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Until recent years the venue for the National Congress of the Returned Services League was rotated between the respective States. Then because of rising costs and the argument that Canberra was more accessible for the obtaining of Federal Government Cabinet Ministers and their shadow counterparts in the Opposition Party to address Congress, it was agreed to hold the Annual Congress in Canberra. At the same time it was decided that if any particular State wished to hold the Congress in its Capital City to celebrate a particular important occasion then the venue, by agreement, would be changed to allow this to be done.

The Western Australian Branch of the League took advantage of this situation and hosted the 1979 National Congress in Perth, but since then Canberra has been the venue, until the 69th Congress was held in Melbourne from 3rd-5th September last.

The writer is of the opinion and always has been, that greater media coverage was provided in the various States than that originating when Canberra is the venue. Of course, the League has to take a chance on what the media sees as issues and reports on accordingly.

The media coverage from the Melbourne Congress was terrific, even if we agree that the contentious issues were seized upon to the detriment of those basic issues connected with the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the welfare of ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen and their dependants.

As usual, the greater number of resolutions coming from the States dealt with matters in this latter area, including wide ranging discussions on the proposed new Veterans' Act, which seeks to consolidate and replace the four Repatriation Acts and Regulations previously in force.

These matters were of paramount importance yet as far as the media was concerned, such issues as Immigration, Aboriginal Land Claims, Defence and such, received the widest coverage.

Nevertheless all these subjects and others are the standing policies of the League and if they are raised by the membership of the League through their Sub-Branches and survive the various State Congresses, they will appear on the Agenda of the National Congress.

The Victorian Branch of the League demonstrated once again that in most instances the State Branches cater admirably in every way when it comes to hosting such an occasion and in this particular instance, the Victorian Branch is to be congratulated on its choice of the venue and accommodation arrangements. Interesting speakers on a number of subjects addressed the Congress and the normal round of social arrangements were well chosen and interesting — in all, strong arguments could still be advanced for reverting to the rotation of States to hold Congress.

LISTENING POST — SUMMER, 1984 — 1
CHRISTMAS MESSAGES

Christmas Message to Western Australia from the National President

May I at this festive time, extend warmest good wishes to the Western Australian Branch from the National Headquarters, members of the National Executive and the members of the RSL throughout Australia.

1984 has been a challenging year for the League. We have at last consolidated the new guidelines for membership and have therefore laid the grounds for the League's continuity on into the future. We have grappled effectively I believe, with the change in Repatriation Legislation and the amalgamation of four acts and six regulations into one piece of legislation. Final decisions still have to be made but in the end I believe we will have the single finest piece of legislation covering veterans and their needs anywhere in the world. Our role in the national affairs of Australia and in those issues that in any way affect this country's security has expanded and has become more professional. The sensitive issues of defence, security, development and immigration have all been tackled with an awareness of the problems involved and of the facts that should be taken into consideration before decisions are arrived at. Our contact with overseas countries and in our expanded overseas aid programme have brought much credit to the League and have enabled us to contribute something of meaning to better international understanding and to creating a better environment in which governments can work so much more effectively.

The RSL was founded as a national organisation in 1916. It was founded on the basis of compassion and concern for others, of devotion to Australia and all that Australia stands for. It has carried these responsibilities well over the years and has now re-arranged its own affairs so that it can better handle the challenge of the future.

At this festive time when good will is the spirit that guides us, let us remind ourselves with some pride that over the years it is that very spirit which has motivated the League and allowed it to make such a massive contribution to the well-being of individuals and the good of the nation.

Sir William Keys
National President

A Christmas message by the Premier of Western Australia (Mr Brian Burke, J.P., M.L.A.)

Christmas is traditionally a time for family re-unions and celebrating with close friends ... It is also a time, as is Anzac Day, when ex-servicemen and women and their families remember loved ones who cannot join with them in their celebration.

But that remembering should not be left only to those special groups. Christmas is a time when we should all be grateful for the sacrifices which were made by members of Australia's, defence forces in times of international conflict. It is a time, also, for us to show a deeper appreciation of the freedom which they made possible and which we all enjoy today.

Christmas also provides us with an opportunity to remember, as the RSL never fails to remember, the ex-servicemen and women who are unable, due to wartime injuries and prolonged illnesses, to enjoy the good things of life which most of us take for granted.

As well as its caring attitude for our war veterans the RSL, like the State Government, is aware of the need to develop a greater army, air force and navy presence in this State.

These safeguards are as essential today as in times of war because our future, and that of future generations of Australians depends on our security against illegal landings along our long coastline, drug smuggling, quarantine infringements and foreign fishing incursions.

In these areas the RSL and the State Government will, I am sure, continue to share a common interest.

I welcome this opportunity to extend on behalf of the people and the Government of Western Australia to all "Listening Post" readers and to all ex-servicemen and women and their families, best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas.

My wife Sue and my family join with me in wishing you all joy, peace, and good health in the New Year.
CHRISTMAS MESSAGES

From His Excellency, the Governor of Western Australia, Professor Gordon Reid

As the season of Christmas approaches, those of us surrounded by families, look forward to spending time together in the joyfulness that is synonymous with the birth of the Christ.

It is the time also when we pause to think of loved ones no longer here to share the warmth and closeness, to remember the faces missing from the festive family table.

We are sad they are not here but we do not forget them, just as the Returned Services League does not forget — at Christmas or any time. Its members and associated groups do not need the cataclysm of a special season of the year to dispense warmth and caring to former servicemen and women or the dependants of those who lost their lives and who are in need of support.

The League has a long tradition of continuing the “mateship” engendered during war service, and it deserves and receives our gratitude for continuing the principles inherent in comradeship. With this in mind it is my pleasure to wish your members further success in the promotion of peace and goodwill in the spirit of mateship and to extend season’s greetings to all ex-service personnel and their families.

Christmas Message from the Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor, Mr M.A. Michael, OAM.

Mrs Reid and I extend our warm Christmas greetings to members of the Returned Services’ League and their families.

Christmas is the traditional time for our celebration of the birth of Christ; it provides us with an opportunity to apply the fraternal spirit of the RSL to the attainment of Christian goals; it gives all of us an opportunity to share friendship and goodwill with fellow-citizens, families and friends; it provides a period for thanksgiving for those advantages and pleasures we enjoy in life.

It is appropriate for us in this Christmas season to resolve to help those who have not been as fortunate as ourselves. For former service people Christmas is a period when we can relate the Christmas story and the ideals of Christianity to the realities of the world and international politics. The incompatibilities we find should be matters for our social agenda in the New Year. We should resolve never to neglect them.

For members of the RSL Christmas provides an opportunity to renew fraternal friendships forged in the circumstances of war. Those friendships are invaluable assets for those of us who hold them; they are self-reinforcing personal relationships in an uncertain world. We should be aware of their potential, if we choose to use them, for improving the lot of humanity.

A Happy Christmas and a satisfying New Year to you all.

Christmas Message from Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, J.H. See

It is appropriate that at least once a year we should all pause and reflect on people we have met and events that have occurred and what better time than Christmas, the season of goodwill to all men.

I would take the opportunity to extend on behalf of the staff of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, sincere Christmas greetings to all Veterans and their families, with the wish they may enjoy a happy and healthy New Year.

I thank the State President and his busy Executive and the League generally for the help and co-operation which has been extended to me and to the Department in this State. I believe that the goal of assistance to Veterans has and will continue to be met.

I would record my appreciation again to the staff of this Department for the way in which they meet and assist the Veterans who come into contact and note the many letters of appreciation received.

On behalf of the Listening Post Committee I extend Christmas Greetings and best wishes for the New Year to all who assisted in the production and distribution of the journal during the past year.

M.C. (Mike) Hall
Chairman

To the State President, Councillors, and all RSL Members I send you greetings for a happy, safe, and friendly festive season and may 1985 be good to us all.

Mrs Billie Pitchaneder
President
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Treaty between the Governments of New Zealand, Australia, and the United States of America concerning security.

The parties to this treaty,

Reaffirming their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and their desire to live in peace with all peoples and all governments, and desiring to strengthen the fabric of peace in the Pacific area.

Noting that the United States already has arrangements pursuant to which its armed forces are stationed in the Philippines, and has armed forces and administrative responsibilities in the Ryukyus, and upon the coming into force of the Japanese Peace Treaty may also station armed forces in and about Japan to assist in the preservation of peace and security in the Japan area.

Recognising that Australia and New Zealand as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations have military obligations outside as well as within the Pacific area.

Desiring to declare publicly and formally their sense of unity, so that no potential aggressor could be under the illusion that any of them stand alone in the Pacific area, and

Desiring further to co-ordinate their efforts for collective defence for the preservation of peace and security pending the development of a more comprehensive system of regional security in the Pacific area.

Therefore declare and agree as follows:

Article I
The parties undertake, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, to settle any international disputes in which they may be involved by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.

Article II
In order more effectively to achieve the objective of this treaty the parties separately and jointly by means of continuous and effective self-help and mutual aid will maintain and develop their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack.

Article III
The parties will consult together whenever in the opinion of any of them the territorial integrity, political independence or security of any of the parties is threatened in the Pacific.

Article IV
Each party recognises that an armed attack in the Pacific area on any of the parties would be dangerous to its own peace and safety and declares that it would act to meet the common danger in accordance with its constitutional processes.

Any such armed attack and all measures taken as a result thereof shall be immediately reported to the Security Council of the United Nations. Such measures shall be terminated when the Security Council has taken the measures necessary to restore and maintain international peace and security.

Article V
For the purpose of Article IV, an armed attack on any of the parties is deemed to include an armed attack on the metropolitan territory of any of the parties, or on the island territories under its jurisdiction in the Pacific or on its armed forces, public vessels or aircraft in the Pacific.

Article VI
This treaty does not affect and shall not be interpreted as affecting in any way the rights and obligations of the parties under the Charter of the United Nations or the responsibility of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Article VII
The parties hereby establish a council, consisting of their Foreign Minister or their deputies, to consider matters concerning the implementation of this treaty. The council should be so organised as to be able to meet at any time.

Article VIII
Pending the development of a more comprehensive system of regional security in the Pacific area and the development by the United Nations of more effective means to maintain international peace and security, the council, established by Article VII, is authorised to maintain a consultative relationship with states, regional organisations, associations of states or other authorities in the Pacific area in a position to further the purposes of this treaty and to contribute to the security of that area.

Article IX
This treaty shall be ratified by the parties in accordance with their respective constitutional processes. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited as soon as possible with the Government of Australia, which will notify each of the other signatories of such deposit. The treaty shall enter into force as soon as the ratifications of the signatories have been deposited.

Article X
This treaty shall remain in force indefinitely. Any party may cease to be a member of the council established by Article VII one year after notice has been given to the Government of Australia, which will inform the governments of the other parties of the deposit of such notice.

Article XI
This treaty in the English language shall be deposited in the Archives of the Government of Australia. Duly certified copies thereof will be transmitted by that government to the governments of each of the other signatories.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have signed this treaty.

Done at the city of San Francisco this first day of September, 1951.

For Australia: PERCY C. SPENDER.
For New Zealand: C.A. BERENDSEN.

For the United States of America: DEAN ACHESON,
JOHN FOSTER DULLES, ALEXANDER WILEY, JOHN J. SPARKMAN.
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BRIEF HISTORY OF THE
2/4th MACHINE GUN
BATTALION, A.I.F.

The Unit came into being early October, 1940, when Lt-Col. M.J. Anketell (at that time C.O. 28th Bn. A.M.F.) was directed to form a Machine Gun Battalion, equipped with Vickers M.M.G. The Battalion to consist of B. H.Q., 4 M.G. Coys., H.Q. Coy., and attached personnel L.A.D., A.A.M.C. and A.A.P.C. Personnel to be drawn from A.I.F. and A.M.F. Training Units in camp in Western Australia.

By the end of October, officer establishment had been completed, with the appointment of Maj. C.E. Green (late 28th Bn. A.M.F.) as 2/IC. and Capt. A.I. Hill (Staff College, Duntroon) as Adjutant. Company Commanders and 2/IC's were drawn from four A.M.F. Units — 25th L.H., 10th L.H., 11th and 28th Bns. A.M.F. — most of whom had considerable M.M.G. experience.

The Battalion was brought up to strength by the end of November and had moved into training quarters at Northam Camp.

Training continued until July when, after pre-embarkation leave, D. Coy., under Maj. A.J. Cough, left Northam by train as advance party for Woodside Camp in South Australia. The result of the Battalion followed shortly afterwards by sea, travelling in the Duntroon.

Woodside Camp, in the foothills of the Lofty Range, added another chapter to the intensive training programme, not least of which were some marathon cross-country marches through the rugged ranges around Mt. Lofty. Two outstanding marches were 39 miles in one day and the march to and up Mt. Lofty.

Tactical training continued, with emphasis on specialised N.C.O. training and night manoeuvres. It was here the nickname “Anketell’s Mountain Goats” was born.

October brought rumours of a move; they proved correct, and on the 11th October the Battalion entrained at Oakbank en route to Darwin. The move was not welcomed by the Battalion, already restless after 12 months’ training in Australia and anxious to move overseas and join the other A.I.F. units who had already fought several campaigns.

Headquarters of the Battalion in the Darwin area was Winellie Camp, situated some eight miles south of Darwin, and after a short period of camp construction in preparation of the “wet”, Companies occupied beach positions, with the exception of B. Coy., who was stationed at Adelaide River carrying out guard duties, but was allotted a Brigade Reserve Roll.

