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Reg. No. 2821 Member Master Painters Association
On the 17th December 1985 the Returned Services League of Western Australia (Inc.) again received a letter of refusal in relation to the building of a 40-bed nursing home at the War Veterans' Home at 51 Alexander Drive, Mount Lawley. We have been submitting applications to build the nursing home over the past four years; our first refusal by the Department of Community Services was in May 1982. This time we have appealed to the Minister, the Hon Senator Don Grimes, who has agreed to meet with our National President, Sir William Keyes, and myself in February 1986. We hope, at this meeting, to get the minister's approval in principle to proceed. If this is not obtained we will appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Over the past five years the War Veterans' Home has had to transfer 162 residents to either full-time hospital care or to nursing homes within the metropolitan area. These residents have lived at the Home for an average of eight years. During this time they have made many friends among the residents and staff, and it is a horrifying experience when they have to be moved out of their environment and put in nursing homes many kilometres away. Surely it is of the utmost importance that, in the twilight years of their lives, our long-term residents continue to be accommodated close to their friends.

At present there are 33 patients pending transfer to nursing homes at Hollywood Repatriation General Hospital, and Mr Edwards, the director of social work there has stated that this situation can only get worse over the next few years in the face of rigid controls on the growth of nursing homes. If this is the case, it would seem that the Department of Community Services is completely out of touch with the needs of the community or their computers need re-programming. RGH Hollywood is unable to find nursing home beds for 33 long-term patients.

Assuming that their average stay for operations and treatment is 10 days, 184 veterans are denied admission at the hospital during each eight-week period.

The Commonwealth Government has a commitment to either grant in principle more applications for nursing home beds in Western Australia OR build a nursing home on the grounds of RGH Hollywood to accommodate our veterans. Surely this is not too much to ask for the veterans who defended our country in its time of need?

J.P. HALL

LISTENING POST - AUTUMN, 1986 - 1
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ANZAC DAY 1986

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RA
2/3 FD REGT
2/7 FD REGT
A/AA ARTY ASSN

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SAS
AATTV
PLC PIPES
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RAAOC
2/7 FD AMB
2/13 FD AMB
PERTH LADIES PIPES
RAANC
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* Indicates MARSHAL'S POSITION

LISTENING POST — AUTUMN, 1986 — 3
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ANZAC COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES
The annual ANZAC Day Commemorative Services will be held at the State War Memorial as follows:
1. The Memorial Ceremony for schools from 1.00pm to 1.25pm on Thursday, 24th April 1986, and
2. The Dawn Service at 6.00am on Friday, 25th April 1986.

70th ANNUAL STATE CONGRESS — 1986

For the guidance of Sub-Branches the following information is given regarding the forthcoming Annual State Congress of this State Branch.


VENUE: WORKING SESSIONS: Function Room, Anzac House, 28 St George’s Terrace, Perth.

MEAL: Each Sub-Branch is responsible for delegates expenses. Morning, afternoon tea, lunch will be served at the Congress Venue.

NOMINATIONS: Rule 25: All nominations for the position of President, Vice-Presidents (2), and Committeeen (9 required), shall be made by a Sub-Branch at a properly constituted meeting, shall be in writing and close with the State Secretary by Friday, 2nd May, 1986 and all Sub-Branches shall receive notification of all nominations received not less than one (1) month before the opening of Congress.

All nominees must be financial members of the State Branch and must signify their willingness to accept office.

All candidates for office in the League, whether paid or honorary, shall when nominated, declare themselves in full accord with the principles of the League.

Nominations may include any financial member of the WA State Branch, and not merely members of their Sub-Branch.

It will be necessary for Sub-Branch Secretaries to act immediately.

LEAGUE TRUSTEES: League Trustees elected in 1984 for three years are: Messrs P. Pearson, CMG, OBE, JP, K. Broadhurst, FRAIA, ARIBA; R.N. Stone, AM, JP.

AGENDA ITEMS: All agenda items for State Congress must be accompanied by preamble for each item, be in writing and close with the State Secretary on 18th April 1986. (Please submit Agenda items as soon as possible).

It is important that Sub-Branches carefully discuss any proposed Agenda items to ensure that the subject matter comes within the scope of League activities. Particular interest must be given to Constitutional items, and a clear and special indication given as to the Rules which are desired to be altered.

The following are suggested as appropriate headings for Agenda items:
(a) Immigration
(b) Defence
(c) Repatriation
(d) Listening Post
(e) Defence Service Homes
(f) State War Memorial
(g) Anzac Day
(h) War Veterans' Home
(i) Remembrance (Poppy) Day
(j) Membership
(k) Anzac House
(l) Anzac Club
(m) Constitution (National and State)
(n) Administration

DELEGATE ENTITLEMENT: One delegate per 75 financial members, or part thereof, and based on membership figures, as at 31st December 1986 with a limit of six (6) delegates per Sub-Branch.

An accredited delegate may be extended to allow one delegate to represent more than one Sub-Branch.

Proxy Delegates may be appointed, but may only act in the absence of Delegates from any sitting of Congress.

Delegates to the Congress must be nominated on the official form, and in the hands of the State Secretary by 2nd May, 1986. Late nominations will not be accepted.

CONGRESS LEVY: $10 per delegate. Two (2) or more delegates $20.

ANNUAL TROPHY COMPETITION: Entries for consideration in the various Trophy Competitions should be submitted to the State Secretary not later than 2nd May 1986.

It has been pleasing to receive more entries over the last couple of years and all Sub-Branches with small membership have equal opportunity with larger Sub-Branches as this is taken into account on a proportionate basis.
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Commonwealth Department of Veterans’ Affairs

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Busselton

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Albany-Bunbury

MARCH
Moora-Merredin
Northam

APRIL
Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Coolgardie

MAY
Bunbury

JUNE
Karratha-Port Hedland
Broome-Derby

JULY
Geraldton

AUGUST
Narrogin-Katanning
Albany

SEPTEMBER
Mandurah

OCTOBER
Bunbury

NOVEMBER
Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Coolgardie-Norseman
Esperance

DECEMBER
Geraldton
Carnarvon

All visits are advertised prominently in the local press, providing such details as venues, dates and times.
Departmental Officers will be conducting interviews upon request and should you require an interview, please telephone 008-113304 (local call cost) for an appointment prior to the visit.
Bill of Rights Threatens Your Freedom National Executive Very Concerned

All the delegates at the National Executive Meeting on 30th November and 1st December 1985, expressed very grave concern at the Federal Government's Bill of Rights legislation. They believe Australia does not need a Bill of Rights.

Legislation, to put the Bill of Rights into law, has been passed by the House of Representatives and is to be debated in the Senate early in 1986.

The National Executive unanimously accepted as official League policy, a paper prepared by the newly formed RSL National Advisory Committee on Heritage and Citizenship. The paper reads:

BILL OF RIGHTS FOR AUSTRALIA — WHY?

The Returned Services League of Australia believes the proposed Bill of Rights poses grave threats to the freedom of individual Australians.

The League's position is founded on the firmly held belief that in our democracy, Australians are afforded the dignity of the individual and the rights and freedoms that flow from that dignity. These rights and freedoms are fundamental possessions of the individual and are not privileges conferred by governments.

Australia's heritage of rights and freedoms is protected by the accumulative experience evolved over centuries. It is backed by freely elected parliaments and is founded on the determination to protect individual freedoms. Australia's two hundred year history portrays our struggle to obtain and protect our dignity. In a truly democratic society the individual's freedom resides in the respect by the majority for the rights of others, together with tolerance, fair play and support for the rule of law.

"To live in a common law country is in itself the very best guarantee of the rights of the individual." — Sir Robert Menzies.

What are our rights?

• The right to rear our children and instruct them in the religion of our choice;
• The freedom of choice to join a union or association or not to join a union or association;
• The right to question those who invade our rights and to invoke the protection of the courts;
• The right to a public and fair trial;
• The right to confront and question those who accuse us;
• The right to call witnesses and refuse to testify against ourselves;

Where is the clamour from the majority of Australians for reform and protection of our rights? Where is the threat to our society that governments must legislate? Are Australians' rights and freedoms so threatened as to need such a radical change to our system, such an intrusion into the balance between the States and the Federal Government? The League, through its 270,000 members and association with other ex-service organisations, has not witnessed the demand.

The irony of the proposal currently before our Federal Parliament is that it extols many of the rights already possessed by Australians, yet the powers to be given to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission will violate many of the rights now available. The Commission will be empowered to summon individuals, compel the production of documents and conduct non public hearings. Those

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summoned to appear must testify under oath and without the benefit of legal representation. The outcome may render a person liable to criminal penalties. Where are the elementary rules of justice? Where are the rights of the individual? Is it acceptable to Australians that an unelected body should exercise such power?

International covenants, upon which the current proposal is based, may be useful, but Australians do not need international covenants to tell us what are our rights. Successful Bills of Rights have not been directed to enunciating human rights, but to defining the limits of government power.

To define rights in an Act of Parliament is in itself a limitation of rights. If a right is not included does that right exist? How can the few people who work to draft the list of rights include all rights and freedoms? How can all rights and freedoms be covered within the limitations of the words of our language? The League believes that governments should not legislate to tell free people what they can do. They should legislate to tell free people what they cannot do and let them get on with living their lives.

“If society is tolerant and rational, it does not need a Bill of Rights. If it is not, no Bill of Rights will preserve it.” — Chief Justice Sir Harry Gibbs.

The National Executive agreed, that because of the gravity of the threat posed by the Bill of Rights, this statement should be given the widest possible distribution. All members of the League are asked to write to their local Federal Member of Parliament and their State Senators protesting against the Bill of Rights.

National President Protests to ABC “Lest We Forget” Program

On 11th November 1985, ABC Television put to air a documentary on the 1975 Whitlam dismissal. The program was entitled “Lest We Forget”.

“I have written to Kenneth Myer, Chairman of the ABC protesting most strongly at the insensitive use of this honoured phrase," Sir William Keys said.

“I told Mr Myer on behalf of Australia’s 605,400 veterans and 60,000 war widows and their families, that Remembrance Day and “Lest We Forget” must not be overshadowed by a momentary situation in Australian political history.

“Remembrance Day, the honoured phrase together with Anzac Day do not commemorate victory or defeat nor denigrate an enemy or glorify war. Two minutes of silence and the phrase are to remind us of the sacrifices of the members of our armed forces who served Australia in the cause of freedom and who suffered death, injury or loss.”

Sir William said the true significance of this day is highlighted when one considers what the lives of those who served could have been without war. It is through this that the effect of war on individuals is realised.

“It is for those individuals and their sacrifice that ‘Lest We Forget’ is significant.”
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HMAS SWAN HOME IN THE WEST

When the RAN destroyer escort, HMAS SWAN, slid gracefully into the Port of Fremantle on Friday, 13 December 1985, she was only the second destroyer to be home-ported in Western Australia.

Under Sunny skies, and flanked by Alan Bond’s two large America’s Cup Defence tenders, BLACK SWAN and BLACK SWAN II the resplendent, recently-refitted HMAS SWAN was greeted by a large wharfside crowd of well-wishers, including many families and friends.

On berthing, SWAN’s Commanding Officer, Commander J.H. Gault, RAN, cut a large yellow ribbon at the end of the ship’s bow before stepping ashore on WA soil. There he was met and welcomed by the Naval Officer Commanding WA Area, Commodore R.M. Baird, AM. RAN, and the Deputy Premier of WA, The Honourable Malcolm Bryce, MLA.

Soon afterwards the Minister for Defence, Mr Kim Beazley, MP, arrived by RAN launch. On boarding the ship Mr Beazley inspected a Guard-of-Honour on the quarterdeck before proceeding forward to the forecastle where he made a welcoming address to the ship’s company.

The Minister used the occasion of SWAN’s arrival to make a major announcement on a two-ocean navy for Australia with HMAS STIRLING being developed as a major base for Australia’s Submarines.

HMAS SWAN was open for public inspection on the weekend and more than 2000 people took the opportunity to see the latest arrival in the West.

