Remembrance Day
11th November, 1986

Keep The Flag

The flag bears the stars that blaze at night.
In the western sky of life
A little red flag to the sun
That's part of our heritage, too.

For the English, the Scots and the Irish
Who were sent to the ends of the earth.
The rogués and schemers, the doers and dreamers.
Who have modern Australia birth.

And you, who are shouting to change it.
You don't seem to understand.
It's the flag of our law and our language.
Not the flag of a faraway land.

Though there are many of people who tell you,
How when Europe was plunged into night.
That little old flag in the corner
Was their symbol of freedom and light.

It doesn't mean we owe allegiance to a forgotten imperial dream.
We've the stars to show where we're going.
And 'the old flag to show where we've been.

- Marll Time, Australasian Post
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Advertisers
Westralian Publishers
51 Milviet Road
Mt Pleasant
Tel: 364 9000

Typesetting/Composition
The Press Ganey
7 Bingle Street
East Victoria Park 6101
Tel: 361 5401

Imagery/Photographing
U.P. Photographic
7 Bingle Street
Tel: 361 9601

Printed
Enterprise Printers
7 Bingle Street
East Victoria Park 6101
Tel: 361 5401

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Deadlines
30 Listening Post Contributions

Deadline for Autumn Edition
30 April for Winter Edition
30 July for Spring Edition
30 October for Summer Edition

If possible, submissions should be typed, double spaced.

Photographs must be black and white.

This is your journal and contributions are welcome.

Post to:
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Cover: Flanders Poppies
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Listening Post—Spring, 1986—Page 1
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STATE EXECUTIVE

State President's Address To Congress

As a full report on the branch's activities for the 1985/86 congress period has been prepared and will be distributed to delegates, I intend to deal mainly with our welfare activities this year.

Two major factors have had a significant effect on our operations. The first was the obvious downturn in the economy and the resultant hardship on the needy, and the second was the increasing number of veterans reaching pensionable age.

In the period we have had contact with some 720 service and ex-service personnel or their dependants. While only a small percentage of that number required financial assistance, which totalled $12,061, our assistance covered some 28 different categories ranging from counselling services to war graves.

Over the year our welfare officer has processed British ex-service personnel to apply for assistance from the BCEL at a rate of about 20 cases per week (these figures are included in the previously stated total number of contacts). While not all the applications were successful, it is interesting to note that the total assistance provided by the BCEL through our welfare officer amounted to $103,000. However, in this amount, was the allocation of $66,000 for the purchase of a home through the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund in the UK.

The welfare and counselling services could not have carried out its case load without the assistance of agencies such as The Age Fund, The Anzac Day Trust, and The Lotteries Commission. We are deeply grateful to these organisations for their generous support and assistance.

The Aged Fund is a statutory body administered by three trustees. Apart from the interest it receives from investments, the fund's only sources of income are 50 per cent of the nett proceeds from the annual sale of poppies and grants from the Anzac Day Trust. Last year we distributed 156,000 poppies throughout Western Australia. The Aged Fund handled some 166 cases during the year, the greater proportion of which received regular monthly financial grants. The cost of these grants for 1985 was $44,588.

In the seven-month period to February 1986, our war compensations' officer has processed some 127 compensation claims. This number 1006 to include 12 which were withdrawn by the veterans because of a lack of supporting evidence. The actual cost of administering the repatriation and welfare services provided by the league in 1985 amounted to $87,960.

A number of transformations have taken place in our war veterans' home recently. This year, the home celebrated its 25th anniversary and a variety of renovations and conversions were completed in time for this event. The events were:

1. The reconstruction of the male wings known as

Listening Post — Spring, 1986 — Page 3
Best wishes to all R.S.L. members from:

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President's Address cont.

Citizen and Vasey has been completed and includes 3 rooms for married couples, individual 3 suites have been added to each room. Landscaping of the surrounding area and the addition of a sitting room and kitchen have been completed. A new non-smoker's lounge is in the kitchen.

1. The laundry had to be extended to cater for the increasing number of veterans requiring their laundry to be done.
2. The lead light window in the chapel has been completed.
3. The lead light window in the chapel has been completed.
4. Due to a department of Community Services requirement, a new alarm call system for Howes Wing of 150 beds was installed and renovations and painting to the rooms were being carried out.