The Companies were withdrawn from beach areas on 26th December, being relieved by the 43rd Bn. A.M.F. and 27th Bn. A.M.F.

On the 30th December, A, B, C and D Coys. and Battalion Headquarters embarked on the s.s. Marilla, H.Q. Coy., and Battalion reinforcements embarked on H.M.A.S. Westralia.

On 31st December, 1941, the convoys sailed from Port Darwin.

On the 4th January the convoy rendezvoused with the Aquitania at Port Moresby and the Battalion transhipped, and the Aquitania sailed for Sydney, berthing at Wooloomooloo Docks on the 8th January.

Leave was granted during the two days, and on the 10th, after an inspection by the Governor-General, the Aquitania sailed for Fremantle, arriving in Gage Roads on the 15th January.

Despite the fact that Fremantle was the home port of the Battalion which had been away six months, orders were received that no leave was to be granted. However, approximately 600 of the Battalion took matters into their own hands and went ashore aboard the oil and water lights engaged in refuelling the Aquitania. On the 16th January the ship received instructions from the Javy to sail at 1100 hours, with the result that 94 personnel who were unable to return to the ship were left at Fremantle. (On the 20th January the Quitania arrived in Sundra Straits and was met by two small Dutch vessels, the s.s. Van Swoll and Van Der Lin.

On the 20th January the convoy left Sundra Straits, arriving at Singapore on 0900 hours, 24th January. No incidents occurred during the voyage and no air attacks were made during transhipment.

The Battalion moved to Naval Base Camp, from whence on 29th January Companies moved to allotted positions on the Island in preparation for the expected assault by Japanese forces.


Major Sengers, O.C. a. Coy., was detached and appointed C.O. Composite Battalion (including 2/4 reinforcements).

The coastline in these areas was indented with rivers and creeks, with large stretches of mangrove swamps, and as such was very difficult to defend, particularly with the material and manpower available.

The Japanese landed on Sunday, 8th February, the main force of the attack developing on the area occupied by D. Coy., with minor thrusts against C and B. Coy. areas.

Despite spirited opposition, the enemy managed to effect landings at isolated unguarded sections of the coastline and soon the units occupying beach positions were cut off and had to fight their way back to the main body of the defending forces. In doing so, they suffered very heavy casualties and became scattered over a wide area.

The fighting on the Island continued on the same pattern as had obtained on the mainland, the enemy infiltrating past areas of resistance and forcing continued withdrawals.

In all actions in which they were engaged the Unit earned a reputation for courage and vigour in keeping with the best traditions of the A.I.F. Notable actions were those at Ulm Pandan crossroads, where C and H.Q. Coys suffered severe casualties including the loss of C.O. Col. Anketell, O.C. H.Q. Coy., Capt. O.S. McEwen, in bayonet charges against the enemy and Birkitim Thah village, where the special reserve Battalion under Major Sengers was ambushed and lost a large proportion of their reinforcements, including most of our reinforcement officers.

At capitulation on the 15th February, the Battalion was
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occupying a forward section of the defence perimeter which enclosed the city of Singapore.

In all, in their eight days of action against the Japanese, the Battalion suffered 310 battle casualties out of a total of 850 men engaged (a total of over 309), a much higher percentage than those suffered by most Australian forces in the Middle East, Grecian and New Guinea campaigns, a reminder to all that the Unit had carried out its part in the early attempts to stem the tide of the Japanese advance towards the shores of Australia.

After the capitulation on the 15th February, the Unit, with all of the Australian Forces, were concentrated at Changi Barracks.

On the formation of working parties by the Japanese, the Unit was divided into small groups and sent to various sections of the occupied South-East Asia areas: the majority being sent to Burma and Thailand, where they were engaged in the building of a railway line from Burma to Thailand. The heavy work under frightful living conditions, lack of food and medical supplies and ill-treatment by the Japanese took heavy toll of all P.O.W.

Further losses were incurred when a Japanese transport carrying P.O.W. was torpedoed on the way to Japan, there being very few survivors, and in Borneo a large number of the Unit lost their lives during the Sandakan death-march.

The fight for survival as P.O.W. created a strong bond of comradeship amongst the P.O.W., and the record of sacrifice and self-denial among all personnel is probably unparalleled in the history of the Australian Forces.

In all, 239 members of the Battalion died during the 3½ years of captivity, a damning record of the inhumanity of Japanese forces.

On the capitulation of the Japanese on 15th August, 1945, recovery teams from Australia moved into the South-East Asia areas and repatriation was completed by the end of October.

The Battalion’s record of service was, whilst brief, a noteworthy one, and all personnel can feel proud of the part played in the ultimate victory of the Allied Forces.

**STATISTICS:**

Total Personnel, including reinforcement engaged on Singapore Island, 951. Killed in Action and D.O.W., 133. Died as P.O.W. 239, a total of 372, nearly 40% of the total strength.

**AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:**

Lt.-Col. C.E. Green — M.B.E., M.I.D.
Sgt. J. Gorringe — B.E.M.
Cpl. W.R. Ritchie — B.E.M.
Maj. C. Cameron — M.I.D.
Capt. C.L. Anderson — M.I.D.
Cpl. J.J. Dore — M.I.D.
Cpl. A.M. Draper — M.I.D.
Sgt. H.C. Fuhrmann — M.M.

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**NAVY MEMORIAL**

On 10 July, 1911, His Majesty King George V signed the documents creating the Royal Australian Navy and the RANR. In 1985 the Service celebrates its 75th Anniversary, and is planning a series of events to mark this significant year. Included is the 75th Anniversary Fleet Review to be held in Sydney in October and a nationwide programme of local events. The most important activity will be the unveiling in March of the National Naval Memorial to be situated in Anzac Parade, Canberra.

Conceived in 1981, this project was developed by the National Capital Development Commission. A competition, initially involving 15 sculptors, was initiated in late 1983, culminating in June 1984 with the selection of the winner entry. An official announcement by the Prime Minister is expected shortly.

The Memorial will take the form of an open plaza, surrounded on three sides by shrubs, incorporating plinths on which will be mounted scrolls displaying the Battle Honours earned by naval units from the “Emden” engagement to Vietnam. The central feature is the bronze sculpture, an imposing artwork incorporating moving water.

The unveiling will be marked by a suitable ceremonial parade, which will include both serving members of the RAN, and those who served in the past. The Memorial will be a striking addition to Anzac Parade’s commemorative features, and will be a fitting tribute to all who have served the Naval Services of Australia.
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Women’s Auxiliary Report

I am writing these notes for the December issue of the Listening Post, so by the time you read them we will be at the end of another year. Possibly, like me, you had planned to do quite a lot of personal things in 1984, but time has slipped away and I find I haven’t achieved very many of them, still there is always next year.

Auxiliaries have worked hard during the year, as we can see by the generous donations received for our various funds. Thanks to the response to our Xmas Cheer Fund we are again able to bring a little gift to each one we visit in the hospitals and homes. Each year the number grows, but we are able to cope, our day of parcel packing is a joyous one, the smile and grateful thanks received when they are personally delivered is reward for us all.

Mrs Rolfe and I attended the Reception by the League to welcome the new Governor, Professor Reid and Mrs Reid. I attended the Kelmscott Auxiliary meeting to officially welcome them as a newly formed Auxiliary and we wish them many years of service to the League.

Belmont Auxiliary celebrated their birthday on September 12th, the many guests enjoyed the dancing, etc. I had pleasure in presenting Life Membership to Mrs Pendlebury and Certificates of Service to Mrs Farrel and Mrs Johnson. Mrs Sullivan, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Jolley and I with Mrs Phelps as driver, ventured forth despite very threatening weather on September 14th to Pinjarra to help Murray-Districts celebrate their 60 years service. The beautiful luncheon was attended by many representatives of Auxiliaries and I presented Life Membership to Mrs Robb. The resumes of the 60 years was most interesting. We were pleased to see Vi Symington again and to bring her up to date with the news of Executive Members she knew. The stormy weather kept away to allow us to go there and back without any problems. In contrast, the weather was perfect, sunshine everywhere when the Executive visited the Bullsbrook Auxiliary to share with them a lovely luncheon. The girls of Bullsbrook had made a dozen knee rugs which they gave to us to be taken to some of our hospitals where we know they will be appreciated.

Victoria Park, Millen, and Darling Range Auxiliaries have all recently celebrated their birthdays. Victoria Park entertained their guests by taking them back to school and testing their memories of history and geography and at storybook time the tales related gave a different account than the accepted version. Millen celebrated their day by having a wedding dress parade. Five young girls modelling the gowns which ranged from recent years to one worn nearly 50 years ago, the finale being a most unlikely Bride of the Year. Wedding photos caused some merriment in trying to recognise the Bride. The guests at the Darling Range party enjoyed the competitions, a lovely singer and chit chat. At each, of course, there was always those temptations on the afternoon tea table.

Executive has already received invitations to Xmas functions so it looks as if we will be busy before the festive season. Our parcel packing-day is in November, then the joy of delivering them in December, a chore we all look forward to. Two of our members have been in hospital recently. Mrs Minson and Mrs Johnson, we hope the new year will bring them back to full health again. To all Auxiliary and Sub-Branch members who have been on the sick list this year we wish you better health in 1985.

I take the opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Xmas and happy New Year with your loved ones and ask God’s blessing on you all.

Joy Ford
State President

CITY OF PERTH SUB-BRANCH

Meetings held second Tuesday of each month,
Anzac House, 28 St George’s Terrace, Perth at 1815 hours (6.15 pm).
President: M.C. (Mike) Hall, Secretary: H.G. (Harry) Holder.

BELMONT R.S.L.

Welcomes all R.S.L. Members to our Ex-Services Club at Leake Street, Belmont.

TRADING HOURS:

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<th>Days</th>
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<td>Thursdays</td>
<td>4pm - 7pm</td>
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<td>Fridays</td>
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<td>Saturdays</td>
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<td>Sundays</td>
<td>4.30pm - 7.30pm</td>
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LISTENING POST — SUMMER, 1984 — 11
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096 221074
The annual ANZAC AWARDS are designed to perpetuate Australia’s most sacred heritage, “The spirit of Anzac”.

Firstly there is the “ANZAC PEACE PRIZE” which is awarded annually to the person resident in Australia who is considered to have made the most outstanding efforts in promoting world understanding and peace.

In addition to the above prize, there are seven “ANZAC OF THE YEAR AWARDS” for those selected individuals or groups in Australia who have demonstrated the spirit of comradeship and selfless service embodied in the tradition of ANZAC.

The Returned Services League of Australia (W.A. State Branch) invite recommendations and citations for outstanding persons who qualify for consideration for the above awards. The recipients need not be ex-servicemen and could range from a surf lifesaver, charity worker, nurse or mailman in the outback, etc. We are seeking nominations of persons who have given outstanding service to their fellow Australians and to the community in a positive, selfless and compassionate manner.

THE ANZAC PEACE PRIZE

The prize is a silver medallion some ten centimetres in diameter, depicting the legendary “Simpson” of Gallipoli and his donkey. Already a most rare and valuable item in itself, the medallion which has been specially struck in sterling silver at the National Mint, is presented in a specially designed presentation case and inscribed with the name of the recipient. The medallion is accompanied by a certificate setting out the nature of the prize and the citation on which the award was given. In addition, the recipient will receive a miniature lapel badge for everyday wear.

The prize is normally presented by the Governor General in the presence of the National President and State Presidents who make up the National Executive of the Returned Services League of Australia.

THE ANZAC OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Awards are bronze medallions some ten centimetres in diameter, depicting “Simpson” and his donkey, presented in a specially designed presentation case. As with the Peace Prize, the award is accompanied by a certificate outlining the nature of the award and with the citation on which the nominee was selected. A bronze miniature lapel badge is also presented for everyday wear. The awards are normally presented by the State Governors in the individual States in the presence of the State President of the Returned Services League in that State, and members of the State Executive or Council.

HOW TO NOMINATE

Application forms are available from ANZAC House, 28 St George’s Terrace, Perth, or can be obtained by writing to:

The State Secretary,
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All completed applications must be marked “Confidential” and be submitted to the State Secretary by Thursday, January 31, 1985.
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KALBARRI WAR MEMORIAL

Kalbarri has no RSL Sub-Branch, but there are a dedicated few ex-servicemen who got together on a project to build a new war memorial, Kalbarri's first.

The Memorial covers about a quarter of an acre, and is sited spectacularly within a few yards of the water at the mouth of the Murchison River. The building of it was done on the basis of honorary labour by a group of all ages but mostly in the over 60's and 70's bracket. These workers are known locally as "Dad's Army". The chief co-ordinator, designer, engineer, liaison officer and scavenger of goods was Cliff Ross, an ex 2/3rd Anti-Aircraft Gunner, referred to as "Captain Mannering". (Cliff is the owner of the Fantasyland Museum in Kalbarri.)

Two of the chaps in "Dad's Army" up here are Vaughan Carter, ex 2/28th Bn and prisoner of war taken at Ruin Ridge, and Arthur Mutton ex 2/32nd Bn and Rat of Tobruk. They have both been living here for many years.

DEDICATION: (Ron Gwynne writes)

Well, the great day arrived accompanied by a chilly, strong East wind, but that did not in any way detract from the success of the day. Commencing at 10.30 A.M a procession about half a mile long took off along the main street and paraded around the banks of the Murchison River to the Memorial. The procession included a Navy Band and personnel, Air Force members, Army members, school children, members of a karate club, a dancing school, the Geraldton Salvation Army Band, the Geraldton Town Band and a strong contingent of bemitted returned service members from Kalbarri and other centres all over the State and a very strong turn-up from the Northampton Sub-Branch.