HMAS SWAN holds the distinction of being the first and only Royal Australian Navy destroyer escort to be slipped in the Port of Fremantle. She was slipped on the WA Government Public Works No 1 Slipway on 28 October, 1982, for a two-week maintenance period. SWAN was also the largest warship and the longest ship to be slipped in Fremantle Harbour.

The ship also holds the distinction of being the first RAN destroyer escort to visit HMAS STIRLING and “plug-in” to shore, supplied through the wharf services. This was way back on 17 October, 1975 — three years before HMAS STIRLING was commissioned.

After much warm West Australian hospitality HMAS SWAN, with a group of guests aboard, finally made her way down to her new “home” at the HMAS STIRLING fleet-support-facility located on Garden Island, in Cockburn Sound, on Monday, 16 December. There she berthed at the escort wharf astern of the other WA home-ported destroyer escort HMAS STUART.

The arrival of HMAS SWAN sees a further 82 navy families based in the local Rockingham area. A total of 83 new navy houses have been completed taking the total in the area to 299.

HMAS SWAN received a tremendous welcome from the people of the Shire of Rockingham including many shop signs advising where to obtain local information and assistance.

HMAS SWAN is truly “home in the West”.

By VIC JEFFERY
NAVY P.R.O. (WA)

### HMAS SWAN in brief . . .

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Laid down</td>
<td>18 August</td>
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<td>Launched</td>
<td>16 December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commissioned</td>
<td>20 January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Builders</td>
<td>HMA Naval Dockyard, Williamstown, Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Displacement</td>
<td>2,750 tonnes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>112.8 metres</td>
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<td>Beam</td>
<td>12.5 metres</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speed</td>
<td>In excess of 30 knots</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complement</td>
<td>250 Officers and Sailors</td>
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<td>Armament</td>
<td>a. Turret of two 4.5 inch guns controlled by a digital fire control radar and computer.</td>
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<td>b. Seacat missile system;</td>
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<td>c. Iharra anti-submarine missile system; and</td>
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<td>d. 6 [2 triple] MK32 anti-submarine torpedo tubes.</td>
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<td>Remote controlled boilers and geared steam turbines, developing</td>
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<td>Machinery</td>
<td>22,380 KW.</td>
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DEADLINES for Listening Post Contributions

- 31 January for Autumn Edition
- 30 April for Winter Edition
- 31 July for Spring Edition
- 31 October for Summer Edition

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LISTENING POST — AUTUMN, 1986 — 11
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ANZAC CLUB—
FOR A NIGHT OUT

After State Congress concluded in June 1985, the Anzac Club Board took it upon itself to update the club premises. One of the actions taken, with the approval of the State Executive, was to enlarge the dance floor. It has now been extended to a size of 35 feet by 20 feet and can comfortably allow a reasonable number of patrons to dance to their heart’s desire.

Since the completion of the alterations some Unit Organisations have hired the Club for a Saturday Night Social and provided their own musicians. For a moderate fee to meet air-conditioning costs and drinks sold at normal prices, the bar service is available. If sufficient patronage is contemplated the Club is prepared to have the catering facilities operating as well.

Here is a ready opportunity for Sub-Branches or Unit Organisations to utilise the Anzac Club and provide entertainment and enjoyment to their members and friends. Perhaps a telephone call to the Club Manager, Ted Steele, on 325 9079 could help.

The current prices for Swan Lager Beer in the Club are $1.13 for a Middy, 69c for a Glass and 57c for a Pony. Jugs of beer are sold for $4.40. Fosters Lager is on tap and is only fractionally dearer than Swan. Spirits are provided at very competitive prices.

The Club has witnessed a resurgence of patronage throughout 1985 and, for the first time since the return to Anzac House in the Terrace, the Club has shown profit. Let’s hope the trend can be maintained right through 1986. It can be done if members pop into the Club every so often and avail themselves of the friendly service that is always provided.

NORM HEALY

SANDWICH LUNCHEONS

The chairman of the Functions Committee, Lt. Col. R.J. Nyman JP, advises that the committee has arranged a series of 3 ‘Sandwich Luncheons’ with guest speakers for members and their friends to be held at ANZAC House, 28 St George’s Terrace, Perth.

12.15pm Fellowship
12.45pm Lunch — Sandwiches & Tea. Cost $4.00.
1.20-1.50pm Guest Speaker.

To assist with catering please advise:
Mrs J Dowson, 384 6712
or ANZAC House, 325 8799

NON-MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WELCOME

Programme:
Tuesday, 15-4-86:
Guest Speaker
Commodore Malcolm Baird, AM, RAN
Naval Officer Commanding WA Area

Tuesday, 20-5-86:
Guest Speaker
Brigadier J.H. Townley, AM
Commander, 5th Military District

Tuesday, 17-6-86:
Guest Speaker
Air Commodore Graham Neil, DFC
Air Officer Commanding RAAF WA

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THIS SECTION

Mrs J. Dowson, Convenor
RSL Sandwich Luncheons
3 Bay View Terrace
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CHINESE NAVY

Would navy personnel who served in the 'Chinese Navy', HMAS Whangpu, Pingwo, Poyang and Yunnan, and would like to attend a reunion please contact Mr George Hodgson, 12 Fletcher Street, Applecross, WA, 6153. Tel: 364 9280.

VICTORIA'S SESQUICENTENARY — EX-SERVICEWOMEN'S MEMORIAL & REUNION

In November the Council of Ex-Servicewomen's Association (Victoria) held Memorial and reunion functions associated with Victoria's sesquicentenary when approximately 2000 ex-servicewomen from the Navy, Army and Air Force gathered in King's Domain on Saturday 16th November for the unveiling of a Memorial to Ex-Servicewomen by their most distinguished and decorated member, NANCY WAKE G.M., Croix de Guerre with 2 Palms and Bar, USA Medal of Freedom with Bronze Palm, Medaille de la Resistance, Chevalier de la Legion D'Honneur. Nancy Wake, called by the Gestapo "The White Mouse", was high on their wanted list with a price tag of five million francs on her head. She arranged the escape of 1000 Allied troops to Britain. Nancy was awarded the George Medal by Britain, France gave her two Croix de Guerre with Palm and Croix de Guerre with Bar, and the Medaille de la Resistance. America gave her the Medal of Freedom with Bronze Palm.

The Memorial is in the form of a Flower Garden set aside for this purpose by the City of Melbourne. There is a red granite rock at the edge of the Garden with three plaques with inscriptions. The Victorian Naval Band took part in the ceremony with three senior Chaplains from Victoria Barracks and afternoon tea was supplied by the Army.

That night over 1000 ex-servicewomen attended a banquet at the Southern Cross Hotel where another famous ex-servicewoman — Patsy Adam-Smith OBE gave a moving address on the contribution women had made to Australian history. A Western Australian member of the State Executive was included at the table with Margaret Blackwood DBE; Patsy Adam-Smith OBE, Nancy Wake, G.M etc., May Douglas, Claire Stevenson, Ted Doig RAANC, Elizabeth Lucas, Bernice McLachlan and Coral Farrelly.

On Sunday 800 members travelled to Ferny Creek Recreation Reserve by buses and cars for a Spit Roast Luncheon and were entertained by a group of musicians who played World War II music.

COUNTRY REUNION

2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalions Association 1986 Reunion is to be held at Dubbo, New South Wales, location by popular vote. Saturday, September 20 - Sunday, September 21.

Programme is as follows:
Saturday, September 20:
- 9.30am — Tour of Dubbo by car.
- 5.00pm — Wreath laying ceremony.
- 6.00pm — Refreshments at RSL Club.
- 7.00pm — Reunion Dinner.

Sunday, September 21:
- 10.00am — Car tour of Western Plains Zoo and picnic lunch.
- 7.00pm — Farewell Dinner at RSL Club.

Let us make this 1986 reunion the greatest of them all, plan now to be at Dubbo September 20-21, the committee will be waiting to welcome you.

Please note: We are always looking for new members. If you are an ex 2/1st or 2/2nd Pioneer why not contact the Association Secretary and become a most welcome member.

Association Secretary: Max Herron, 3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills, NSW 2209; or telephone (02) 759 5491.

There is no charge to join the Association just $2 per annum for postage of quarterly Pioneer Newspaper.

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REUNIONS continued

MIDDLE EAST V.A.D. REUNION — PERTH, 25-29 SEPT., 1986

Over 80 Middle East V.A.D.s, including husbands, from all States and New Zealand will be attending a reunion in Perth, the first in Perth since 1974. The WA Branch extended a special invitation to Members to meet in Perth immediately prior to the trials of the America’s Cup.

The programme includes:

Thursday — “Get Together” at Anzac House and an evening “Welcome” function hosted by the Deputy Commissioner of Veterans’ Affairs, Mr John See.

Friday — Reception at Council House and evening Reception by State Executive of RSL before formal MEVAD Dinner at Ansett International Hotel.

Saturday — Wreath laying at State War Memorial, King’s Park and visit to Atlantis Marine Park, Yanchep Sun City.

Sunday — Church Service at SAS Headquarters, Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne, followed by a visit to the Fremantle Sailing Club, Success Harbour and a visit to HMAS Stirling Naval Base.

Monday — City Tour including visit to Air Force Memorial Estate, evening “Farewell Buffet” dinner and visit to RPYC America’s Cup.

Brief History of the MEVADs

In 1941 the Commonwealth Government called for volunteers for overseas service amongst members of the Voluntary Aid Detachments in Australia. Known as VADs, the young women were to be detailed for duty in Australian Military Hospitals in the Middle East. Owing to Japan’s subsequent entry into the war in 1942, the first Contingent of the VADs, numbering 200, was the only one to leave Australia for the Middle East. The main body of this contingent left Sydney in the “Queen Mary” in November 1941 — calling at Fremantle to embark the 25 Western Australian VADs and, after service in Palestine, Syria and Egypt (with 2/6th and 2/7th AGHs), the contingent returned to Australia in 1943 with the 9th Division AIF.

After the war the Middle East VAD Assn was formed in order to continue interest in one another socially, to foster companionship and to aid one another in adversity. This is done by a quarterly News Bulletin and a Contact Officer in each State.

Owing to these unusual circumstances, the Association is unique in Australia and has held reunions in all States.

At the last reunion in Canberra in 1984 the WA Branch of the Assn offered to host a possibly final reunion in Perth because of the America’s Cup and this offer was unanimously accepted.

The Perth reunion office bearers are Joan Dowson, (President), Tuck Fealy (Secretary) and Laurie O’Brien (Treasurer) and Contact Officer, Rita Kneebone.

MILNE BAY

A reunion is being planned in September 1986 for personnel who were in the A.A. and Fortress Signals at Milne Bay, New Guinea, during the years 1943-44.

Interested persons please contact: Mr M.G. Costelloe, 14 Sylvan Way, Glenalta, S.A. 5052.

AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL EVENTS

1642 Abel Janz Tasman discovers Van Diemans Land (Tas.) and New Zealand.

1688 Dampier — first Englishman to sight Australia.

1770 Captain James Cook discovered the eastern coast of Australia.

1788 Captain Arthur Phillip arrived at Botany Bay Settlement at Sydney.

1796 Coal discovered at Newcastle.

1798 Bass and Flinders proved Tasmania an island.

1803 First wool taken to England by Captain John Macarthur.

1804 Settlement at Hobart.

1813 Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson crossed the Blue Mountains.

1814 Civil Courts in New South Wales. The name “Australia” given to the island continent.

1820 The name “Australia” comes into official use.

1823 Gold discovered, Fish River, New South Wales.

1824 New South Wales a Crown Colony.

1825 Tasmania an independent Colony.

1827 Albany, first British settlement on west coast of Australia.

1829 The Foundation of Perth, WA.

1843 Portland founded by Henty Bros, first permanent settlement in Vic.

1835 Batman selected site of Melbourne.

1836 Settlement in Adelaide.

1840 All transportation of criminals to the mainland is ended.

1843 Representative Government for NSW.

1851 Victoria a separate Colony. Gold discovered.

1854 Goldfields riots, Ballarat, Eureka Stockade. First railway, Flinders St to Pt Melbourne.

LISTENING POST — AUTUMN, 1986 — 17
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HARRY COOPER REMEMBERS

An Anzac Day service is still held each year in the small English village of Harefield.

