a revolutionary effect on Australia's defence industry, and, because of the inevitable spin off of technology and knowhow, on all industry and the national economy. Overseas buyers, particularly from the ASEAN forum, could then be attracted. In any event, a viable defence industry must be re-established.

In summary, ADA believes that urgent action is needed to give Australia's defences a strategic policy valid for the balance of this century, based on the preservation of Australia's critical national interests. Forces adequate not only to defend those interests but to deter assaults on them are required.

LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983 — 51
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52 — LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983
Where a Vietnam Veteran is entitled to treatment for all disabilities, or has an accepted service-related disability and is referred by an LMO to a Vietnam Veteran Counselling Service in connection with that disability, he is entitled to reimbursement of associated travel expenses.

(i) **Types of disabilities warranting referral**
This is at the discretion of the LMO who is best placed to determine whether the services of VVCS would be of assistance in the treatment of the Veteran. The general approach should be similar to that adopted for physiotherapy referrals. Referrals should be made by the LMO on Form D904.

(ii) **Limitations on extent of referral**
Referrals should be limited to six counselling sessions at a frequency determined by the Counsellor. If further sessions are required, the Counsellor will contact the LMO.

(iii) **Co-ordination with Departmental Services**
Where patients are already receiving treatment through a Departmental Service e.g. psychiatry, and are referred to the Counselling Service by the LMO, the counsellor, in accord with professional courtesy, should discuss previous treatment with those Departmental sources.

(iv) **Referrals from remote areas**
Where a Veteran wishes to be referred to the Counselling Service from a country area, the LMO should consult the Service before referral, for several reasons:
(a) arrangements have been made in many areas to use local agencies to provide some assistance to Vietnam Veterans and the LMO can direct his patient to these agencies;
(b) many of the cases coming to the Counselling Service require the involvement of the Veteran’s wife, and possibly, family. There is no provision to meet travel costs for other than the Veteran;
(c) counselling is hindered where country clients need to make a number of visits over an extended period. Where these cases arise and it is considered essential that they visit the city Centre, arrangements should be made to provide intensive counselling over a shorter period.
(d) it could be that a counsellor from a VVCS Centre will be visiting the country area, in which case counselling could be done locally.

**Administrative Arrangements**
Counselling Centres will not be involved in the actual payment or reimbursement of travelling expenses. The Centre will have the necessary forms to assist the Veteran in lodging his claim. Reimbursements will generally be handled by mail but cash reimbursements would be available at the Branch Office, Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

---

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LISTENING POST — SPRING, 1983 — 53
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"POLISH SOLDIER'S DAY"

by George Redziejowski

On the 15th of August — Poles all over the free world celebrate the anniversary of the Polish victory over the Red Army in 1920.

On 11th November 1918, Poland regained its independence after over a hundred years of occupancy by Germany, Russia and Austria.

Bolsheviks, encouraged by an easy revolution in Russia, wanted to spread all over Europe — what seemed quite possible to them at that time, as Europe was disorganised after the 1st World War and undermined by communistic activities. The Soviet Army had started its offensive in 1920 and attacked Poland, the first country blocking the way to Western Europe.

Poland was then in a very poor state, her industry destroyed, army exhausted and too small to oppose Red hordes. In addition, one of her neighbours seized army supplies sent by France. Red army overran more than half of Poland, and approached Warsaw — at nights the inhabitans could hear the guns. Poles understood very well that with the loss of Warsaw, the morale and the resistance of the nation might break down; so in the struggle practically the whole Polish nation took part — boys of 14 joined the army, young girls were digging trenches.

The key position on the road to Warsaw was a small town, Radzymin, defended by some partly trained voluntary units. Radzymin changed hands six times, and after a three day battle, those units lost all their officers and the soldiers felt helpless. Then a young priest, Ignatius Skorupka, chaplain to the 236th Voluntary Infantry Regiment, hearing Bolsheviks attacking again, jumped out from trenches, and with the cross in his outstretched hand, ran against the attackers. He was almost instantly killed, but his gallant example restored the spirit and self-confidence of defenders. The attack was repelled, and after more struggle, the Russian front was broken at that spot. In consequence Bolsheviks were forced to retreat and abandon their military plans until 1939. Skorupka's cross had been found on the battlefield and eventually deposited in the Warsaw Military Museum.

15th August 1920, the day of that victorious battle of Radzymin, has been chosen as Polish Remembrance and Soldier's Day, because by that victory, not only Poland, but also the rest of Europe had been saved from the spreading communism, up till the 2nd World War anyhow. Understandably, the remembrance and celebration of this date is prohibited now in Poland, which is under virtual domination of the Soviet Union.

In 1939, Poland invaded by Germans from the west and almost simultaneously by Soviets from the east, lost it's battle — but not for long — from the foreign lands we resumed our action against the aggressor.

New Polish units, organised abroad, fought from 1940 to 1945 in France, Norway, Libya, Great Britain, Italy and on the continent, for your and our freedom.

After the hostilities ceased, instead of returning to our homeland, we chose freedom, and now there are some 80,000 Polish ex-servicemen and women scattered through many countries, gathered in their own association with their headquarters in London.

One of the main aims of our association is to maintain the bonds of friendship among the members and to cooperate with the ex-service personnel on the Western allied forces.

