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State President’s Message

On May 14, 1985 the Federal Treasurer released his economic statement which rightfully caused the veteran community to feel that they had been singled out for harsher treatment in comparison with the general community. However, following strong representation by the League, a sunset clause was inserted before the Treasurer’s statement was accepted, to allow the veteran community time to mount a campaign to protest the intended changes. Subsequently the Veterans’ Entitlement Bill 1985 (VEB) was issued, and this confirmed the Government’s intention to change the benefits and entitlements of ex-servicemen and women and war widows.

In recent months the process of negotiation over the VEB has proceeded unabated. With the assistance of Judge Paul Toose, Section 119, the onus of burden of proof, has gone through several drafting stages; with each stage coming a little closer to a position that the Government and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs on the one hand and the ex-service community on the other can live with. The League has taken a lead role in these negotiations but has constantly consulted with the other major ex-service organisations that were involved in the ‘Veterans Summit’ on 2/3 July 1985.

To date the League has recommended some 292 changes to the draft VEB and some 90 per cent of these have been accepted. However, there still remains four major areas of concern and these are being vigorously pursued. Expectations are that the VEB, currently under debate in the Parliament, will next be debated in the Senate and enacted by December 6, 1985.

We will continue to press for the changes we consider essential to maintain what we consider are veterans’ rights and entitlements, and I thank you all for your energetic support when we asked you to lobby your Federal Members. Through your efforts we have managed to change a great many unacceptable conditions contained in the draft VEB. Thank you all once again.

It is a great pity that the media coverage of the anniversary of the dismissal of the Whitlam government overshadowed the celebration of the traditional November 11 Remembrance Day. The use of the RSL’s most sacred of all memorials ‘Lest We Forget’ as a programme and headline title was also totally unacceptable. We have voiced our strongest objections on this matter at both the state and national levels.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families the best of wishes for a happy Christmas; and joy, peace and good health in the New Year.

J.P. HALL
State President
Xmas Wishes from a Fellow Member

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- **Do-it-yourselfers** who believe they don't need any professional help in planning their investments.
- **Those who simply buy (or are sold) investments in an ad hoc manner**, without realising that they should be part of a financial plan.

As an example if you are already paying high tax, it is foolish to invest in high-yielding fixed interest securities which will simply produce more income, and more taxes. What you should be doing is investing for tax-free capital gain.

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You may think your situation is unique. Perhaps it is, but the experience gained over many years and very many clients is available to you and must be of benefit.

We can advise you what you should do to achieve financial independence in retirement. Even more important, we know from our experience and our research what you must NOT do if you want security and financial peace of mind.

**WHAT YOU MUST NOT DO:**

1. **You must NOT invest only in fixed interest securities (debentures, bonds, building society and bank deposits, etc).** To do so will rapidly destroy the purchasing power of your investment capital because it will not grow with inflation. This is probably the most common mistake made by retirees and it leads to poverty in a frighteningly short time.

2. **Your other enemy is income tax. Ideally, you should pay no tax at all and at worst, you should pay as little as possible.** This does not mean breaking the law — it simply means choosing the right tax-sheltered investments and the right strategy.

Investors include average Australians concerned about the effect of inflation and taxation on their savings, retirees worried about how to invest their lump sum superannuation, and high income executives and professionals too busy to devote sufficient time to personal investment planning.

Mr. John Cameron, Morrisons Western Australian Manager, is an experienced adviser with fifteen years in the field of finance and investment. Mr. Cameron is a Bachelor of Commerce, and Economics and has worked as a Financial Journalist, a Stock Broker, and as an Investment, Superannuation and Insurance Consultant.

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3. $100,000 lump sum investment.
4. Tax and pension schedules indexed to inflation.
5. Yearly personal spending increased by 90% of inflation (i.e. gradual decrease of standard of living).

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The State Executive

The State Executive is the ruling body of the RSL. It is, however, answerable to the sub-branches and their members throughout the State and must carry out their instructions as indicated by the items passed at State Congress in June of each year. It is governed by its by-laws.

The Executive is composed of the State President, two Vice-Presidents and eighteen members. The State Secretary is its Executive Officer. Under the Executive, he is responsible for the day to day administration. Three Trustees are appointed who attend meetings but cannot vote. They do, however, act as advisors.

The elections of President and Vice-Presidents are for a period of twelve months only. Of the eighteen members, all are elected for a two year term, nine being elected each year, so there is always an overlap of at least nine members. In every case the incumbents may be re-elected and there is no limit to the term. All are elected by the Annual Congress.

Ideally, as many sub-branches as possible should be represented. However, there is no restriction on how many members a sub-branch may nominate for election to the State Executive. The final decision is made by the Delegates at the Annual Congress. Members of the State Executive, are not permitted to exercise individual sub-branch bias.

In addition to attending the monthly meetings of the Executive, every member is required to serve on committees, to perform the duties of Liaison Officer to certain sub-branches and to carry out any other task that may be required, such as representing the State President at official functions to which he is invited and is unable to attend in person. The committees are either standing or ad-hoc. The standing committees meet, usually monthly, at a time to suit members, or additionally as may be required. These consist of — ANZAC Club, ANZAC Day, Defence, Finance, Functions, Listening Post/Publicity, Membership, Repatriation Welfare and Counselling Services, Veterans’ Affairs and the War Veterans’ Home Board. The ad-hoc committees meet as required and consist of Bicentennial, Future of the League — Planning & Development, Poppy Day, State Congress and Agenda Committee, State Congress, Sub-Branch Trophies, State-National Constitution and War Memorial.

From time to time, others may be formed to cover requirements. All committees may have co-opted members. All these committees report to the State Executive which has the final say regarding any recommendations.

The task of a Liaison Officer is to act as a contact between the State Executive and his nominated sub-branches, to keep in touch with the sub-branch Secretaries, and to visit them as often as possible. At these visits he disseminates information from the State branch, gets to know the problems and the members, and takes back to the State Branch any problems he is unable to solve on the spot. These are followed up appropriately.

The various sub-branches outside the metropolitan area are divided into country areas and each country area is allotted its own Country or Regional Vice-President. These are responsible in the same way as Liaison Officers, and are full members of the State Executive. Naturally, they are NOT expected to attend meetings of the State Executive, but are made very welcome whenever they are able to do so.

Such, then, are the duties, functions and privileges of the State Executive. The strength of the League is dependent on it. The future of the League depends on the calibre of its members. Thus, every keen and capable member of the League should set his sights on serving in this capacity, particularly our younger members.

ROLFE NYMAN

A message from the President of the Vietnam Veterans RSL Sub-Branch

I would like to start by congratulating the Long Tan Day Committee for the work that they put into making the Long Tan Day Commemoration an enjoyable one.

Apart from a few bugs in the handling of the wreaths, I felt the Service went off quite smoothly and was capped off with an enjoyable afternoon at the Nollamara RSL sub-branch premises.

I know that a lot of personal voluntary effort was put into the organisation of this event by the members of that Committee and I must register my vote of thanks for a job well done.

I must also point out and register my disappointment for the ill-timed speech of Colin EVANS (President of the Vietnam Veterans Family Association WA Branch) for the unfortunate political tirade on the day of the Service.

This day was chosen to commemorate Long Tan Day in memory of all Australians who paid the supreme sacrifice in Vietnam. The introduction of politics to that Service bore no relevance to the special reason for which we had gathered. Talk of pensions, immigration, the assets test and housing policies, I believe does not honour the memories of Australians who died in the Vietnam War.

To invite political guests to a Commemorative Service and then give a political speech which appeared to be directed at them, is in poor taste. It should be
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6 — LISTENING POST — SUMMER 1986
the aim of any ex-service organisation to secure support from politicians, not alienate them.

When I joined the Vietnam Veterans Family Association WA Branch I was under the impression that this organisation was set up for the purpose of assisting and uniting the Vietnam Veteran for a common purpose. It has in the years gained various inroads to better benefits for the Vietnam Veteran, but in the process, to the detriment of the Vietnam Veterans themselves.

The formation of the Vietnam Veterans Family Association as it was called then, was as a result of a break away from the RSL by some Vietnam Veterans. The promise by the Association to obtain better benefits and the introduction of this organisation in the US Class Action drew a lot of Vietnam Veterans from the RSL Sub-Branches into its fold. To some degree, I feel that this was the result of Vietnam Veterans feeling that they were not getting a fair deal from the RSL and were not being assisted with their problems, but were being ostracised.

I have been a member of both the Vietnam Veterans RSL Sub Branch and the Vietnam Veterans Family Association and during that time I have not once heard any criticism against Vietnam Veterans by the RSL WA Branch, nor has any criticism been written in the Listening Post, the official journal of the RSL WA Branch.

Unfortunately I cannot say the same for the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia and the Vietnam Veterans Family Association WA Branch. Their criticism of the RSL is quite apparent through their National Journal "DEBRIEF".

The constant barrage of criticism against the RSL national Body is unwarranted and called for as this will eventually erode the confidence of all members of the RSL and creates ill-feeling amongst the various veteran organisations against the Vietnam Veteran themselves.

By this personal attack on the RSL National Body, it is also an attack on all RSL State Branches and their members as they are the ones who elect the National Body.

I must point out to the VVAA and the VVFA WA Branch that many of their members are also members of the RSL through various Sub-Branches and a lot of the Vietnam Veterans are getting tired of this constant abuse and tirades thrown into the face of the RSL.

The Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia and its various subsidiaries are constantly claiming that they get no help from the RSL. Well they are wrong; I know of numerous occasions that the RSL has gone out of its way to help Vietnam Veterans, even though the Vietnam Veterans are not financial members of the RSL. I might point out that the RSL authorised payment of $29,000 to Ross Lonnies who was representing Vietnam Veterans in the US Class Action. $24,600 of that payment was paid by the RSL WA Branch.

Also the Vietnam Veterans Association was quite happy to accept monies and donations from well over 70 various RSL Sub Branches throughout Australia for their VVAA Royal Commission Trust Fund. Various other incidents have occurred where the RSL have gone out of their way to help Vietnam Veterans. One was when a Vietnam Veteran who was not a member of the RSL got himself involved in a matter in the Philippines which resulted in him being put in jail. Fortunately the Welfare Officer of the RSL WA Sub Branch after many days of calls back and forward was able to get the release of this Vietnam Veteran from the jail with a job prospect in WA, thanks to various RSL Sub Branches.

So if anyone has the audacity to write or say that the RSL does not help Vietnam Veterans, I can tell you that they don't know what they are talking about. It is time that all Vietnam Veterans unite and work closely with the RSL so that better medical, repatriation and other benefits are obtained for all veterans.

Because if this doesn't happen, the Government of the day will take advantage of the confusion and division that appears in the Vietnam Veteran movement.

I am somewhat perplexed that this division is slowly creeping in the Vietnam Veteran movement in this State. The attitude of some veterans in the Family Association in the State has not been conducive to unity of the Vietnam Veterans but to their own personal importance. I must point out that the President of the Vietnam Veterans Family Association WA Branch has given his all for the betterment of the Vietnam Veterans in this State. I believe he has caused a division with the Vietnam Veterans in his Association and the Vietnam Veterans of the RSL. I can only assume that he has followed the line of his National Body "The Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia".

I can recall at a meeting of the Vietnam Veterans Family Association WA Branch that a vote was put to the members present and also postal votes to the effect that the WA Branch drop the word Family from the name. This was passed by a large majority vote. On Anzac Day a large group of Vietnam Veterans marched under the Vietnam Veterans Association Banner. On Long Tan Day, the banner was again unfurled but instead of having the words Vietnam Veterans Association the word Family was included in the banner, and this was put on after the vote was taken to drop the word family. This in effect made a division between all Vietnam Veterans and Vietnam Veterans who belonged to the Vietnam Veterans Family Association.

I believe all Vietnam Veterans were happy to March behind the banner on Anzac Day because it bore the name Vietnam Veterans of Australia and did not distinguish a separate entity, but to put the word Family on the banner does distinguish the banner to the particular entity within the Vietnam Veterans movement.

I will leave my thoughts and hope that all Vietnam Veterans take heed or notice of what I have said. I truly believe that all Vietnam Veterans should band together, because without unity there is no strength.
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If you have experienced an historical earthquake in your earlier years and you have information or something you think may be useful to us, please write to:
Brian Gaul
Mundaring Geophysical Observatory
Mundaring WA 6073
or phone (09) 295 1555
or, if you know of somebody who may be able to help us, either contact them directly or let us know their whereabouts.

Letters to the Editor

Thank you for your letter of 29 August, 1985 in which you expressed the objection of our State Branch to the decision to discontinue sales of tobacco products at Repatriation hospitals.

The Repatriation Commission gave a great deal of thought to this decision. While the points you made in your letter were appreciated, it was guided by medical advice and the example of other hospital systems both in Australia and overseas. In addition, the Brand Report has been critical of the lack of preventive health programs in the Repatriation system.

The Repatriation Commission considers that the decision is in the best interests of Veterans' health. While it may be inconvenient for some, it has been applauded by others.

The Commission is responsible for a national hospital system and, in the light of the scientific evidence about smoking damaging health, it would be remiss in its duty if steps were not taken to discourage smoking.

Yours sincerely,
(D: VOLKER)
SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

HEARD IN THE ANZAC CLUB

Famous Last Words:
From Frank, our friendly stalwart behind the bar — "I backed the first, second and third horses in the Melbourne Cup but didn’t take a Trifecta!"

On Sandwiches:
"The RSL staff in the Anzac Club make the best sandwiches in Perth, bar none, and at less cost."