One West Australian who has many memories of Harefield (although he last saw it nearly 70 years ago) is Great War veteran, Harry Cooper, of Gwelup.

Mr Cooper — who put his age up two years to enlist in the AIF — went to England in 1915 as a member of the Australian Army Medical Corps. The group was sent to No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, newly-established in Harefield Park manor house — a few kms north of Uxbridge in the (then) County of Middlesex.

Soon after war broke out an Australian, C. Billyard Leake, offered his English home to the Australian government for sick and wounded AIF men.

At first a 150-bed convalescent home, Harefield Park was converted into a hospital as well; with blocks of huts erected in the grounds, it accommodated 1000 patients. (Harefield was one of half-a-dozen Australian Auxiliary Hospitals in Britain during the 1914/18 war).

Recalls Harry Cooper: "The large, creeper-covered, three-storey house was set in about 100 hectares of grounds and overlooked a lake. In spring and summer the nurses picked bluebells and buttercups in the woods nearby to brighten up the ward. And in winter some of the patients often skated when the lake was frozen over; many of them used to take chairs along for support as they tried out their 'ice-legs'.'

Sgt. Cooper was in the funeral procession for the first patient to die at Harefield. The soldier was buried in the graveyard of the nearby, 17th-century Church of St Mary the Virgin; that part of the cemetery grew to contain 110 graves (interspersed now with rose-beds) belonging to other military men and women who died at Harefield during the Great War.

An obelisk records that Sir Francis Newdigate-Newdegate (who was Governor of Western Australia from 1920 to 1924) and Mr Leake (owner of Harefield Park) gave the memorial gateway that leads to "Anzac Corner".

Mr Cooper — who turns 88 this month — was also a patient at Harefield. He later convalesced at Eastwell Park, near Ashford in Kent; that was the country-home of Lady Northcote, widow of Australia's third Governor-General who died in 1911. "Lady Northcote used to invite groups of 12/14 men at a time," he said. "She visited the patients every day and created a warm and friendly atmosphere to make us feel at home — although we could sometimes hear the faint boom of guns from across the Channel."

One highlight at Harefield Hospital during 1916 was a visit from King George V and Queen Mary who spent a couple of hours talking with the patients.

Soon after the Royal visit, Sgt. Cooper went to France with the 9th Field Ambulance; remaining there until the end of the war. He returned to Western Australia in July, 1919, aboard HMT Somali.

PAT ELPHINSTONE

AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL EVENTS

1856 Van Dieman's Land becomes Tasmania.
1859 Queensland a separate Colony.
1861 Burke and Wills perish at Cooper's Creek having crossed Australia from south to north.
1862 McDouall Stuart crosses Australia from south to north and returns.
1878 The introduction of the telephone into Australia.
1899 Australian contingents to Boer War, South Africa. Federal Constitution Bill accepted.
1900 Old-age Pensions introduced in NSW.
1903 Inauguration of Federal High Court.
1907 Telephone trunk line between Sydney and Melbourne. Imperial Conference, London.
1908 Canberra site chosen for Federal Capital.
1914 World War I declared.
1915 Landing at Gallipoli, 25th April.
1919 Peace signed, 28th June.

1927 Seat of Commonwealth Government transferred to Canberra.
1932 Sydney Harbour Bridge opened.
1939 Outbreak of war in Europe.
1941 Outbreak of war with Japan.
1945 Cessation of hostilities, Europe, 8th May, Pacific, 15th August.
1952 Death of King George VI.
1953 Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.
1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne.
1961 Oil discovered in commercial quantities at Moonie, Qld.
1965 Australian troops fight in Vietnam.
1966 Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies retired. Changeover to decimal currency.
1968 Mr John Gorton, Prime Minister, following death of Mr Harold Holt.
1969 Australian mining boom. Natural gas from Bass Strait.

LISTENING POST — AUTUMN, 1986 — 19
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LOST TRAILS
Can You Help?

The men of the Mohawk Squadrons Association (MOMS) has published a new book “Mohawks Over Burma” by Gerry Beauchamp. It is the true story about the role of number 27 Beaufighter Squadron RAF during the Burma campaign of World War II. It can be obtained for $22 from Capricorn Book Company Pty Ltd, Unit 5C1, Linchon Street, Lane Cove, NSW, 2066.

The MOMS Association is trying to trace former personnel of the South East Asia Command in India and Burma during World War II. Please contact Frank Robins, Honorary Secretary, Unit 2, 29 Gardenia Road, Gardenvale, Vic 3185.

Listening Post, page 39 has “From ‘Open Sea’ Tingor Old Boys Association per Phil Jay, ex-RAN” — from my disturbed mind, shouldn’t that read ‘TINGIRA Old Boys etc’ — if so, and if Phil Jay is still existing in this lousy atomic age, I wonder if he remembers V. McMahon, HMAS Tingira-Cerebus, HMAS Platypus, then HM Prison Garden-Island is SNLR ex-RAN if TINGORA means TINGARA I’m in a 1921 Rose Bay. Please let me know, now slowly dying from emphysema and post-war complaints at 80 years. Ring Down “FINISHED WITH ENGINES”.

V. McMahon
Unit 7, 8 Roscorla Ave. YOKINE 6060.

I would appreciate assistance through the columns of your paper.

In the Great War, several infantry battalions were formed which were composed of South Australians. The 50th Battalion AIF., (which was originally split from the 10th Battalion), is the only unit for which a history has not been written.

I would appreciate it if any of your readers who have photographs, letters, diaries etc., that they could lend, and which would be useful in the writing of such a history, would contact me.

R.R. FREEMAN
57 Sussex Terrace, Hawthorn,
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BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS 1988
— RSL INVOLVEMENT

The Returned Services League in Western Australia has decided to conduct an “RSL WEEK” Sunday, 24th April to Saturday, 30th April 1988 as a contribution to Australia’s Bicentennial.

All Sub-Branches and individual members have been invited to submit suggestions, in writing, regarding “RSL WEEK”, to The State Secretary, RSL marked “Bicentennial Sub-Committee”.

It is hoped that all Sub-Branches will make plans for at least one special function during the Bicentennial year, and advise the Committee.

JOAN DOWSON
CHAIRMAN

ANZAC DAY REFLECTIONS

Each of us has private thoughts this day that we conceive.
And I would like to share with you, my reflections — if you please.
To share with you the reverence as emotion fills the air,
and pride and sadness mingles ‘mongst Patriots marching there.
And as these groups go passing by
their faces showing strain,
their step has slowed, their bodies worn,
their strength is on the wane.
But still they proudly march erect
behind their honoured flag,
disguising disabilities
and avoiding signs of lag.
With medals pinned across their chest
awarded on return.
The loss of friends was their regret
the acceptance theirs to learn.
And as the years do roll away
and they meet with Father Time,
God will call them home to rest
and say “May peace be thine”.
And they will re-unite with friends
departed from their fold,
For they — did not grow weary,
They — did not grow old.

“The Last Post has sounded”
EDIE ARNOLD

LISTENING POST — AUTUMN, 1986 — 21
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BOOK REVIEW

A DAY IN THE ARMY

Many veterans will probably agree that natural elements in the jungle were far worse than the Japanese. This was made clear by 82-year-old, Andrew Torrent, in his “A Day In The Army”.

His return to Australia and subsequent postings to POW camps at Harvey, Marrinup and other places also create interest.

From the time the author joined up it was apparent he had definite views on army life. Other veterans will recall how his exploits were similar to their own service. His promotions to non-commissioned ranks were most amusing. What was interesting was how he spent his time when he had scrub typhus.

The lengths men went to to join up is well illustrated by the author who was working on a sheep station in the north-west of Western Australia. Arriving in Perth, he went to Francis Street where a sergeant handed him a form to fill in. Returning it to the N.C.O., Torrent was told: “You have buckley’s; station work is manpowered, and you are also over age.” When given another form, the author completed it stating that he was “unemployed” and a lot younger!

Many books are now being written about the world war by veterans, possibly because many now have time on their hands and, after looking through diaries and other sources, have been prompted to express their views and sentiments.

Reviewed by M.C. (Mike) Hall

BOOKS WANTED

The Bunbury R.S.L. Sub Branch has recently painted out its library and restored many of the books.

It has been noticed that several books are missing from a series.

Bunbury would appreciate any of the following which may be surplus to requirements somewhere in the state.

Twenty Five Years Vol 1 (By Grey of Falloden)
The History Of The Great European War Vols 6 & 8
Australia In The Great War of 1939-1945. Vol 1

BOOKS TO GIVE AWAY

The following spares would be happily despatched to any Sub Branch which could use them.

Official History Of Australia In The War of 1914-18. Vols 3 & 4
Australian Chivalry. (Large book containing many plates)
Three titles from a series. (About 260mm by 200mm hard bound)
1. H.M.A.S.
2. H.M.A.S. Mk 2
3. Soldiering On

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THE BEGINNINGS OF WRITING

People have always wondered how writing first came into existence. From earliest times myth and legend have tried to give an answer.

Egyptians believed that only a god could have revealed the art of writing and they called their script hieroglyphics, meaning “sacred carvings”. They worshipped Toth as the giver of script and, for this reason, always presented this bird-headed deity as holding a reed brush and ink palette in his hands.

The Chinese attributed the invention of the alphabet to the four-eyed, dragon-faced god T’sang Chien and said he took the pattern of his symbols from nature — the footprints of birds, the marks on the back of a turtle, and so on.

According to Hindu myth, the god Brahma created the letters. He wished to write down his teachings on leaves of gold. But as there was no alphabet in existence, he had to invent it. He did so mostly by copying some of the peculiar tracings formed by the seams in the human skull.

The known facts about writing are, of course, less exciting, though still fascinating.

Clearly, a manuscript literally means “written by hand”, though nowadays it is mostly typed. However, many other terms and implements of writing do not disclose their background and story so easily. To understand their past, enlightens their present.

A pen, in any shape, recalls the original quill. The word is derived from a Latin root, meaning “feather”. Any text is words “woven” together to display some pattern of thought.

From “Detail” 1970.

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DEFENCE AND EX-SERVICES PARTY
Following recent attacks by Government and Opposition on War Compensation Allowances of veterans and war widows, a new political party has emerged.
The Defence and Ex-Services Party will endorse two Senate Candidates at the next Senate Elections in NSW and possibly other States.
There are 506,000 war veterans, war widows, Members of Forces and dependants in NSW whereas the Quota to elect a Senator is about 460,000.
The primary aims of the Party are to:
(i) Restore the Compensatory principle to Allowances;
(ii) Repeal the Age and Retirement barriers and 100 per cent Rule;
(iii) Restore the "Beyond Reasonable Doubt" principle to all repat claims;
(iv) Repeal the "Hypothesis" Rule.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In 1983 my wife and I spent several days in the village of Bethune, France, and visited the Rue Petillon Military Cemetery, about a half-hour drive from Bethune. This beautifully maintained cemetery is the last resting place of 36 fallen warriors, who paid the supreme sacrifice for King and country.

I made a short video film of the graves and names of those of the 11th Battalion AIF who fell on that night. They are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>1747</td>
<td>Pte A.H. DOUGLAS</td>
<td>11th Bn AIF</td>
<td>30th May 1916</td>
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<td>1141</td>
<td>Pte A. KIDD</td>
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<td>3536</td>
<td>UCpl C.E. ABBOTT</td>
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<td>Pte D. COCKING</td>
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<td>Pte PHILIP WILKINSON</td>
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<td>Pte T.M. SPICE</td>
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<td>2247</td>
<td>Serjeant S. WILSON</td>
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<td>Pte L.E. PLUMMER</td>
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<td>1309</td>
<td>Pte P.D. BARRETT</td>
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If any relatives or family members (realising almost 70 years have passed) were interested in viewing the short segment on video I would be very pleased to arrange for them to see it. I can be contacted on 455 1000 during business hours.