An Army guard impressively took their positions around the Memorial in slow time and the service; attended by a very large crowd, then took place with the main participants in the ceremony being Mr Reg Tubby, MLA, Father Cross, Reverend Buckingham, Cliff Ross (the instigator of the Memorial construction), and Mr Ken McKiver, Minister for Lands, who unveiled the plaque.

Included at the ceremony was a fly past by an Air Force Caribou and singing by children from the Kalbarri School. The service concluded with a march past and nearly everyone then went to the Kalbarri Sports Ground where an enjoyable 2 or 3 hours was spent watching demonstrations of karate, gymnastics and band music, accompanied by a barbecue and the usual refreshments.

Everyone travelling in this area would be rewarded by a trip into Kalbarri just to see the Memorial — it is really something. Already hundreds of visitors have inspected it and all have passed very favourable comment.

CAPSULE:

An informal ceremony was held later-to seal into the Memorial a capsule containing the names of all who assisted in the construction of the Memorial, a tape of the whole proceedings on Dedication Day, photos of the Memorial under construction, some of today's currency and other items, the main officiators on this occasion being "Dad's Army" members John Inman, Cliff Ross (the Boss), Jack Simmonds and Roy Harris, who is a Vietnam veteran. Roy is also the Senior National Park Ranger here in Kalbarri. (The Capsule is to be opened in the year 2234)

Ron Gwynne

Inquiry Into Health of Returned Ex-Servicewomen

Several motions related to Returned ex-Servicewomen were passed at the 1984 National R.S.L. Congress, and the motion:

"That the Department of Veterans' Affairs be asked to institute an urgent inquiry into the health and welfare of Returned Second World War Ex-Servicewomen" submitted by ACT and supported by W.A., Victoria and Tasmania, was passed.

This motion was the result of motions submitted by W.A. 10 years ago when it was realized that the health and welfare of many Returned Ex-Servicewomen was cause for concern.

Miss-Patricia Kennedy AANS during World War II and later on Reserve of Officers and Asst. Matron at Canberra Hospital, had been concerned about the welfare of ex-servicewomen and submitted information for consideration to the National Secretary of the R.S.L., Mr Ian Gollings. Subsequently an appointment was made with the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator Arthur Gietzelt and Miss Kennedy and Joan Dowson of W.A. and, as a result of this meeting it was announced on the 29th October on the A.B.C.

"The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator Gietzelt announced today that his Department would conduct a study on Returned Ex-Servicewomen of the 2nd World War. In Tasmania today, Senator Gietzelt said the Department realized some of the women who served in occupations including nursing during the war may now need some form of Government assistance. He said that over the next 6 months his Department would be seeking to establish the number of surviving female veterans with overseas service and what treatment and other entitlements were available to them. Senator Gietzelt said 2nd World War servicewomen were paid only 2/3rd as much as their male counterparts and in the past 40 years had faced some extraordinary discrimination in the community".

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

When you are in the right you can afford to keep your temper.
When you are in the wrong you cannot afford to lose it.

LISTENING POST — SUMMER, 1984 — 17
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Safety, security and reputation of the company who directs or places your investment is most important.

It is recommended that potential retirees, existing and new investors seek the advice of a reputable investment advisor when making plans for an enjoyable worry free future.

by Ray Priest
Retirement Investment Advisor, ANZ Banking Group Limited

NOTICE TO UNIT ASSOCIATIONS

Due to increasing administration costs, handling charges and other expenses involved in the production of the Listening Post, it is with regret the committee announce that Unit Association subscriptions will be increased from $12.50 to $15.00 per annum as from 1st January, 1985.

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The Centre comprises a tearoom museum,
souvenir/craft shop and lookout tower. Built on a hilltop, the
 tearoom and tower enjoy breathtaking views of the Avon
Valley and surrounding area.

The Centre is surrounded by local rock retaining walls
and many native flowering plants. Picnic area near Centre
and tower.

The tearoom serve morning and afternoon teas with
expresso coffee, cake, pecan pie, pavlova etc.

After Hours (096) 278 2540 — R. Garcia (Prop.)
How to get there (approx. 4km from Toodyay):

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Phone 35 5870 A/m 35 6185

20 — LISTENING POST — SUMMER; 1984
The petroleum industry is 125 years old

On 28 August, the modern oil industry had its 125th birthday, an event which passed virtually unnoticed, except in Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

It was on that day in 1859 that 'Colonel' Edwin Laurentine Drake, 40, a former conductor on the New Haven railway in Connecticut, struck oil with the first commercial oil well in the USA.

The self-styled colonel, who'd never been in the Army, held a small number of shares in the Pennsylvania Rock Oil Company, a small concern which had been promoted by lawyer George Bissell, who owned land in a district of the state where there had been many seepages of crude oil found on the surface.

The company gathered this oil and sold it for 'medicinal' purposes in the same way that North American Indian tribes in the vicinity had collected it for centuries themselves, also for its supposed curative powers.

Drake, a man of many parts, visited Titusville, the village in the western part of the State where the company was in business, to study techniques used in drilling salt wells. The technology was little different from the rigs used by the Chinese for centuries to drill for oil themselves.

It used an arrangement by which a drill bit was activated by a series of ropes to chip, chip, chip away a hole, deeper and deeper. In effect, the 'drill' chiselled out a narrow well.

Drake adapted the salt drill to dig a well in a search for the source of the oil seepages. He was looking for what gold miners would refer to as the 'mother lode'.

Starting in 1858, with a rig protected from the weather by a wooden enclosure, Drake persevered until the hole slowly reached a depth of 21 metres all those months later — and he struck oil at that shallow depth.

The locals had sneered at 'Drake's Folly', as they dubbed his planked-in structure. Drake had the laugh on them. By the time word circulated that he had actually found oil in the hole, Drake had already installed a small pump down-hole and was bringing crude to the surface at the rate of 30 barrels a day. (One barrel is 159 litres).

In a situation where oil was in growing demand as a source of kerosine for lamps, Drake was in a position to dictate terms. The Bissell-Drake venture quickly was finding off-who'd-be purchasers who rapidly bid up the price of the crude to $20 a barrel.

Titusville became the site of the world's first oil rush. Some farmers made fortunes overnight without the bother of drilling for oil, as people poured in from all over, buying whatever land they could in the vicinity.

Land changed hands several times in a week as the oil rush gained momentum.

Not only Titusville was affected. Other communities in the vicinity likewise became boom towns.

It would be nice to report that Edwin Drake became a millionaire and lived happily ever after. Not so. He did become the local judge. But he was not the sharp businessman he believed himself to be.

His first mistake was in not patenting his version of the oil drilling rig. His other big error was to sink his money into ill-advised oil speculations as a broker, where sharper minds than this prevailed. He lost everything.

After 10 years of poverty, his case was taken up by the State Legislature, which took pity on him and voted him a small pension which he lived on until his death on 8 November, 1880, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

The pension was small enough recognition of the wider implications of what 'Drake's Folly' had wrought. It showed the world the way to the most versatile form of energy in liquid form, and revolutionised transport and industry. Internationally, whole economies were transformed — and remain so.

LEUKAEMIA VICTIMS

Three men who worked together in the RAN Fleet Air Arm and who were employed using aircraft paints in the period 1977-1981 have died in 1984 of leukaemia. The circumstances seem overwhelming that the three cases are related and have a service cause. In the paints used there are at least two suspect carcinogens.

The importance of this issue is not just the Repatriation and Commonwealth Compensation claims of the three widows. The number of victims or potential victims could be quite high if there is a service cause.

The latent or "incubation" period of the disease is a minimum of two years after exposure to a carcinogen and often the disease does not manifest itself for six years or more after a susceptible person is exposed. The disease cannot be detected until it manifests itself even though it may be inevitable at some future time. It is often detected in the investigation of some unrelated medical complaint.

This means that a susceptible serviceman could be exposed to a carcinogen, serve his engagement, be retired, suffer leukaemia and, never associate the disease with a service cause. The Department of Defence would never know of or even suspect a service cause unless the disease showed itself during service. Repatriation or Commonwealth Compensation would never know unless a claim was made and a claim would only be made if a service cause was suspected. A serviceman victim or his family would never know of entitlement to DFRDB retirement invalidity benefits and pension. In short, there are no statistics on the incidence of the disease in servicemen and ex-servicemen.

If there is a service cause and it can be established then it is important that victims or their dependents receive proper compensation and that potential victims receive early treatment.

Would any reader who knows of a service or ex-service victim of leukaemia please inform:

The Legal Advisor, Regular Defence Force Welfare Association, P.O. Box 190, Woden, A.C.T. 2606.

Please give as much detail as possible including contact addresses. Any information will be treated in confidence. Please help us help others.
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22 — LISTENING POST — SUMMER ’1984
Dear Sir,

The Australian War Memorial is appealing for names and information to be recorded in a commemorative book of Australians who died while serving in the forces of other Commonwealth countries or with Allied forces, in the Merchant Marine, or as members of philanthropic bodies who served with the Australian forces. In addition to the commemorative book, a bronze plaque in memory of these Australians has been erected in the Cloisters adjacent to the Roll of Honour.

Research has indicated that official records available for compilation of the commemorative book are neither complete nor accurate. Any information with supporting documentary evidence stating full name, organisation/unit, service performed, dates of service, place of residence and enlistment; and date and place of death would be of great value. Australians must have served in the following conflicts and died as a result of this service during the following periods:

- Boer War 11 October 1899 — 31 May 1902
- 1914-1918 War 4 August 1914 — 31 March 1921
- 1939-1945 War 3 September 1939 — 30 June 1947
- Korean War 27 June 1950 — 27 July 1953
- Malaya 16 June 1948 — 31 July 1960
- Sabah/Sarawak 24 December 1962 — 11 August 1966
- Malayan Peninsula 19 February 1964 — 14 August 1965
- Vietnam War 3 August 1962 — 1 January 1973

This information should be forwarded to the Director, Australian War Memorial, GPO Box 345, Canberra, ACT 2601.

J.H. Flemming
Director

Dear Sir,

Boer War

For the purpose of compiling a family history I recently wrote to Central Army Records for details of the service record of my late father in the 1899-1902 South African War and World War 1.

In reply they supplied details of his W.W.1 service but advised that, prior to Federation, each state maintained their own forces so they had no record of his service during the Boer War.

I am hoping that you may be able to help me or, if not, pass this request on to someone who could.

The only definite facts I have are:

- Father’s name: Malcolm Muir McSwain
- Born: Mordialloc, Victoria 1877
- Enlisted: Western Australia (an old photograph I remember was marked Guildford Volunteers)
- Information I am looking for is:
  - Date and place of discharge.
  - Which contingent he served with.

Also, can someone tell me where the township or settlement of Blackboy Hill is, or was? Army Records state that father volunteered for W.W.1 from there but do not know where it is in the State. That was in 1916 and none of my modern day maps has any reference to the place. Father was in the Marble Bar area in 1913-1914 so I am assuming it could be somewhere around there.

I would be very grateful for any information you can supply.

Jean Gibson
35 William Street, Howard, Qld. 4659

Sir,

I was the Quartermaster on the Troop Ship H.M.A.S. Manoora, on Friday, 18th October, 1946, when I sighted a mine coming towards the ship. I immediately called for the attention of the Officer of the Watch, and suggested he have the Captain piped to the Bridge. While the Captain was being notified of the danger we were in, I let the ship drift three degrees off course, the mine would have hit the ship otherwise. If it had hit No. 3 Hold which was being used as a Magazine for the 21st Infantry Battalion, it would have blown the ship in halves. During the following week I was piped to report to the Ward Room where the Captain introduced me to a Brigadier who was Commanding Officer of the 21st Infantry Battalion, who thanked me personally on behalf of the Battalion, then on Sunday morning 27th October, 1946, I was ordered to be escorted (by a Guard of Honour of eight Ratings) by Chief Petty Officer Izard (Master of Arms) to the Recreation Area of the Manoora, where I was honoured by Captain A.P. Cousin for my quick action concerning the mine, in front of the Ship’s Company.

Through Senator Messner (S.A.), the Minister for Defence, The Honourable Gordon Scholes, has confirmed the sighting of the mine on the said date, but says there is no record of my saving of the ship, so I thought you might be able to help me find some Ship’s Company or some members of the 21st Infantry Battalion, who were on board H.M.A.S. Manoora in October 1946, who remember the incident. If you could help me in any way I would be most grateful, as I consider that the Australian Government owes me something for my quick action, other than a Service Pension.

Ivan George (Midge) Hamilton
6 Ormonde Ave, Pennington, S.A. 5013

Sir,

The Road to Menin Gate

In reply to P.J. Battle’s letter in the Spring Listening Post, there is another replica of the Menin Gate hanging in Anzac House, Perth.

Regards to P.J. Battle and many thanks for the interest shown.

W.A. Fleming 2/7 Bn.

LISTENING POST — SUMMER, 1984 — 23
Best wishes to all R.S.L. Members

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Sir,

Our Sub-Branch would like to extend thanks to the administration of Anzac House for arranging and providing a new venue for our monthly meetings in the precincts of Anzac House, where our inaugural meeting was conducted on the 8th October, 1984.