US Navy:
Asked why US Navy sailors rarely seemed to accept RSL invitations to visit the Anzac Club, Norm Healy replied: "Well, the only fast thing in the club is the dance floor!"

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LISTENING POST — SUMMER 1985 — 9
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ANZAC CLUB HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

In recent issues of “Listening Post” I have written about a number of heavy dishes available at the Anzac Club. Let me hastily advise members that the Club also has a lot of light meals if required.

Among the lighter dishes is a cheese plate, assorted rolls, sandwiches with a number of fillings, a club sandwich, also steak sandwiches. At all times cold meats and salad can be enjoyed, especially in the hot months.

Pan fried burgers, sausages, eggs and chips, together with steak and kidney pie are other dishes. Let me speak on the latter that I had a short time ago; complete with carrots, corn and peas, and a pastry so light it simply melted in my mouth. I wonder if chef Phil has ever tried his hand at scones?

A glass of wine from the bar will complement any meal and I am sure our experienced and friendly head barman, Mike Gibbon, would be only too willing to oblige.

As this is the last write-up before Christmas, the Club Manager, Ted Steele, and his staff wish all member and visitors the compliments of the season and many thanks for past patronage. They look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year. From THE GOOD FOOD SPY, may I say “Happy eating members”.

When in Perth visit Anzac House and use your club facilities. Your guests are welcome.

POW DAYS

Memories of POW days can never quite fade. Here is one of the “happier” ones, a recollection written for this unit bulletin by Ted Farnecote WX-1140.

Stalag 13C was in Northern Bavaria in the German province Frankonia. Hammelburg was its nearest town, not far from the industrial city Schweinfurt on the River Main. The camp was a transit and administrative centre for Allied POW’s and civilian forced labourers.

Most of the Australians there, mainly from the 19th BDE, were employed by peasant farmers. In summer the work hours were long though the work was heavy only at threshing time. Most of the German and East European women working there could keep up with us, not that we tried to race them.

Usually we started by rising at 5am and getting to the farmhouse half an-hour later, to clean out the cow stall and feed the cows, usually 6 to 12 of them. Finished after about an hour, it was time for breakfast, usually black dry bread and coffee. Refuse from the stall was wheeled to the mist heap, which was their main source of fertiliser.

Breakfast finished, it was out to the fields which could mean hay-making, getting feed for the cows, hoeing potatoes or mangels, or a number of other jobs. At midday it was back for lunch, the main meal — weak potato soup with the meat ration cooked in it and a few vegetables, mostly over-cooked spinach.

Back to the fields until about 4pm, a break for bread and potatoes in their jackets and occasionally an egg. This was fine weather work. In wet weather or winter there was plenty to keep one on the move, such as cutting wood or work in the forest. Most of the farming people were not hard to get on with, there were exceptions of course, same as anywhere else. It paid to stand up to them or they would never be off your back.

Those of us who worked on the farms fared much better, in spite of long hours, than those who did other work, as the food was sufficient though plain and the Red Cross parcels were a bonus. The shortage of food was felt only if one was unfortunate enough to need hospital treatment.

I have visited Bavaria a couple of times since and been well received by people I had known. My wife remarked on their friendliness and what a lovely country Bavaria is. The small holdings are almost non-existent now as the bigger farmers have bought out most of them and no longer is the cow the beast of burden.

TED FARNCOTE
WX-1140

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The President and members of the Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women (Inc) send Christmas Greetings to the President and Executive of the RSL and to all “Listening Post” readers.

L.C. Hutchings President
Doreen Smith State Secretary

Xmas Wishes to all R.S.L. Members

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**Letter from the Premier**

**Hon Brian Burke MLA**

The following is an extract from a letter President Courtney received from the Premier, Hon. Brian Burke, MLA.

"I expect that by now you have had a reply from the Hon. Minister for Education regarding the activities of Ausflag '88 in WA schools. Consequently you will be aware that the Ausflag organisation has not been given access to schools in this State through the Education Department.

"The State Government does not intend to become involved in the issue of the replacement or retention of the National Flag. As I have written to you before, this and the matter of public funering of Ausflag '88 is the responsibility of the Federal Government."

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG ASSOCIATION

---

**Poppy Day luncheon**

A well attended luncheon was held at ANZAC House following the wreath laying ceremony at the State War Memorial. State President Jim Hall received the guests with Junior Vice President Ralfe Nyman. Sir Charles Court gave an inspiring address on "What Price Freedom". Highlights from his address are as follows:

"People should be denied unemployment benefits if they refuse work that is offered because it is not the kind they wanted to do," Sir Charles Court said yesterday.

He said that while it might be politically impractical to abolish the dole, the community could face the position another way by challenging the unemployed to take work that was available.

The community could not then be accused of being indifferent to their plight if the unemployed were not prepared to make the effort, and they would get little public sympathy.

We have gone over-board in welfare through government agencies. It is increasingly difficult to get people to understand the Government does not have any money of its own. It distributes money that it takes in varying ways from the community and it gets its ability to spend with far too little regard for how the money is raised.

Sir Charles said Australia had to be a trading nation to survive and the whole community, not just a privileged and complacent 90 per cent, had to be involved if the remaining 10 per cent were not to become increasingly demoralised. But attitudes towards the family, marriage, personal conduct and commitments had slipped alarmingly. The Government was asked to carry the cost of these breakdowns, lower standards and abrogated responsibilities.

Australia’s freedom was also under attack through divisive issues like controversy over the flag, trends towards centralism and republicanism, the clamour for Aboriginal land rights, attempts to weaken Australia's relations with the United States and church and community leaders who led anti-defence and anti-secuirty movements.

Once again the Red Cross Service Corps assisted the RSL to make a successful occasion.

MRS JOAN DOWSON

---

**Veterans’ Bill is changed**

A number of important changes have been made by the Government to the Veterans’ Entitlements Bill introduced into Federal Parliament in October.

They include amendments to the standard of proof provision in determining pension claims. This provision now sets out more clearly that there is no onus on veterans or war widows to prove a claim.

The Government has also removed from the Bill the "40-year rule" covering war widows' pensions. Under this rule the claims were decided on a less generous civil standard of proof where Veterans with operation service died 40 years or more after such service.

Following further discussions with ex-service groups the Government has extended Repatriation coverage under the Bill to certain defence personnel who served in the Vietnam war but were not previously treated as "allotted" for such service. For example: the crew of the HMAS Sydney and support groups.

The changes in the Bill will cost $1.2 million in 1985-86 in extra Repatriation benefits and entitlements. These costs will rise to $20.6 million in 1986-87.

The debate on the Bill will continue in the House of Representatives in November before going to the Senate.
Best Wishes to all
R.S.L. Members from

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World’s Nuclear Power Stations

Countries throughout the world today operate 345 civil nuclear power stations for a total power output of 219,718 MWe. The USA has the most with 85 stations, the USSR is next with 46. France has 41, the UK 37 and Japan 31.

These illuminating figures were among those of a world survey published recently by the Uranium Information Centre Ltd, Melbourne. The survey's full figures were as at the end of 1984. At that time USSR was building 39 more, the USA 34, France 19, Czechoslovakia 10 and Japan 10.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No. of units</th>
<th>Total MWe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1,632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9,521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>32,993</td>
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<tr>
<td>German Dem. Rep.</td>
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<td>1,694</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany, Fed. Rep.</td>
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<td>16,133</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
<td>31</td>
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<td>Korea, Republic of</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>921</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4,690</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7,355</td>
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<td>USA</td>
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<td>USSR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Total*</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>219,718</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The total includes Taiwan, China, where there were five units with a total capacity of 4011 MWe in operation and one unit with a total capacity of 907 MWe under construction. Total operating experience was 20 years and 2 months at the end of 1984.

Notes: Table based on data available to IAEA as of 2 May 1985.

MATESHIP

The old man gazed at the statue in the park, a big bronze statue of two soldiers, one standing, upright, carrying his wounded friend in his arms.

The old man's arm stretched up and his hand touched those cold, lifeless two. He pulled away his hand quickly as if the coldness he felt reminded him of something else. Then he slowly moved away to find a bench in the sun. Seated, his eyes went back to the statue and his memory went back years.

He was 20 years old, and thinking about the dance he and his mate "Bluey" were going to that night. Saturday night in town was a real beaut night, plenty of shellas around and at least 15 bob to spend on anything you wanted.

As he called round to Bluey's place he noticed Bluey's old lady was upset about something. "What's the matter?" he asked. Bluey told him he had been called up and told to be ready to move out straight away.

His mind was racing. Bluey's going somewhere without me! He can't! Didn't we go everywhere together? I've known Bluey all my life. I even hoped after we'd had all our fun, me sister Mavis and Blue would get hitched. Then we would be even closer friends.

I said "I'm coming with you Bluey" and at the end of the month we were crossing the ocean for Christ knew where, for we didn't, but that didn't matter much 'cos Blue and I were together:

The blast came. The ship stood up majestically as if to prepare herself for her last dive. Blue and I jumped together, I remembered he couldn't swim so well and was sure glad when I saw his head pop up from beneath the water.

"Hang on mate, I'm coming!" I cried out. I can't remember how long I kept his head above water. Then we were picked up by a Jap ship and taken to a POW camp. I still kept very close to Blue as he didn't look too good. I smiled and said to him, "Listen cobber, while you have your mate hanging around, you'll be alright."

I never thought when we were young, Blue wasn't very strong. I tried to cover up for him, but he got one beating after another. I got a few myself for trying to stop them beating him.

He couldn't work as hard as the others so they stopped his rice. I used to share mine with him. He would look at me with sunken eyes and say, "You eat it mate, one of us has got to get back home." I would cry out "God help him please! Don't let him die in Burma!"

I tried to put all my strength in him, but one night as I was sitting, near his bunk I heard him whisper, "Joe, no man could have a better friend." He closed his eyes and died.

The old man stirred on the bench, wiped his eyes. He looked at the statue and said, "After all these years Blue, I still miss our friendship."

EILEEN MCCARTHY
September 1985
LISTENING POST — SUMMER 1985 — 15
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ADDRESS........................................... PURPOSE............................................
In 1978 a "signal" went to all Ex-Servicewomen's Associations for representatives to form a committee with the purpose of making a sincere contribution to the State's 150th Birthday Celebrations. From this the Combined Ex-Servicewomen's Committee of Management was formed, with representatives from the Navy, Army, Air Force, Red Cross, Returned Soldiers' Sub Branch, WANS and the Land Army.

A photographic and memorabilia display was held at the Army Museum of WA in May of 1979, being officially opened by Lady Kyle. The display was a pictorial of the Women's Services. Upon the display's unqualified success, it was agreed by all Ex-Service Associations to organise a reunion luncheon in order to foster the goodwill of all who served.

The Reunion Luncheon is now held in August of each year and each has proved most successful. Donations to Legacy have been made from the proceeds.

Last year the committee was honoured when Mrs Vivian Statham MBE ARRC FNM ED accepted patronage of the committee. All delegates have served either in war or peace, regular or reserve. All hold executive positions in their own associations and most are members of the RSL.

Many friendships have been cemented through the committee and an esprit-de-corps is evident. This voluntary group's contribution is commendable.

(MRS) M.K. GÖRRINGE
SECRETARY

NEW GUINEA AWAS
PLAN REUNION

A national reunion of Australian Women's Army Service members who served in Lae, New Guinea; in 1945-46 is planned for the Gold Coast, South Queensland, on 24th and 25th May 1986.

Over 300 AWAS worked at 1st Australian Army and Lae Base and were the only servicewomen other than medical staff who served outside Australia in World War II. The reunion organisers are having some difficulty to compile a roll.

Their present roll contains names and addresses of 168 women and another 200 are needed for a complete list. The organisers would like to hear from any ex-member of the New Guinea group who has not been contacted as well as from relatives and friends who could supply information of those who are now deceased. The names will be recorded in the group's Memorial Book.

Please contact as soon as possible — Miss V. Bourke (organiser) 26 Illawong Street, Chevron Island, Queensland 4217. Phone: 075 387984 or Mrs R. Beveridge 54 Lithica Street, Kelvin Grove, Queensland 4059. Phone: (075) 831 0395.

WAR DEAD GRAVES
IN LIBYA

Few Australians have had the opportunity to visit Libya's War Graves Cemetery at Benghazl.

NSW Branch of RSL is offering a unique recent photograph of Australian headstones there. Relations and friends may apply in writing to Mr W.G. Osmond, State Secretary, Anzac House, 26-36 College Street, Darlinghurst NSW 2010. Request must indicate the applicant's relationship to the deceased serviceman.

The stained marble tombstones of Benghazl bear silent witness to our men's ultimate sacrifice. Although these headstones stand proudly in one of the remotest war zones that Australians have fought in, their heroism will always be remembered.

They were the Australians who fought in the North Africa campaigns.

Today the tombstones are tended by Libyans who pay homage and respect to the men who helped free them from fascist tyranny. When the NSW President of the RSL Sir Colin Hines OBE and the State Secretary Mr Warren Osmond OBE visited the cemetery their main concern was that the graves were maintained at highest standards. The Libyans readily agreed to ensure that they were tended regularly. In fact, the grass in Benghazl War Cemetery is the only mowed grass to be found in that Moslem country.

Mr Osmond was recently able to secure copies of photographs taken of each Australian war grave there. As a gesture to RSL members in Australia, NSW Branch will provide a colour photograph of each grave free to an immediate relative of the fallen serviceman. Each print shows the headstone and inscription. Additional prints will be available to other members of their families at $2 each. Of some 50 Australians listed, the following two Western Australians were noted.