JOHN L. HILL

Dear Editor,

A comparatively new branch of the Royal Australian Air Force Association (Western Australian Division) has received its formal Charter — the 22 Squadron (RAAF) Association.

Membership is open to anybody who served with 22 Squadron (or our Sister Squadron 602 RAAF — anywhere, any time!)

We are interested in contacting any potential members, and would ask all Editors of unit news bulletins who may read this, to pass it on.

The Secretary-Treasurer, Mr A.N. (Lex) Smith can be contacted any time through the Western Australian Division RAAFA Inc., Benningfield Road, Bull Creek, 6155 WA.

H. ROWELL

Dear Sir,

Ref Listening Post Summer 1985 New Guinea AWAS Planned Reunion

In the absence of a published reference to source material, I would like some clarification of the above in regard to the following.

What is meant by ‘Medical Staff’?

What is the authority which supplied the numbers of women who served with the AWAS?

I think that the article is rather misleading as it gives the impression that members of the AWAS comprised most of the female personnel who served in New Guinea during the Second World War, and answers to the above could put the Women’s Services in the right perspective.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria Hobbs
13 Gardner Street,
Como 6152.

Dear Listening Post

Would all ex-service organisations please note that on 7 January, 1986 the “Vietnam Veterans Family Association of Western Australia” legally changed its title to “Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (WA Branch)” and is to be listed as such under “UNIT ASSOCIATIONS” in the “Listening Post”.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR continued

Dear Sir,

As an amateur historian I read with great interest the story of the Sill Family in the latest issue of the “Post”.

Before retiring I lived in the Yilgarn District and, before moving to Perth, I compiled a visual military history of the area which is on display in the Southern Cross Museum (Southern Cross being the centre of the Yilgarn).

In the collection we have two families, the Bracegirdle — Michel family of six brothers, four Bracegirdles, two Michaels, same mother, and the Holt family of seven brothers.

I was prepared to claim the Holt family as perhaps being a record, but after discussing the subject with friends I have “discovered” the Blight family of nine brothers. I am enclosing separate lists of the three families.

Yours sincerely

DOUG DAVEY

BRACEGIRDLE — MICHEL FAMILY
George Michel
Gilbert Michel
Walley Bracegirdle
Barry Bracegirdle, DCM
Leo Bracegirdle, MID
Brian Bracegirdle

HOLT FAMILY
Philip
Cyril
John
Stan MID
Collin
Alf
Ray

BLIGHT FAMILY
Geoff
Harry
Stan
Alan
Richard
Don
Bob
Doug
Norm

January 29, 1986
Dear Mr Sutherland,

Just a line to let you know that the War Graves Commission (London) has recently erected the new headstone at the grave of the young Australian soldier Pte. Frank Burke. I thought you might like to know the sequel, as you were so kind to write to ‘Listening Post’ who generously sent me a copy.

The stone is beautiful — cream, with a lovely pink mottled effect. The family inscription is ‘Jesus Mercy. Mary Help’. This was not visible on the old stone because it was so sunken in the ground. Much work is being undertaken to improve the appearance of the cemetery, and the men are making steady progress. Needless to say I shall continue to care for the grave of this young Australian, in the absence of any relatives.

Sorry I have been a long time in replying, but I have been terrifically busy in recent months raising money for specific medical equipment needed in the treatment of many of our ex-Far East Prisoners of War who are still suffering tropical diseases and are treated at a special clinic in Liverpool. The fund was an enormous success, and I was delighted to receive contributions from such eminent people as Countess Mountbatten of Burma (whose father was Lord Louis), the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Australian High Commissioner in London.

All good luck to you in 1986.

Sincerely

(MRS) SHEILA DIXON
Fernhill Lodge, 2A Highfield Sale, Cheshire, England M33 3DN

The following letter was received by the Listening Post from John Hill (Ex-RSM Royal Australian Corp. of Transport) and is re-printed for the benefit of those readers who may have had relatives who gave their lives in action with the 11th Battalion during the GREAT WAR.

By May 30, 1916, the 11th Infantry Battalion had moved into the line and occupied the left sector of the 3rd Brigade’s frontage, in the Petillon area near the small towns of Sally sur la Lys, and Fleurbaix, France. At 2015 hrs on that day a local raid, mainly by the Germans, on B Company’s trenches was preceded by a severe bombardment, lasting about an hour and a half, which inflicted 118 casualties, including 36 other ranks KIA. One of those killed in action was my uncle, Leslie Roland Hill.
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Highlighting a busy and interesting year, our Christmas get-together was held at the RSL Hall, Canning Road, Kalamunda, on Saturday, 7 December, 1985. For the comfort and convenience of our very senior members, this function commenced in the afternoon at 2.30.

As in previous years, the Sub-Branch members entertained war widows from the Kalamunda and surrounding districts. The hall was filled to capacity, resounding throughout the afternoon to happy laughter as members and guests warmed quite vocally to the occasion. Christmas carol singing was popular.

A very efficient service for the day was provided by the 'Kalaberry Rangers', (similar to Girl Guides — drawn from Kalamunda and Gooseberry Hill areas). These teenagers graciously served afternoon tea, allowing the ladies of the Sub-Branch to participate and enjoy the festivities also.

A happy time was enjoyed by all, with further fellowship and refreshments following into early evening.

LADIES OF THE SUB-BRANCH

To round off the year’s activities, a Christmas Luncheon was held jointly by the Ex-Servicewomen’s Group, and the Women’s Auxiliary of the Darling Range Sub-Branch, on Monday, 9 December, 1985.

Although the day was very hot, forty members attended the Copperwood Bistro, a very popular venue in Kalamunda. Guests of Honour for the day were Mrs J. Oliver, wife of Mr. Neil Oliver, MLC, at the invitation of the Women’s Auxiliary and Mrs Sylvia Phelps, Secretary of the Bassendean-Guildford Sub-Branch, as special guest of the Ex-Servicewomen’s Group.

An excellent lunch and Christmas drinks were enjoyed with everyone receiving a small gift from the Christmas tree. A beautifully decorated Christmas cake, donated by Mrs Eileen Philip of the Women’s Auxiliary, was cut and served, bringing to a close a memorable day of friendship.

MRS HELEN MURGATROYD (Secretary)

MANNING


Social activities were down a little last year. However, two picnic bus trips were well patronised. At the second outing 90 people were in attendance. Also a river trip was held on Friday, 31st January.

Ron Pember’s, delivery of old newspapers to the paper pulp mill has resulted in a financial gain to the sub branch of over $1000. A terrific effort; sincere thanks Ron.

The usual essay competition was conducted as in other years among the three primary schools in the district, the subject: “How I can be a good Citizen”. The quality of their writing was excellent and it is pleasing to us because it does foster the spirit of Anzac.

The Widows Luncheon hosted by Amelioration held at the Raffles Hotel on Tuesday, December 3, was delightfully successful.

The Christmas barbecue was held at the residence of Imelda and George Battye. Thank you for being supreme hosts.

To end this report accolades must go to secretary Bob Gardiner, treasurer Doug Sexton and all members of the committee for the way you have all contributed to make the branch efficient and a gain to the local community. It has been my pleasure to be associated with you.

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SUB-BRANCH NEWS continued

SCARBOROUGH

The Sub-Branch had a very successful year averaging fifty-three members each monthly meeting. Since we moved into the Doubleview Bowling Club, our membership has steadily increased to 238.

In the past year, several bus trips took us to places of special interest — bus seats being at a premium. A well-attended Anzac Day Service was held at our local memorial, followed by a barbecue at the Bowling Club. Our usual donation was made to the Bowling Club for trophies.

A successful Annual Dinner was held with Mr Doug Bruce, State Senior Vice President, in attendance. The dinner and the dance-band were appreciated by all. Mr and Mrs S. Lewis attended the War Veterans’ Home Armistice Day service on behalf of the Sub-Branch.

Several of our members passed on during the year, including two or three Great War veterans.

The Welfare Committee has done some excellent work throughout the year.

Discussions were held on Congress reports. A donation of $100 was made to the Anzac Club medal board. Members who have seen it commended the board and its new position. Doug Piggott and Wally Evans reported on a successful RSL Bowling Carnival to Tasmania, where they gave out bannerettes and received some. Some of our Hobart crew are going to Hobart shortly for a reunion.

It is a pleasure to see our Secretary, Howard Graf- tōn getting around without his walking stick — his bionic knee-cap appears to be working well!

JIM HUGILL

BASSENDEAN-GUILDFORD

During the past year members of the Branch have been busy on welfare matters within this area. This does not mean that we have only been looking after our own members. The Sub-Branch task force has had a very good year, especially during spring-time, helping many residents in the area, (who are not involved with the RSL) with general maintenance and clean-up jobs.

Socially the Sub-Branch has had a very successful year. Bus trips were organised, plus our intra-Sub-Branch social evenings, our Annual Dinner, a Melbourne Cup Day Function and, finally, the Christmas Party. At the latter we entertained Sub-Branch widows and sick/elderly members. A buffet tea was provided by the ladies of the Auxiliary and RSL. All guests received a gift from the Branch. Doug Bloxham (Past President) was presented with League Life Membership by the State President Mr Jim Hall. Two members of the Sub-Branch, Messrs Bert Seward and Keith Phelps, were made Life Members of the Sub-Branch, and Liaison Officer Mrs Pat Balfe presented the certificates. We are at present getting organised for 1986, and with membership on the increase, we are confident that we will have another busy and successful year.

S.O. PHELPS
SECRETARY

NARROGIN

The Narrogin Sub-Branch held its Reunion on November 23, 1985, which was attended by the late Mr Powell from the State Executive, members from our Branch, and visitors from Boddington. A good time was had by all.

The raffle during the evening realised $48.75 for future excursions to Sub-Branches.

On December 24, Messrs Botting and Ness made the yearly excursion to our elderly members to give Christmas cheer. In all twenty members were visited.

K.G. MADGEN
HON. SECRETARY

GERALDTON

The Geraldton Sub-Branch received an early Christmas present — a cheque for $500 that was presented to the Sub-Branch by the President of the RSL Women’s Auxiliary, Mrs Trythena Ashplant. Mr Bill Cunningham, who was in the chair for the evening, thanked the Auxiliary for its continued generosity.

Two coloured photographs of the original HMAS Geraldton are to be given by the Sub-Branch to the Naval Reserve Cadet Unit, Training Ship Morrow. The President, Mrs Lorraine Gilbert, will be asked to present the framed photograph-combination along with a plaque made available by the crew of the present HMAS Geraldton. The plaque is in memory of Petty Officer Mick Dowton, the Chief Bosun’s Mate, who lost his life in a traffic accident.

B.J. BARDEN

LISTENING POST — AUTUMN, 1986 — 31
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The first aim of the RSL is welfare and our welfare committee, led by Ford Campbell, has provided a service which has put the Bunbury Sub-Branch on the map as an organisation seen to be caring for veterans. The Welfare Officers’ activities have been very time-consuming but have resulted in peace of mind and an improvement of quality of life for some not-so-fortunate veterans.

The Committee has highlighted the problems of country veterans and has made its voice heard at State and Federal Government levels.

We must ensure that this important function continues, and I would urge more members to take an active part in welfare and hospital visiting.

We are showing the lead in this area so let’s keep it that way. I acknowledge the service of our Welfare Officers and hospital visitors and thank them most sincerely.

We are a stronger Sub-Branch with the re-forming of our Ladies Auxiliary and I thank and congratulate the ladies for the supporting role that they provide.

We now have in excess of 300 members but we must strive to increase this number and make the Sub-Branch stronger.

I urge everyone to be a membership officer in 1986 because like many other organisations our strength lies in numbers.

Although fees have increased to $14.00 we, as a Sub-Branch, are better off with a larger portion now retained for our own use.

Regretably, I report the loss of 10 members during the past year.

During 1985 natural gas was connected and considerable improvements were made to the kitchen. Money raised by the Ladies Auxiliary is enabling improvements to continue. More chairs have been purchased and dart board cabinets, together with a lectern, were made and donated by Mr Blue Mountford.