6. Due to a department of Community Services requirement the Extension to cater for 40 additional nursing home beds was completed.
7. Alterations to our canteen were necessary to provide additional space for our increased stock.
8. Safety precautions and fire detection equipment have been installed in the Clifton and Vasey wings.
9. The women's Auxiliary executive committee year after year involves itself in a heavy program of work by undertaking on behalf of ex-servicemen and women, their unflagging support in whatever task the league has been doing.

On Wednesday, February 19, 1986 the Federal President, Sir William Keys, and I met with the Minister for Community Services, Mr. John Gough, and the Minister for Community Services, Mr. John Gough, and the 1985 festive season. This alone was a major task to achieve half the things I did.

The total cost of all these undertakings amounted to $333,000.

On Wednesday, February 19, 1986 the Federal President, Sir William Keys, and I met with the Minister for Community Services, Mr. John Gough, and the Minister for Community Services, Mr. John Gough, and the 1985 festive season. This alone was a major task to achieve half the things I did.

It is always difficult to describe the deep debt of gratitude the League owes the Women's Auxiliary for their unflagging support in whatever task it was, and, in conclusion, my thanks to each and every one of you, for your unflagging support and assistance during the year. Without her, I would not have been able to achieve half the things I did.

Ladies and gentlemen thank you for your attention, and I now call on the Chairman to announce the awards for tonight.

J.P. Hall.

Royal Australian Artillery Association, WA

Gunnersons Day

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2 1986

Memorial Service
St. Mathew's Church, Guildford
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SERVICE — 1440 HRS.

TEA — Courtesy of Guildford Red Cross

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Gunnersons Day — 1986 — Page 6
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Christmas In July

YES, that's what happened on Friday, July 25th at the RSL War Veterans' Home when the chairman and members of the board had decided to brighten up the residents by giving them an “Xmas lunch” in July.

180 of the residents assembled in the main lounge for pre-lunch drinks before enjoying their early Xmas meal in the dining room.

Looking after such a large number of residents, including transporting some of the frail aged to and fro, climbing “the ramp” meant that the Administrator of the home, Mr Ern Broad, had to opt many “volunteers”. So, with success, Mr “volunteered” members of the board, plus many staff members who gave their time for this special occasion.

After the residents were seated, Mr Broad announced that “Father Xmas” was unavailable for the day. However, he had obtained the services of “Mother Xmas” (alias Diane Reid) who, after being driven into the dining room, gave a small present to each resident.

The enormous task of presenting the three-course party last Friday was carried out by Chief Tom Cunningham who attended “volunteer waiters and waitresses” very busy serving the meals and drinks. (Is it true that these “volunteers” have now decided to look for part-time jobs in the hospitality trade during the “America’s Cup”?).

Throughout lunch, all were treated to fine piano music played by “Maestro” Vernan Lourensz.

Special awards were given to those residents who continually cancerous various tasks inside the home’s complex. An extra present was given to the elderly and gentlemanly resident, Jackie Moonan 122 and Bill Thompson 121.

Who said only the young have fun?

Congratulations must go to Mr Jim Hall (Chairman), his wife Jim Hall’s board members and their wives, Mr Broad and staff for the 2nd million and attention they gave to those residents.

The board members and administrator are always seeking new ways to entertain the residents. So, if readers have any ideas or are able to assist in any way, please contact Mr Broad at the home. He would like to hear from you.

LEN KEENES

Dear Mr Broad,

Paul Keating’s headlines in your Sunday paper said it all - “the party’s over” - but what a magnificent party you gave us yesterday.

The food, the wine, the presents and the overall festivity created in our comfort and pleasure were simply tremendous.

From remarks, I know everyone at Howes Wing had a ball - even those who were rather apprehensive about climbing “the ramp”. They have all said they would do it again.

I would ask you to pass on my thanks to the Chairman, the Board and their wives, who stilled our feelings; the office staff, the super and the cook, and everyone else who worked so hard to make our “Christmas in July” such a memorable affair.

Yours sincerely,

Majorie Bishop

Dear Mr Broad,

I would like to thank you for a lovely “Christmas in July” party held Friday and I am sure that everyone who attended enjoyed themselves.

Yours Truly,

Mrs Murphey

General Manager

War Veterans’ Home

Mt Lawley

I would like to convey thanks to all your staff for the excellent show and service during the “Xmas in July”. The food was very good and the genuine concern from the Board members and their wives for our welfare left a very good impression.