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Sub Branch Reports & News

SANDWICH LUNCHEONS IN 1986

Three sandwich luncheons will be held in ANZAC House next year and the dates and guest speakers should be noted in diaries.

Tuesday April 15, 1986: Commodore Malcolm Baird, AM

Tuesday May 20, 1986: Brigadier J.H. Townley, AM

Tuesday June 17, 1986: Air Commodore Graham Neil, DFC

Time 12.15pm: Cost $4.00. Contact Joan Dowson for bookings.

GERALDTON’S GOLDEN CELEBRATION

Last September 7 was a major RSL and community day in Geraldton when the town observed its Golden Jubilee Anniversary of the unveiling of its War Memorial in 1935 and the opening of Birdwood House, a town feature.

Constructed of granite from the Darling Range and sculptured on cenotaph lines, the memorial stands 4.25 metres tall and was hewn from a single 3-tonne block of granite. Many business houses made handsome donations to the construction of both edifices.

Birdwood House is both Geraldton’s Sub-branch headquarters and a facility for general community activities. The Jubilee attracted widespread interest.

Originally the site of Birdwood House was a pound and its adjoining block, taken over for the memorials, was a market garden.

In November 1933, with the co-operation of the District Council of the Trades Hall, the Farmers and Settlers Association and through the Member for the district, the Hon. J. Wilcock, arrangements were initiated for the total site to be made over to the Soldier’s Institute Trust for an up-to-date institute and an obelisk memorial. Geraldton compared unfavourably at that time with other places in the district, as it did not have a Soldiers’ Memorial.

Clearing and levelling the block cost the Council £140.3.10d, say $280.

The recent Jubilee so impressed Western Australia’s three Service Chiefs that each accepted invitations to attend next year’s annual reunion dinner of Geraldton RSL Sub-branch. Sub-branch President Lorraine Gilbert, who did a great job in control of the celebrations, announced this to the branch.

She said interest had been shown particularly in the Memorabilia Exhibition held in association with the Armed Services display as part of the celebrations and in conjunction with the Batavia Coast Sunshine Festival.

The branch will refer to the committee a suggestion that a permanent display be arranged of items that have been donated for the War Museum at Birdwood House.

The Armed Service Chiefs and their wives were the Jubilee’s special guests. Brigadier Jim Townley offered the Loyal Toast at the Sub-branch annual dinner. Commodore Malcolm Baird recited the “Ode to the Fallen” and Air Commodore Graham Neil led the Roll Call.

Geraldton’s Mayor Mr Phil Cooper proposed the toast to the RSL of Australia which, in the absence of State President Jim Hall at National Congress, was responded to by State Executive member Frank Verdi. Mayor Cooper described Birdwood House as a magnificent community building and said the RSL had at all times held the respect and support of Geraldton community and Town Hall.

RSL Life Member Clem Burns presented the Service Chiefs with copies of the history of Birdwood House, that he compiled for the Jubilee.

An ANZAC of the Year Award winner, Mary Haselby of Geraldton, presented four Appreciation Certificates in recognition of services to Geraldton Sub-branch. They were received by Ernie Wick, Jr and Gillian Sharp for money raising efforts, and Bill Cartwright and Clem Burns in appreciation of support given by Geraldton Town Band and the Boy Scouts respectively.

RIVERVALE-CARLISLE

On Friday 27th September the Rivervale-Carlisle Sub-branch honoured its principal office bearers since the Sub-branch was formed in 1949 under the name of South Belmont. Subsequently, the Sub-branch operated under the names of South Belmont-Rivervale and Rivervale until 1971 when the current title was adopted.

The evening of the 27th September took the form of a dinner and social evening together with the unveiling of the Honour Boards which contained the names of President, Secretary and Treasurer for each year of operation. The first Honour Board contained the names of the office bearers for the first three titles for which the Sub-Branch was registered.

Former members of the Sub-Branch were invited from far and wide throughout the State, and it was an evening for reminiscing back to the early days of the Sub-branch. The first board was unveiled by Mr Neil Davidson who was an early Secretary and later President of the Sub-branch. Subsequently, he served a number of years as a member of the State Executive. The Rivervale-Carlisle Board was unveiled by Mr Alan Richardson who was the first President of the Sub-branch in that name. He also has served on the State Executive and recently rejoined the State Branch after an absence of some years.

Over a hundred members and guests attended who stayed till late in the evening and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

GOLDFIELDS

Since the last edition of the Listening Post there has been another quarterly meeting of the Eastern Goldfields regional area, this time at Boulder.

The boys from Kambalda showed their immense dedication to these events again and hired a school bus to come via Coolgardie, pick up our local contingent and return us after the meeting.

The meeting under the Chairmanship of Bob Martin took its first hour with Bob’s report of the Annual State Congress and an address by George Hayhoe of Kalgoorlie.

LISTENING POST — SUMMER 1985 — 19
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AMALGAMATION

The amalgamation of the North-East Fremantle and Bicton-Palmyra Sub-branches was approved by the State Executive on August 28th, 1985. The name Bicton-Palmyra RSL Sub-branch has been retained.

The Bicton-Palmyra President, Don Burns, welcomes all members, new and old, to the General Meeting held in the Edinburgh Hall, Foss Street, Bicton at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

Members are also invited and encouraged to attend the social functions which are detailed in the newsletter sent to all members.

Please address all correspondence to:

The Secretary
Bicton-Palmyra RSL
28 Foss Street
BICTON 6157

WOMENS AUXILIARY

What a mixed year it has been, for me personally a very exciting one, but for the Executive a very different story. The passing of Laurel Angel in February saddened us. Over the year a number of Executive Members have been in hospital, or on the sick list. Perhaps 1986 will be better for us all.

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THE PIN CUSHION

22 — LISTENING POST — SUMMER 1985
My "big day" arrived nice and sunny. With my family as guests, I received my O.A.M. from the Governor in Government House Ballroom. It was a happy day.

Mrs Kath Ross, State Secretary of the Tasmanian Auxillaries here on a private visit, spent a few hours with me to catch up on the news. I attended the League Group Conference in Busselton on 24th August, a very good attendance.

Wonderful hospitality, but the weather seemed to be angry with us. It stormed and blew all the weekend.

Mrs Sullivan and I were guests of the Geraldton Sub-branch and Auxiliary at their dinner to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the opening of Birdwood House. An enjoyable evening, meeting old friends.

Members of Executive and Auxillaries helped the Belmont Auxiliary celebrate their birthday on 11th September, another happy night.

Victoria Park Auxiliary held their birthday party in the Millen Hall. Everyone enjoyed the day, the Millen girls acting as waitresses and dressing the part. It is nice to share these times with others. Millen, Victoria Park and City of Perth Auxillaries combined to hold a fun and friendship day on 9th October.

Quite a number of Auxillaries attended and entered into the fun of playing snakes and ladders and ludo, making fancy hats and doing competitions.

Cockburn Auxiliary invited Auxillaries to their birthday luncheon, a very happy day with plenty of friendship and fellowship.

I was guest of honour at the 10th Light Horse luncheon on October 4th, where a film taken at Gallipoli and of the 10th Light Horse in Egypt brought back memories to some of the gentlemen. I felt honoured to be among such gallant soldiers.

Mrs Taylor and I attended the Perth City Council reception to the New Zealand Ambassador.

Boyup Brook Auxiliary celebrated their 25th birthday with a luncheon, and Mrs Taylor accepted the invitation as my representative. Her report stated it was a very successful day...good weather, good company. She & Mr Taylor also attended the Air Force Association Battle of Britain Commemoration Service.

On 25th October I had the pleasure of presenting our trophies at the War Veterans Home Bowls Trophy Night. The pleasure these people have playing their games of bowls is very gratifying to the Auxillaries who donated to the fund for the bowling green and they are happy to know that it has enabled so many to enjoy the many hours of friendly rivalry and friendship.

We will soon be packing and delivering our Xmas cheer parcels. Thank you Auxillaries for donating to this fund, for helping to bring a little cheer at this special time.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of the members of Executive and myself to wish all a very merry Xmas and a happy and prosperous new year.

Best wishes to all.

Joy Ford
State President

**BRUCE ROCK RSL PENNANT**

Our club was pleased to receive a pennant for their membership drive for 1984. This has largely been through the formation of the RSL bowls section competition Metropolitan v Country event held the second Tuesday of October each year. Metropolitan were the winners again this year but a very successful day was held.

The Zone Conference to be held at Merredin this year will be in the new year at a date to be confirmed. The passing of our President Norm Gillard and Max Walton were greatly regretted. Norm had been a popular figure for many years. We welcome two new members, Bill Martin and Bill Turner, who will be of good service.

We are investigating whether the community bus for the district is desired. Members have been requested also to come forward with a community project that the Club can support.

**BUNBURY**

It is very pleasing to look back on such a successful year as 1985. We have realised some of our goals particularly in regard to meeting attendances, hall improvements and welfare activities, not forgetting the re-formation of our Ladies Auxiliary.

We have advance hall bookings for every month in 1986. A positive move was made in the formation of a planning committee to look at future improvements to our premises as a whole, rather than embarking on a fragmented programme which might not give the best result.

A very popular suggestion is being considered to obtain an "Unlicensed Club" permit and to open for a "happy hour" on Friday evenings. It seems inevitable that sometime in the future a "Bunbury RSL Club" will be formed with membership extended beyond our own RSL members. However, we must walk before we run and must purchase a glass washer for the bar, and tile the toilets to comply with the "Unlicensed Club" permit application. If anyone can assist in these two areas we would be pleased to hear.

We have had an excellent year for new members with many young and not so young joining the Sub-branch. We were especially pleased to welcome as a new member Mr Percy Gorman WW1 veteran who, at 91 years of age, drives himself to and from meetings with more ease than most 40 year olds.

We had our State President as a guest at the October meeting. All 45 members present were impressed with Mr Jim Hall, a man who spoke from the shoulder on many issues pertaining to the League.

Our esteemed hall manager - "Stanley" is standing down after seven years on the job. We honestly don't know what we will do without him. Much of the present smooth running of our hall and ongoing minor repairs are a legacy of Stan's efforts and we certainly deserve a break to catch up on bowls, touring etc.

LISTENING POST — SUMMER 1985 — 23
Best wishes to all R.S.L. Members

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24 — LISTENING POST — SUMMER 1985
Interest within our Sub-branch is so great that all positions have been nominated for well before the AGM in January (4th Wednesday).

I have often expressed my belief that office bearers should be changed frequently where possible to maintain enthusiasm. For that reason I have stood down this year as President. I know that our efficient and hard working Secretary, Bob Mossman, will appreciate a break after a couple of years in office and it appears sensible to change only one office each year.

Our quarterly dances have been very successful, with the next one planned for 22nd February. The dart/pool competition between Police/RSL v Army was surprisingly won by Police/RSL. Trevor Kenny masterminded the competition which we all enjoyed. A combined Naval Reserve/RSL quiz night competently compered by Chris Mills was also enjoyed while our Melbourne Cup Raffle, once again, provided the funds to keep ourselves in the black and facilitated additional hall improvements.

Welfare is a demanding but rewarding task. Members wishing to become involved in this area would be welcomed by Ford, Ted and Doug. Much of their work is of a confidential nature, but they have made a big impact since forming the committee just over twelve months ago. Members with time on their hands would derive much satisfaction from seeing their work bear results where, in many cases, all else has failed. We can always use people interested in helping as Welfare Officers or Hospital Visitors.

1986 is set to be our best year yet. Remember those meeting dates — Men: 3rd Wednesday; Ladies: 1st Wednesday.

Alf Mainstone
President

GERALDTON

Western Australia's three Service Chiefs were so impressed by the Birdwood House Golden Jubilee Celebrations at Geraldton on September 7, that they are prepared to return for next year's Reunion Dinner of the RSL Sub-branch.

This information was given to the September meeting by President Lorraine Gilbert who did a marvellous job when in-control of the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of Birdwood House, which is not only the Sub-branch headquarters, but is also used for community activities generally.

The meeting carried a vote of thanks to everyone associated with the outstanding success of the Golden Jubilee celebrations, particularly Mrs Gilbert.

She said immense interest has been displayed in the Memorabilia Exhibition held in association with the Armed Services display as part of the celebrations and also in conjunction with the Batavia Coast Sunshine Festival.

The Sub-branch will refer to the Committee's suggestion that a permanent display be arranged of items that have been donated for the War Museum at Birdwood House.

The heads of the Armed Services in WA and their wives were special guests at the Birdwood House Golden Anniversary celebrations held in conjunction with the Sub-branch annual reunion dinner. Brigadier Jim Townley offered the loyal toast; Commodore Malcolm Baird recited "The Ode to the Fallen"; and Air Commodore Graham Neil led the roll call.

Mayor Phil Cooper proposed the toast to the RSL of Australia, and this was replied to by the State Executive member, Frank Verdi, who said State President Jim Hall, was among those attending the National Congress in Canberra and fighting for the retention of entitlements, which they looked like losing. Mayor Cooper described Birdwood House as a magnificent community building, and said the RSL had at all times held the respect of the community and the Town Council.

RSL life member Mr Clem Burns, presented the Service Chiefs with copies of the History of Birdwood House that he compiled to mark the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

The Governor of WA, Professor Gordon Reid, was among those who sent letters of best wishes for the celebrations because they were unable to be present as a result of their commitments. An ANZAC of the Year Award winner, Mary Hasleby of Geraldton, and previously of Northampton, presented four Appreciation Certificates, in recognition of services to the Geraldton Sub-branch.