I must acknowledge the work put in during the year by Mr & Mrs Blue Mountford. All the pictures which have been hanging in our hall for years were meticulously and professionally cleaned in an exercise that took days of hard work. As well, they cleaned out the library, sorted the books and re-painted the room, providing us with an excellent Welfare Office.

Our visitors during the year were many and varied but the highlights were our Regional Vice President, Mr Ivor Manning, and State President, Mr Jim Hall.

Although a highly successful venture for the Bunbury Bowling Club and an enjoyable day for all participants, I feel that the RSL was exploited at our last “Diggers Day” and that we should look closely at the next one with the view to some fund raising.

Our three newsletters have been well received and full credit must go to Mr Bob Stewart for his efforts, not only in providing them but also for bearing the total cost of typing and copying.

The hall usage for 1985 was dramatically increased which is evidenced by receipts of $3709 for hall hire.

I feel that the improved condition of our hall is becoming well-known and that the RSL Hall will be much sought-after in the future.

This is, of course, a legacy of the efforts by our active members during the last couple of years.

We recognise that the memorial has a shortfall but have been advised that it will be redeveloped in the near future to provide a more attractive focal point of Anzac Park.

Socials during the year were well patronised and two quiz nights were successfully run.

We also participated in a dart/pool night at 11th Independent Rifle Company.

To ease the burden on office bearers, I feel that a social committee should take complete charge of these activities, reporting only to general meetings as required.

Mr Ab Paulette and Mr Frank Mustica have set the pattern for an autonomous, well-organised Bar Committee that is catering for our needs very well. Once again a separate committee, reporting when necessary, seems to be the most efficient way to operate.

Awards — Certificate of Appreciation: 11th Ind Rifle Coy RWAR, Bunbury City Band, St John’s Ambulance Anzac, Red Cross. Certificate of Service: Mr Stan Closier, Mr Valentine Saunders.

ALF MAINSTONE
PRESIDENT 1985

ARMADALE

I would like to advise that the Armadale branch has sponsored the 52nd Regional Cadet Unit and given them the use of the hall and facilities. We feel this is a small but important contribution in the shaping of today’s youth, and we would like to see other RSL clubs, and their members, help the youth of Australia in similar ways.

Our branch has social evenings with dancing, on the 1st Saturday of every month at 8pm and our monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

C. PICKERING
HON. SECRETARY

LISTENING POST — AUTUMN, 1986 — 33
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All this is to be found in Glenton’s 1986 brochure.
BELMONT

1985 was another successful year for the Belmont Sub-Branch with a record number of members, and everything points to 1986 being as good, if not better than last year, with potential new members already applying to join.

The final three events for 1985 were: A Pensioner and Widows Luncheon at which our senior members sat down and enjoyed a lovely meal prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary assisted by some of our male members — aprons and all — and entertained by Doug Angel’s band.

The Christmas Cabaret saw a large crowd enjoying the music of Elsie Watson, and finally the New Year’s Cabaret at which everyone enthusiastically celebrated the old year out and the New Year in.

Additions to the Club area and a three-rink bowling green will be commencing soon, thanks to a grant given to the Sub-Branch by the Belmont City Council. All members of the Sub-Branch and Ex-Services Club are eagerly awaiting the commencement and completion of these extensions. Sincere thanks was extended to the Mayor and Councillors of the Belmont City Council for this support.

All Belmont members wish all other members of the RSL best wishes and happiness for 1986.

DOT BALCOMBE

RETURNED EX-SERVICEWOMEN’S

Sub-Branch activities during 1985 were varied and interesting. New members, both from the metropolitan area and the country, were welcomed, and there was an increase in attendances at monthly meetings.

In April, members hosted a luncheon for 25 delegates and their wives who were in Perth to attend the Biennial Conference of the Blinded Soldiers of St. Dunstans Association. The Mayor and Councillors of the City of Perth held a reception for the delegates, as well as for members of the sub-branch who had assisted with suppers at local association meetings in previous years.

In May, Mrs. Ruth Reid, wife of the Governor of Western Australia, was invited to morning tea at Anzac House. Mrs. Reid showed keen interest in RSL activities. Members of the Returned Sisters’ Sub-branch joined us on this occasion.

In June, ten sub-branch members attended a morning-tea at Swanbourne as guests of the President and members of the St. M.D. Army Wives Group. Mrs. Stephanie Lloyd spoke on her experiences as an “Army wife”.

In October, several members played in the Ex-Servicewomen’s Golf Day Competition at Rockingham Golf Course. The presentation of our Perpetual Trophy was made by the Sub-branch President.

Our Christmas Party, a luncheon at Anzac House, was enjoyed by a record attendance of members and friends.

Sub-branch members appreciated an invitation from the Returned Sisters’ Sub-branch to attend a meeting to hear two officers from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs speak and answer questions regarding making application for service pensions.

There were several fund raising functions. In October, our Membership Officer, Mrs. Joan Dowson organized an enjoyable and successful luncheon at Gun House, Fremantle. We are indebted to Brigadier and Mrs. Townley for inviting us to use their beautiful gardens for this function, to the Fifth Military District Band for music during lunch, and to the Army Catering Corps who arranged the meal. A Fashion Parade at Anzac House was well attended and successful financially. Although it was a great deal of hard work for convenor Sue Thomas and her helpers, the proceeds from a stall at the Belmont Forum Fair were very rewarding.

When possible, sick members were contacted or visited, and we are grateful to those who have volunteered to act as “hospital visitors”.

Our newsletter “Light Diet” has maintained its high standard and is a very popular publication. It was first published in 1971 and has been a great help in keeping members in touch with sub-branch news. A copy is forwarded to Ex-Servicewomen’s RSL sub-branches in each State. Interest in the newsletter is keen and during the year, many letters of appreciation were received from Interstate readers asking for individual copies to be mailed to them. Some sub-branch members attended Reunions in the Eastern States — the first VA/AAMWS Reunion in Sydney, the BCOF Reunion in Dubbo (NSW), and the Victorian Sequincentenary Memorial and Dinner in Melbourne.

A study of Returned Servicewomen of World War II was initiated after considering two resolutions passed by the 69th National Congress of the RSL. These resolutions, concerning servicewomen of that War, were the first sub-mitted to the Western Australian Congress by our sub-branch before going on the National Congress. The study took some months to complete and, in a booklet made available from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, it is stated “that the study has been most interesting and has produced information which will be useful to the Government and to the ex-service community”.

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SUB-BRANCH NEWS cont

COCKBURN

As predicted 1985 has proved a very good year for the Branch. Large attendances at the monthly meetings show the way, once again, for continuous growth in 1986. The climb into the hundreds with our membership is a milestone to be remembered and assures the Branch of continuing success.

The financial statement is very gratifying as it shows that we are not standing still. Once again we must show our gratitude to the Women’s Auxiliary for their generous donations (and also individual donations), for organising the pool competition, attendance at our functions, support for raffles and, last but not least, our thanks to the gallant band who sat in the mall at Southlands, enabling us to collect a thousand dollar cheque. All these things helped to keep the Branch financially stable.

Once again a willing group of workers has enabled us to present the hall in a good condition; the grounds are a credit to all. Many outside projects have been dealt with so that the Branch is seen by the general public as a viable group, willing to assist those in need.

I believe 1986 has much to offer. New members are joining, and it is now up to the Branch to see that we hold them. We can only do this by continually being alert, keeping our complaints to a minimum, trying our best to improve our premises, and maintaining a good image with the public.

We of the R.S.L. are proud people with many traditions behind us. Give us the strength in 1986 to honour those traditions. Attend our functions, respect our friends and, above all, forgive those who may not choose to agree with our ideals.

WALLY HAGAN
(Hon. Secretary Treasurer)

RETURNED SISTERS

At the Annual General Meeting of the Returned Sisters’ Sub-branch held at Anzac House on Thursday, 6th February, 1986 the following office bearers were elected.

President — Mrs V. Statham, 32 Tyrell St, Nedlands. 6009.
Treasurer — Miss E. Bone, 53 Anstey St, South Perth. 6151.
Secretary — Miss M.R. Clarke, 2/17-19 Fairlight St, Mosman Park. 6012.
Vice Presidents — Mrs Leach, Miss Welch.
Warden — Mrs. M. Durnford.
Trustees — Miss P. Martin, Miss W. Hawkins.

Happy Australians

Happy free children out at play,
Their elders free to go their way,
New Australians come to our shore
To enjoy with us for ever more
The peace the Australian serviceman foresaw.
Many a fellow young and brave
Freely of his service gave, to keep for Australia,
The freedom he knew
May every Australian born or new
Pause to remember what the Aussies went through,
Remember with a grateful heart
The families that were torn apart
The Aussie who gave his life
Far from mother, sweetheart or wife
So you, the Australian, may live today
In your own free and chosen way.
Those boys gave their life in yesteryear
So you may enjoy what you hold dear,
The joy of free happy children at play

JEAN NEWTON

Tribute

The distant hills stand grim and dark,
Against a cloudy sky,
And sacrificial crosses, mark,
Where sleeping heroes lie.

Within those hills, they stood and fought,
A savage, cruel foe,
Their bright young lives they counted nought,
That freedom we might know.

Australia’s valiant sons, they came,
From town and country side,
With courage burning as a flame,
They faced the foe and died.

And now they sleep beneath the sod,
The bravest of the brave.
Help us to honour them, O God,
Who died our cause to save.

WX16685 SGT. R. HEDLEY
LAE NG 11.9.44.
A Meditation on the War Cemetery as it was then.
LISTENING POST — AUTUMN, 1986 — 37
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AWAS ASSOCIATION

Now that the women's services have been accepted into the RSL and receive the Listening Post, I feel that those members, and the servicemen who served side-by-side with the AWAS, may be interested in the activities of the AWAS Association. There may be AWAS (married to ex-servicemen receiving the Listening Post) who are unaware of the Association; they may like to join and meet with old friends.

The Association's 39th Annual General Meeting, on February 6 at Anzac House, was attended by 160 members — there are now over 300 on the books.

New members, wondering what the Association has to offer, may be interested to know that we meet at Anzac House for morning tea (and optional lunch in the dining room) on the first Thursday in February, April, June, August, October and December. The Annual Reunion is held in November — the tentative date for this year is the 23rd at the King's Hotel, Hay Street.

Working with our younger sisters, the WRAACs, we publish four magazines a year; these keep members in touch with the various activities — including those people in country districts and those handicapped by disabilities who can't take an active part in proceedings.

The formation of the "Combined Ex-Servicewomen's Association" has drawn all the services together, and this year the Combined Ex-Servicewomen's Luncheon will be held for the seventh time on Sunday August 10.

The AWAS Association each year donates two bowling trophies to the War Veterans' Home at Mt Lawley and holds a stall at the Alfred Carson Hospital to purchase amenities for the hospital. Additionally, other donations provide for specified needs.

Both the AWAS and WRAAC Associations give an open invitation for members to attend any of their social occasions.

There is always a hand of welcome stretched out to new members. The membership fee is only $5 and that includes receiving the quarterly magazine. The elected officers are printed in each issue — with their telephone numbers.

If anyone knows an ex-army girl, please pass on the message. Many now are widowed and often are lonely. It's a great feeling to be reunited with friends and experience that bond of having served together.

MRS EDIE ARNOLD
271 3728

COMPUTING THE PAST

Archaeology in Israel today is a modern science that makes use of space-age technology in order to better understand the past.

Computers are used to catalogue the enormous quantity of data collected in recent excavations. This allows archaeologists to obtain instantaneous information on matters such as the number of a particular type of arrowhead found on the site. The computer also permits the archaeologists to make three-dimensional drawings of the site.

Technology also assists archaeologists to determine the origins of pottery. In a process known as 'activation analysis', 100 milligrams of material are taken from a piece of pottery and the gamma rays from them are read. This, in effect, gives a precise fingerprint for each piece of pottery and enables archaeologists to label the pit and even the potter's workshop.

Ancient main street

The use of high-tech in archaeology has led to many exciting revelations. In particular, Jerusalem has been the site of excavations which continually add to the already considerable knowledge acquired of the city's history. One dramatic discovery made in recent years has been the Cardos Maximus, known as the "Cardo".