The organizing of such an event takes a lot of work and your reward for your efforts was the happy time had by all. Enquiries to other residents on how they enjoyed the show, most of the answers were “it was beautiful”.

Due to my absence I have not attended Xmas in December, but I have been very impressed with each of the “Xmas in July” celebrations.

Thank you again, the atmosphere of happiness that prevailed was very enjoyable.

Yours,

Ray Alderson.

26 Collett Street

Dear Mr Broad,

I would like to convey thanks to all your staff for the wonderful “Xmas in July” dinner. I can’t remember when the food was so good.

Many thanks.

John Montgomery

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W.J. Surridge
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A.T. Richardson
G.B. Russell
W.J. Surridge
Co-opted Members: P.E. Hirsch, Col L.G. Clark, E.H. Stevenson

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J.P. Hall
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L.L. Turner
S.W. Dallywater
R.J. Nyman
K.R. Healy
U.B. Russell
P.M. O'Loghlen
H. McRae (Accountant)
J.P. Hall
Co-opted Members: P.E. Hirsch, Col L.G. Clark, E.H. Stevenson

FUNCTIONS
D.J. Dowson
A.T. Richardson
L.C. Keynes
L.L. Ilkin
F.G. Verdi

LISTENING POST / PUBLICITY
H.P. Balfe
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P.M. O'Loghlen
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F.G. Verdi

MEMBERSHIP
Z.T. Knechtel
E. McCielland
P.M. O'Loghlen
S.W. Dallywater
W.J. Surridge
L.L. Ilkin
J.P. Hall
G.D. Russell
P.A. Fawcett and Welfare Officer — by invitation

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
J.P. Hall
D.H. Bruce
D. Greer
R.J. Nyman
L.J. Turner
L.C. Keynes
F.G. Verdi

WAR VETERANS' HOME BOARD
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M. S. Hall
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STATE/NATIONAL CONSTITUTION
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R. J. Nyman
M. C. Hall
N. R. Healy
L. L. Jr
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D. H. Bruce
R. J. Nyman
M. C. Hall

Go-opted Members: Mrs L. Healy, J. F. Slavin, Mrs V. Statham.

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N. R. Healy: Bassendean-Guildford.
Z. T. Kwiecinski: Woodbridge, Morley Park, Collectors.
D. Gravan: Vincent, Vermont, South Perth.
M. S. Hall: City of Perth, Belmont, Belmont.
M. C. Hall: Canning Districts, Rockingham Districts.
N. R. Healy: Upper Swan, Bullbrook, Victoria Park.
L. L. Jr: Canning Vale, Gosnells.
D. Gravan: Como, Manning.
M. S. Hall: Maylands, Railways, Cockburn.
R. J. Nyman: Highgate, Como, Manning.

NOTE: Sub-Branches in brackets denote member's own Sub-Branch.

State Congress Resolutions 1985

As a significant number of resolutions to State Congress were passed for referral to National Congress, September 1 to 5, the final results and action will be published in the October issue of Listening Post.

Listening Post — Spring, 1986 — Page 11
Best Wishes to all RSL members from:

ERNIE BRIDGE

MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

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The Meritorious Medal

In 1989, the National Congress of the League approved the award of the Meritorious Medal to persons already holding Life Membership, who had 25 years continuous membership and 25 years of outstanding service to the community and their fellow man. Twenty medals were to be issued annually on the following allocation:

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

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

A brief citation for each of the three West Australian recipients for 1986 awards:

Leonard James Turner

Leonard Turner, born in Plymouth, England in 1920, came to Australia when he was four-years-old. He was educated in Denmark before starting his working career in the Goldfields. Enlisting in 1941, he served with the 2/5 Infantry Battalion in the Middle East and in Ceylon. He qualified as an Associate of the Federal Institute of Accountants in 1947.

Len joined the RSL in 1944 and served in almost every office at a number of Sub-Branches. He was elected to the State Executive in 1970 and became State President in 1980–1985, a position he held until June 1985, when he resigned due to ill-health.