They were received by Ernie Wick Jnr and Gillian Sharp for their money raising efforts; and Bill Cartwright and Clem Burns in appreciation of the support of the Town Band and the Boy Scouts respectively.

B.J.B.

VETERANS MEET MHR

Before Geraldton's Birdwood House Golden Anniversary celebrations on September 7, MHR for O'Connor, Mr Wilson Tuckey, discussed with war veterans the pending Government legislation of major concern.

Mr Tuckey said local representatives should be congratulated for their interest and effort in representing the veterans of the region.

"They are to be congratulated for their interest in this time of need, when the Government continues to increase the burden for the elderly, but is extravagant with less needy sectors", Mr Tuckey said.

He told the group that the Opposition would closely monitor the final legislation when it reached Parliament, to ensure that the area of objection — the reversing of onus of proof from government to the applicant — did not disadvantage.

B.J.B.

GUN HOUSE LUNCHEON

On October 11th Brigadier and Mrs J.H. Townley kindly allowed the Sub-branch to have a fund-raising function in their colourful garden overlooking the Swan River. The band of the 5th Military District, under the baton of Lieut. Eric Anderson, played during the function.

LISTENING POST — SUMMER 1985 — 25
DON'T

DROP IT!

"THERE IS ONLY ONE SHAME—THAT IS FAILING A HUMAN BEING WHEN HE NEEDS YOU"

26—LISTENING POST—SUMMER 1985
Members of the Red Cross Service Corps assisted serving luncheon to the 120 members and friends to make the event a happy occasion. Amongst the guests were Mrs Malcolm Baird and Mrs Graham Neil. Mrs Vivian Statham and Mrs Neil Allgrove who were POWs in Sumatra, were also honoured guests. Mrs Joan Dowson advised a profit of $926.30 for the day.

**KAMBALDA SUB-BRANCH DINNER**

On the 5th October the Kambalda Sub-branch had what is to be hoped a Bi-Annual night out. The dinner was organised by the Sub-branch secretary and lead by our president, John (Irish) Hopkins. Seventeen members and wives journeyed to Kalgoolie for a dinner in the Palace Hotel.

The evening started with pre-dinner drinks of wines, spirits and beer, then a meal cooked and served with the excellence of the Palace Hotel.

The return trip was completed in fine style with such great renditions as Danny Boy, The Pub with no Beer, I'll Walk Beside You etc., completely torn to pieces by our members, Barry Stubbs and Jock Grey. All in all it was a grand night out and already I have seats reserved for the next one.

Syd Cox
Honorary Secretary

**GASCOYNE SUB-BRANCH NEWS**

**GENERAL MEETING**

At the last general meeting of the Sub-branch, in the absence of president Bill Burgess, vice president Keith Hasleby ably performed the duty of presenting a Certificate of Service to our immediate past president Darryl Cochrane, who had been president from June 1981 to April of this year. In Darryl's period of office Sub-branch was re-activated. He did not seek re-election.

At the same time, another pleasant duty performed by "Vice" Keith was the presentation of a Certificate of Honourary Padre and social member of the Sub-branch to The Reverend Peter McArthur.

The Rev. McArthur has been most helpful to the Sub-branch since his posting to Carnarvon.

**POPPY DAY**

Our Poppy Day was conducted on Friday the 8th and although the sales were not up to expectations the public response was tremendous.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**

On the 11th the Sub-branch held a short service at the Town Memorial.

The sermon was read by our Honorary Padre, The Reverend Peter McArthur.

Wreaths were laid by the Sub-branch president, Bill Burgess, and the president of the Carnarvon Sub-section of the Australian Naval Association, Jack Valli.

Shire president Wally Dale laid a wreath in remembrance on behalf of the district.

Our vice-president recited "The Ode" and flags were raised to masthead after "the silence."

**40TH REUNION EX-APPRENTICES AND JEATS 1988**

The Air Care Benevolent Association of Australia plans to organise a reunion of all ex RAAF Apprentices and Junior Equipment and Administrative Trainees, who underwent their training at RAAF bases Wagga Wagga, Rathmines and Orford. The reunion is to be held in Wagga Wagga over the Australia Day long weekend 22nd to 26th of January 1988, so as to coincide with the Bi-Centenary and the 40th Anniversary of the commencement of the RAAF Apprenticeship scheme. Known as the "40 in 88" reunion, its hoped that it will attract large numbers of ex-Appies and JEATS, and provide for them an opportunity to reminisce and renew old friendships.

**TENTATIVE PROGRAMME FOR THE REUNION WEEKEND**

**Friday 22nd Jan**

Bucks Night at the showgrounds.

**Saturday 23rd**

Intake lunches at various restaurants.

Gala Night at the showgrounds to comprise of dancing and live entertainment.

**Sunday 24th**

Back to Base visit and BBQ lunch.

**Monday 25th**

"March" through the city of Wagga and a wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph. To be followed by a gathering in the gardens and a formal wind-up of the reunion, with a BBQ lunch.

**Tuesday 26th**

**Tours of the local region for the visitors.**

**NOTE:** Mon and Tues may be swapped around.

Motels and caravan parks have been pre-booked arrangements for group travel concessions ex WA by bus and air are tentatively arranged.

Anyone wishing to attend or requiring further information please contact Colin McQueen on (Perth) 298 8490, or write to: Colin McQueen, 31 Smith Street, Glen Forrest WA 6071.

**REUNION**

28th BATTALION

13th Infantry Brigade

A reunion of the ex-members of the Battalion has been arranged for Tuesday, 7th January, 1986 at the Raffles Hotel, Canning Bridge, commencing at 11am.

For further details please contact

PHIL WILKERSON TEL: 330 7263

LISTENING POST — SUMMER 1985 — 27
HAIL THE ALHAMBRA

IN 1940 a collection of poems titled "Songs of an Engineer", written by Sapper Francis Gilroy, was published in pamphlet form in Perth.

Included in the booklet of 13 poems by the Sydney poet was a sentimental ballad "Alhambra Bar" offered as an expression of gratitude for the friendly welcome received by AIF member Gilroy and his fellow diggers at the Alhambra Bar.

The warm reception given to the troops by the staff and patrons was in marked contrast to the chilly autumn morning when the corps left its Sydney base for a posting to Perth and an army camp at Claremont showgrounds.

Author Gilroy was a veteran of two major conflicts — the Great War and World War, and began army life as a recruit in the 1st Railway Engineers AIF.

Many of his poems were written on lonely nights in billets in WA. The Alhambra Bar is arguably the only bar in WA, perhaps in Australia, to have been the inspiration for a published poem written by a customer.

Set in a strategic position, opposite the Perth Town Hall in Barrack Street, the Alhambra was built by the McNeck family and opened to the public in 1896. Since that year the premises have been enlarged to include a tavern and a bistro now named Alhambra Bars Tavern and Miguel's Wine Bar Bistro.

There has always been a Spanish link with the enterprise. The original name was Alhambra Bodega Bar and later changed to de Pedro's Alhambra Bars and then its present name. Another Alhambra is known to art lovers all over the world as the magnificent palace in Granada, the finest example of Moorish art in Spain.

"ALHAMBRA BAR"
With acknowledgement to the WA Hotel Club & Caterer.

When the railways corps left Sydney,
On a gloomy autumn morn,
They were feeling quite despondent,
They were looking quite forlorn.

For the thoughts of all were centred
On the dearest spot on earth,
Till they landed in Westralia,
Till they journeyed up to Perth.

There they found a transformation,
Which their feelings could not mar,
When they found a hand extended
In the old Alhambra Bar.

Now the moral of this story,
I just wish you all 'to know,
When you're finding out new places
Or wherever you may go.

Though your life appears quite dreary,
And you meet adversity,
You will find a transformation,
Though your skies may be dismal be,

Like a planet in the heavens,
Just a gleaming from afar,
You will find peace and contentment
In the old Alhambra Bar.

There are songs sung of the mountains,
There are songs sung of the sea,
And they make you feel exalted
By their wondrous melody.

There are songs of rustic bushland,
Which are known both near and far,
There's a song of West Australia
And your old Alhambra Bar.

I've seen bars in other countries
In those lands beyond the sea,
I've seen bars in dear old Sydney,
Which still haunt my memory.

But that haven wrapped in brilliance
Gleaming like the morning star,
And which makes a sad heart lighter
Is your old Alhambra Bar.
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THE FLAG

Members of the Australian Flag Association, committed to keep the traditional flag, heard of a hard-hitting keynote address from the Association's President, Air Commodore E.B. Courtney, at its 1985 first annual general meeting.

Air Commodore Courtney warned most vigorously again the movement, "Ausflag," to change the traditional flag being allowed to succeed by default.

"I was disappointed", he said, "that there seems to be an air of complacency and a belief in the Eastern States that the Ausflag movement is 'not likely to succeed'.

"Even if this was so, we should not relax our efforts and I propose to raise this issue at every opportunity, and to confront active flag destroyers whenever and whenever they appear.

"There are many questions to be answered in discussion on this subject. The Association has prepared considered answers to objections which are being raised by Ausflag 'change the flag' supporters — whoever they may be. These answers are available from the Association to all who might wish to use them in discussions.

"We still do not know exactly who is behind 'Ausflag 88' and what their motives are. We wonder why Mr Packer, through the "Bulletin" publication, should be pressing for change. We wonder who is behind radio station MMM in Sydney and why they want to destroy our flag. There must be some reason for this attack and Ausflag has access to large sums of money. Where is it coming from?"

"These questions need to be answered and our only hope of getting answers is to keep asking the questions of people who are advocating change.

"I ask you all to present a united front of opposition to those who would if they could destroy the National Flag".

Australian National Flag Association

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

At a time when momentous events shape our lives and determine our futures, it is always heartwarming to know that the many associations formed over the years can be proclaimed at Christmas time each year in simple but honest terms.

It is with this reflection that I welcome the opportunity to make contact with the many Veterans' organisations, the many Veterans and their families whom the Department has come into contact with during the year and note the special relationship that exists.

I note the efforts of my staff which assists to create this accord.

Many expressions of appreciation for the service provided by the Department are received each year from the Veteran community and I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for these kind sentiments.

To Veterans and their families, I wish to extend sincere Christmas greetings on behalf of the Staff of the Department of Veterans' Affairs and may 1986 bring you health and happiness.

Finally I wish to record the co-operation and assistance provided by the State President, Jim Hall, and his busy Executive to the operations of the Department.

(J.H. SEE)
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32 — LISTENING POST — SUMMER 1985
Meg Olive

RSL and Air Force Association members alike were saddened by the death late in September of Mrs Margaret Olive, one of the RAAFA's most prominent and best loved officials in WA.

Meg was for nearly 11 years President of the Women's Australian Auxiliary Air Force branch of the Royal Australian Air Force Association (WA Division). She had suffered a long illness.

A member of the WA Division Committee of the Association, Meg upheld the traditions of the Air Force and led its WAAAF Branch actively and progressively. After World War II she was selected by the Air Force to go to London and represent WAAAF NCOs in the Victory March.

She joined the WAAAF in 1942 and served at Victor Harbour, SA, Geraldton and at RAAF HQ. Her funeral at Karrakatta drew a following of 260 people who had been her friends in Service and later life. A flight of Aero Club aircraft piloted by RAAFA member pilots overflew the funeral cortege.

Patricia Balfe

Charles John Alfred Lunn-Garner

Charles John Alfred LUND-GARNER. Born 12 Feb 1899 at West Norwood, London, England. He was educated at Gipsy Road School West Norwood; where he won a scholarship and attended the Shoreditch Technical College, London, being trained as a cabinet maker and fitter and turner. At 17 years of age he enlisted in the BEF and was posted to the London Scottish Bde of the Lowland Division and sent to France; he was invalided out of France in 1918 and was back to France in 1919, and was on Parade when Albert, King of the Belgians, presented all the Division with the Silver Thistle. He was then posted to the British Army of Occupation on the Rhine, Germany, and remained there until 1922.

On his return to England he secured employment as a chauffeur to Lord Anglesey. Not being happy with this kind of employment, he elected to join his parents in Australia, arriving here in August 1922. He was then employed by the State Government in the refitting of the fumigation barges at Woodmans Point, and later installed the lifts at the present GPO in Perth.

In 1922 he joined the Osborne Park Sub-branch of the RSL and served it well as Secretary for a number of years. His total service with the RSL was 63 years. He was also the holder of the Federal Certificate of Merit and the State Executive Certificate of Merit. He died as the oldest serving member of the Osborne Park Sub-branch on Wed 7th August 1985. He was a founder member of the 16th Inf. Bn. Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia and was eventually discharged in 1941 as unfit for Active Service.

He leaves a widow, son and daughter, and was cremated at Karrakatta on Monday 12th August 1985 as a soldier and a gentleman.

E.C. Lunn-Garner

Edmond Still

With the passing of Edmond (Bob) Still there will be a gap in the ranks of the Still brothers. All six brothers enlisted during the World War and all saw active service. They all returned to Australia and all joined the Shenton Park Sub-branch of the Returned Services League. It is not known if this is a record for one family, but the National President, Sir William Keys, has never heard of a similar case before. Bob Still served with the 13th Workshop Coy in the South West Pacific area, and his brothers Trevor, Henry, Arthur and Bill all served in the Army. Stan Still served with the RAAF.

Bob will be sadly missed by his mates at the Shenton Park Sub-branch.

LISTENING POST — SUMMER 1985 — 33
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34 — LISTENING POST — SUMMER 1985
LOST TRAILS
Can You Help?