This was ancient Jerusalem's main street which sixteen to eighteen centuries ago ran north to south across the Old City. The original Cardo was built in two segments, one part by the Romans and the other by the Byzantines.

Part of it has now been restored and shops have been re-opened on sites which have not been used for trading for 1500 years.

Science has also assisted in the dating of ancient artefacts. In 1983 caves in the Judaean Desert were probed, revealing fabrics woven in intricate designs using diverse methods of knotting and meshing. Other finds, including a human skull decorated with asphalt and a painted mask, are among the oldest artefacts of their kind ever found. Some objects were estimated to be 9000 years old.

Although a strange combination, it is the use of space-age technology that helps Israeli archaeologists to understand the past and to open it up to all to marvel at and enjoy.

LISTENING POST — AUTUMN, 1986 — 39
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"In the Heart of the City"
A Happy New Year to you all. Since our last report I have attended the South Australian RSL Women's State Conference, a very happy and rewarding experience. In Adelaide I accompanied my hostess, Mrs Phyl Wilde, State President, to the Remembrance Day Service at the Memorial and laid the Auxiliary wreath. In the afternoon we attended the Official Opening of the new additions to the War Veterans’ Home.

Next day the Conference at the Mt Gambier RSL club occupied almost the full day. Mrs Carins, State President of Tasmania, and I were the only interstate visitors and were made very welcome. Again one sees the different way that each State works in the care and welfare of ex-servicemen and women. As I was the first State President from WA to have attended their Conference, I received quite a number of questions after my address. We had an interesting tour of Mt Gambier before we left next day for our journey back to Adelaide.

In my absence, the two Vice-Presidents were kept busy! Mrs Cayley attended the Murray Districts Sub-Branch Reunion with Mrs Rynikee, the Mandurah Sub-Branch and Auxiliary Dinner, the Kojonup Sub-Branch and Auxiliary Dinner, also the Returned Sisters Sub-Branch Christmas Luncheon with Mrs Sullivan and the Nollamara-North Perth Auxiliary Christmas Party where she presented Life Membership to Mrs Mignon and a Certificate of Service to Mrs McIntyre. Mrs Taylor attended the Remembrance Day Service at the State War Memorial, the RAAF At Home and the War Widows Guild Christmas Party with Mrs Jolley. Mrs Rolfe represented the Auxiliaries at the Remembrance Day Service at the War Veterans' Home. Executive Members attended the League Reception for the Governor-General, Sir Ninian Stephen.

Millen Auxiliary held its Christmas Party for the War Veterans’ Home residents on November 24, and I had the pleasure of attending the Ex-Servicewomen’s Christmas Luncheon on the 28th. Northam Auxiliary held its Christmas luncheon on December 4th, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Chilcott, Sully and I joining other guests at the well laden table. I accompanied the League at its Group Conference at Boulder; this was a very successful day and well attended.

Thanks to the generous donations from the Auxiliaries we were again able to provide Christmas cheer parcels for our hospitalised ex-servicemen and women. Executive Members were among those who shared a Christmas drink at the League function. Mrs Rolfe and I attended the Bassendean-Guildford Sub-Branch and Auxiliary Christmas Tea on December 15th where everyone entered into the Christmas spirit.

By the time you read this we will be well into the New Year.

The Conference is just around the corner and Sully will be busy organising details.

Best wishes to you all.

JOY FORD, STATE PRESIDENT

The Mistress of the House commands daily a small realm of which she is queen. Let her rule with justice, meekness and quietness. The most self-governed person will always govern best, and we should have fewer bad servants if they were all under the firm and patient training of an employer who understood what their duties really were, and who required the best fulfilment of their compatible with the frailty of human nature.

A frequent visit to the kitchen is very essential, for there usually, the greatest waste takes place. This may be attributed not so much to the carelessness and indifference of the servants, as to the fact that they do not realise the amount expended for that department of the household.

How and Where to Buy:—Buy of first-class establishment only. Prices are no higher (quality and quantity considered), and frequently lower than establishments that seek a cheap trade, while the goods are sound, unadulterated, healthy, first-class, the variety larger, and the goods fresh. Beware of establishments who profess to sell cheap and give you prizes besides.


Olney Pudding — Two eggs, four ounces of butter, four ounces of flour, two ounces of sugar, one-quarter teaspoonful of carbonate of soda, two teaspoonfuls of Burnett’s Extract of Lemon and two large spoonfuls of marmalade or any other jam or jelly. Steam two hours in a buttered mould. Put the batter into a basin and stir to a cream; add the sugar; mix these together with the flour and add the eggs well beaten; dissolve the soda in a teaspoonful of cold water; mix well in the jam or jelly and then add the soda. Serve with sweet sauce. If desired, a spoonful of the jam used in the pudding can be mixed in the sauce.
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VALE

Alexander Joseph (Alec) MORRISH

One of the few remaining members of the 1st Australian Wireless Section died suddenly at Hollywood Repatriation Hospital on 9th September 1985 in his 86th year.

Alec was born in Leichhardt, Sydney, N.S.W. in 1899. He came to W.A. with his family and attended Subiaco Primary School and then Perth Modern School. With the outbreak of war the family moved to Adelaide where he worked at the School of Mines. Enlisting when he was 17, Alec trained in the Engineers Depot at Moore Park Wireless Training School, Moore Park, Sydney, as a signaller. Embarking on 14th September 1918, he was sent to a staging post in Bombay, India, en route to Iraq (Mesopotamia as it was then known) and then to the Middle East and Zakkho, in Afghanistan. (Later he used Zakkho as his pen name). He served as a despatch rider in those countries.

Alec was a good horseman in the Army and old Army mates state he was an excellent boxer. He was in D Troop 23035.

When the 1914-1918 war ended Alec took up wheat and sheep farming under the Soldier Settlement Scheme in the Kellerberrin/Doodlakine district where he was active in the RSL, Road Board, Hospital Board, Wheat Growers Union, St John Ambulance and was adult advisor to the Junior Farmers, training young people in debating. He also helped establish a musical festival and, together with his wife, organised a drama group that travelled around the country districts with well-produced plays.

Retiring in 1961 to South Perth, Alec studied pottery, geology, astronomy, and attended university. A regular visitor at Hollywood Repatriation Hospital for the RSL and a keen supporter of Legacy, he served for many years on the Board of Parkerville Childrens’ Homes.

He never missed marching in the ANZAC parade, both in the country and city, until 1982 when he became too blind to take part.

Alec was one of the last signallers left from the 1st World War. He is sadly missed by his widow, Winifred, and family.

Clare Gill spent the greater part of her nursing life caring for service, and ex-service, men and women. Originally from Western Australia, she went to Sydney at an early age and subsequently undertook nursing training at the Coast Hospital for her basic certificate and the Women's Hospital, Crown Street, for obstetrics.

Joining the Australian Army Nursing Service she was posted to the 2/1st A.G.H. in Palestine and remained with the unit throughout the war years. Her service took her from the Middle East to Northam and Merredin in Western Australia, New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands.

On discharge from the army Sister Gill transferred to the staff of R.G.H. Concord where she remained until retirement. Returning to Western Australia to live with her sister in Attadale, she became interested in social work, joined many voluntary organisations, and was a keen supporter of the R.S.L. Returned Sisters Sub branch.

During her latter years, Clare suffered from ill health and she died in the Fremantle Hospital on 17th November 1985. A service, held in St John’s Church, Fremantle, on Wednesday 20th November, was attended by her friends, relatives and representatives of organisations with which she had been associated, including the R.S.L. Returned Sisters’ Sub Branch. A memorial book has been placed in the library of the War Veterans’ Home in her honour.

Victoria Hobbs,
for Red Sisters Sub branch.
Ref. Army Records, family and personal.

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CRAIN H.T. 32 BN AIF 858
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GILL C.K. 2/1 AGH NFX 70945
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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 INC. (WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SECTION) INC. STATE COUNCIL

State President: Mr T. Bushe Jones, 63 Gravity Street, Beckenham, 6107. 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, J.P. 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).

FLEET 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 Haigh Street, Tuart Hill, 6060. Tel: 344 4416. Meets second Wednesday of each month, 71 West Parade, East Perth.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY CORVETTES ASSOCIATION (WA)

State President: J. Appleby, 143 McDonald Street, Joondanna. 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.

EX-WRANS ASSOCIATION WA

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 Kemmnish Crescent, Melville Heights, 6156. Tel: 330 5131. Treasurer: Mrs Freda Andrews, 23 Wilcock St, Applecross, 6153. Tel: 364 2269.

ASSOCIATION OF WRENS WA BRANCH

Meets fourth Thursday of each month, 7pm, ANZAC House, 28 St George’s Terrace, Perth. President: Mrs Doreen O’Grady, 122 Duke Street, Scarborough, 6019. Tel: 341 5640. Honorary Secretary: Mrs Mary Wyse, 2 Glenbawn Drive, South Lakes, 6164. Tel: 417 9877.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOC (WA)

President: John Hobbs, 10 Edgar Way, Mt Pleasant, 6153. Tel: 364 3568. Secretary: John Quinn, 23 Douglas Avenue, Mt Yokine, 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. De Grussa, 43 Pitt Street, Dianella, 6062. Tel: (09) 276 7253. Social meetings held quarterly at ANZAC House. Ladies welcome. Further information contact Secretary.

2/3RD FIELD REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Meets ANZAC House second Wednesday every month at 12 noon. President: Brig. R.M. Davis, 113 Grovedale Road, Floreat Park, 6014. Tel: 387 2578. Secretary: M. Davison, 1 Kitchener Road, Melville, 6156. Tel: 330 3033. Treasurer: Fred Self, 24 Clovelly Crescent, Lynwood, 6155. Tel: 458 6514.

1OTH LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION AIF

Meets socially first and third Friday each month, ANZAC Club, 12pm. AGM: Last Friday in August. President: Roy Caporn, 51 Alexander Drive, Mount Lawley. Tel: 271 7049. Secretary and Treasurer: R. Byrne, 2 Laughton Way, Leeming. Tel: 332 8004.

THIRTY NINERS’ 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. For further information contact either of the above.

11TH & 2/11TH AIF BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION

President: L. Sullivan, Unit 189 Mustang House, A.F.M. Estate, Bullcreek, 6153. Tel: 332 8692. Secretary/Treasurer: J.C. Watson, 686 Canning Highway, Applecross, 6153. Tel: 364 2126. Committee meets third Tuesday each month, 2.15pm, 605 Wellington Street, Perth, 1st Floor.

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UNIT ASSOCIATIONS continued

16TH BATTALION (THE CAMERON HIGHLANDERS ASSOCIATION OF WA)
President: R. (Bob) Mercer, AM, RFD, ED, 7 Dunkley Avenue, Applecross, 6153. Secretary: H. Glyn Mawson, 9 Jenkins Place, Wembley Downs, 6019. Tel: 341 3926. Annual Dinner and three socials as advised.

16TH BATTALION AND 4TH BRIGADE ASSOCIATION
Committee meets first Monday at 2.30pm, each month, ANZAC Club, Perth. President: C. Sladden, 59A Henry Street, East Cannington. Tel: 458 5573. Secretary: J. Ganson, 11 Fothergill Street, Fremantle. Tel: 335 2458. Women's Auxiliary meets same time, same place.

2/16TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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: 364 2332. Annual Reunion: Last Friday each September.

2/32ND BATTALION ASSOCIATION (WA)

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

48TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION
President: D. McLean, Unit 2/50 Endeavour Avenue, Bullcreek, 6155. Secretary: T.H. Easom, C/-5 Lanark Street, Mt Lawley, 6050. Meetings and luncheon held at the Carlton Hotel, 248 Hay Street East at 11.30am on the third Monday of each month.