Being a Sub-Branch of small numbers, we found it convenient to be accommodated in the bar area of the Club, and enjoyed a rather relaxing experience to carry on with our business of the day in a very pleasant and friendly atmosphere, devoid of any interruptions from the surroundings. The added facility of being able to procure refreshments to satisfy all palates if and when required, lent appeal to the occasion. At the conclusion of all Sub-Branch business, those of our members who were not otherwise committed adjourned to the luncheon tables to partake of a nice meal selected from a varied menu at very reasonable cost.

All this was made really pleasant with the easy friendly manner of all the other club patrons, no doubt imbued with the same sense of well-being as ourselves, engendered by the club’s general atmosphere. We are certainly looking forward to our next meeting at Anzac House.

Frank Cousens  
Hon. Secretary/Treasurer  
Welshpool R.S.L. Sub-Branch.

Sir,

In 1981 the League was able to assist "Le Souvenir Français" in locating families of RAAF aircrew shot down in the Bullecourt area in France in June 1944.

The project was extremely successful in locating some of the aviators' families and "Le Souvenir Français" have again asked that a similar request for the remainder of the untraced families be placed in League publications.

Would you please help by inviting the following four people who were shot down near Houvin-Houvigneul on 22 June 1944 to reply directly to the address shown below:

- Nelson Ellis BOWMAN
- Meredith Burford PARKER
- Clarence Archibald JONES
- Herbert William SEDGWICK

Reply to Monsieur André Coilliot, Le Souvenir Français, 71 Rue Raoul Briquet, Beaureains 62217, France.

Ian Gollings  
National Secretary

Sir,

LOST CONTACT

Mr Dennis (Brum) Hughes of 1, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands, WS10 7JL, England, wishes to trace a shipmate who served in the Royal Navy during World War II.

His name was Able Seaman lan (Dusty) Rhodes who was serving on 23 May 1941 on the Destroyer, H.M.S. Kashmir and was later awarded a Conspicuous Gallantry Medal.

Next year, Mr Hughes intends to visit Crete in May and would like to get in touch with Dusty Rhodes to see if they can meet again.

Sir,

By now all of your members receiving Service Pensions would have received letters regarding the Assets Test. These are currently being processed and a large number of Veterans would have been advised that their pension will not be affected.

Your members who may be affected will be advised in the near future.

I would like to remind your members that staff in the Department are available to discuss any aspect of the Assets Test that requires clarification or if additional information is required. The numbers to ring for enquiries are:

Metropolitan: 327 8333
Country: 008 113304 (only the cost of a local call is charged when using this number).

On behalf of the Assets Group of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, I take this opportunity to thank your members and in particular the committees of the Sub-Branches for the hospitality provided to our staff during visits to those Sub-Branches.

M. Mitchell  
A/G Project Leader (Assets Group)  
Department of Veterans' Affairs

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

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A Bit of Australia

There wouldn't be too many people in this land who have not heard of Lasseter's Reef and the story of how the man himself supposedly found it and then lost it. If you take any notice of a plaque near a cave out 'tother side of Docker River, then the name of the gentleman in question was Harold Bell Lasseter. In actual fact, he was christened Lewis Hubert Lasseter when born in 1880 at Meredith in Victoria. As he grew up, he came to dislike Hubert more and more, so he called himself Harold. Just to confuse the issue, his death certificate shows him as Henry and his friends called him Harry.

That just about sums up Mr Lasseter. Whatever you call him, his life and exploits were controversial (my word for the month) and confusing. At seventeen, he joined the navy and served as a gunner aboard HMS Powerful. He left the navy in Townsville in 1899 and headed west to prospect for rubies around Alice Springs. He had no luck with the rubies, so continued west in search of gold.

Lasseter nearly met the fate on this trip that was to claim him some thirty years later. He was found by an Afghan camel driver near the Canning Stock Route, delirious and near death. He had walked clear across the Great Sandy Desert, kept alive only by the odd shower of rain. The Afghan took him to a nearby surveyor's camp where he was nursed back to health by the head surveyor, Harding.

One night, around the campfire, Lasseter confided in Harding that he had found a huge reef of gold on the eastern edge of the desert. To prove his story, he showed Harding a leather bag full of rich gold samples. They kept the story to themselves and made plans to mount an expedition to locate the fabulous reef.

In 1903, they set off from Carnarvon with a team of camels. From here on, facts become a big yawn, but according to Lasseter, they found the reef and gathered some rich samples which later assayed at three ounces to the ton. Harding took careful bearings of the reef, but, back in Carnarvon, discovered they were inaccurate as he had not allowed for time correction. Shortly afterwards, Harding died and with him went any chance of accurately pinpointing the reef.

Meanwhile, gold had been discovered at Coolgardie and Lasseter joined the rush. He tried to gain backers to help him find the lost reef; but everyone was too interested in digging their fortune from the ground around Kalgoorlie to listen. Thoroughly cheeses off, he packed up and headed for America. There, he studied surveying but had no luck in gaining backers to mine his reef. He joined the American army in 1917 and served until 1919 when he returned to Australia.

In 1930 Lasseter was able to obtain the assistance of the Sydney Branch of the Australian Workers Union in forming a company to back an expedition. It was registered under the grand title of the Central Australia Gold Coast Exploration Co. Ltd. A lot of hard cash was spent on equipment which included a new fangled thing called radio. An aircraft was chartered and a mighty six wheeled truck was to be used as a workhorse. But the expedition was doomed to failure. The radio didn't work, the aeroplane crashed and the pilot injured and the truck couldn't handle the tough going. Arguments broke out amongst members of the party and some even developed into a stoush or two. So the party withdrew, not getting within a bull's roar of where the lost reef was supposed to be.

Lasseter continued the search by plane and at one stage, claimed to have seen the reef again. He set off once more with a companion and a team of camels, and this was to be his final expedition, which would take him to the big gold mine in the sky. His companion returned shortly after departure, obviously having had a difference of opinion with the stubborn Lasseter. From here on, the story becomes pure conjecture. One version says he eventually found the reef and died of starvation on his return between Docker River and the Olgas and his body was found by a station owner. Another reckons he died in a cave east of Docker River when besieged by natives who blamed him for the famine which gripped the country at the time. Yet another version claims his camels bolted and left him to die without food or water.

Whatever the true story, probably no other Australian bushman left behind such a welter of conjecture and mystery. In the following years, hundreds of people from all stations of life have spent millions of pounds and dollars searching for the reef. No one has yet been able to find it and the weight of opinion is that it doesn't exist. But Lewis Hubert Lasseter believed it was there and he died for his belief — and that's pretty high stakes in any gamble.

Railways Institute Magazine, July 1984

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS!

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 ad support stays in our State and helps maintain the standard for our present excellent publication.

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SUB BRANCH REPORTS

WYNDHAM SUB-BRANCH

The first meeting of a rejuvenated Wyndham Sub-Branch was held on the 26th of September with eleven people attending and several apologies, a big improvement of previous years when a total of two were present.

Brian Dillon was elected President, Brian has had several years experience at Mount Barker so with him at the helm things should get off to a good start.

One of the first projects is to complete the R.S.L. Park to its former glory and a busy bee will be held to erect a fence around the Park as the first stage of this project.

Next the guns (two WWII 25 Pounders) will be sand-blasted and repainted and new flag poles will be erected.

The old hall will be cleaned out and the grounds will be replanted with flowers and lawn.

Much of the fencing material has been donated by members of the local Fire Brigade and the fence poles supplied by Jeffrey Castle, one of the new members.

The membership here is relatively young with many of the members having served in Vietnam and a couple of them still serving with the Army’s Nor Force here in Wyndham. Four a small town we have a good cross-section of the Forces represented amongst the members, with the Navy, Air Force and Army represented including an ex-S.A.S. Sergeant, an ex-Commando and a Sub-Mariner.

The ladies have formed an Auxiliary and have some great plans for the near future. We will try to keep everyone down South informed about what is happening in the top town in the West.

CITY OF SUBIACO SUB-BRANCH

The Subiaco Sub-Branch held its annual “George Bowman Memorial” Diggers Day at Kitchener Park Bowling Club on Sunday, 30th September.

The weather turned out beautiful, the greens were in good condition, and the companionship was the best. So a great day was had by all. Players came from many clubs and some made the trip from Bruce Rock. The National President of RSL Bowls, Tyson Scanlon was amongst those present, also Michael Hall of State Executive who made his first appearance at Diggers Day.

The winners on the day were a team from Yokine Bowling Club, skippered by Sasse Ryan and given good support by J. Bloffwitch and J.M. Caston.

A team from Manning, skippered by R.A. Axford with Alan Beecock and D. Watson were the runners-up.

Joy Preedy took a hand at recording and did a good job with the cards, as well as checking over the finance. Thanks Joy.

Thanks also to the Kitchener Park Ladies for a nice lunch and to the Club for the use of facilities.

BUNBURY SUB-BRANCH

Records continue to tumble with thirty six members present at the October meeting where three officers of T.S. Bunbury were our guests for the evening.

Jim Cunliffe, Harry Cheek and Norm Hart gave us an interesting run down on the activities of the Naval Reserve Cadets in Bunbury. A few weeks prior to that we presented the officers and cadets of T.S. Bunbury with the port nameboard from the original H.M.A.S. Bunbury. The presentation was made at the conclusion of a Friday evening “Sunset Parade” and was received by Cadet Petty Officer Ronald Cheek on behalf of his unit.

We feel that the nameboard is now in a much more appropriate place than in our hall.

We were also pleased to welcome our “official auditor”, Geoff Mountford along to the October meeting. We are very fortunate to have a man of his expertise to call on for advice on this important area. Members at the August and September meetings were treated to interesting talks by Doug Tucker, O.I.C. Air Cadets and Phil Owens, District Commissioner for the Scouting Movement.

Our first social was a roaring success, so much so in fact that the very capable social committee are organizing the next one for the second Saturday in February. (Don’t miss it!) Hopefully a newsletter will be produced and despatched to all members early in ‘85 to let everyone know what is happening.

One of our most forward moves for the year was to form a welfare committee.

The Sub-Branches welfare officers are Ford Campbell and Doug Gisborne. They will play a very important role in this vitally important area and I’m sure that we will hear a lot from them in the future.

The hall painting project got off to a good start with Bob Mossman, Gerry Mallett, Chris Mills, Bob Stewart and Val Saunders doing quite a professional job on the ceiling.

We can always use a spare hour which members may have to offer. Upkeep on the hall is a never-ending job and there is always something to paint, fix, clean, move, etc. Our Trusty hall manager Stanley is always in attendance between 8 and 10 am daily (when he’s not falling off ladders). All help will be greatly appreciated.

We have already booked a bay for Bunbury Peoples Day 1985 and at the moment ideas are sought as to what exactly we should do. Reg Piggott’s museum last year was a winner.

We seem set to finish 1984 as the best year for quite some time. I feel confident that ‘85 will be even better, meeting attendances have been good but could be much better. Don’t forget that date — 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Alf Mainstone (Sub-Branch President)

WILLS

We have been informed of numerous cases where the families and beneficiaries of ex-Servicemen’s estates have experienced difficulty and hardship because members had not up-dated their wills. In most cases, ex-service personnel had made wills on induction into the Service during the war, but had never up-dated them. Consequently, their validity has been open to question and lengthy delays have occurred in processing the estate.

All members in this situation are urged to up-date their wills as a matter of priority.

LISTENING POST — SUMMER, 1984 — 29
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Sub-Branch notes continued
GERALDTON SUB-BRANCH

Flag Petition
A petition seeking retention of the AUSTRALIAN flag in its present form has been signed by members of the Geraldton Sub-Branch of the Returned Services League. In addition, several members are obtaining signatures from members of the public.

The petition - organised by the "Australian National Flag Association" - is to be sent to the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives. It says the Flag in its present design properly reflects what are described as "the immutable characteristics of Australia".

The petition says the Union Jack, itself the creation of three Christian crosses, represents Australia's historical origin and the source of its language and law; the Southern Cross on an azure blue background signifies its place in space; and the large star depicts the advent of Federation in 1901.

The petition also says that millions of native-born Australians and newcomers from other parts of the world have become united under the flag's proud symbolism; and claims that any change to the flag will produce division in the Australian community.

The petition will call for a House of Representatives motion "that the existing Australian National Flag remain sacrosanct from change".

B.J.B.

RSL Donates Throssell VC to War Memorial

The National President of the RSL, Sir William Keys, has been successful in his efforts to retain for the National Collection the Victoria Cross awarded to Hugo Throssell during World War I.

With substantial assistance from Smith and Lane Pty Ltd, a leading Sydney commercial enterprise, $42,000 has been paid to the people for Nuclear Disarmament for the medal. A number of individual donors also contributed to the purchase. The RSL had earlier offered $36,000.

It will be presented to the Australian War Memorial on 11 November, Remembrance Day, together with Throssell's other medals and his pistol.

The Throssell VC was the only VC awarded to an Australian Lighthorseman during World War I and as such is of special significance to Australia. His unit, 10 Light Horse, which is still an Army Reserve Unit in Perth was recently depicted in the highly acclaimed film 'Gallipoli'.

For further information contact:

Ian Gollings: 488915 (W) 811162 (H)
June Healy: 487199 (W) 476580 (H) Telex: 61431
Canberra, 30 October, 1984.

Darwin's defences are wide open

A handful of soldiers in a couple of rowing boats could take Darwin according to Darwin Returned Services League President, Mr Lofty Plane.

Mr Plane was responding to a report tabled in Parliament which criticised Australia's defence strategy and capability as inadequate and in need of a fundamental re-think.