More and more as they move towards their final years, ex-service people of all countries are seeking reunions with old wartime friends with whom they have lost contact. Here are two calls for help in finding people, which have come recently to "Listening Post". If you can help in either of these searches, please do.

Mr Morris N Lutton, 7 Keegan Drive, Massey, Auckland 8 NZ is trying to locate ALBERT W DEAN GARDENER, once of Auckland, who was with the RNZAF. Both men were members of No. 104 Course Claresholm after training in the Empire Air Training Scheme 'on the prairies of Canada'.

There will be a reunion of 104 Course survivors at Nelson NZ on January 24-26 next year and Dean is the only NZ Course member not yet traced.

Mr G V Orange, Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Canterbury NZ, published a biography of Air Marshal Sir Keith Park in 1984. He has begun another biography of Air Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh Mallory, Sir Keith's colleague and one time rival in matters of air strategy.

Mr Orange intends his work to cover more than the Battle of Britain period and seeks any personal memories of Sir Trafford. Address: 65 Charter Court, Linden Grove, New Malden, Surrey KT3, SW, UK.

The US National Museum Association in San Francisco, California, is seeking RSL help to locate surviving Australian prisoners of WW2 who were rescued by the US Navy submarine PAMPANITO.

To assist the Association, Mr D G Kaye, Vice Consul at the Australian Consulate-General, 360 Post Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94108, has written to the National Secretary RSL enclosing a list of 47 Australians whom it still seeks.

Any members who might be able to help should please write to Mr Kaye. There are six Western Australians listed:

Cocking, A J WX 16369. Private, 2/4 M.G. Batt. AIF. Next of kin: Mrs A J Cocking, 35 Dunbix Road, WA.

Martin, M D WX 204. Private, 2/10 Ord. Work Shops, AIF. Next of kin: Mrs H D Martin, Esperance, WA.

Pascoe, T A WX 7409. Driver, 2/4 M.G. Batt. AIF. Next of kin: Mrs E W Pascoe, Denmark, WA.

Pickett, H WX 9055. Sig, 2/4 M.G. Batt. AIF. Next of kin: Mrs Kathleen Pickett, 10 Byers Rd, Midland Junction, WA.

Winter, A D WX 8110. Private, 2/4 M.G. Batt. AIF. Next of kin: Mrs W Martin, 51 Redcliffe Rd, Redcliffe, WA.

Winter, W V WX 10373. Private, 2/4 M.G. Batt. AIF. Next of kin: Mrs A Winter, 6 Judd St, South Perth, WA.

Mr George Kammerer, 111 Walgrove Road, Reisterstown, Maryland 21136 USA, spent some time on Noemfoor Island off the north-west coast of then Dutch New Guinea in 1944 and 1945 in company with some Australians:

Ernie Lowe (who made a jeep).

Rex Starick (of Tanunda SA).

Cliff North (who lived near Glenelg Beach, SA).

Harry Murray (from Launceston, Tas).

Would these men or anyone knowing them please write to Mr Kammerer who wants to arrange a reunion.

Flight Sgt John Graham RAAF. Thought to live "somewhere near Kalgoorlie. Does anyone know of him? Mr Denis S O'Connell, Manager, Office of Economic Development Dept, City Hall, 910 Fourth Ave South, City of Lethbridge, Alberta Canada, is looking for him, also for ex-Test cricketer Keith Miller.

He served with both, training at 51 OTU, Cranfield, Bedfordshire. John Graham was Mr O'Connell's navigator/radio operator on 239 Sqn RAF at West Rayham, Norfolk. Mr and Mrs O'Connell will visit WA next February/March and would like to contact both Australians for a reunion.

The Late William Courtanay, War Correspondent. Mr Dennis Blakeway, a BBC TV producer, seeks information of Mr Courtanay. He asks especially for help from League members who served with 9th Aust. Div. at Tarakan in May 1945, at Labuan Island in June or with the RAAF on 1 July, 1945 with the Liberators operating from Morotai and bombing Balik Papan.

Mr Blakeway, Limegrove Studios, London W12 7RJ, UK, particularly seeks to contact anyone who may have known William Courtanay and can help him about those campaigns or Mr Courtanay himself.

WHERE ARE YOU?

I am sending this letter to all RSL Headquarters offices in Australia in the hope of contacting former crew members of HMAS Ping Wo who saw service in the South Pacific, 1939-45.

We are organising a reunion in the near future and would like to contact as many men as possible and hope that the various RSL Clubs will be able to assist us.

Can you circulate this information and ask interested ex-crew members of HMAS Ping Wo to contact Alan (Doe) Proleta at the following address:

A.H. Proleta, 6 Shannon Rise, Banksia Park SA 5091, phone 284 1970, or K. L. Fletcher, 17 Clarence St, Blackwood SA 5051, phone 278 7779.
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A French citizen, M. Jean Bouges of Chalons-sur-Marne, has written asking for help in tracing a Sergeant Pierre Husson who he believed was wounded and taken by Australian troops during the fighting near Sidon in the Lebanon on 15 June, 1941. Sergeant Husson was a member of Third Company, 24th Regiment, a French colonial unit. The Australian and British units involved in that campaign were:

- Australian
  - 6th Aust. Cavalry Regiment
  - 9th Aust. Cavalry Regiment
  - 2/2 Anti-Tank Regiment
  - 2/3 MG-Bn
  - 2/4 Fd Regiment
  - 2/5 Fd Regiment
  - 2/6 Fd Regiment
  - 2/12 Pioneers
  - 2/14 Infantry Bn
  - 2/16 Bn
  - 2/25 Bn
  - 2/27 Bn
  - 2/31 Bn

- British
  - 1 Royal Fusiliers
  - Scots Greys
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  - 2 Queens
  - 1st Fd Regiment

Anyone knowing of Sergeant Husson is asked to contact the Director of Public Relations, Department of Defence, Room C-4-29, Russell Offices, Canberra, phone (062) 65 2999.

WW2 HITCH-HIKING COMPANIONS SOUGHT

While I was in the Royal Canadian Air Force during the 2nd World War two Royal Australian Air force Student Pilot friends joined me in hitch-hiking from the Air Force Manning Depot in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, to my home in Kelowna, British Columbia, in the Okanagan Valley, for a period of about two weeks around the first of July 1944. Their names were:

JOHNNY BANNING and EDDI GOODWIN.

I will be visiting Australia with my wife during an unexpected trip at this time. We leave our home at 7am on November 8th and land in Melbourne during the third week of November. We will be stopping at many points all the way up to Cairns. If there is any way you could assist me in locating one or both of these friends within your state I could never thank you enough.

I doubt that there is sufficient time for me to receive a written reply before leaving Canada, so I will contact your league upon my arrival in Australia with the hope that you will have been successful.

1978 McDougall Street, Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada, V1Y 1A3.
Phone: Area Code 604 — 769-3309, 604 — 763-2273. or write 1978 McDougall St, Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada V1Y 1A3.

151 AUST. GENERAL TRANSPORT COMPANY. The Australian General Transport Company Association will celebrate 40 years as an association in 1986.

As a special effort to celebrate this occasion, the committee is making an Australia-wide service for "lost" members.

The 1986 reunion is now being planned and every effort is being made to bring together all those 151 AGT Coy. members who can be located. The committee requests that any former AGT Coy. members or their next-of-kin contact either the secretary or the treasurer of the Association with details of their present whereabouts.

All communications will be answered.

The reunion will be held at the Carlton Bowling Club, Argyle Square, Carlton, Victoria, on Thursday, 24 April, 1986 at 6.30pm.

Secretary: Frank Robb, 2 Barry Street, Reservoir, Vic 3073.
Treasurer: Jack Cook, 5 Malin Street, Kew, Vic 3101.

NOTE: As a foundation officer of 151st AGT and a Life Member of the Association, Wilfred Elliott, 20 Centenary Units, Adie Court, Begtley WA 6102 would be very happy to contact any of the old AGT boys or their next-of-kin resident in WA.

Help Sought From Holland. Mr Peter van der Gaag, a returned Dutch serviceman, served in Indonesia as part of the 1st Inf. Brig. REME Workshop. He seeks assistance from RSL members who may have cuttings or photographs dealing with the boycott of Dutch troopships from Holland bound for Indonesia. Would readers who can help please write to him at the following address.

Peter van der Gaag Chez Plazard Andre Peyrat
24300 Abjat sur Bandiat France.
Peter A. Brindal & Co.
SOLICITOR
(formerly Brindal Parry & Co.)
17b Langford Village, Langford
8.15am to 5.15pm
(09) 451 7561 (09) 350 6370
A/Hrs (09) 458 9130

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**Book Reviews**

**RSL PUBLICATIONS**

**"Australians At War"**

A history of the Australian involvement in the Vietnam War is being written by the noted Australian author John Rowe, who himself served in Vietnam in 1965-66.

The history will be published by John Ferguson Pty Ltd and distributed through Time-Life Books as part of a series on Australians at War. It will be liberally illustrated including many previously unpublished photographs.

Members of the RSL who have any suitable photographs in black and white or colour or transparencies are invited to submit them for consideration in inclusion in the book.

All photographs received will be treated with care and returned. They should be sent to: John Ferguson Pty Ltd, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney, NSW, 2000, (Phone: (02) 272841).

A description of the photographs should be included together with date of when it was taken and the name, address and phone number of the sender. Any photographs selected will be credited in the book.

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**PAINTING — BATTLE OF POLYGON WOOD**

Copies of the painting "Battle Of Polygon Wood" are now available from RSL National Headquarters. The painting shows Australian soldiers holding an Australian flag over a battle scene in France during World War I. It is an excellent work, suitable for promoting the retention of the Australian Flag.

Transparencies suitable for reproducing the painting in publications are available at $10 each, prints at $20 for 5 x 7in, $30 8 x 10in, $50 for 11 x 14in, and $90 for 16 x 20in. Prices would be significantly reduced for multiple orders.

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**1986 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

As members will be aware, the current annual membership subscription of $12.00 has not been varied since 1982. Since that time the annually increasing CPI and rises in associated costs, have had a serious impact on League finances and our ability to achieve our welfare objectives.

Subsequently, at the 1985 State Congress it was agreed that in 1986 the annual subscription would be increased to $14.00. Of this, $4.00 would be retained by the Sub-branch and $10.00 forwarded to the State Branch. There will also be a small proportionate rise in the Life Membership and Life Subscriber subscriptions. It is hoped that members will understand and support this unavoidable rise in subscription fees.

---

**WHO WAS THE AUTHOR?**

Mrs Joan Fanger (nee Smart), of Macleod West, Victoria, found this poem among letters written to her during the War by her brother Stuart Smart, who lost his life in HMAS Parramatta. She does not know who wrote the poem. She wonders if anyone does, as she found it very moving. Parramatta had a proud, gallant crew, who went through hell only to be torpedoed by an Italian submarine while leaving Alexandria.

I was dreaming when you shook me, dreaming I was home.
Yes, it seemed the war was over, I no longer had to roam.
I was surfing down at Rosebud, I was lying on the sand,
Yes, I lay and watched the water while I revelled in the land.
Once again I heard the tumult of a happy Melbourne crowd,
Heard their shouting and their laughter and I knew that I was proud.
Proud to share their happy nature, free from hate and furies old,
Proud of all their suntanned bodies that were true to nature's mould.
Then a strange fear seemed to grip me and an urge that would not wait,
I must hurry, hurry homeward, hurry home ere 'twas too late.
For I heard my loved ones calling as I strained to reach my goal,
Saw their faces for an instant and a great joy filled my soul.
But your hand was on my shoulder and your voice was in my ear,
And I left the land of wishing and the friends I hold so dear,
Once again to ride the ocean in the deep and silent night,
Once again to guard the seaways for the cause we know is right.

From "Open Sea", Tingora Old Boys Association per Phil Jay, ex-RAN.

---

**"NOT A CONQUERING HERO"**

BY FRANK ROLLESTON

PUBLISHED BY: HATFIELDS,
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This is a true story written by a front-line soldier of actual happenings. It is one of the best books depicting the Australian soldier in action during the World War. Never before have I read such a graphic account of the battles, especially the siege of Tobruk, Milne Bay, the horrific and savage battle for Buna and the fortress-type action to take Shaggy Ridge in New Guinea, complete great reading.

LISTENING POST — SUMMER 1985 — 39
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To enable the reader to follow the stories more closely, many maps and photos are shown. I had difficulty in putting aside the book once I had taken it up, and even when I woke early some mornings I would read a few chapters. I found it so gripping. From the time War was declared in 1939 until 1984 Frank Rolleston has brought the Australian soldier to the fore. There are many units and individuals mentioned and to any reader who was engaged in any of the actions, it will tend to bring back many memories. Who would have thought of going AWL to fight in New Guinea from the safety of Brisbane? Six soldiers did! Mention is also given to militia units who fought with bravery at Milne Bay and on the Kokoda Trail.

I quote a passage from the book on defence:

"I realise also what a dangerous thing it can be to allow the defence of our country to become so low in equipment and manpower that we could be virtually defenceless in the event of another war" — unquote.

I believe all libraries should have a copy of this book, because young people of today do not realise what men have to go through to protect a homeland. Maybe the pacifists could find some solace in the many chapters.

REVIEW BY M.C. (MIKE) HALL
NOTE: The book is available only from Hatfields.