2/2ND COMMISSARY 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
President: A. Jamieson, 53 Valencia Avenue, Churchlands. Tel: 446 4591. Secretary: L. McCarthy, 31 Marradong Street, Coolbinia. 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 Hurfingham Road, South Perth, 6151. Meetings as called. Annual Reunion nearest Saturday to November 23.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS ASSOCIATION
President: Lt Col K.T. Graham, RL, 27 Riley Road, Claremont, 6010. Tel: 386 3619. Secretary: Major G.T. Mellor, 177 Westview Street, Scarborough, 6019.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: Major K.M. Weir, (Ret), 277 St Brigid’s Terrace, Doubleview. Tel: 446 1257. Secretary: 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 Harbourne Street, Wembley, 6014. Tel: 387 1866. Secretary: Lt Col O.R. Videan, ED, 23 Halley Street, Innaloo, 6018. Tel: 446 6304. Regular meetings held at the Wembley address. Annual reunion dinners and meeting at RSL in August.

RAE EX-SERVICEMEN’S ASSOCIATION WA

2/3RD MACHINE GUN BATTALION ASSOCIATION
Committee meets when necessary. Secretary: F.J. (Banjo) Binstead, 101 Star Street, Carlisle, 6101. Tel: 361 8762.

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

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

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

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY NURSING CORPS ASSOCIATION WA BRANCH

President: Mrs I.K. England, 18 Connaught Street, Forrestfield, 6059. Tel: 453:6489. Secretary: Mrs Margaret Gorringle, 160 High Road, Riverton, 6155. Tel: 457 3526.

‘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, 4.30-11pm. Sundays 4.30-7.30pm. President: Mr T. Darcy, 29 Wellington Parade, Yokine, WA, 6060. Tel: 444 9158. Secretary: Mrs Lake. Tel: 332 1342. All correspondence to PO Box 153, Applecross, 6153.

460 SQUADRON RAAF ASSOCIATION (WA)

President: P.C. Firkins, 22 Sudbury Way, City Beach. Tel: 385 9841. Secretary: N. B. Johnson, 63 Kirwan Street, Floreat Park. Bus Tel: 387 4229; Treasurer: A.F. Hogan, 19 Westbourne Street, Scarborough. Tel: 341 3014. Meetings four times per year.

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION (BRANCH 1210 WA)

President: N. 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.C.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.

TOTAIIY & PERMMNENTLY DISABIIII SODDIES’ ASSOCIATION


LIMPLESS SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC)

(‘‘Wingies and Stumpies”). President: J.L. Yeates.

Secretary: C.C. Brown, TPI Memorial House, 88 Colin Street, West Perth. Tel: 321 5888. (Postal address PO Box 829, West Perth, WA 6005). Meeting first Wednesday each month except January, 1.30pm.

PARTIIALLY BLINDED SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA *WA 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 Sideley 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. Hon. Secretary: Arthur Robinson, Unit 19/26 Pinaster Street, Menora, 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 in January when in recess), at ANZAC Club, Perth.

LADIES AUXILIARY EX-POW OF WA

President: Mrs G.M. Brown, 24 Milroy Street, Willagee, 6156. Tel: 337 5195. 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 6517. State Secretary: Mr M. Cadden. Tel: 277 3681, 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.

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President: Mr B.A. Lawrence, 21 Tidefall Street, Safety Bay, 6169. Tel: (095) 27 3957. Secretary: Mr F. Gillio, 89 Moreing Street, Redcliffe, 6104. Tel: 277 7986. Welfare Officer: Mr R. Smith, 16 Santa Way, Wanneroo Hts, 6065. Tel: 405 3781. Meetings: Swan Barracks Sergeants Mess, after ANZAC Day March. Kings Park Memorial, 4.30pm, every July 31 — Birthday reunion.

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
President: C. Evans. Tel: 447 5585. Vice President: R. Cox. Tel: 332 4964. Secretary: J. Evans. Tel: 447 5585. Treasurer: V. Wragg. Tel: 276 7665. Meetings every other month, interested persons, please contact any of the above.

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: J.G. (Jack) Bowdell, MBE. Honorary General Secretary: Mary Woollacott, Tranby House, Maylands, 6051. Tel: 272 2630. Association office, 219 Railway Parade, Maylands. 6051. Tel: 272 5006. All correspondence to PO Box 66, Maylands, 6051. General Council meets second Tuesday each month, in the Board Room of The Old Peninsula, 219 Railway Parade, Maylands. Annual 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, BEM, 2 Nangletty 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: 367 4506. Honorary Secretary: Lt. Col. R.M.K. (Ken) Currian, (Retd), 453 Abernethy Road, Clovelly, 6105. Tel: 277 5753. Meets third Wednesday each month in Dining Room of ANZAC Club, Perth, at 7.30pm.

THE BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION WANNEROO BRANCH
President: Brigadier N.E.G. (Tony) Manuel (Ret), 398 Belmont Avenue, Kewdale. Tel: 277 2367. Honorary Secretary: Rupert Platel, 49 Banksia Street, Joondanna. Tel: 444 4914. Meets second Tuesday of each month at the Nollamara Autumn Centre, Sylvia Street, Nollamara, 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 Myindee Way, Nollamara, 6061. Tel: 344 1756. President: W. Horn, 7 Oakney Avenue, Yokine, 6060.

NETHERLANDS EX-SERVICEMEN’S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
President: Mr H. Westhof, 56 Weston Drive, Swanview. Tel: 294 1575. Secretary/Assistant Treasurer: Mr J. te Loo, 77 Streatham 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: Z. Krolkowski. Tel: 458 3350. Honorary Secretary: W. Dziedzic — No Phone. Honorary Treasurer: M. Donner. Tel: 271 0376. All correspondences 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 Hately. Secretary: Mr A. Harris, 54 Fitzroy Road, Rivervale, 6153. Tel: 458 9111. Any ex-Airborne Forces welcome to a very active Association.
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An unsung hero's five days of hell on water

By MIKE SOUTHWELL
Reprinted Courtesy of the Western Mail

HISTORY has credited the sinking of the HMAS Yarra with few words.

It went down in one of the many battles between the Japanese and Allied forces for control of the Java and Coral seas.

George Odgers' 'The Royal Australian Navy — An Illustrated History' devotes two paragraphs to the human consequences of the sinking.

"Of the ship's complement of 151, a total of 138 went down with the ship or died later on the rafts.

"The 13 survivors were picked up five days later by a Dutch submarine."

But one of those survivors — West Australian Alf Orton — was haunted by the awful memory of those five days for the remaining 43 years of his life.

Just before he died, Alf decided it was time to tell the story the historians had ignored.

He called his memoirs 'Survivors at Sea' and began them with the words: "I will try to convey to the reader what happened to the men on the rafts and the terrible ordeal they went through."

A survivor's story

WEST Australian Alfred George Orton, one of only 13 survivors of the HMAS Yarra, decided to write his memoirs after being told he had terminal lung cancer early this year.

He died in May aged 68.

Orton gave the eight type-written pages to his friend Todd Marsden only weeks before his death with the simple instruction: "See if you can get this published somewhere."

Marsden said this week that Orton had often been urged to write about his ordeal but refused because he thought it would distress the families of those who died when the Yarra was sunk or were lost from its life-rafts.

He describes his friend as a simple, generous man who, after leaving the navy, always lived near the sea and loved to go fishing.

Marsden believes it was Orton's great physical strength and self-control that enabled him to survive five days on a raft.

He then gives details of HMAS Yarra's war service from the time it left Fremantle on August 28, 1940, with Leading Seaman Alfred George Orton on board until its sinking in the Timor Sea on March 4, 1942.

The Yarra's last duty was to escort a convoy of seven ships from Jakarta to Darwin. Five days out the drama began.

As Alf Orton tells it: "On breaking daylight we were confronted by a task force of three cruisers and four destroyers coming at us fast.

"Our captain immediately laid a smoke screen to protect the convoy and ordered ships to scatter in all directions.

"We were soon under heavy fire as the Japs had us circled. We were taking so many hits that it was only a matter of time ... we were being blown to pieces and the captain gave the order to abandon ship.

"I left my gun and proceeded to my station post Carly Raft, which lay at a 45 degree angle on a chute with a wire rope connected to a slip.

"I slipped the raft and with superhuman strength landed it over the side. I proceeded to the starboard side and slipped the other raft over. I then made it back to my gun to report to Commander Smith that the rafts were over the side.

"My life jacket was already blown away and then there was a terrible surge of air and noise and I was blown over the side.

"When I came to, the Yarra was on her port side, with the twin screws still turning. A tin of biscuits floated past and I managed to grab it.

"I had lost my boots, a sock, a glove and half my overalls and I was bleeding from the nose and ears.

"I made it to one of the rafts, put the tin of biscuits aboard and hooked my arm through the life ropes.

"There were a lot of wounded people in the water and we gently lifted them on to the raft and continued to hold on for our lives.

"The Japs then circled us looking for officers, but we were all dressed in the same battle station rig. A large cruiser came alongside and I'll never forget looking up at the Jap sailors grinning down at us.

"The cruiser made a 160 degree turn, swamping the rafts in its wake. We righted them and scrambled back, losing quite a few men in the incident.

"The rafts and a plank that had drifted off the timber rack were filled to capacity and we were all up to our necks in the sea.

"We spent the first day silent and dejected. We had not had a decent sleep since the fall of Singapore and, having no food, we were not in a very good position to survive what lay ahead of us.

"We lost men that day as some were too weak to hang on and we were powerless to help them. You'd be surprised at the number of sailors who can't swim.
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"The sun was very hot and we were relieved when it went down. But we shivered that night and waves were continually breaking over our heads.

"That night we lost 26 men and prayed for the sun to come up as we were chilled to the bone.

"When it eventually did, to our horror, we were surrounded by sharks. Huge brutes they were, continually circling us but not attacking.

"Only when we lost a man over the side would we look away. It is in such predicaments that men turn to religion. The Catholics on the rafts crossed themselves continually.

"The worst time for shark attacks is dusk. That evening, as the sun went down, they came in to attack. One would make a pass and then the others followed.

"That night they tore away the men hanging over the sides. All we could do was smash the water with paddles. We lost another 14 men.

"After that terrible night we faced a new day in rafts more buoyant because of the loss of so many men.

"I learnt that I was the leading seaman aboard and had to get some routine going if we were to survive. At 9 o'clock by my reckoning I thought it appropriate to say the prayer we all know in the navy.

"So I got all men to hang their heads while I conducted a service in what was a very strange place indeed.

"Protect us from the violence of the enemy (which He did) and the raging seas, so that we may return to the land, and enjoy the fruits of our labour. Amen!"

"A rating then asked where I thought we were and I lied and said not far from Darwin. I said that if we kept paddling south we would make it as patrol boats from Darwin would be looking for us. This settled a few of them down and gave them heart.

"But the truth was we were 250 miles from the nearest land.

"We were now into our third day and it was starting to play on us all, some worse than others. The terrible sun was beating down on us. We had no water and the tin of biscuits had drifted away in the rough seas.

"Some ratings started to drink salt water and some held their heads under. I told them to stop but when I wasn’t looking they’d do it again.

"We were attacked again that night by the sharks and lost more men. There were 17 on our raft, with none over the sides. But we were still up to our necks in water.

"By this time we had had no water or food for five days and the men were throwing salt water on their faces and eating seaweed as it drifted past.

"There were only 13 of us left and I tore strips off my life jacket and passed them to the men to suck on to keep the saliva going in their mouths.

"We ate rubber, buttons, our singlets and seaweed but the privation was taking its toll. We were burnt black by the sun and froze at night. We cursed the sun coming up and we cursed it going down.

"We cursed the sharks, the sea snakes and the insects that bit us all night. By this time we were unable to talk, only croak.

"We sat at a 45 degree angle on the raft and hugged each other for warmth at night and got a few hours’ sleep.

"Some of the things that happened on the raft are painful to record but I think it is my duty to do so.

"One rating stood up in the raft and said he could see his wife in the distance and was going over the side to meet her.

"He swam away and I ordered the men to look in the opposite direction.

"When a warship enters harbour the first man ashore is the duty postman. One man asked us if we had any letters to post as he was going ashore to get the mail. He then swam away.

"Another rating confided in me that there was a cellar full of food under the raft. When it got dark he was going down to get some and share it with me.

"I couldn’t convince him it wasn’t true and we never saw him again.