ATTACK

Mr Plane said that the services were in a "mess" and the Territory - with its big coastline - was vulnerable to attack.

"Our defence is such that anybody could land and take the place", Mr Plane said.

"We have a few patrol boats, some aircraft and an army base comprising largely non-military personnel like clerks and cooks", he said.

The Parliamentary Defence and Foreign Affairs Committee was asked in December, 1983, to report on the capability of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to fulfil its role.

The committee concluded that muddy thinking by defence planners had led to a top-heavy and ill-equipped ADF which could not meet even a low-level threat.

The implication was that the Defence Department's horizons have been spread too thinly.

It was suggested that Australia's zone of defence should include only Australia and its off-shore territories.

Australia should not expand its overseas commitments and it should reconsider the value of contributing to peace-keeping forces.

LISTENING POST — SUMMER, 1984 — 31
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Computer Voice

The use of microcomputers in the Occupational Therapy Department of Hollywood RGH, Perth, is helping a female patient to improve her means of oral communication.

She is Janice Klump who suffers from a disease that prevents her having control of her head movements. She is unable to communicate verbally and can only respond with "yes" and "no" movements of her head.

Now, with the use of a microcomputer and wearing a headband with a mercury tilt switch that activates a gentle nod, Janice can scan the alphabet on the screens and select the letter she wishes to use.

She can then display a message on the screen which can be printed out or saved on a magnetic diskette to be recalled later. The device is easy to use and patients can write sensible messages after a single training session.

Ms Kate Brown, senior occupational therapist at RGH Hollywood, says this process now allows Janice to communicate with her doctor about her physical problems. "She has also written to friends to express her feelings," Ms Brown said.

The Biomedical Engineering Department (BED) at Hollywood RGH fitted the computer with an adaptive firmware card allowing a slower rate of data entry for easier use by the disabled.

Dr Stephen Lam of the BED has also produced a program allowing occupational therapists to list questions in the computer memory. This permits Janice to answer each question as "How are you feeling?" "Is there anything you would like?" at her own speed.

Over half million Veterans survive

There were about 580,800 surviving Australian ex-service personnel, excluding members of the peace-time forces, in June this year. This is a reduction of about 20,000 on the 1983 corresponding figure.

These figures, based on Department statistics, also showed that about 150,000 of the surviving Veterans received both disability and service pensions, including 63,400 dependants of Veterans.

The total pensioner population was 632,839 of whom 298,193 were Veterans and 334,646 dependants.

The total number of disability pensioners was 166,062, a reduction of 2,293 over the 12 month period. There were 183,105 dependants receiving pensions as well as 55,233 War Widows and 2,877 other dependants of deceased Veterans receiving pensions. The number of War Widows increased by 3,000 or 6 per cent in 1983-84.

The number of T & PI pensioners increased by 2,200 or 12 per cent to 20,125. Service pensioners also increased by 34,357 or 10 per cent to 375,505.

The number of claims for disability pension increased at all levels of the determining system except the Repatriation Review Tribunal (RRT). In 1983-84 there were 25,413 entitlement claims lodged at the Board level or an increase of 22 per cent over the number lodged in 1982-83.

Anti-Aircraft Association
ANNUAL REUNION

will be held at Anzac House

on FRIDAY, 22nd MARCH, 1985

at 6.30 p.m.

For further information contact Ken Forsyth 72a Bay View Terrace, Claremont, 6010 or telephone 384 6517

Returned Ex-Servicewomen’s Sub-Branch

At the June Meeting of the Sub-Branch, the Returned Sisters Sub-Branch was invited to join us when we welcomed Brigadier A. Dacre OBE as guest speaker.

Brigadier Dacre, now retired and living in W.A. served for 37½ years in the Indian and British Armies and from 1980-82 was Commander of the Brigade of Gurkhas in Hong Kong. An attentive audience saw a selection of films illustrating the talk on the history and exploits of the Gurkha Regiment.

A report on State Congress by the President was given at the July meeting. Both submissions from the Sub-Branch were carried at the Congress and will now go on to National Congress. Our representative on the State Executive, Mrs Joan Dowson, will be attending National Congress as an Observer.

Sub-Branch members have regularly supported and assisted at the monthly Sandwich Luncheons arranged by Joan Dowson on behalf of the Executive.

The annual "sale day" at Belmont was again a financial success, thanks to all those involved in the organization and staffing of stalls on the day.

Monthly outings for members arranged by Sue Thomas are happy occasions and well supported by about 20 members. The June outing was to Channel 7 to witness the televising of the "Late Late Breakfast Show" and the August function was to join the "Great Midland Railway Company Get Together" to mark the 20th anniversary of the takeover by the Government helped by the Hotham Valley Tourist Railway.

L. Fealy President

LISTENING POST — SUMMER, 1984 — 33
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BOOK REVIEW

"Australian Women at War" by Patsy Adam-Smith
(Nelson 29.95)

I have reviewed many books and some readers may have accused me of being chauvinistic as the works have all been by male authors. However, I intend to rectify this by saying that Patsy Adam-Smith's Australian Women at War is equal, and in many cases superior, to some. I have always stated that a photograph is equal to 500 words, and the illustrations featured in this wonderful production do just this and are a credit to her.

One would have to hazard a guess the amount of time and effort expended in the research that must have gone into this before even attempting to write such a masterpiece and congratulations in full to the author.

Women were first involved in war as nurses as far back as the Boer War and through the years since have been part of the services in one way or another. Ambulance and truck drivers, chauffeurs, anti-aircraft gunners, servicing of aircraft, naval decoders were some of the 200 gradings, that were allocated to them. Apart from serving in the Navy, Army and Air Force, who can forget the magnificent work of the girls in the land army, W.A.N.S. and other groups formed for women to assist in. All of this is contained in this book. Many stories and pictures have been related personally to the author. One particular section of great interest to West Australian readers is about a local girl, Joan Dowson, a former V.A.D., who saw service in many theatres of the war and is now a member of the State Executive of the R.S.L. Also featured is Sister Victoria Hobbs who served at Tobruk and is the author of "Looking Westward".

The trials and tribulations endured by the women, in many cases serving in the same areas as the men, leave nothing to the imagination of what they went through and in many cases belied the saying of being the 'weaker' sex.

There have been many books written concerning women in war-time but in my opinion very few reach the standard contained in "Australian Women at War" and no library or book collection would be complete without it.

Reviewed by M.C. (Mike) Hall

"LAST STOP NAGASAKI" by Hugh V. Clarke

Published by George Allen & Unwin
P.O. Box 764, North Sydney, N.S.W. 2060. Price Hardback, $14.95

When the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki there were still 169 prisoners of war, including 24 Australians in Camp 14 at Sawaimachi in Nagasaki City, about 1750 metres from the epicentre of the bomb.

Casualties among the prisoners of war were 4 killed and about 30 injured, some from blast effects and many from radiation poisoning.

I wonder what was in the minds of these men when the bomb exploded?

The end of their prison days and returning home must have been in the forefront. Those of us who did not endure the torture and privations of being a prisoner will never know what it was like to live like an animal. In many cases death would have been a relief.

There have been a number of books written on prisoner of war days but, 'Last Stop Nagasaki' is one that I feel has more of the personal touch as to what these men went through. Excerpts from diaries and personal accounts related on their release after three and a half years of incarceration speak volumes of what a fellow man can do to another human being when they find themselves in such a position.

From the fall of Singapore in 1942 to the surrender in 1945 the author has taken us on a trip to many places in different countries ending in Japan and depicting mainly the will of men to survive and return home.

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36 – LISTENING POST – SUMMER, 1984
Freda May Smeeton

Patients and friends of the Lemnos Hospital, Shenton Park, W.A. will regret to learn of the death of a former matron Miss F.M. Smeeton on 1st October, 1984.

Freda Smeeton, who graduated from Perth Hospital (RPH) in 1937 was furthering her nursing training at K.E.M.H. when called up for active service with the A.A.N.S. She was posted to the 39th Camp Hospital at Rottnest but later served with army units at Darwin and Katherine and at 110 (P)MH Hollywood. In 1947 she was released from the army to join the Repatriation Department at R.G.H. Hollywood transferring later to the nursing staff of Lemnos. She was subsequently appointed matron, a position she held for a number of years until retirement. Prior to her recent hospitalisation, Freda who was a member of the Returned Sisters’ Sub-branch, was resident at the W.V.H. in Pearson Village.

Elsie May Goff

Elsie Goff who died on 12th October, 1984 was one of the first group of West Australian nurses to go overseas in the second world war. As members of the 2/2 A.G.H. they sailed from Fremantle in the “Nevasa” in February 1940. The hospital which was equipped initially to take 12,000 patients was based at El Kantara and received casualties from the early Middle East campaigns.

When the unit returned to Australia in 1942, Sister Goff was reposted to the 38th A.C.H. Northam. She was a ward sister at 110 (P)MH Hollywood and sister in charge of the First Australian Women’s Hospital at Claremont. A graduate and charge sister of Perth Hospital (RPH) she rejoined the staff in the post war period and was attached to the coronary care unit until retirement.

She was one of the first residents of the Air Force Memorial Estate at Bullcreek and for some years was responsible for the clinic and first aid post.

‘Goffie’ as she was known to her friends was an active member of the Returned Sisters’ Sub-branch and served a term as secretary.

Books have been placed in the library of the War Veterans Home in memory of both the above.

Victoria Hobbs.

Muriel Annie Monger, ARRC (RAAFNS)

An esteemed member of the Returned Sisters’ Sub-branch, Muriel Annie Monger died at her home in Beaconfield on July 30th, 1984.

In the early post war years, Miss Monger who completed her basic nurses training at the Fremantle Hospital, joined the RAAF Nursing Service and was posted for duty in Australia, Japan, Korea and Malaysia. She was awarded an ARRC and in 1974 retired from the Service with the rank of Wing Officer after 24 years of service.

Whilst a Flt/Off Miss Monger undertook post graduate studies at the College of Nursing, Australia and gained a diploma in Operating Theatre and Management. She subsequently compiled a training manual on the subject for the RAAF.

She was an avid reader and sadly her retirement was marred by indifferent health.

A memorial book has been placed in the War Veterans Home Library in her honour.

Victoria Hobbs.

Elizabeth (Betty) Morrison

The many friends of Betty Morrison were saddened by the news of her death on Tuesday, 3rd October. Betty was a foundation member of the Returned Ex-Servicewomen’s Sub-branch.

Before the War, Betty was a member of V.A.D. Detachment 509 and, with her sister Helen, who died several years ago, enlisted in the A.I.F. and saw service in 1941. They were selected as members of the contingent of V.A.D.s who sailed from Fremantle to the Middle East on the “Queen Mary” in October, 1941 and were both posted to 2/6th A.G.H. and served in Palestine until their return in 1943. Betty later re-joined the 2/6th A.G.H. and served in Queensland on the Atherton Tableland.

After the war, the Middle East VAD Association was formed and Betty attended most of the reunions in the various States but sadly died before the last reunion held in Canberra in October.

Prior to enlistment Betty had been a member of the Staff of Elder Smith & Co. Ltd. and, after her discharge from the Army, again resumed a commercial career. Since the onset of her long illness Betty showed great fortitude and patience and was an example to all her friends.

Nellie Winifred Mitchell

Members of the Returned Ex-Servicehad both branch were deeply shocked to learn of the sudden death of Nell Mitchell on October 26th. Nell joined the sub-branch shortly after its formation and for many years attended meetings regularly. Although latterly she was unable to attend meetings, she nevertheless retained her interest in the R.S.L. and whenever possible supported sub-branch activities.

It was while Nell was living in Sydney in 1941 that Voluntary-Aids were enrolled for overseas service, and she was selected as one of the group from New South Wales which formed part of the Australian Contingent to go to the Middle East, where she was posted to 2/7 AGH. On return to Australia in 1943, Nell was given permission to disembark at Fremantle to rejoin her family in Western Australia, and was later posted to Hollywood Hospital where she worked in the Blood Bank.

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After her discharge from the Army Nell joined the staff of the Red Cross Blood Bank and worked in that department until her retirement.

The cremation service at Karrakatta on Tuesday, October 30th, was attended by relatives and friends including many ex-servicewomen.

Jockey Member Dies

Former jockey and member of the Subiaco Sub-branch since 1946, George Kluge passed away recently. His death at the age of 81 probably severed the last link with the old time hurdle riders in W.A.

Although prominent as one of the State's best hurdle jockeys, George was quite successful on the flat as among his wins were The Railway Stakes on Gay Gypsy, the Karrakatta Plate on Fawzia and the Imperial Stakes on Enaud, three of the top races at the Christmas Carnival.

He also rode with success overseas prior to the World War. Ceylon, India and Mauritius were among the countries he rode in, and it was while he was in Ceylon that the War broke out and George saw service with the Ceylon Rifle Corps. He retired from race riding in 1954.

One aspect that many racing personnel will remember George for is at the reunion of Veteran Jockeys and Trainers, which is sponsored by the West Australian Turf Club each Australia Day; he attended one of these with a long, flowing white beard. Very few knew who it was.

Although a resident of the Home of Peace, Subiaco, George was a staunch supporter of the Sub-branch and regularly attended meetings.

At his funeral President Len Preedy recited the Ode, his wife Joy represented the Women's Auxiliary and Phil Mildwaters the Jockeys Association. As a member of the State Executive I paid my respects on behalf of all League members.