TITLE: "MR RASPBERRY JAMWOOD"
AUTHOR: Reg. A. Nicholas

With the name of a West Australian wood, little known, but strong and sturdy for building fences, here is a book written by a man, not well known as a writer, but one of those strong and sturdy people who could well be called the "salt of the earth". Reg Nicholas is a Gallipoli veteran, and one of the oldest surviving veterans of the RSL, which he joined in 1916. His studies lay in British Army Ordnance and the London School of Lithography. In 1932 he was the State Artist for Western Australia for the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley. In World War II Reg was promoted to Captain and produced emergency maps of the WA coastal strip from Geraldton to Albany. He organised and conducted a Statewide intelligence organisation mainly through the RSL-Voluntary Defence Corps, and in his eighties, after a life well spent as a Government Lithographer and Printer, in 1969, Her Majesty the Queen conferred upon him the MBE.

Such then is the artist and craftsman turned writer of history and biography as an octogenarian. A most loveable gentleman, whose warm nature, love for family and community, are reflected in this delightful work.

Reg was born into a Wesley family in Bristol, the heart of the founders of his church. There he received his early education, and moved to Perth because of a sick father. It was Australia's gain, for there are too few men of the calibre of Reg. His duty to his country and his fellow human beings makes him both loved and respected by all his contemporaries in every echelon of activity, and those who have had, as the writer, the privilege of a personal meeting and chat, will have been enriched by his humility and sincerity of purpose.

Reg has written a personal record of experience in England, Wales and Western Australia. The reminiscences describe the conditions prevalent during the first decade of the present century, but also as they developed for the country as well as for himself in a career which evolved with the progress and development of the State. More particularly he writes at first hand of the war years, of the casualties in the Gallipoli Campaign and his involvement from an Ambulance unit to a Hospital Transport Corps. Generally speaking, Reg tells his readers he was a "joiner", but judging the story of his life, he was certainly a well-integrated citizen and friend with a reputation well known in the RSL in this area.

This is a book which treats personalities in all walks of life of post Great War Perth. He deals with the road system, the buildings of the trade to which he belonged, and the conditions between the Wars, in Britain, in all parts of Australia where his travels took him. He tells his readers that while the word LITHOGRAPHY is a composite of LITHOS (lit. a Stone) and GRAPHOS (writing), and therefore means stone-writing; the Government Lithographic Department may well have been "STONE-AGE" at this time. His aim was to replace it with a modern reproduction system.

Reg has travelled extensively and in fact has visited 31 countries. He has travelled overland in all States of this country, and left off only in 1980 when war disabilities said to him ENOUGH! His wife has been the strong supportive partner with whom he has celebrated his Diamond Jubilee and four years more. Appendices complete the book, with one devoted to a chronology of his personal life. In the form of a Citation by the State President of the RSL conferring upon him Life Membership of the League on behalf of the National Executive in Canberra at ANZAC House on 5 May, 1976. It is a tribute with which all RSL members and well-wishers will concur, for Reg provides a story of initiative as well as adventure, of principle as well as enterprise, of bowler hats and gloves, and the more down to earth fellow-feeling with a presentation not at all requiring such sophistication. Above all in the story is the matter-of-fact acceptance of danger and of the courage that must react spontaneously to situations. It all puts together the reason why the Gallipoli ANZACS will never die. They have found themselves a cherished niche in the heart of all Australians.

REVIEWED BY: Rabbi Dr. Shalom Coleman, CBE, JP.
Copies of the book may be obtained by contacting the author, telephone number 450 1187 or 450 7754.

LISTENING POST — SUMMER 1985 — 41
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Health and Welfare Study of WW2 Returned Ex-Servicewomen

At the 1984 National Congress of the RSL the following motion by Western Australia was passed.

Resolution 27:
"That the Department of Veterans' Affairs be asked to institute an urgent inquiry into the health and welfare of the returned ex-servicewomen of World War II."

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs instructed his Department to carry out the request study and the results were tabled in the Commonwealth Parliament in September last.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1.1 Approximately 4,100 returned servicewomen survived the Second World War, of whom it is estimated some 3,250 were still alive in January 1985. Surviving returned servicewomen are generally older than the average Second World War Veteran, their estimated average age being 68 years compared to an average of approximately 65 years for returned servicemen.

1.2 Returned servicewomen generally experienced difficult conditions of service, enduring physical hardship brought about by the lack of facilities, the hazards of disease allied with a poor diet, the difficulties of climatic extremes as well as the dangers experienced as a result of their close proximity to and exposure to enemy action.

1.3 Of the estimated 3,250 surviving returned World War II servicewomen, some 2,550 (78%) are DVA pension and/or treatment beneficiaries. Approximately 2,270 (70%) beneficiaries are entitled to treatment at departmental expense for acute conditions whether related to service or not.

1.4 There is considerable ignorance and confusion amongst the returned servicewomen about the benefits available, their entitlements and how to go about obtaining them.

1.5 Approximately 38 per cent of returned servicewomen are over 70 years old and the majority live alone. There is some evidence to suggest that the health of returned servicewomen is declining and that their medical conditions are of an increasingly debilitating nature and are increasingly affecting their ability to remain independent in their domestic environment.

1.6 There is evidence to suggest that at least 840 (26%) returned servicewomen may be in difficult financial circumstances. Those paying rent are particularly disadvantaged.

1.7 The estimated value of fringe benefits to a pensioner is such that about 40 (1.2%) returned servicewomen are financially disadvantaged by income slightly above the cut-off for fringe benefits.

1.8 The difficult conditions of service experienced by returned servicewomen may have had long-term effects on the health of these Veterans.

1.9 The failure of servicewomen to report illnesses on service and the negative attitude adopted by servicewomen whose claims were disallowed in earlier years may have directly contributed to a denial of Repatriation benefits to which they may otherwise have been entitled.

1.10 Returned servicewomen were disadvantaged financially by discriminatory rates of pay on service.

1.11 There is strong evidence to suggest that returned servicemen who were never married or did not have the support of a male income earner were and continue to be significantly more disadvantaged by lower earnings than other returned servicemen in providing adequately for old age.

1.12 There is some evidence that receipt of superannuation benefits which marginally exclude Veterans from Service Pension fringe benefits can place such Veterans in greater financial difficulties than Veterans who qualify for fringe benefits.

1.13 The dependents of female Veterans are disadvantaged by discriminatory policies in the Repatriation legislation.

1.14 Single returned servicemen were disadvantaged by the eligibility criteria for Defence Service Homes Loans before their amendment in 1973.

1.15 The submissions to the study indicate a generally negative attitude to the Repatriation System.

The full report is available for study at Anzac House.

Jocelyn McGirr, Deputy Chairman of the Repatriation Commission, who chaired the study has said that the Government will now consider the findings with a view to assessing the need for assistance to the returned ex-servicewomen in relation to the problems highlighted by the report. Representations have been made to Senator Gietzelt by the Australian Veterans and Defence Services Council (AVADSC), seeking an extension of the terms of reference to include non-returned ex-servicewomen.

Patricia Balfe
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Desmond welcome
you to
Health and Welfare Study
of WW2 Returned Ex-Servicewomen

1.16 A number of specific criticisms directed at the Department are being addressed through a range of initiatives in the areas of public information, customer liaison and the new determining process.

1.17 Submissions to the study suggested a misunderstanding among ex-servicewomen concerning the principles underlying benefits available to war widows as distinct from those available to returned servicewomen.

1.18 There is concern among returned servicewomen about the availability of long-term chronic care including home help and nursing home care.

1.19 Care of the aged has a high priority in DVA and significant steps have already been taken in the development of extended care for the aged in line with Commissioner Alan Morrison's 1982 Report 'Care of Veterans to the Year 2000', including the establishment of Aged and Extended Care departments and the introduction of a Veterans' Home Services Program.

1.20 Approximately 1000 (30%) surviving returned servicewomen from World War II are currently not eligible to receive care.

1.21 Approximately 2940 (90%) surviving returned servicewomen from World War II are currently not eligible to receive nursing home care from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

1.22 Any extension of benefits to returned servicewomen is likely to become a precedent for other ex-service groups to press for similar benefits.

Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs.

DISABILITY PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES

WEEKLY RATES OF DISABILITY PENSIONS PAYABLE TO VETERANS FROM NOVEMBER 1985
(ROUNDED DOWN TO THE NEAREST CENT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special (T&amp;PI) Rate</td>
<td>182.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Rate</td>
<td>125.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Rate 100%</td>
<td>68.80</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65.36</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>61.92</td>
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<td>58.48</td>
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<td>55.04</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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LADY MEGA PAC
WHEATGERM OIL with Octacosonal
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60 tabs
$6.43
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$8.50
C 1000
30 tabs
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R.S.L. Members from
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### READY RECKONER TABLES FOR CALCULATING THE AMOUNT OF SERVICE PENSION PAYABLE UNDER THE INCOME TEST — FROM NOVEMBER 1985

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Married Couple</th>
<th>Single Person</th>
<th>Married Couple both over 70</th>
<th>Single Person</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Combined Weekly Income of BOTH Veteran and Spouse</strong></td>
<td><strong>Weekly Pension for each Pensioner</strong></td>
<td><strong>Weekly Pension</strong></td>
<td><strong>Weekly Pension for each Pensioner</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>$ NIL</td>
<td>$ NIL</td>
<td>97.90</td>
<td>NIL to 205.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>81.65</td>
<td>39.90</td>
<td>SAME AS UNDER 70 YEARS</td>
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<tr>
<td>52</td>
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<td>205.00</td>
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<td>NIL</td>
<td>NIL</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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WX500506.
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WX12206.
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FARRELL, A.L., 2/1 Gd Rgt., Gosnells. WX39152.
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WX8586.
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Nedlands. N400059.
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GOLDING, A., RAAF, Applecross. 17185.
GOLDING, W., 11th Bn., Rivervale-Carlisle. 5101.
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Meltham. WX39563.
McEWAN, V.H., 2/70 Lad., Albany. WX21785.
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OLIVER, A.P., 10 OVP, Esperance. WX21565.
SMITH, R.G., RAN., Albany. FX331.
STANLAND, C.M., 16th Bn, Gosnells, 7035.
STILL, E.S.L., 1h W/Shops Co., Shenton Park.
WX1525.
STONE, R.S., 122 Res MT., Claremont. W23389.
THOMAS, R.W., 6th Field Ambulance, Rivervale-
Carlisle. WX28788.
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TURNER, D.B., RAAF, Scarborough. 82038.
WHYTE, D.C., 2/23 AIB, Belmont. WX34601.
WRIGHT, A.J.W., Royal Corps Sigs., North Beach.
2580305.

LISTENING POST — SUMMER 1985 — 49
UNIT ASSOCIATIONS

LISTENING POST reminds all Unit Associations that it is the responsibility of each to keep its information to State Headquarters for this section up to date. Changes to office-bearers must be in writing.

GALLIPOLI LEGION OF ANZACS
Meets at Anzac House, on third Tuesday of the months of February, May, August and December, at 2.15pm. President: J. Mason, 22 Hobart Street, North Perth, 6006. Tel: 443 1894. Secretary/Treasurer: J. Anderson, PO Box 164, Claremont, 6010. Tel: 384 0772.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SECTION) INC. STATE COUNCIL
President: Mr J Wallace, 56 Evandale Street, Floreat. P: 387 4582. State Secretary: Mr D.W.G. (George) Payne, 45 Foss Street, Bicton, 6157. Tel: 339 3461. All correspondence to: Hon. State Secretary, PO Box 8289, Stirling Street, Perth, 6000.

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

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA CITY OF FREMANTLE SUB-SECTION
President: Arthur Hewitt, JP. Tel: 330 3600. Secretary: Bob Beil, 8 The Pinnacle, Willetton, 6155. Tel: 457 5691. Sub-Section meets 8pm, last Monday each month at the Navy Club, Marine Terrace, Fremantle. Tel: 335 3015.

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: 399 5640. Meets in ANZAC House third Thursday of every month, 8pm, (December excepted).

FLEE'T AIR ARM ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (INC)
President: T.F. Bushe-Jones, 63 Gravity Street, Beckenham. Tel: 451 9327. Secretary: G.H. Smith, Unit 1/5 Haig Street, Tuart Hill, 6060. Tel: 344 4416. Meets second Wednesday of each month, 71 West Parade, East Perth.

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State President: J. Appleby, 143 McDonald Street, Joondalup. Tel: 444 3598. State Secretary: Mrs L. Edmondson, 3 Moness Place, Shelley. Tel: 457 5620. State Treasurer: B. Edmondson, 3 Moness Place, Shelley. Tel: 457 5620.

WRANS SUB-SECTION NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
Meets the third Monday of each month, ANZAC House, 28 St George’s Terrace, Perth. President: Mrs Suzanne James, 78 Fortescue St, East Fremantle. Tel: 339 4359. Secretary: Mrs Jean Tobin, 29 Kemmish Crescent, Melville Heights, 6155. Tel: 330 5131. Treasurer: Mrs Fred Andrews, 23 Wilcocks St, Applecross, 6153. Tel: 384 2289.

ASSOCIATION OF WRENS WA BRANCH
Meets fourth Thursday of each month, 7.00pm, ANZAC House, 25 St George’s Terrace, Perth. President: Mrs Doreen O’Day, 122 Duke Street, Scarborough, 6019. Tel: 341 5850. Honorary Secretary: Mrs Mary Wyse, 2 Glenbawn Drive, South Lakes, 6164. Tel: 417 9877.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: John Hobbs, 10 Edgar Way, Mt Pleasant, 6153. Tel: 364 3588. Secretary: John Quinn, 23 Douglas Avenue, Mt Yorke, 6060. Tel: 349 1374. Meets first Monday each month (except January) ANZAC Club 8pm. When Monday is a Public Holiday, first Tuesday.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION
President: V. Donegan, 207 Hale Road, Wembley Downs, 6019. Tel: (09) 446 5380. Secretary: L.D. Grussa, 43 Pitt Street, Dianella, 6062. Tel: 387 2578. Secretary: M. Davison, 1 Kitchener Road, Melville, 6156. Tel: 330 3033. Treasurer: Fred Seif, 24 Clovelly Crescent, Lynwood, 6155. Tel: 458 6514.