During his long and dedicated service, Len has given unselfishly of his time and expertise. The sound financial position of the League in Western Australia today is primarily due to his invaluable contributions and efforts. He was awarded the MBE in the 1981 New Year Honours List, and has now been awarded the Meritorious Medal for his outstanding service to the League.
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William Peter Rattigan

Bill joined the Claremont Sub-Branch in 1950 and has given outstanding service to his Sub-Branch and the League since then. He has served on all his Sub-Branch committees continuously since 1957 and was the Junior Vice President from 1970 to 1975; the Senior Vice President from 1976 to 1980, and President from 1981 to 1983.

Bill's excellent service is centred in his Welfare and Hospital Visiting duties. For some years now he has acted as the League's official hospital visitor going to hospitals and nursing homes all over the metropolitan area, from Fremantle to Two Rocks, Geraldine and Midland Junction. Bill's kindness and his caring attitude, coupled with his untiring commitment to assisting others, is well known and appreciated far and wide.

Bill Rattigan earns the respect and admiration of all those with whom he comes in contact. Through his efforts he has brought great credit on himself and the League, and he is a worthy recipient of the Meritorious Medal.

Doctor Allan Joseph King

Dr Allan King was born in Ascot Vale, Victoria, and educated at Melbourne Grammar and the University of Melbourne. Allan served as a Junior Resident Medical Officer at Royal Perth Hospital in 1936, and as the District Medical Officer, Resident Magistrate and Flying Doctor in Wyndham from 1937 to 1940. He served in the 21st Field Ambulance AIF 5th Battalion in 1939 and saw active service in Egypt, Libya, Greece and Turkey, and was a POW in Germany from 1941 to 1945.

After joining the League in 1948 and as a member of the Highgate Sub-Branch, he was a member of the State Executive in 1960/61 and from 1965 to 1972, when he was a Vice President and Chairman of the War Veterans' Home Board. In this latter capacity he worked extremely hard to ensure that the residents always had the best of care and instigated the medical holding centre at the home.

He has been a member of the RSL, using his expertise for the maximum benefit of veterans in their applications for Service Pensions and for their assessments before tribunal hearings. Allan has displayed outstanding loyalty and devotion to duty in the interests and welfare of ex-service personnel and is a worthy recipient of the Meritorious Medal.
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We take this opportunity to convey our best wishes to RSL members and families of Western Australia.
The Army In Western Australia

AT THE May Sandwich Luncheon at ANZAC House the guest speaker was Brigadier J.H. Townley, AM, Commander 5th Military District.

Brigadier Townley described in an illustrated address a range of utilisation facilities and activities, in general terms, might have remained largely unknown to Western Australians. He gave, in outline, the units, their functions and training facilities. He touched briefly on one where the Army has made its greatest effort - Western Australia. We have put a lot of effort into it.

There are 1200 regular soldiers in 611 who collectively draw a payroll of some $43.5 million. We have 2500 Reserve soldiers who draw a lot of $77.5 million and an employee 311 civilians whose payroll reaches $13.5 million.

"We have from the State Housing Commission about 190 houses. We own 170 ourselves and are building another 23. We pay about $7.5 million each year to the State Energy Commission. The entire gas transport company own the Railway.

"We spend about $1 million a year on repairs and maintenance to our plant. We buy about $370,000 worth of petrol each year. All in all, the Army pays about $143 million towards the Western Australian economy."

"Brigadier Townley mentioned too, the HS of the 5th Military District. In Swan Barracks has a comparatively large military economy. The original station was built in 1864 and has been occupied there since in various forms by the Army. In all the changes that have occurred, and are still occurring in the area surrounding, it is pleasing to note that one part, the head on the central building, has been registered by the National Trust."

"Hill is organised on central staffing lines with the service support units being staffed and providing support to them. Each branch of the organisation is headed by a Lieutenant-Colonel. Regular units in the Command are not a great number but are important in their way."

"Firstly, there is the Base, AIF barracks at Campbell Barracks at Cannington between Bonney Street and the railway, and the north of the South Western Freeway in Army housing. The north."

"The next major job is 2nd Construction Squadron in their Barracks at Karrakatta. This squadron's main functions are road building. That is an activity of great public benefit. It is a monumental task that requires a lot of staff."

"A number of Barracks is in the 62nd Field Survey Squadron which conducts considerable mapping operations. In recent years they have surveyed areas in the Pilbara, Kimberley, Eastern Goldfields and the Gascoyne. The year's major work is a special survey in the Pilbara to complete their work. The Squadron is the first of its type, which is specialist and operates in exactly the same way."