M.C. (Mike) Hall

BUDGET REACTION

The Returned Services League of Australia welcomes the Government's Budgetary Commitment.

The Budgetary commits the Government to:

- continue the program for upgrading and extending repatriation general hospitals
- increase service pensions and most non-indexed allowances paid under repatriation legislation
- care of aged veterans and war widows which includes also the continuation of the home help service, and
- provide means test free legal aid to veterans and war widows claiming or appealing under repatriation legislation.

In announcing this the National President, Sir William Keys, was critical however of the failure of the Government to improve the Defence Service Homes Loan which still remains at the inadequate figure of $25,000 with a waiting period of 11 months. He said 'at a time when other Government funded housing loans are up to a level of $50,000 odd those who had served their country in war are being neglected.' The RSL has repeatedly called on the Government to increase the DSHC Loan to $40,000 without a waiting period.

Sir William Keys also expressed alarm over the smallest increase to the Defence Appropriations for many years 'at a time when our Defence capabilities are clearly inadequate' he said 'a 3.3% increase after allowing for inflation is a disgrace'.

Welfare and Philanthropic Organizations such as the RSL will be hit hard by the increased bank accounts debits tax. Such non-profit making organizations as these should have been included among those exempted from paying this tax.

RE-DEVELOPMENT OF HOLLYWOOD HOSPITAL

It is pleasing to see progress being made on the new operating theatre and ward block at Hollywood Hospital.

The job is about 40% complete with building activity on the site six days of the week. It looks to be going well.

After the collapse of Regency in April a contract was let with Cooper & Oxley Construction for completion of the work. This is due in September next year.

Installation of external walls, window framing and glazing has started on the 3rd floor and outside facia panels should follow shortly. After this has been done the appearance of the completed building should become apparent.

Purchasing of equipment and furniture for the building is now being arranged to coincide with the project's completion.

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Defence Service Homes

Eligibility for Assistance Are Single Applicants Treated Differently

It has recently been brought to the Corporation's attention that some serving and ex-service members of the Forces are of the view that there are different conditions and requirements imposed by the Corporation on those applicants who are single as compared to those who are married or who have a dependant.

There is no requirement in the Defence Service Homes Act that a prospective applicant be married or have a dependant in order to obtain a loan under the Scheme. The same conditions apply to ALL applicants for assistance under the Scheme.

Once a person's service in the Forces is established as entitling them for assistance under the Scheme a loan may be made available for the purchase, building or enlargement of a home provided:

- The property is a suitable security for a loan:
- Neither the applicant nor his/her spouse (if applicable) owns another home; although ownership of another home by the spouse is not a bar to the granting of a loan if the Corporation is satisfied the couple are permanently separated.
- The Corporation is satisfied that the applicant can meet the monthly repayments on the Defence Service Homes Loan and any other amounts borrowed as well as the cost of rates, maintenance and any other financial commitments including any second mortgage; and
- The dwelling proposed to be purchased or built is to be the home in which the applicant intends to reside.

Eligibility — Regular Service

Another area where confusion seems to exist is the type of "Regular" service which is qualifying service for the purposes of the Defence Service Homes Act.

The Act defines a person as a "regular serviceman" if the person:

(a) was serving on continuous full-time service as a member of the Defence Forces on or after 17 December 1972 and completed a period of 3 years' effective full-time service in the Forces, provided that service commenced before 17 August 1977; or

(b) commenced service on or after 17 August 1977 and completed 6 years' effective full-time service at the expiration of which the person continued to render full-time service otherwise than by reason only of a delay in being discharged.

NOTE: In both situations, i.e. (a) and (b), a premature discharge on medical grounds may in certain circumstances, satisfy the eligibility requirements.

Corporation Staff are available to answer all your enquiries on the Defence Service Homes Scheme. Please call at the office (First Floor, 11-13 William Street, Perth) between 8:30 am — 5:00 pm Monday-Friday or telephone 327 8222 for prompt and efficient attention to your request.

The Good Food Spy

Have you tried the baked fish in the Anzac Club? This is one of the specialties prepared by Chef Peter Butterfield.

Beautifully baked on its own and garnished with tomatoes, parsley, onions, and a special sauce, it is everything a gourmet could wish for. To compliment the fish, a small bottle of Moselle can be purchased from the nearby bar.

Although a little noisy at times, the Club has comfortable chairs and pleasant company to offset this. The restaurant is separate from the bar and one section can be set aside for any unit association which wish to have a luncheon. Any number up to 100 can be adequately catered for. Club Manager, Ted Steele, is only too willing to assist and can be contacted by phone on 325-9079.

Ladies Entertain Veterans

The Anzac House Functions Room was the venue for a happy get-together in late October for 18 Lemnos patients.

Accompanied by two male nurses in Ron Henderson and Jim Toomath they arrived in a special bus around midday. I was most impressed with the hydraulic step that lifted the men from ground level to the bus floor.

The City of Perth Women's Auxiliary were the hosts and congratulations and sincere thanks are extended to them for a wonderful piece of public relations. Auxiliary President, Glad Rolfe, ably assisted by Secretary, Maisie Holder, Elwyn Williams and Margaret Taylor of Millen Sub-Branch, laid the tables with a magnificent array of food that included hot sausage rolls, pies, chicken, salads, sandwiches and cakes. On arrival at the venue each man was offered a drink of amber fluid which was eagerly accepted as it was a little warm, the weather I mean. No function is complete without entertainment and the playing of the portable organ and singing by Pat Kingsford of the Belmont Auxiliary, assisted by her mother, Floesie Simmons of the State Executive Women's Auxiliary, was enthusiastically received by all present. During the luncheon President Glad spoke to the gathering in her own inimitable way, in which she thanked everyone who had assisted and wished all the best of everything for the future and hoped to see everyone again.

After the meal, which the men had fully appreciated, and a farewell drink it was time for them to embus and return to Lemnos, all declaring they had had a wonderful time and thanking the ladies most prolifically.

LISTENING POST — SUMMER, 1984 — 41
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THE MERITORIOUS MEDAL

In 1982, the National Congress of the League approved the award of the Meritorious Medal to persons already holding Life Membership who had 30 years continuous membership and 25 years of outstanding service to the community and their fellow man. Twenty medals were to be issued annually on the following allocation:

- Australian Capital Territory and Papua New Guinea — one each
- Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania — two each
- Queensland — three
- Victoria — four
- New South Wales — five.

The medal consists of a gold on blue oblong brooch with the words ‘For Merit’ at the head of a royal blue ribbon of standard service issue width and two inches long supporting a medal consisting of a miniature RSL Badge surrounded by a laurel wreath. All suspended by a ring which will pleat the bottom of the ribbon to a half-inch pleat.

The medal will be worn on the right breast and displayed whenever Service decorations are worn or on official RSL duties or at RSL official functions. A lapel badge has also been produced. Both insignia are of gold plated silver and are accompanied by a suitable certificate.

The first awards of the Meritorious Medal were made in September, 1983, when His Excellency the Governor-General opened the 68th National Congress of the Returned Services League, and presented the award to eight of the fifteen recipients for 1983.

Amendments to the First Home Owners Scheme

Following the recent Federal Budget, an amendment to the taxable income limits for persons who contract to buy or build their first home in Australia on or after 22 August, 1984, has been announced. The new limits are as follows:

For joint applicants and sole applicants with dependants
- Under $20,000 p.a. — maximum benefit
- Between $20,000 p.a. — $27,900 p.a. — partial benefit
- Over $27,900 p.a. — NIL benefit.

For sole applicants without dependants the following limits apply
- Under $10,000 p.a. — maximum benefit
- Between $10,000 p.a. — $13,950 p.a. — partial benefit
- Over $13,950 p.a. — NIL benefit.

The amount of assistance available under the First Home Owners Scheme, together with the other eligibility criteria, remain unaltered. Persons who contracted to buy or build their first home prior to 22 August, 1984, are not affected by the new limits.

The advice outlined above is an amendment to the article “All about the First Home Owners Scheme” published in our issue of August, 1984.

LISTENING POST — SUMMER, 1984 — 43
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Remembrance Day 11 November, 1984
Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association
Cambrai Day 19 November, 1984
Ex-HMAS Sydney Association (WA)
Memorial Service 19 November, 1984
Thirtyniners' Association of Australia
WRAAC Association (Western Australia)
Service of Remembrance 12 February, 1985
Malaysia Singapore Association
The Fall of Singapore 15 February, 1985
Consul for Greece in Western Australia
Wreath Laying Ceremony 25 March, 1985
Education Department
ANZAC Memorial Ceremony for Schools 18 April, 1985
Returned Services League of Australia, WA Branch (Inc.)
ANZAC Day Dawn Service 25 April, 1985
Lodge of Remembrance No '165 WAC Installation Meeting 25 April, 1985
Yugoslav Club & Community Associations of WA
In Memory of the Late President of Yugoslavia — Tito 6 May, 1985
Australian American Association (Western Australian Division)
42nd Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea 8 May, 1985
Totally & Permanently Disabled Soldiers' Association of Australia (WA Branch) Inc.
44th Anniversary of formation in WA 20 May, 1985
Returned Services League, State Executive
Women's Auxiliary
57th Annual State Conference 29 May, 1985
Consul for Greece in Western Australia
Battle of Crete & Greek Campaign 31 May, 1985
1940 Dunkirk Veterans Association
Western Australian Branch
Annual Service & Wreath Laying Ceremony 10 June, 1985
Perth Legacy
Annual General Meeting 29 June, 1985
Z Special Force Australia Inc.
Commemorating RIMAU Day 8 July, 1985
Yugoslav Royal Ex-Combatant Association
Commemorating the death of General Draza Mihailovic 15 July, 1985

World Freedom League
Captive Nations Week 15 July, 1985
Australian Army Training Team
Vietnam Association (WA) Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony 31 July, 1985
Cyprian Community of WA Wreath Laying Ceremony 5 August, 1985
HMAS Canberra-Chrrophe Shield Association (WA Division) Sinking of HMAS Canberra 9 August, 1985
Thirtyniners' Association of Australia Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony 2 September, 1985
WA Maltese Club
Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony 9 September, 1985
Naval Association of Australia (Western Australian Section) Inc.
Sunset Memorial Service 4 October, 1985

ANTI AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION
1985 Calendar

Sunday, Feb 17 4 PM
Darwin Day Service at Air Force Association, Bulleen

Monday, Feb 25 11 AM
Luncheon, Anzac House. Ladies welcome.

Friday, March 15 6.30 PM
Annual Reunion, Anzac House. Men only.

Monday, March 18 0845 Hrs
Bunbury — Wellington Dam. $18.50 P.P. Lunch included.

Sunday, April 15
Group leave for Darwin. 15 days.

Thursday, April 25 0915 Hrs
Anzac Day. Assemble Pier Street, Perth. Contact V. Donegan 446 5380.

Monday, June 3 11 AM
Luncheon, Anzac House.

Monday, July 5 1400 Hrs
Coach tour. Full day $15.00 P.P. Lunch included.

Monday, Sept 16 11 AM
Luncheon, Anzac House.

Monday, Oct 28 0845 Hrs
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Sunday, Nov 3 1400 Hrs
Gunnery's Day Guildford.

Monday, Dec 9 1100 Hrs
Xmas Luncheon, Anzac House.

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Gunners Day

The Royal Australian Artillery Association Gunners Day this year was voted as one of the most successful held in recent times. The number of marchers was increased for the first time by ex-Gunners of the Anti-Aircraft Association to the tune of 21. It is hoped that these numbers will be extended further next year.

There were many representatives from kindred associations and twenty five wreaths were laid by Brigadier Bob Davis who is a great supporter of Gunners, and the Church Service conducted in St. Mathews by Kevin Hall (no relation to the writer) was, as usual, excellent.

It would be most remiss of me if I did not thank all those who assisted, and although it is impossible to mention everyone I do apologise to the people I omit. The Guildford Branch of the Red Cross for the wonderful afternoon tea, the 5MD Reserve Band, the Guildford Tavern who made a room available to members who needed reviving after the strenuous march, are a few I have named.

There were quite a number of Gunners who attended for the first time and all agreed it was a great day and have vowed to come more often, so to the Committee you can feel justified that your efforts were appreciated.

At a recent meeting of the Association it was passed that Gunners Day in the future would be held on the first Sunday in November each year to stop confusion that has arisen in the past as to when the Day would be held.

May I remind Gunners that meetings are held on the first Monday in each month at Anzac House commencing at 8pm. The President and Committee extend the seasons greetings to all.  

M.C. (Mike) Hall

Preveli Monastery Memorial Plaque

After the Battle of Crete in May, 1941, many Australian, New Zealand and British servicemen were left stranded in the mountains of Crete and were helped to escape back to freedom by the brave Cretan people, who, at great personal risk, sheltered and guided them to the south coast of the island, where the Preveli Monastery became a rallying point for the scattered troops and a contact centre for Commander Pool, the British agent sent to arrange the evacuation by the submarines, HMS Thrasher and Torbay.

Commander Pool received the co-operation and assistance of Head Monk Lagouvardos of the Preveli Monastery in successfully completing the evacuation but the Monastery was to pay a terrible price for the help it had given to the British Commonwealth Forces. It suffered savage reprisals.

And now the opportunity is available for all who were involved to pay tribute to the brave Cretan villages and the Preveli Monastery.