10TH LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION AIF
Meets socially first and third Friday each month, ANZAC Club, 12.00pm, 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 NINER’S ASSOCIATION
Meets ANZAC House, 12 noon, 4th Wednesday each month. State President: J.P. Hall, Unit A/3 Hellem Grove, Booragoon. Tel: 364 7776. State Secretary: E. Piper, 96 Simper Street, Wembley. Tel: 387 3206. State Treasurer: Rev. Neil McGregor, Unit 3 Pearson Village, Pinaster Street, Mt Lawley. Tel: 272 1724. For further information contact any of the above.

11TH & 2/11TH AIF BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION
President: L. Sullyan, Unit 189 Mustang House, A.F.M. Estate, Bull Creek, 6153. Tel: 332 8692. Secretary/Treasurer: J.C. Watson, 866 Canning Highway, Applecross, 6153. Tel: 348 2126. Committee meets third Tuesday each month, 2.15pm, 605 Wellington Street, Perth.

16TH BATTALION (THE CAMERON HIGHLANDERS ASSOCIATION OF WA)
President: R. (Bob) Mercer, AM, RFD, ED, 7 Dunkley Avenue, Applecross, 6153. Secretary: H. Glyn Mawson, 8 Jenkins Place, Wembley Downs, 6019. Tel: 341 3928. Annual Dinner and three socials, as advised.

16TH BATTALION AND 4TH BRIGADE ASSOCIATION
Committee meets first Monday at 2.30pm, each month, ANZAC Club, Perth. President: C. Sladden, 59A Henry Street, East Cannington. Tel: 458 6573. Secretary: H. Gannon, 11 Fothergill Street, Fremantle. Tel: 335 2458. Women’s Auxiliary meets same time, same place.

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

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2/16TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION
President: Mr J.A. Hocking, 15 Fifth Avenue, Bassendean, 6054. Tel: 279 2063. Secretary: F.H. Sublet, 39 Pitt Street, Dianella, 6062. Tel: 275 4919. Treasurer: J. Paul, 30 Lockhart Street, Como. Editor Pigeon Post: M.T. Jervis, 432 Cambridge Street, Floreat Park. Tel: 387 4419. Committee meets first Wednesday each month.

2/28TH BATTALION — 24TH ANTI-TANK Coy
President: E.A. Jackson, 74 Corinthian Road, Shelley, West, 6155. Tel: 457 1306. Secretary: A.S. Thompson, 60 Kintail Road, Applecross, 6153. Tel: 354 2332. Annual Reunion: Last Friday each September.

2/32ND BATTALION ASSOCIATION (WA)

2/2ND COMMANDO ASSOCIATION
President: D. Fullarton, 13 Riverview Road, East Victoria Park. Tel: 361 6064. Secretary: J.W. Carey, 13 Stoddart Way, Bateman. Tel: 332 7050. Meetings held on second Tuesday of each month at 10.30am at ANZAC Club.

2/13TH FIELD AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: A. Janieson, 53 Valencia Avenue, Churchlands. Tel: 446 1927. Secretary: L. McCarthy, 31 Murragong Street, Coolinbinia. Tel: 444 1927. Details of meetings contact Secretary.

MIDDLE EAST VAD ASSOCIATION WA
President: Mrs Rita Kneebone, 100 Reynolds Road, Mt Pleasant. Tel: 364 3311. 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: 306 3519. 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 1297. Secretary: Mr D. Mettam, 10 James Road, Swanbourne, 6010. Tel: 384 7938. Treasurer: Mr Bruce Jellis, Carine Gardens Caravan Park, 234 Balcatta Road, Gwelup, 6021. Tel: 447 6270. Meetings ANZAC House, second Tuesday each month. 5pm.

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

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

2/4TH BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION
President: P.R. Tomkins, 2 Delving Place, Morley. Tel: 276 8514. Secretary: C.J. McPherson, 34 Harold Street, Dianella, 6062. Tel: 276 2313. Meetings ANZAC House, third Tuesday each month, 10am.

WRAC ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: Mrs T. Leedham, Lot 169 Stevan Street, Mundaring. Tel: 295 2145. Secretary: Mrs N. Carlson, 24 Iveston Road, Lynwood, 6155. Tel: 457 3984. PO Box 6149, Hay Street East, 6000.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN’S ARMY SERVICE ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: Mrs Alice Corry, 4 Nottingham Street, East Victoria Park, 6101. Tel: 361 2824. Secretary: Mrs N Angwin, Unit 7/6 Mt Henry Road,Como, 6152. Tel: 450 1833. Treasurer: Mrs P. Gilchrist, Tel: 361 5254. Friendship meetings 1st Floor, ANZAC House on the 1st Thursday of the even months. 10am-12 noon.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY NURSING CORPS ASSOCIATION WA BRANCH
President: Mrs I.K. England, 18 Connaught Street, Forrestfield, 6059. Tel: 453 6489. Secretary: Mrs Margaret Gorringe, 160 High Road, Riverton, 6155. Tel: 457 3528.

‘Z’ SPECIAL UNIT (AUST.) INC.

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

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
Eight branches and seven affiliated groups meet monthly at the Air Force Memorial Estate, Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek, where a fully licensed club is open to members daily. Further information from State Secretary. Telephone: 332 4444.

AIR FORCES CLUB (INC)
Meets at RSL Hall, Kintail Road, Applecross. Fridays 4.30 — 11.00pm. Sundays 4.30 — 7.30pm. President: Mrt T. Darcy, 29 Wellington Parade, Yokine, WA 6060. Tel: 444 9158. Secretary: Mrs Lake. Tel: 332 1342. All correspondence to PO Box 153, Applecross, 6163.

460 SQUADRON RAAF ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: P.C. Firkins, 22 Sudbury Way, City Beach. Tel: 385 9841. Secretary: N.B. Johnson, 63 Kirwan Street, Floreat Park. Tel: 387 4229. Treasurer: A.F. Hogan, 19 Westborough Street, Scarborough. Tel: 341 3014. Meetings four times per year.

ROYAL AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (BRANCH 1210 WA)
President: Mr J. Jarrett, 22 Donna Street, Morley, 6062. Tel: 275 4929. Secretary: Mrs A. Oldham, Unit 6/4 Pearson Place, Floreat Park. Tel: 387 6241. Meetings are held monthly. Please phone our Chairman for details. 276 3564.

AUSTRALIAN LEGION OF EX-SERVICEMEN & WOMEN (INC) WA BRANCH
State President: Mr L.G.W. Hutchings, 66 Kinsella Street, Joondanna. Tel: 444 4268. Honorary State Secretary: Mrs D.M. Smith, 4/46 East Street, East Fremantle. Tel: 339 7741, Details of Sub Branch Meetings, please phone 339 7741.

TOTALY & PERMANETLY DISABLED MILITARY ASSOCIATION
TPI Memorial House, 88 Colin Street, West Perth, 6005. Tel: 321 5457. President: P.G. Malay, Tel: 349 4530. Annual General Meeting, second Tuesday in December, 1.00pm, TPI House.

LIMBLESS SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC)
(“Wingles & Stumpies”) President: J.L. Yeates. Secretary: C.C. Brown, c/o TPI Memorial House, 88 Colin Street, West Perth. Tel: 321 8856. Postal Address, PO Box 829, West Perth, WA 6005. Meetings first Wednesday each month except January, 1.30pm.

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PARTIALLY BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA TWA BRANCH INC.
General Meeting held at ANZAC House, 28 St George's Terrace, Perth at 2pm, 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: Mrs Grace Storer. Tel: 417 9598.

EX-PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: J (Jim) Duncan, 40 Kennedy Street, Melville, 6156. HonSecretary: Arthur Robinson, Unit 19/26 Pinaster Street, Melville, 6050. Tel: 271 4733. Assistant Secretary: S.E. Rogers, 14C Charonia Road, Mullaloo, 6025. Hon Treasurer: Dan London, 278A Drake Street, Morley, 6062. Tel: 276 8923. Meetings: First Tuesday each month, at 2.15pm (except January when in recess), at ANZAC Club, Perth.

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 & 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 6417. State Secretary: Mr M. Cadden. Tel: 277 3881, 53 Wicca Street, Kewdale, 6105.

REGULAR DEFENCE FORCES WELFARE ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
Secretary: Lt E.C. Lunn-Garner, RL, 9 Davies Crescent, Kalamunda, 6076. Tel: 293 1409.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION
President: Lt Col Deane Hill, 14 Stanbury Way, Booragoon. Tel: 364 7752. Secretary: F.L. Barrett, 145 Main Street, Osborne Park, 6017. Tel: 344 0157. Treasurer: Mr Ray Gould, 22 Finchley Crescent, Balga. Tel: 342 5128.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM VIETNAM (WA)
AA TV (WA)
President: Mr B.A. Lawrence, 21 Tidefall Street, Safety Bay, 6169. Tel: (095) 273957. Secretary: Mr F. Ghillotti, 89 Moreing Street, Redcliffe, 6104. Tel: 277 7986. Welfare Officer: Mr R. Smith, 16 Santa Way, Wanneroo Heights, 6065. Tel: 405 3781. Meetings: Swan Parks Sergeants Mess, after ANZAC Day March. Kings Park Memorial, 4.30pm, every July 31 — Birthday reunion.

VIETNAM VETERANS FAMILY ASSOC. OF WEST AUSTRALIA

ROYAL REGIMENT OF FUSILIERS ASSOCIATION
Chairman: Mr P. Norris, 72 James Street, Gosnells, 6010. Tel: 398 4508. Secretary: Mr S. Kent, 3 Pascoe Street, Kelmscott, 6111. Tel: 390 8054. Meets second Wednesday of each month, 7.30pm, at ANZAC House.

BRITISH EX SERVICES ASSOCIATION (INC)
General President: S.A. Mengan. Tel: 342 7503. Honorary General Secretary: Mary Woollacott, Tranby House, Maylands, 6051. Tel: 272 2630. All correspondence to PO Box 86, Maylands, 6051. General Council meets second Tuesday each month, in the Board Room of The Old Peninsula, 219 Railway Parade, Maylands. General Meeting 4th Tuesday August in ANZAC House, Perth.

ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIA
President: C.W. Agate, 5 Millgate Road, Balga, 6061. Tel: 342 1383. Secretary: J.G. Buxton, BCM, 2 Nanglet Street, Innaloo, 6018. Tel: 446 4320. 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.

THE BRIGADE OF GUARDS ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC)
President: Brian Wilson, CBE, IG. Tel: 293 1094. Secretary: D.W. Dungate, CG. Tel: 342 9746. All correspondence to the Secretary, C/- PO Box 107, Mirrabooka.

THE BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION (WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH)
Chairman: Mr Sidney A. Taylor, 12 Rose Avenue, South Perth, 6151. Tel: 387 4506. Honorary Secretary: Lt Col R.M.K. (Ken) Currion, (Retd), 453 Abernethy Road, Coolooldingale, 6105. Tel: 277 5753. Meets third Wednesday each month in Dining Room of ANZAC Club, Perth, at 7.30pm.

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

NETHERLANDS EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
President: Mr H. Westoff, 56 Weston Drive, Swanview. Tel: 284 1757. Secretary/Assistant Treasurer: Mr J te Loo, 77 Strealey Road, Lathlain. Meets last Wednesday each month at Association Headquarters, 8pm, 8 Hehir Street, Belmont. All correspondence to: Secretary: NESAA, PO Box 99 Belmont, 6104.

POLISH EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION SUB-BRANCH No.9
President: M. Krolikowski. Tel: 458 3350. Honorary Secretary: W. Dziedzic — No Phone. Honorary Treasurer: M. Donner. Tel: 271 0376. All correspondence to: Polish Centre, 33 Eighth Avenue, Maylands, 6051.

PEGASUS ASSOCIATION OF WEST AUSTRALIA (INC)
Committee Meeting 1st Tuesday in month, ANZAC Club. Visitors welcome. President: Mr John Hatley. Secretary: Lt Col A. Harris, 54 Fitzroy Road, Rivervale 6103. Tel: 458 9111. Any ex Airborne Forces welcome to a very active Association.

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ESCkPE FROM JAVA

In early March 1942, twelve R.A.F. and R.A.A.F. airmen escaped from Java to Australia in a leaking 30' lifeboat. The group finally reached safety after sailing some 1500 miles and spending some forty four days at sea.

During the voyage they were permitted to pass by a Japanese submarine; almost upset by a whale as well as being alternately becalmed and swept by violent tropical storms. To this day rumours persist that during the trip the escapists consumed 960 cans of American beer which had been liberated, with other items, from an abandoned Dutch canteen.

The sudden Japanese arrival meant that all the Blenheimers were captured in one piece, additionally, twenty-three men of the squadron were killed of captured.

Withdrawal to Bandoeng, however, was still orderly. The unit was mostly intact as regards personnel and each man had a rifle and small amount of ammunition. In addition there were twelve Tommy guns scattered amongst the 260 remaining officers and men.