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WHAT A WAY TO GO

What better way to spend Easter than a holiday in Perth. Well, it was seven days in all, and the holiday of a lifetime, so if you only have seven days, follow me and have a ball.

Yours truly, with friends Elsie and Claude, departed for Perth on Good Friday, staying at the Sheraton-Perth Hotel, on the 13th floor overlooking the Swan River.

The hotel is magnificent, but, as we three wanted to be in the same room for the duration, yours truly had a foldaway bed. It took us two days to realise we had a child's foldaway bed, which was very materially rectified after a couple of sleepless nights... and a tossing of the coin to see who was sleeping where!

On the Saturday we went on a river cruise on the Captain Cook, a marvellous way to find out about Perth. That night we dined at the Canton Restaurant — a must, if staying in Perth — a lovely restaurant with helpful staff.

On Sunday we took the Sea Flye, a fast boat, to Rottnest Island. In the morning, on arrival, we boarded a Sea Viewer (a glass-bottom boat), to see the coral, the marine life, and there were masses of beautiful coloured fish — and the shipwrecks! No wonder there have been so many shipwrecks around that coast. At one stage the boat was hovering just above a huge rocky formation, the next minute we were shown the depth of that rock. It was incredible, but an absolute haven for the fish that were living there in their thousands. After lunch (a fast take-away), we boarded a bus to see around the Island and one of the main attractions is the native marsupials, the quokkas, which come out to the bus in their dozens, to be fed by the tourists. That night we dined at the Princess Court Chinese Restaurant where Elsie and Claude gave your scribe a pre-birthday dinner (21st birthday, of course).

On Monday we took a day bus trip to see the city sights, including Kings Park, a must for the visitor, as it is full of history, and then we went into the Perth tourist bureau to organise the rest of our stay. What lovely people, we can't tell you how much we appreciated their help — yours truly with a headache from too much romping around we expect, so Alice, one of our staff, provided a cup of coffee laced with sugar (sugar, we said), and all was well. What other State would do that, on Easter Monday! And so, having recovered, we booked to see the Spanish dancing horses on Tuesday at El Caballo Blanco. What an experience, an area of 1000 acres, which incorporates the performance of the dancing horses, a stud and carriage museum, an animal nursery, native animals, picnic facilities, and both restaurant and quick takeaway lunch areas — what a day!

That night we went to the revolving restaurant, Hilight 33, situated on the 33rd floor of the City Centre Tower at 44 St George's Terrace. It towers 180 metres over the city. Five lifts are available to transfer you, in less than 30 seconds, to a fairytale view of Perth, and the food was out of this world. Another successful day.

On Wednesday we went to Atlantis Marine Park at Yanchep Sun City and watched the performing seals and dolphins, an unbelievably beautiful performance and again, a show that should not be missed, then back to the Sheraton with just one hour to get ready for the Perth By Night Progressive Dinner. This evening was arranged by Feature Tours, and was the highlight of our stay in Perth. We were picked up at 7pm by our coach captain, Wally Gruber. Wally had the natural ability to entertain old and young alike, not one was left out. He took us for a tour of the city lights with a commentary that was second to none. He knew his Perth and he let us now it. After the city lights tour, Wally took us to the Underground, a very old historic tavern. There we had-savouries, drinks and a tour of the tavern. From there we were taken to the Bouzoukia, a Greek Restaurant, for entrees and drinks, then on to Romanos, an Italian restaurant, for main course, sweets and a floor show — and we danced, oh boy, how we danced — and top marks go to Wally Gruber and the young people of Perth who never let you sit down. You had to dance, they insisted on it, and it was marvelous. We rolled into bed at 1am on Thursday and up again to be in time for the champagne cruise on the Lady Houghton boat, from 9.45am to 6pm and as the heading of this story says — What a way to go!

From the moment of boarding, till the moment you get back — it's wine tasting. On reaching the Houghton vineyards we enjoyed more wine tasting, would you believe! Then a tour of the cellars, a two-course luncheon accompanied by (you will never guess) more wine, and a floor show by Christine with all your favourite songs (grand piano and all), then a cruise back to Perth. You guessed it — more wine, champagne and dancing in the aisles. Again the young people of Perth never let you sit. A complimentary bottle of champagne to all who were celebrating their birthdays. Then back to the Sheraton where we wilted — well, wouldn't you?

Home again on Friday, seven days well spent, and we guess you won't believe us, but at the Perth Airport, Lady Di and Prince Charles waved us a fond farewell. You'd better believe it, 'cause it's true!

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If you want to travel anywhere, from Rottest to Moscow, Supreme Travel can fix it for you. Supreme Travel is a new travel agent at 34 Talbot Avenue Como started by Rita, who used to run Delux Travel in the Karawara Shopping Centre.

She and her assistant Diane, by starting up in Como, have filled a gap the nearest travel agents to them are in Karawara and Mends Street South Perth. Rita said she could arrange package tours, independent tours or group tours for any person or groups of people to go anywhere they want to go.

She has excellent contacts at Jetset Tours, with whom she has dealt a great deal and through which she does her airline ticketing. But she arranges package tours herself.

She will personally pick you up at your home, or at the airport, or both, if you don't want to use your own car or taxi or bus. She will arrange visas, passports and vaccination cards.

Souvenirs like koalas, kangaroos, Aboriginal artefacts and sheepskin rugs are also for sale.

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