"With its Headquarters at Karrakatta, but with units scattered throughout the Metropolitan Area, and at Fremantle, the 6th Supply Battalion, a four-line supply unit. There is a major store area at Midland which does a lot of work. We hope to be in a major construction project this year to increase the area near Guildford. Near the Midland supply area in Perth Workshops Company which includes a vehicle shop and a general engineering shop. The workshop provides a support for all units in the Whole Upright."
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Listening Post - Spring, 1989
The Army in Western Australia cont.

Various history and also stay there. 5th Training Group, responsible for individual training of all Army Reserve soldiers in the 5th Military District, will become Leeuwin's major tenant.

"Finally in the Metropolitan Area, 26th Transport Troop is accommodated at Helena Valley in new accommodation." 

Country:

"We have depots, units and sub-units, and Reserve units. Those in the South-West are at Albany, Collie, Katanning and Bunbury. Elsewhere they are at Kalgoorlie and Geraldton, and in the north they are at Tom Price, Port Hedland, Newman and Karratha where ABRIDGED BY PATRICIA BALFE

WHEN the Army Reserve's Pilbara Regiment sends out one of its six-man patrols, that patrol will travel anywhere between 1000 and 1200 kilometres.

But there is no border between Army units. The Regiment has 500,000 square kilometres of its own to operate.

Men of the Pilbara Regiment, which is the watchdog of the north-west of the State, have just completed the first of two annual two-week camps in the rugged Saddle area, about 160 kilometres from Tom Price.

With its key appointments manned by Regular Army officers and NCOs, the unit's task is surveillance and reconnaissance of the vast region from the Shire boundary between Kimberley and Pilbara in the north; the State boundary in the east; the Gascoyne River in the south; and the coastline — including coastal island groups — to the west.

The recent two-week camp was designed to train soldiers in the art of patrolling, navigation, and communications.

Periodically, the Regiment sends out patrols for nine days.

Watchdog Of The North West

The six-man teams, travelling in their 4×4 modified Toyota Land Cruisers, gather such information as location and condition of tracks; positions of properties and airstrips; where might be found in any given area the nearest fuel or water supply; or the closest medical or repair facility.

This information is of great value now, in time of peace, and would be invaluable in the event of invasion."

Commanded by Major Brian Russell, a former Special Air Service officer, the Pilbara Regiment has its headquarters and one sub-unit in Port Hedland with other sub-units in Newman, Tom Price and Karratha.

Recruits, mainly associated with the mining industries, are drawn from these areas.

Captain Pat Green
Headquarters
5th Military District
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Repatriation Report

THE FOLLOWING is an approximate assessment of the work time break up of an average claim requiring RSS Assessment. As can be appreciated, it is not possible to come up with a set procedure for each and every claim, as no two claims are alike. Essentially, there are five main areas involved in averaging out the time spent on each claim. They are as follows:

1. Research and preparation.
2. Initial interview.
4. Consolidation and final interview.
5. Presentation at the Veterans' Review Board (VRC).

The above criteria does not include home visits—done at home after hours, as it is just not possible to do general enquiries or discussions on other matters perusal of files and medical journals at work.

The following is an approximate assessment of the time spent on each claim.

INITIAL INTERVIEW

There is no set length of time allocated for this interview, as many veterans have their own set routine and certain family members are difficult to discuss the problems, and research, would be undertaken by the interviewer. This information is used by the Interviewer. During the interview, it is the interviewer’s responsibility to ask questions in order to obtain additional information from the veteran. Appropriate time per interview is from 15 to 20 minutes; however, usually further calls from the veteran can be arranged.

TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES AND INFORMATION

The initial contact is usually by phone, where the interviewer determines whether the veteran is seeking advice or information on other matters. The following are the criteria:

1. Telephone enquiries and information.
2. Initial interview.
4. Consolidation and final interview.
5. Presentation at the Veterans' Review Board (VRC).

Presentations are made to the VRC to discuss the veteran’s claim. The following is an approximate assessment of the time spent on each presentation.

CONSOLIDATION AND FINAL INTERVIEW

This interview is normally conducted approximately two weeks prior to the hearing at the Veterans' Review Board. These interviews usually last about 30 minutes.