"I am really convinced that the rating saw his wife, the postie felt his duty was to go ashore and the rating had his cellar full of food under the raft.

"By this time we had stopped paddling as all our strength was gone. Our buttocks were red raw with the chafing of the canvas raft and covered with huge saltwater ulcers. It was agony to move. All we could do was stare at the endless ocean.

"We all had our visions. I used to see a spit post sticking out of the sea. It is clear to this day. I looked for it one day just before sundown, and sure enough it was there.

"I told the other men: ‘It seems different this evening.’ Then I saw it move. It wasn’t a spit post. It was the conning tower of a submarine coming towards us.

"I stripped off my half overalls and hung them from a paddle. The men held me while I waved.

"The submarine circled us and I could see the officers scanning us with binoculars. It must have been obvious from our emaciated appearances that we were shipwrecked sailors.

"They came alongside the raft and threw a rope. One by one I put it round the ratings and the sailors (they were Dutch) heaved them on to the submarine.

"I was the last to go but those stupid Dutch sailors — curse them and bless them — pulled me off as the raft was under water.

"Like the christening of a ship, I hit my head on the side of the submarine. Bloody hell, with all I had been through now I had a bump on my head. I don’t remember them carrying me into the submarine.”

"The submarine took Orton and the 12 other survivors to a hospital in Ceylon. After recuperating they were taken back to Fremont. Orton later served in the merchant navy.

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No wartime Australian corvette gave a finer account of herself than HMAS Katoomba, a ship that spent nearly all of her peacetime life in Cockburn Sound.

This ship, though only a corvette, had the heart of a destroyer, and was probably one of the most famous vessels of this type in the RAN.

The 56 corvette/minesweepers of the Bathurst class, built for the RAN between 1940 and 1944, were light in tonnage, armament and glamour. Yet they served in all theatres of war and gave a stalwart account of themselves.

Displacing 735 tons, HMAS Katoomba was launched at the Sydney yards of Poole and Steele on April 16, 1941 and was commissioned in December of that year.

Katoomba was armed with one 12 pounder gun, 3 20mm oerlikons and four depth charge throwers.

January 1942 saw Katoomba go to sea on her first wartime mission, escorting a convoy of merchantmen and tankers from Thursday Island to Darwin. When the diminutive Katoomba dropped anchor in Darwin harbour nobody could have realised that her baptism of fire was not far away.

About three pm on January 20, Katoomba received the message that an allied tanker had been torpedoed outside the harbour. As soon as she could raise steam Katoomba followed her sister ship Deloraine out of the harbour. Several miles out a large Japanese submarine fired a torpedo at Deloraine which fortunately missed. It then dived and was depth charged by Deloraine, followed by Katoomba. A third corvette, HMAS Lithgow also joined the hunt. The tell-tale oil slick indicated the end of the large Japanese submarine I124 of 1,142 tons.

An attack on another Japanese submarine several days later almost ended Katoomba's brief career.

After depth charging and damaging the second submarine, Katoomba was delegated to patrol the area. Around 2am a sudden storm with driving tropical rain reduced visibility to zero. Without warning the USS Pecos, a 13,000 ton tanker loomed out of the darkness and struck the Katoomba amidships on the port side, smashing the boiler room, and coming to rest with her bows only 10cm from the ammunition locker. Water gushed into the stricken ship and preparations were made to abandon her. But quick
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thinking by Cmdr Cousin of HMAS Katoomba and the tanker's captain saved the Katoomba to fight again.

Before Katoomba lost her buoyancy two heavy cables were used to lash her to the USS Pecos. The next morning HMAS Lithgow and a tug from Darwin secured themselves to the Katoomba's sides, allowing the Pecos to release the cables. She was taken to Darwin where she was dry docked and temporary repairs were made.

By February 19, her repairs completed, she was ready to leave dry dock and proceed to Brisbane. But on that fateful day at 10am 102 Japanese bombers, dive-bombers and fighters attacked Darwin. From her precarious position in dry dock HMAS Katoomba opened fire with everything from her main armament to rifles. Although a ship in dock does not carry ammunition, Cmdr Cousin had refused to be left defenceless.

Only 650m away the liner Neptunia, laden with ammunition, blew up and showered the Katoomba with red hot metal. Fortunately there were no casualties as the captain had ordered all his crew to take cover when the Neptunia was set on fire.

Some days later the Katoomba, listing heavily, sailed for Brisbane at a speed of four knots to undergo repairs and a refit. HMAS Katoomba was at Townsville on the night of July 25 when four Japanese flying boats attacked the town dropping their bombs outside the harbour.

On August 16 Katoomba responded to a call for help from the US Submarine S-39 which ran aground on a reef off Rossel Island while proceeding to its patrol area off Guadalcanal. The tenacious corvette managed to take all 44 submarine crew members aboard without loss of life, and return them to Townsville.

In October, Katoomba proceeded to Milne Bay, one of the first corvettes to do so. From there she was ordered to Buna where Japanese troops were getting supplies and men ashore, apparently by submarine. While in Milne Bay, Katoomba rescued the crew of an allied ship somewhere between there and the Solomons.

On November 28, 1942, while in company of HMAS Ballarat, they were attacked by 10 Japanese dive bombers. Forty minutes after the first bomb exploded in the water, a few meters from Katoomba's hull, one bomber lay on the ocean bed and another had crashed out of sight. Apart from a severe shaking, the ship was unharmed.

On November 28, about 6.30pm, a Japanese submarine raised its periscope not 100m from the Australian warship. It was claimed to have made the quickest crash-dive in Naval history.

HMAS Katoomba was subjected to another Japanese air attack in early 1943 when she was anchored in Oro Bay. This time six dive-bombers roared overhead attacking two merchantmen and the Katoomba. No hits were scored and the planes broke off the engagement. For the rest of the war the gallant Katoomba was involved in convoy work and minesweeping.

After the war Katoomba remained in commission until 1948 when she arrived in Fremantle from the Eastern States in company of four of her sister ships. These ships were laid up at Garden Island in the Reserve Fleet Detachment based there.

The old warhorse spent nine years swinging around a buoy in peaceful Careening Bay until the Government announced he sale for scrap on May 2, 1957. HMAS Katoomba left Cockburn Sound on her last voyage to Hong Kong on November 27, 1957 in company with HMAS Glenelg and HMAS Parkes, at the end of a tow-line.

There is no doubt that the lion-hearted HMAS Katoomba added another fine chapter in the fine traditions of the Royal Australian Navy.

Vic Jeffery,
Navy Public Relations Officer (W.A.).

AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL EVENTS

1970 Bass Strait wells produce oil commercially.
1971 50th Anniversary of the RAAF Australian troops withdrawn from Vietnam.
1972 Labor voted into power, first time in 23 years.
1973 Queen Elizabeth II opened Sydney Opera House.
1974 Cyclone Tracy razed Darwin.
1976 Total eclipse of sun, 23rd October. Family Law Bill introduced.
1977 Queen’s Silver Jubilee.
1979 Total population estimated as at June, 1979, 14,418,200.
1980 Queen and Prince Phillip open the High Court of Australia in Canberra.
1981 Sir Reginald Ansett dies, aged 72.
1982 Xth Commonwealth Games, Brisbane.
1983 Labor Government comes to power. Australia suffers severe drought and bushfires (Vic.).

LISTENING POST — AUTUMN, 1986 — 63
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PATHFINDER TOURS RELEASE 1986 NORTHERN PROGRAMME.

PATHFINDER TOURS, Western Australia's North West operator, has just released the most comprehensive programme of coach tours to Western Australia's Pilbara and Kimberley Regions, along with the North East of the Northern Territory. In addition, one itinerary will also extend through to Alice Springs and Ayers Rock.

The company has extensive experience in the North, having commenced operations over 20 years ago in the Pilbara. They operate a fleet of quality tourist coaches — possibly the highest standard in Australia. A new Austral tourmaster "super luxury" vehicle will be purchased early in 1986, adding to the one introduced in 1985. Both will be the best fitted vehicles for North West operation — including such features as built in tea/coffee facilities, tropical air-conditioning, 6 channel entertainment system to each seat, two iced water outlets, sheepskin seat covers and the companies own radio-telephone system to its base in Perth.

Since 1965 Pathfinder have acted as ground operators for Ansett-WA's "JET EXPLORER TOURS". The colourful 1986 brochure includes 7 tours that supply a total coverage of the North. A summary of the programme is:

* NORTH WEST EXPLORER 8 days/7 nights.
A new tour for 1986 that operates in a single direction between Perth and Broome. Clients fly the opposite direction. Highights will include Geraldton, Monkey Mia, Carnarvon, Wittenoom and the Hamersley Range National Park. Port Hedland and of course the old Pearling Town Broome. At $853.00 the tour presents extremely good value, and for interstate visitors, a very unique and interesting "add on" to Perth.

* PILBARA SPECTACULAR 6 days/5 nights.
The original tour that has operated for many years. Clients fly to and from Port Hedland and enjoy a leisurely coach tour covering all the highlights of the Pilbara region. Tour cost is $1098.

* KIMBERLEY SPECTACULAR 8 days/7 nights.
Clients fly into Broome, and then out of Kununurra. This provides the opportunity for a very interesting and comprehensive 8 day tour through the heart of the Kimberley. PATHFINDER provides visits to Windjana Gorge, Tunnel Creek, Geikie Gorge, Halls Creek, Lake Argyle and the new Keep River National Park in the Northern Territory. Three cruises are included, plus the opportunity for optional joy flights over the Bungle Bungle hills. Selling price from Perth is $1498.

* HAMERSLEY BROOME EXPLORER 8 days/7 nights.
A new tour in 1986 that combines all the highlights of the Pilbara with 2 days and nights in Broome. Cost is $1398 from Perth.

* HAMERSLEY KIMBERLEY CONNECTIONS 12 days/11 nights.
Introduced in 1985 this tour proved very popular. It is a combination of the Pilbara and Kimberley Spectacular's. Clients will fly into Port Hedland and out of Kununurra. The top highlights of the North West will be included including the Hamersley Range National Park, Millstream, Broome, Windjana Gorge, Geikie Gorge, Kununurra and Lake Argyle. Cost in 1986 — $1798.

* KIMBERLEY TOP END EXPLORER 12 days/11 nights.
a very popular tour where passengers fly into Broome and out of Darwin. Obviously the tour covers all Kimberley highlights but also Katherine Gorge, Cutta Cutta caves, Kakadu National Park, South Alligator River and Darwin. A feature is the 6 cruises included, and one of these will be a Darwin Harbour trip to Mandora for a barbecue lunch — introduced for the first time in 1986. There is also the opportunity for optional Bungle Bungle flights from Kununurra. Cost from Perth $2075. A single direction option is available terminating in Darwin at $1770 — ideal for clients ex the East.

* CIRCLE WEST EXPLORER 20 days/19 nights.
The same as the "Kimberley Top End Explorer", but including Mataranka, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs and two nights at the Four Seasons Hotel Yulara. Like most Pathfinder tours, the tour operates in both directions. Clients can therefore start or finish in Alice Springs. The air sector between Perth and Broome is included. A very comprehensive tour of the Northern Territory and the North West. And just to show how clients are pampered by Pathfinder — the Champagne and cheese sunset viewing of Ayers Rock looks tremendous fun. Tour cost $2693.

All tours have options available, and the single directions between Perth and Darwin or vice versa are popular. Except for the three days on Broome on the "North West Explorer", all meals are included on Pathfinder tours. Because of the tea/coffee facilities on the coach these are obviously also included. Quality hotels to match coach standards are chosen — with of course private bathrooms and air-conditioning. One of Pathfinder's greatest features are their unique "aircraft style" two course picnic lunches.

PATHFINDER really have the North West "stitched up" — and their new 1986 colour brochure has all the details. Stocks are available by contacting PATHFINDER TOURS 7 Wild Close, Bull Creek WA 6155 — phone 332 3332 AND TOLL FREE 008 99 9304. TELEX 93079. PATHFINDERS TOLL FREE LINE is not just reservations — they welcome enquiries on the north and are prepared to offer all assistance.
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