Further orders were now received to withdraw to Tjilatjap, on the south coast, with plans to evacuate them there by ship to Colombo. They arrived on the night of 4/5 March and were subjected during the next day to a heavy air raid. The enemy set fire to the oil dumps and stores as well as causing considerable damage to the jetty.

Two hours after the attack, Wing Commander Jeudwine and another officer set out to discover what destruction had been done to the town. They found no effort was being made by Dutch personnel to salvage shipping in the harbour. A considerable amount could have been rescued for evacuation if it had not been tied to the wharf. The pair, however managed to salvage one small motor launch.

Another two officers in the party found a Dutch corvette, her fuel tanks full and with ample stores aboard. She had only superficial damage from strafing but no harm had been caused to any vital parts. Here then was a vessel that could have taken all aircrew personnel then to Tjilatjap safely to Australia.

The lucky find was reported to Group Captain Steedman (R.A.F.) who went to see the Dutch command. Despite repeated requests over two days this senior officer refused to see him on the subject. Excuses included that he was too busy to see anyone, the radio equipment had been damaged, the Dutch meant to use it themselves and finally that it had been decided to sink it in the mouth of the harbour. Nothing could move him from this non cooperative attitude.

Wing Commander Jeudwine now set a number of his men to salvage all the food supplies they could and another party, headed by himself, went around the harbour looking for likely craft. All they found were two 30' ship's lifeboats, without engines, which were taken from a Dutch liner. Huge fires continued to rage around the foreshores pouring black clouds of smoke high into the sky.

The first attempt at escape by sea near midnight on 6 March, was unsuccessful. Their motor launch, with five men on board, had insufficient power to

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tow the lifeboats which had thirty men in each. When they tried to sail this also failed. In returning, the launch was holed and one lifeboat wrecked, luckily with no casualties.

Wing Commander Jeudwine and Pilot Officer Streetfield headed the escape party as the only members who had experience in handling a boat; Pilot Officer Turner because he had astro-navigation expertise. Squadron Leader Passmore was selected because he was the usual pilot for Streetfield and Turner and the three made up a complete Blenheim crew, also Jeudwine wanted a senior officer to act a second in command.

It was decided that the Australian members of the group should be given first refusal to make the trip and those selected were done so, because to their stamina, morale and initiative. The eight R.A.A.F. men finally chosen were: Pilot Officer M.S. McDonald, Sgt. G.W. Sayer, Sgt. W.N. Cosgrove, Sgt. A.C. Longmore, Sgt. A.C.E. Snook, Sgt. P.M. Cornye, Sgt. P.A. Haynes, Sgt. J.A. Lovegrove.

With the new crew completed they set off at dusk on Saturday 7 March, 1942. For navigation they had a ship’s sextant and two compasses, one of which came from an aircraft; they also possessed a large scale map but no proper charts. The only signs of enemy activity during the day had been the appearance of a Navy Zero in the morning which make several circuits of Tjillatjap and disappeared.

All the next day the group were becalmed off the coast. The lack of wind continued until early afternoon on the 8th when a gentle breeze sprang up. The lifeboat had just begun to move when, to the horror of those on board, a Japanese submarine surfaced a mile astern.

The conning tower opened and the escapees saw and officer scrutinising them through binoculars. Beside him stood another man, a rating forward at the breech of a 6in gun and a fourth man standing by a machine gun which was, however, pointing skywards.

Approaching to within fifty yards the submarine made a half circle of the airmen while all the time the officer on board continued to carefully examine them through his field glasses. Because of her dilapidated paintwork and dirty hull, the vessel appeared to have been at sea for a long time. The number I-56 still stood out clearly on the side of the conning tower.

Finally to the relief of those in the lifeboat, she finally disappeared slowly to the east still on the surface.

The breeze continued to hold and finally freshened. Because it was a headwind the men were forced to beat (zig zag) against it. Their planned destination, the shortest distance home, was southeast towards Roebourne in Western Australia.

When the lifeboat was originally salvaged the rudder had been damaged. On the second day out, it broke away completely. Sgt. Cornye and Lovegrove appointed themselves honorary shipwrights and after three days work managed to effect repairs with pieces of wire from bully beef tins and salvage on board. During this period, course was held with difficulty, using an oar.

About this time their boat was unofficially christened HMRS (His Majesty’s R.A.A.F. Ship SCORPION). This was derived from the 84 Squadron badge and motto, “Scorpiones” pungent” (a Scorpion stings).
ESCAPE FROM JAVA

Squadron Leader Passmore was appointed as purser and he divided and distributed the food and water daily for what was estimated as a 30 day trip. Those on board voted the KRAFT manufactured meat and vegetable ration far superior to TOM PIPER from the point of view of sustaining strength.

To help maintain morale, Wing Commander Jeudwine instituted the Navy custom of “Saturday Night at Sea.” All hands were given an extra ration of beer, and a bottle of whisky was opened as well. Each member had a tot to drink to the King’s health and the old maritime toast of “wives and sweethearts.”

At first, Pilot Officer Streetfield and Wing Commander Jeudwine did the steering but when clamer weather came other members of the crew were taught to handle the boat. However, if conditions threatened, or there was a bad sea, the two experienced men stayed at the helm.

For covering, each had a blanket. There were also several ground sheets and one or two anti-gas capes. The main problem was space. Sleeping meant just lying down where any sort of room could be found.

When the group started out they had ample water supplies. Unfortunately, after the first bad storm, they discovered that a tap on one of the beakers had become loose and most of that supply lost, while another barrel’s contents were split when it turned over. In addition, three other casks became contaminated with seawater and had to be jettisoned. The water shortage was now serious.

Then, miraculously, they ran into another fierce tropical storm and its downpour undoubtedly saved their lives. It was possible to collect enough rain with sheets and anti-gas capes to fill all their barrels. At one stage a fireball rested on the boat for a few seconds and interrupted their work. It took the form of a bright light and was thought to be caused by static electricity.

During that terrific storm the rudder broke loose again. Once more Sgt. Corney and Lovegrove set to work and after 26 hours effort managed to repair it. During the proceedings their language was in proportion to their success. Another excellent effort.

The elements now reversed and SCORPION was becalmed. For six days the boat lay on a glassy sea. The men rigged up an awning, part of the lifeboat’s equipment, and that helped by providing some shade from the almost unbearable heat.

During those windless days the biggest problem was for the men to keep themselves amused and good tempered. Jeudwine organised a series of mental tests such as the longest list of film stars whose name began with the letter “S”; the biggest list of objects named in a certain number of minutes. Competitions were between the fo’castle and quarter deck.

There was a lot of talking and plenty of argument. All for the good as it kept them from brooding. One interesting point emerged from the competitions, all found that the exertion made them very thirsty and hungry.

After the sixth day a breeze sprang up and once more there was plenty to keep everyone occupied, especially during their respective watches. The men had seen whales blowing in the distance during the first month of the voyage, but had taken little more than a passing interest in them.

On the 34th day a whale suddenly surfaced 200 yards astern, blew, and then rapidly began to overtake the boat. About sixty feet long, it eventually came alongside with its great tail beneath them. Then, in some extraordinary way the head appeared above the water not three feet from the rudder. It remained there, as if staring, for what seemed an eternity. All aboard kept perfectly still. A flick of that tail and that would have been the end of the SCORPION and all its crew.

This painting by Athol Snook captures the conditions he and his fellow escapees faced during the 44 day trip to Australia.

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Then, as suddenly as it had appeared, the whale submerged and rejoined a companion nearby that appeared to be four times as large! Neither was seen again.

Early on the morning of 16 April, Sgt Corney, who was on watch, declared that he could smell spinifex. That night the following day they began to see unmistakable signs of land. Two butterflies, ordinary flies, seaweed and a species of jellyfish not previously observed.

On the night of the 19th all on board heard the sound of an engine. Not loud enough to be from an aircraft, but possibly from a small motorboat. Although the men lit a red flare, there was no response.

At 2.30 a.m. Perth time, they touched land at Fraser Island. A plate on a nearby beacon identified the site. When dawn broke everyone went ashore for breakfast. After 44 days at sea all were like drunken men. Their legs would not support them and most promptly fell over. However it didn’t take long to once more become accustomed to dry land.

Re-launching their lifeboat, the group continued east. During mid afternoon they sighted a flying boat heading south-west and about ten miles distant. All on board waved and some flashed mirrors but it took no notice. It later transpired that the pilot had seen them but thought they were a pearling lugger and took no further notice.

Next day, April 21st, the SCORPION touched another islet and the crew promptly dubbed it Butterfish Island after the meal they caught there with hooks and parachute thread. It was excellent, their first fish meal for weeks and did all the world of good.

Setting sail again on a south-east bearing they sighted yet another flying boat coming towards them at 3 p.m. Raising a pyjama jacket on one of the signal halliards, as a sign of distress, they were delighted when the American Navy Catalina alighted close by.

Wing Commander Jeudwine, after receiving a query about their identity by semaphore, swam over to the flying boat in an effort to explain who they were. The American pilot was very wary, would not allow him on board and asked his questions from behind a .45 pistol. All the while Jeudwine clung to a rope in the shark infested waters.

Finally, convinced of the story, they permitted him aboard. After further discussion the Catalina crew agreed to initially take six men back. Only three, however, volunteered. The remainder resumed their voyage determined, now that they were so close, to sail the SCORPION towards Rosbourne unaided.

The flying boat re-appeared the following day shortly after noon. This time the American Navy men advised that orders had been received that the remaining nine were also to be taken on board and flown to Shark Bay.

Gathering up their few serviceable belongings the faithful old lifeboat was then set adrift. Naturally there was some disappointment, having travelled so far it seemed a pity not to complete their mission. In the excitement of the evacuation of the SCORPION the men left behind, in the bow locker, the 84 Squadron shield.

Their rescuers was 101 Squadron U.S. Navy. Later the escapees were transferred to the USN seaplane tender CHILDS.

The health of all was remarkably good. There was no fever but they did suffer from ulcers and abrasions. As well, there had been eye trouble through exposure to sea and sun; chills were doctored with aspirin and quinine, of which a small supply was carried.

There had been daily swimming over the side, six going into the water while the remainder kept watch for sharks. Wing Commander Jeudwine was later to report, “Looking back on six and a half weeks of trial I can say that I would not, if the opportunity again occurred, alter one of my crew. They were magnificent, we remained staunch friends in adversity.”

Epilogue: Although remarkable luck had held during the voyage, fate was soon to overtake many of the group. Sgt. Sayer and Pilot Officer Cosgrove lost their lives flying Beaufighters with 30 Squadron (R.A.A.F.) in September 1942 and August 1943 respectively.

Wing Commander Jeudwine (later Group Captain DSO, OBE, DFC) was killed in an aircraft accident while flying a Typhoon in late-1945. Squadron Leader A.K. Passmore (then Wing Commander) was lost while travelling in an American Flying Fortress that ditched in the Irish Sea in January 1954.

Pilot Officer McDonald died in 1958 and Sgt. Corney in 1962, both of natural causes.

The enemy submarine I-56, which permitted the men to escape unharmed, in true poetic justice survived the war. She was scuttled off Japan by the allies shortly after the end of hostilities; her captain Katsuo Ohashi was killed aboard another submarine in the dying hours of World War II.
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Motive Background

The Motive Travel Group has its origins 13 years ago. It began in 1972 as Motive Travel, operating a retail outbound travel agency from offices in West Perth, primarily catering to the local professional and corporate market.

In 1973, Motive Conventions was formed to provide a convention co-ordinating facility in Western Australia. Eight years later it added another arm, Motive Tours, to provide an inbound tour co-ordinating facility to service overseas and interstate tour operators sending groups to WA.

On July 1 this year the Motive Group was restructured with Motive Management incorporated as the parent company.

Directors are Clive Nethorpe (Chairman), Mike Nevin, Paul Cook and Paul Hanna.

Motive's appointment as official Accommodation Consultant to Defence '87, the America's Cup wing of the Royal Perth Yacht Club, was official recognition of the company's reputation as the State's leading inbound tour operator.

As a travel agency it is only one of three representatives of American Express Travel Service, giving it direct contact to a network of over 1000 agent members throughout the world.

Motive Conventions has managed over 25 national and international conventions since 1973.

It's been an organiser of several international sporting events, including the World Windsurfing Championships held in Perth.

Motive Tours has taken over the operation and development of two programmes from the Western Australian Tourism Commission.

Motive are currently the Western Australian ground operators for three large European wholesalers, four American wholesalers, and three New Zealand wholesalers.

The group also operates large and regular group movements from South East Asia and arrange Operators in Perth for Singapore Airlines.

Motive is leading the travel industry with its involvement in the America's Cup.

As well as its official recognition by the RPYC, Motive Management, through a subsidiary company, has chartered the Italian cruise liner, Achille Lauro, which will be based in Fremantle for 3 months up to the final race in the series.

Motive is building a luxurious catamaran cruiser, the 'Motive Explorer', to pioneer a new tourist playground in the remote Kimberley region of the north-west.

Prior to the cruises the boat will be specially fitted to accommodate 500 passengers for America's Cup viewing.

Those aboard will enjoy best position along the course, as a pre-commitment has been received from the RPYC viewing vessel.

The joint venture to promote the 'Motive Explorer' with the international adventure tour promoter, Salen-Linblad Cruising is Motive's first step in a new diversification programme.

It is currently planning involvement in resort developments. The company is about to publicly float its expertise with Second Board listing on the Perth Stock Exchange, expected this month (December) as a forerunner to an application for Main Board status in 1987.