PRESENTATION AT VETERANS REVIEW BOARD

Before anyone can put a time frame on how long it will take for a claim to be heard by the VRC, many factors must be considered. Throughout the year, Board members change; there is nearly always a visiting member on each Board, sometimes a doctor attends with the Board members. The VRC hearing is typically conducted two years prior to the hearing at the Veterans' Review Board.

It is very important to understand that a claim is prepared and presented and the VRC of the Board. After the Board members have heard the case, the VRC of the Board. After the Board members have heard the case, the Board members have heard the case, the Board members have heard the case, the Board members have heard the case, the Board members have heard the case, the Board members have heard the case, the Board members have heard the case, the Board members have heard the case.
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Repatriation Report cont.

There is also a need to have any last minute instructions to the Veteran at the VRB at least 30 minutes before the hearing is scheduled to commence in order to cover any ad lib instructions.

GENERAL

It is almost a daily occurrence where Veterans arrive at ANZAC House, hoping for a chance interview. In some instances an appointment is made for them but on most occasions, they are interviewed there and then, instead of returning during the lunch hour. Only a number of these important matters are brought to the attention of Officers who may happen to be in the city, and decided to stay.

Currently there are 114 Veterans' claims held by this office, waiting to go before the VRB, with a further 100 or so claims in the process of being moved from the Department of Veteran's Affairs. A second Board is expected to be convened to assist in reducing the backlog of claims.

SUMMARY

From the date of lodging an appeal, to its final disposition by the Veterans' Review Board, will take anything from three to nine months. The variety of claims includes Entitlement - Assessment - War Widow's and questions of Back Dating. Each of these claims involves the amount of time needed to prepare and present.

ENTITLEMENT CLAIM

Time spent on these claims can be best assessed as follows:

- Initial contact, usually by phone - 20 minutes.
- Interview - 90 minutes.
- Preparation - 60 minutes.
- Follow-up - 60 minutes.
- Final interview - 30 minutes.
- Presentation - 90 minutes.

TOTAL - 6 HOURS.

ASSESSMENTS

War Widow's - TOTAL 6 HOURS

War Widow's claims usually take longer to prepare.

- Initial contact - 20 minutes.
- Interview - 60 minutes.
- Preparation - 120 minutes.
- Follow-up - 120 minutes.
- Final interview - 90 minutes.
- Presentation - 90 minutes.

TOTAL - 9 HOURS.

The time figures, given above, are the absolute minimum. As the number of claims reduces, so the time needed for processing will increase. Quite often, the more time spent on a claim, the better the end-product.

Norman Johnston
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WA Branch State Congress cont.

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  - The unity of the Commonwealth nations.
  - The defence of Australia.
  - The maintenance of a vigorous and comprehensive immigration policy.
  - The development of a national defence infrastructure and defence industry.
  - The promotion and proper employment of the nation's natural resources.

* What we have to do here and now is - how are we to go about being the force in Australia that we have been for the last 70 years? That which we are seeking to change.

* The League - makers of our membership policy, now and during the next decade. The standards of professionalism required of an organization where we are going, are the standards.

* The ex-service community - the negotiations over the veterans' entitlements act have shown the importance of unity and a common approach. Our organisations within the ex-service movement, more than ever before, now have the opportunity to build a united front and work as one.

* Australia - the changing nature of society, the importance of community services. Any group which wishes to represent its people in negotiation with the government on entitlements and benefits.

* The development of a national defence infrastructure and defence industry, and

* Participation, etc.

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WA Branch State Congress cont.

defense and service home loans. In addition, Item 21 of the agenda relating to the problems faced by returned ex-service women from World War II. In another area where there is still much to be done. We are confident that there will be some relief announced in the context of the budget later this year. Until then, we will not know how many of the recommendations made to the government, following the inquiry into ex-service women, have been adopted. Together with keeping the government to its promise for up-grading and establishing repatriation general hospitals—these are but a few of the battles ahead of us in the veteran's affairs portfolio.

Other subjects that demand our attention are the preservation of the Australian national flag, the land rights question, the bill of rights, the drug problem, preservation of the Australian war alliance, defence, and the conditions of service for our serving members. I put it to you, there is much still to be done. We are confident that there will be some relief announced in the context of the budget later this year. Until then, we will not know how many of the recommendations made to the government, following the inquiry into ex-service women, have been adopted. Together with keeping the government to its promise for up-grading and establishing repatriation general hospitals—these are but a few of the battles ahead of us in the veteran's affairs portfolio.