In co-operation with the Australian Ambassador in Athens, a bronze memorial plaque, in both English and Greek, is to be placed at the Monastery and will be officially unveiled on Friday, May 24, 1985. The inscription will be:

"This Tablet commemorates the deep gratitude of the Australian, New Zealand and British servicemen befriended by the Monks of the Preveli Monastery and Cretans from surrounding villages, who, at great personal risk, helped them to escape by British submarines during the dark days of 1941."

To cover the cost of the plaque, and to make a worthwhile contribution to the Monastery, an interest-bearing trust fund has been established, Account No. 901870 at Westpac, Allendale Square, Perth, with funds donated going towards restoration on the Monastery, which was founded about 1100 A.D.

Cretan veterans, and others, are cordially invited to participate in this worthwhile cause by sending a donation with cheques payable to The Preveli Monastery Fund to:  

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. E.G. Edwards, "Pinedale," South West Highway, Mundijong, 6022, Western Australia.  

R.S.A. Review

New Repatriation Act Becomes Law

Federal Parliament has passed legislation to set up a new Repatriation determining system for disability and service pensions.

This will allow the system to come into effect on the scheduled date of 1 January next year.

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator Arthur Gietzelt, said the smooth passage of the Repatriation Legislation Amendment Bill 1984 through Parliament was due to the co-operation between the major political parties and between the Government and the ex-service community.

The amendments were based on recommendations by the Administrative Review Council.

He said the legislative reforms, combined with action to streamline systems and procedures and the provision of extra staff, would greatly reduce delays that have frustrated so many veterans in the past.

Processing time for claims and appeals would be reduced from the presently unacceptable average of 280 days to about 90 days.

Senator Gietzelt said the Government had allocated $4.4 million in the current Budget to establish the new system which involved a three-tiered determining process. Funds had also been approved in the Budget for the Attorney-General's Department to provide means-test-free legal aid to Veterans and War Widows for appeals and for the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to establish a Repatriation Division.

He said that the next step in the program to update and simplify the repatriation system would come with the introduction to Parliament of the Veterans' Entitlements Bill to consolidate and simplify the various pieces of legislation affecting veterans.
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Results and action from 1984 State Congress Resolutions

The following is an up-to-date and composite action report on all matters raised at the 1984 State Congress. They should be referred to, and read in conjunction with, the items listed in the minutes of the 1984 State Congress.

Item No. Action

1. Carried at State Congress
2. Lost at State Congress
3. Lost at State Congress
4. Lost at State Congress
5. Withdrawn
6. Lost at State Congress
7. A circular letter has been sent to all Sub-Branches stating the difficulty involved in accurately identifying special funding requirements during the year, but identifying on-going funds such as the War Veterans’ Home and the State War Memorial and stressing the possibility of unforeseen arisings, such as the various disaster funds, which would be circulated if and when they eventuated.
8. Lost at State Congress
9. Lost at State Congress
10. Withdrawn
11. Lost at State Congress
12. Lost at National Congress on the rationale that all resolutions put forward should be to our advantage. This request would work against us as any changes would not be introduced for 5 years.
13. Carried at State and National Congress
14. Carried at State and National Congress
15. Carried at State and National Congress
16. Lost at State Congress
17. Lapsed for want of a mover
18. Carried at State and National Congress
19. Carried at State and National Congress
20. Letters forwarded to the Ministers for Housing and Budgetary Management and awaiting response
21. A letter has been forwarded to the Minister for Police and we are awaiting a response
22. Carried at State and National Congress
23. The request that Returned Ex-Servicewomen be granted the benefits and services similar to those granted to War Widows and Defence Widows was lost. However, the formation of a Committee to investigate as a matter of urgency the health and welfare of Returned Ex-Servicewomen was carried at the National Congress
24. Carried at State and National Congress
25. Carried at State and National Congress
26. Carried at State and National Congress
27. Carried at State and National Congress
28. Carried at State and National Congress

29. Referred to the National Defence Committee for consideration and investigation
30. Referred to item 31
31. Carried at State and National Congress
32. Carried at State Congress and carried as amended by the National Congress
33. Carried at State and National Congress
34. Carried at State and National Congress
35. Carried at State and National Congress
36. Carried at State and National Congress
37. Carried at State and National Congress
38. Lost at State Congress
39. Referred back to each State Branch for independent action, as the proposal would be impracticable for all States
40. In the near future, the ANZAC Club will be opened on Saturdays only from 11.00 am to 6.00 pm for a 3 month trial period
41. Lost at State Congress
42. Carried at State and National Congress
43. Referred to Item 42 and carried at National Congress
44. Lapsed at State Congress without a seconder
45. Carried at State and National Congress
46. A response has been received from the Attorney-General stating that our request for increased penalties for those convicted of vandalism on war memorials will be considered during the current Law Review
47. Carried at State and National Congress
48. Referred to item 46 and carried at National Congress
49. Carried at State Congress but lost at National Congress
50. Carried at State and National Congress
51. Lost at State Congress
52. Referred to the National Research Officer for investigation and report
53. Lost at State Congress
54. Carried at State and National Congress
55. Lost at State Congress
56. Lapsed at State Congress
57. Carried at State and National Congress
58. Carried at State and National Congress

NOTICES OF MOTION

Item No. Action

1. Ruled out of order
2. Ruled out of order
3. Ruled out of order
4. Carried unanimously with acclamation and Sir William Keys re-elected as the National President for 1984-85
5. Carried at State Congress.

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52 — LISTENING POST — SUMMER, 1984
WOMENS' AUXILIARY RESOLUTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item No.</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Carried at State Congress but lost at National Congress</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lost at Womens' Auxiliary State Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Carried at State Congress</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Carried at State and National Congress</td>
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<td>Carried at State and National Congress</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Carried at State and National Congress</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Referred to the National Defence Committee for investigation</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Carried at State and National Congress</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Referred to Item 15</td>
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<td>Carried at State and National Congress</td>
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<td>Carried at State and National Congress</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Carried at State and National Congress</td>
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McIntosh Memorial Scholarship

Applications are invited for the McIntosh memorial Scholarship which Trust is now administered by the Royal Australian Air Force Association (W.A. Division) Inc.

The scholarship perpetuates the memory of Lieutenant John Cowie McIntosh, one of the pioneers of early aviation and was established by a fund inaugurated in 1921.

Two scholarships, valued at $250 each, will be awarded each year to descendants of persons who enlisted in W.A. for service in the Australian Air Force.

The awards are for students undertaking a first course of tertiary study.

Applications close on January 31, 1985. Further information and application forms may be obtained by contacting the State Secretary, Royal Australian Air Force Association, Bullecreek Drive, Bullecreek, 6155 (Tel. 332 7205) or alternatively, Mr Doug Harvey (364 6505) or Mrs Meg Olive (332 3960).

RSL Alarmed Over Land Rights Claims

At the 69th National Congress of the Returned Services League of Australia meeting in Melbourne, considerable unease and concern was expressed by all delegates that the Aboriginal Land Rights situation was getting out of hand, the President Mr L.J. Turner said.

Extravagant, and in some cases farcical claims, have been made by persons who have less than one eighth Aboriginal blood. The community is generally unaware of the real issues due to inflammatory statements from those supporting both sides of the question.

Proposals have been made by the Victorian Government inquiry into Aboriginal compensation, that there should be guaranteed full employment for Aborigines and that an Aboriginal Compensation Tax should be levied on all income-earning adult non-Aborigines. Such radical claims can only alienate whites and Aborigines in Australia.

The RSL believes that genuine Aboriginal people should be granted permanent tenure on selected land that meets their living requirements and protects and preserves proven sacred sites.

However, we re-affirm our total opposition to continuing attempts to set up two nations within Australia and call for an end to the current discriminatory moves to alienate the bulk of Australia's land mass in favour of less than one percent of its population.

The Returned Services League of Australia urges the Government to declare a moratorium on all decisions to do with Aboriginal Land Rights. There must be full discussions and a bi-partisan approach to this major issue.

The RSL has called on the Prime Minister to recognize this problem and to ensure the entire Australian population are aware of all the implications before irrevocable decisions are made.

2/6th Infantry Battalion National Reunion

The 2/6th Battalion Association has announced that their sub-committee is well advanced with its planning for a National Reunion.

It will be held at Mildura over the weekend 16th to 18th August 1985.

An excellent programme is taking shape with ample provision for old friends to meet again and catch up on old times. Families and friends are welcome and members of sister units are encouraged to come along to make this a great weekend.

Interest from interstate indicates that this will be a rare opportunity to contact old mates.

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FOLEY, W.A., 10 Aust. Garrison Bn., Nelders, WXN400062


GARDNER, J., 2/10th Army Reg., Bedford-Morley, WX15613

GOFF, E.M., 2/2 A GH, Returned Sisters, WFX 1537

GREEN, L.A., 2/6th Fld Amb., Merredin., WX15672

HERBERT, H.J., 2/11th Bn., Manjimup, WX16105

HOST, E.J., 2/11th Bn., Scarborough, WX728

HYDE, E., RASC, Rockingham Districts, T174304

JONES, D.W.L., 16th Bn., Rivervale-Carlisle, WFX23.

KLUGE, C.G., Ceylon Planters Rifle Corps, Subiaco, 4972.

LANGE, A.R., 4 Div HQ, Albany, WX41660

LARNER, A.H., 2/48th Bn, City of Perth, WX9341

LAWLER, K.M., 1 1st Field Regt RAA., Albany, 214325

LAWRENCE, K.F., 6th F Amb, Central, WX3503

MacDonald, W.A., RAAF, Ravensthorpe, 46297

MARR, A., 12th Div A.I.F., Gosnells, 26854

MILLER, D.W., 2/2 Comp A/A Regt., Cockburn, WX36453

MORRISON, E.D., 2/6 AGH AAMWS, Rtd Ex-Svc Women, WFX17015

NESBITT, K.E., 1 Aust Armoured Brigade, Moora, WX43218

NICOL, H., 2/11th Bn, Kalgoolie, WX2253

O'BRIEN, C., 1st ATCC6 Division, Mt. Magnet, 14675

O'ROURKE, A.B., R FA12AGS, Armadale, WX24369

POLAND, J.M.F., A NGY, Scarborough, NGX402

POWELL, D.S., 33rd Works Co., Eastern Hills, WX261093

RILEY, R.P., 80 Squadron, Esperance, 149506

ROGERS, R., RAN HMAS Bataan, City of Perth, F5153

ROWLES, P.J., 25 Wriochoy, Toodyay, WX14396

RUTHERFORD, N.R., 28th Fld Coy RAE, Bassendean-
Guildford, WX38787

SCANLAN, M.O., 2/48th, Maylands-Railways, WX10143

SHARP, A.T., RAF, Mount Hawthorn, 161653

SMEETON, F., RANS, Returned Sisters, WFX32955

SMITH, R., 2/3 AA Rgt., Bunbury, WX52081

SPENCE, H.D., R C.O.S., Riverton, TX3041

TAYLOR, P.M., 2/23rd Comm Squ., City of Perth, WX12013

WARNE, A.J., RAAF, Rockingham Districts, 81576

WELLS, S.A., 64th Bn., Applecross, WX37154

BAILEY, R.A., 10th L/H, Wembley-Floreat, 780

BURD, E.W., RAAF, Rockingham Districts, 1285784

CHAPPLE, F.J., 2/16th Bn, Rivervale-Carlisle, WX14719

CHURCHILL, B., 128 A.G.T. Merchant Navy, Bassendean-Guildford, WX20249

CURTIS, G., RAAF, Pingelly, 16318

CUTMORE, W.B., 2/137 Workshops, Bridgetown, WX10116

DAFF, W.H., 28 AIB, Nollamara-North Perth, WX31908

FEIST, J.A., 11 Bn, Scarborough, WX29569

FITZSIMONS, W.T., BEF, North Beach, 1860

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MALARKAY, C., 2/16th Bn., Armadale, WX2165

McLELLAN, A., RAAF, Kellerberrin, 16168

MUSCHAMP, C.E.B., RNZAF, Highgate, N21899

O'GILL, W.G., 2 WU RAAF, Karridale-Augusta, 55378

OWEN, W.T., 109 Anti Tank Reg., Bicton-Palmyra, WX30966

PICKNOLL, A.L., AIF, North Beach, WX11617

RENNARDSON, W.P., Royal Navy, Nollamara-North
Perth, CJC148101

ROBERTSON, J.N., 2/3 JT W/S, Wembley-Floreat, 
WX15481

SUMMERTON, T.G., 11th Bn., Bassendean-Guildford, 6819

TERRY, A.A., Royal Navy, City of Perth, **P3 00900

YOUNG, A.I.M., 3C Water TPT Sqn RAE, Central, 310797

ABBOTT, G., 6th D Guards, Geraldton, 397618

ATHERTON, E.J., 16 Bn., Williams, WX30122

BOAST, J.T., 101 Aust H Bn., Cockburn, WX36293

CARROLL, F.V., 2/4 M G Bn., Ongerup, WX9551

DEARN, E., Ralha, City of Perth. **39179

DELBRIDGE, S.R., RAAF, North East Fremantle, 80933

DHUE, R.K., 2/18 Transport Pool, Cannning Districts, 
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FARRELL, A.H.C., 2/3 MG, Manning, WX4660

FINLAY, J.S., 2/28th Bn, Ravensthorpe, WX4422

GILBERT, F.J., 2/3rd Fld Regt., Bunbury, WX7681

GRIFFITHS, C., 2nd M G Bn., Dwellingup, 3354

HARDWICK, W.A.J., Royal Navy, Mandurah, WX24404

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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.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA CITY OF FREMANTLE SUB-SECTION
President: Arthur Hewitt, J.P. Tel: 330 3600. Secretary: Bob Beit, 8 The Pinnacle, Willetton, 6155. Tel: 457 5691. Sub-Section meets 8 pm, last Monday each month at the Navy Club, Marine Terrace, Fremantle.