As national level, the national executive is advised by sub-committees on defence, conditions of service, veterans' affairs, heritage and citizenship, youth affairs, etc., and we must vigorously pursue 10,000 standing policy together with resolutions from the national congress and national executive meetings.

My concern, however, is that there is a need for uniformity among fellow members of these problems at all levels of the League in our eight state branches and 160 sub-branches throughout Australia and overseas. With our 270,000 members, we should be the most effective organisation in Australia.

The League has reacted well to the challenges of the last 70 years but if we are to continue, then we must be prepared to adapt to the changing circumstances. And this is what the RSL has done.

When the Governor-General of Australia opened our 1985 national congress, he said: "... no longer does the RSL open only to those with wartime service ... there is a momentous decision, necessarily to be matched by a new and broader perspective. You have alone and the time has come less exclusive and more coloured.

Representative of all those who have served and are serving their country ... for any organisation to maintain its identity that is to reach the grand old age of three score years and ten, means that it possesses the resilience and flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances. And this is what the RSL has done.

The Governor-General was very clear of this. It is up to us to work out how we can best meet this challenge the Governor-General has placed before us.

The League has been the voice of 1000,000 in changing times in the past, and we can continue to be, while adapting our methods of operation to the current and to the future. We can still be non-party-political, representative and non-commercial, representing all 1000,000 of our members derived from the great national organisation, still fighting the same battles for our country that we have always done, winning those battles and also seeing to the new challenges that lie ahead.

As a power and powerful patriotic organisation, the League has to do. We have conformed with, indeed, guided public opinion over many years. We can still do it. But we recognize the challenges facing place with our community, and the changes needed within our League.

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Listening Post — Spring, 1986 — Page 27
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You see them in peace-time and forget how much they are from all corners and grades. Prior to 1939 they were generally well paid to 1939 in many instances.

In wartime they were as essential that, without them, nations on all front lines would have.Added velcro on the tail of Hitler's nazis.

Few classes of men gave so much of themselves as the merchant sailors. Many millions had chemicals and petrol all over the world - mostly in high risk areas. Sadly, at other their shipper object blew up and disintegrated, or the men perished in violent conflagration. Some were sunk again and again but returned to the sea. As the war progressed the convoy by detaching one of his all-too-little vessels were a motley collection of rust buckets with some 400,000 of them there because they were medically unfit for the Services, but wished to serve.

A goodly number of them could not have passed a medical examination to enter the Armed Forces - indeed some of them were there because they were medically unfit for the Services, but wished to serve. They played a very significant part in the war effort bringing food, mail, medical supplies, war materials and other necessities. They were picked to often burned or wounded, drowned in all, sometimes actually injured. The Navy gave them medical attention, food, clothing - the best of everything reasonably available.

As the war progressed and austen ships were replaced with new, the standards of the ships of 1939 were raised. Although destroyers and tankers were more protection, they could guide their ships at a cost of much more than the price of the ships.

We of the Navy had a deep and abiding respect for our brothers, whom we convoyed, did our utmost to save their ships, plucked the men from the water in peace-time and thought little about them. As the war progressed the convoy by detaching one of his all-too-little vessels were a motley collection of rust buckets with some 400,000 of them there because they were medically unfit for the Services, but wished to serve.

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Australian Involvement In The Vietnam War

By Michael Cake

THE VIETNAM war looked, for most Australians, over 10 years and had little effect on many Australians. Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War was a very controversial and an issue which still lingered today.

As the war progressed, the convoy by detaching one of his all-too-little vessels were a motley collection of rust buckets with some 400,000 of them there because they were medically unfit for the Services, but wished to serve.

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Australian Involvement in the Vietnam War cont.

Many Australians supported the Government's decision and encouraged them. By March of 1965, 4,900 Australian troops were stationed in Vietnam, an increase of Australian army volunteers was slow because of the 'Domino theory': it believes in the idea that if Vietnam became communist so might Indonesia, Malaysia and the other countries in Southeast Asia. The American government was in a dilemma: they would sooner have the communists take over there, than to have more troops in a communist base. There was other reason for the Australian involvement in Vietnam. The Government believed that we should maintain the strong beneficial links we had with the United States, like trade and security, for example. As well as USA, the Government told we can an ambition to the United States because of the ANZUS pact. Sir Robert Menzies also thought that the South Vietnamese government should be given freedom from communism if they so desired it.