SUBMARINE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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 every month, 8 pm, (December excepted).

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (INC)
President: T.F. Bushe-Jones, 63 Gravity Street, Beckenham. Tel: 451 9327. Secretary: D.F. Hall, 18 Halse Crescent, Melville. Meets second Wednesday each month, TS "Canning", Corner Braybrayse Road, Armstrong Road, Wilson, 6107.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY CORvettes ASSOCIATION (WA)

SMITH, H., 2/3 MGBN, Upper Swan, WX3100
THOMAS, R.W., 2/3rd Aust Fld Regt., Geraldton, WX5481
TRESTRAIL, S., 2/11th Bn., Scarborough, WX6185
TUNE, H., 2/32nd Bn., Bridgetown, WX15262
VALLENCE, J.W., 2/28 Bn., Wanneroo & Districts, WX39478
WALTON, A.M., RAAF, Central, 81696
WYLLIE, J.L., 11 AIB, Boulder, WX42420
YOUNG, M., SFD8HQVIC, Darling Range, VF346531

WRANS SUB-SECTION NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
Meets the third Tuesday of each month, ANZAC House, 28 St George's Terrace, Perth. President: Mrs A. Weetman, 2/55 Second Avenue, Mt Lawley, 6005. Tel: 272 2824. Secretary: Mrs J. Ballantyne, 15a Ellesmere Road, Mt Lawley, 6050. Tel: 271 1911.

ASSOCIATION OF WRENs WA BRANCH
Meets fourth Thursday of each month, 7.00 pm, ANZAC House, 28 St George's Terrace, Perth. President: Mrs Mollie Day, 37 Brady Road, Lesmurdie, 6076. Tel: 339 6230. Hon Secretary: Mrs D.V. Rawe, 14 Noel Street, Hilton Park. Tel: 331 1427.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: Peter Kemmis, 697 Hay Street, Wembley, 6014. Tel: 381 3348. Secretary: John Quinn, 23 Douglas Avenue, Mt Yokine, 6060. Tel: 349 1374. Meets first Monday each month (except January) ANZAC Club, 8 pm, when Monday is a Public Holiday, first Tuesday.

10TH LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION AIF
Meets socially first and third Friday each month, ANZAC Club, 12.00 pm. AGM: Last Friday in August. President: Roy Caporn, 51 Alexander Drive, Mt Lawley. Tel: 271 7049. Secretary and Treasurer: R. Byrne, 2 Laughton Way, Leeming. Tel: 332 8004.

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. Todd, 4 Shearer Street, Myaree. Tel: 330 9336. State Secretary: F.C. Pennell, 21 Siddins Way, Booragoon. Tel: 364 1097.

11TH & 2/11TH AIF BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION
President: T.W. Scott, 250 Corinthian Road, Riverton. Tel: 457 4902. Secretary: J. Watson, 686 Canning Highway, Applecross. Committee meets third Tuesday each month, 2.15 pm, ANZAC Club, 28 St George's Terrace, Perth.

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President: R. (Bob) Mercer, AM, RFD, ED, 7 Dünkley Avenue, Applecross, 6153. Secretary: H. Glyn Mawson, 9 Jenkins Place, Wembley Downs, 6019. Tel: 341.3926. Annual dinner and three socials as advised.

16TH BATTALION AND 4TH BRIGADE ASSOCIATION
Committee meets first Monday at 2.30 pm, each month, ANZAC Club, Perth. President: C. Sladden, 59A Henry Street, East Cannington. Tel: 458 5573; Secretary: H. Ganson, 11 Fothenrigg Street, Fremantle. Tel: 335 2358. Women’s Auxiliary meets first Wednesday each month.

2/16TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION

2/28TH BATTALION — 24TH ANTI-TANK COY
President: E.A. Jackson, 7, Corinthian Road, Shelley West, 6155. Tel: 457 1306 Secretary: A.S. Thompson, 60 Kintail Road, Applecross, 6153. Tel: 364 2332. Annual Reunion: Last Friday each September.

2/32ND BATTALION ASSOCIATION (WA)

44TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION
Committee meets when called. Annual reunion on advice. President: R. Collins, 134 Rosebery Street, Bedford. Tel: 271 4448.

48TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION
President: D. Maclean, Unit 2/50 Endeavour Avenue, Bullcreek, 6155. Secretary: T.H. Easom, 5 Larack Street, Mt Lawley. Tel: 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.

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: 386 1554. Committee meetings held quarterly, first Monday in March, June, September and December at 2 pm, ANZAC Club, 28 St George’s Terrace, Perth.

2/2ND COMMANDO ASSOCIATION
President: J.F. Fowler, 84 Brompton Road, Wembley Downs. Tel: 341 1716. Secretary: J.W. Carey, 43 Stoddart Way, Bateman. Tel: 332 7050. Meetings held on second Tuesday of each month at 10.30 am, at ANZAC Club.

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

2/13TH FIELD AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION
President: A. Jamieson, 53 Valencia Avenue, Churchlands. Tel: 446 4591. Secretary: L. McCarthy, 31 Marredong Street, Cooldinna. Tel: 444 1927. For details of meetings contact Secretary.

MIDDLE EAST VAD ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: Mrs L. Fealy, 19 Mcrae Road, Applecross, 6153. Tel: 364 3779. Secretary: Mrs P. Payne, 11 Hurlingham Road, South Perth, 6151. Meetings as called. Annual Reunion nearest Saturday to November 23.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS ASSOCIATION
President: Lt. Col. K.T. Graham, RL, 27 Riley Road, Claremont, 6010. Tel: 386 3619. 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 1257. Secretary: Madeleine Harvey, 11 Rankin Way, Booragoon, 6154. Tel: 364 6505. Treasurer: Mr Bruce Jellis, Carine Gardens Caravan Park, 234 Balgatta Road, Gwelup, 6021. Tel: 447 6270. Meetings ANZAC House, second Tuesday each month, 5 pm.

11TH DIVISION SIGNALS ASSOCIATION
For enquiries contact the President: Alec Caldwell, 150 Harbourne Street, Wembley, 6014. Tel: 387 1866. Secretary: Lt. Col. O.R. Videan, ED, 23 Halley Street, Innaloo, 6018. Tel: 446 6304. Regular meetings held at the Wembley address. Annual reunion dinners and meeting at RSL in August.

RAE EX-SERVICESMEN’S ASSOCIATION WA
Meets second Sunday in March, June and September each year, W.A.C.A. Ground at 1000 hrs. President: T.A. Davey. Tel: 332 5515. Secretary: T.R. Beard. Tel: 450 3951.

2/4TH MG BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION
President: P.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, 10 am.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN’S ARMY SERVICE ASSOCIATION (AWAS)
President: Mrs Alice Corry, 4 Nottingham Street, East Victoria Park, 6101. Tel: 361 2824. Secretary: Mrs Madeleine Harvey, 11 Rankin Way, Booragoon, 6154. Tel: 364 6505. Treasurer: Mrs P. Gilchrist. Tel: 361 5254.

WRAAC ASSOCIATION (WESTERN AUSTRALIA)
President: Mrs E. Stewart, 15 Ewing Street, Bentley, 6102. Tel: 451 3085. Secretary: Mrs N. Carlson, 24 Ivoston Road, Lynwood, 6155. Tel: 457 3984. PO Box 6149, Hay Street East, 6000.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY NURSING CORPS ASSOCIATION WA BRANCH
President: Mrs I.K. England, 18 Connaught Street, Forrestfield, 6059. Tel: 453 8489. Secretary: Mrs Margaret Goringe, 160 High Road, Riverton, 6155. Tel: 457 3526.

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

AIR FORCES CLUB (INC)
Meets at RSL Hall, Kintail Road, Applecross. Fridays, 4.30-11.00 pm. Sundays 4.30-7.30 pm. President: Mr T. Darcy, 29 Wellington Parade, Yokine, WA, 6060. Tel: 444 9158. Secretary: Mrs Lake. Tel: 332 1342. All correspondence to PO.Box 153, Applecross, 6153.

460 SQUADRON RAAF ASSOCIATION (WA)

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION (BRANCH 1210 WA)

AUSTRALIAN LEGION OF EX-SERVICEMEN & WOMEN (INC) WA BRANCH
State President: Mr L.C.W. Hutchings, 66 Kinsella Street, Joondanna. Tel: 444 4268. Secretary: Mrs A. Oldham, Unit 6/4 Pearson Place, Floreat Park. Tel: 387 6241. Meetings held monthly. Please phone Mr Jarrett for details. 276 3564.

TOTAELY AND 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.

LIMPBELESS SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION OF W.A. (INC)
("Winglies and Stumpies"). President: J.L. Yeates. Secretary: C.C. Brown, C/TPI Memorial House, 88 Colin Street, West Perth, Tel: 321 5888. (Postal address: P.O. Box 829, West Perth, W.A. 6005). Meeting first Wednesday each month except January, 1.30pm.

PARTIALLY BLINDED 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 Siddeley Place, Dianella. Tel: 276 9950.

FEDERATED TB SAILORS' SOLDIERS' & AIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
Second Floor, Wellington Buildings, 158 William Street, Perth; last Monday. President: Ian Fraser. Tel: 271 4703. Secretary: E.N.H. Fletcher. Tel: 332 6338.

EX-PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: T.W. Scott, 250 Corinthian Road, Riverton, 6155. Secretary: W.H.P. Hood, 93 Guildford Road, Mt Lawley, 6050. Tel: 271 5245. Meetings first Tuesday each month, at 2.15pm (except January, when in recess) at ANZAC Club, Perth. Assistant Secretary: A. Robinson, 26 Walderton Avenue, Balga, 6061. Tel: 344 2325. Honorary Treasurer: Mr London, 278A Drake Street, Morley, 6062. Tel: 276 8923.

LADIES AUXILIARY EX-POW OF WA
President: Mrs B. Skillen, 27 Mathieson Road, Applecross, 6153. Tel: 364 4147. Secretary: Mrs F. Duncan, 40 Kennedy Street, Melville, 6156. Tel: 330 2174. Meetings same as Men.

RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)

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

REGULAR DEFENCE FORCES WELFARE ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
Enquiries contact either the President or Secretary. President: Lt. Col. R.K. Hill, MC, RL, 183 Hamilton Street, Queens Park. Tel: 458 9203. Secretary: Lt E.C. Lunn-Garner, Room 9, Davies Crescent, Kalamunda. Tel: 293 1409.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM VIETNAM (WA)
AATT (WA)
President: P. White, 7 Netley Street, Morley, 6062. Tel: 276 9360. Secretary: F. Chilliotti, 89 Moreing St, Redcliffe, 6104. Tel: 277 7806. Meetings: Swan Barracks Sergeants Mess, after ANZAC Day March. Kings Park Memorial, 4.30 pm, every July 31 — Birthday reunion.

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

BRITISH EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION (INC)
President: J.G. Buxton, BEM. Tel: 446 4320. Honorary General Secretary: Mary Woollacott, 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. General Council meets second Tuesday each month in the Boardroom at the Old Peninsula. Social Committee meets first Monday each month in the Boardroom.

ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIA
President: Gordon Norton, 42 Parkin Street, Rockingham, 6168. Tel: (095) 27 1506. Secretary: Graham Shore, 35 Okehampton Road, Warnbro, 6169. Tel: (095) 27 8576. Committee meets Seaview Tavern, South Terrace, Fremantle, at 20.00 hrs, second Monday each month. General meeting same hour and place, last Monday each month.

GUARDS ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC)
President: Mr John Hunt, GG. Tel: 383 3340 (after 7.30 pm). Secretary: Mr D.W. Dungate, CG. Tel: 342 9746. All correspondence to the Secretary, C/- P.O. Box 107, Mirrabooka.

THE BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION (WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH)

THE BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION WANNEROO BRANCH
President: Brigadier N.E.G. (Tony) Manuel (Ret), 398 Belmont Avenue, Kewdale. Tel: 277 2367. Honorary Secretary: Rupert Platel, 49 Banksia Street, Joondanna. Tel: 444 4914. Meets second Tuesday of each month at Nollamara Autumn Centre, Sylvia Street, Nollamara, at 7.30 pm.

1940 DUNKIRK VETERANS ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH
Meets first Friday each month at ANZAC House, 8 pm. President: W. Horn, 7 Oakney Avenue, Yokine, 6060. Acting Secretary: Mr. P. Hessell, 24 Myindie Way, Nollamara, 6061. Tel: 344 1756.

NETHERLANDS EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
President: Mr H. Westhof, 56 Weston Drive, Swanview. Tel: 294 1575. Secretary/Assistant Treasurer: Mr J. te Loo, 77 Streatley Road, Lathlain. Meets last Wednesday each month at Association Headquarters, 8 pm, 8 Hehr Street, Belmont. All correspondence to: Secretary, NESAA, PO Box 99 Belmont, 6104.

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

PEGASUS ASSOCIATION OF WEST AUSTRALIA (INC)
Committee Meeting 1st Tuesday in month. ANZAC Club. Visitors welcome. President: Mr John Hatley. Secretary: Mr A. Harris, 54 Fitzroy Road, Rivervale, 6153. Tel: 458 9111. Any ex Airborne Forces welcome to a very active Association.

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