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Congratulations

THE MAYOR of GERALDTON, Mr PHIL COOPER, congratulated the local Sub-Branch of the RSL and its Women's Auxiliary at the Town Council meeting on June 25.

He said they had registered another 'double' by winning the State-wide Colour Cup and Country Cup competitions as the only Sub-Branch and Auxiliary with the most medals by any Sub-Branch during 1985.

The Mayor said they had won the Cups an 'amazing' twenty-five times.

B.J. BARDEN

Geraldton Museum
Donations

THERE have been further donations of items for inclusion in the Museum to be established at Birdwood House by the local Sub-Branch of the Returned Services League.

They include a sword which was worn by Flight Lieut．C.M. COOTE when a member of the Royal Australian Air Force Squadron Twenty Two in 1942, and a service sword, donated by Mrs GORDON HIGGINSON of PARKESWAY.

The Mayor said they had won the Cups an 'amazing' twenty-five times.

B.J. BARDEN

Rededication
Of
The War Memorial

All Delegates at the RSL Congress in Western Australia gathered at the War Memorial for a Service of Rededication. This historic event was held on the Sunday of the Congress, June 15, 1986.

The occasion was the unveiling by State President Jim Hall, of a plaque which reads:

AND IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THIS STATE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN SUBSEQUENT CONFLICT.

The importance of the service is to hold in sacred memory all West Australians who fought and paid the supreme sacrifice in wars of liberation in which Australia has played its part since the end of the Great War 1918.

The service was conducted by four padres led by RSL Executive member Rabbi Dr Shalom Coleman, CBE, JP, Anglican Bishop Dennis Gwynn, Roman Catholic Father Rogers, and the Reverend Terry Lucken of the Uniting Church.

B.J. BARDEN

New Awards

Australian Gallantry
Decorations

- Star of Gallantry, for acts of conspicuous gallantry in action in circumstances of great peril.

- Medal for Gallantry, for acts of gallantry in action in perilous circumstances.

- Commendation for Gallantry, for other acts of gallantry in action considered to be deserving of recognition.

Awards For Distinguished Service In Operations

- Distinguished Service Cross, for distinguished command and leadership in action.

- Distinguished Service Medal, for distinguished leadership in action.

- Commendation for Distinguished Service, for outstanding performance of duties on operations over a period for which a leadership award is not appropriate.

Unit Awards

- Unit Citation for Gallantry, for extraordinary gallantry in action.

- Meritorious Unit Citation, for outstanding service in operations over a period.

Non-Operational Awards

- Conspicuous Service Cross, for outstanding achievement or devotion to duty.

- Commendations for Conspicuous Service, for meritorious achievement or devotion to duty.

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Veterans' Entitlements Act

The Veterans' Entitlements Act consolidates legislation relating to various veterans' benefits into one comprehensive Act. It aims to provide a single legislative framework for the administration and payment of veterans' benefits.

**Compensatory Pensions**

- Disability pensions are payable to veterans who served during World Wars I and II, or during a later conflict such as Vietnam, where a disability is determined to be war caused.
- Disability pension will be payable under the General Rate on a scale from 0 to 100 per cent, as determined in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Act.
- The Bill provides for the payment of disability pensions to veterans with war-caused disabilities, regardless of whether the disability is permanent or temporary.

**Service Pensions**

- Service pension will be payable under the Bill where the veteran has qualifying service and the conditions laid down in the Act are satisfied.
- Service pension eligibility is based on the number of years served and the quality of service.

**Defence Force Coverage**

- Members of the Defence Force who have served since 7 December 1972, and have completed three years service, are eligible for service pensions in respect of disabilities that are determined to be defence-caused.
- Widows and children of such members whose deaths are deemed to be defence-caused may receive pensions under the Act.

**Domestic Allowances**

- A domestic allowance will be payable under the Bill to the child of a deceased veteran where death was war-caused.

**Other Benefits**

- The Bill extends eligibility for service pensions to particular defence personnel who served in the Vietnam war zone but who were not previously treated as eligible.
- Service pension eligibility for all Allied veterans with eligible war service, including those who served after 1 September 1957, is provided for under the Act.

**Administration**

- The Repatriation Commission is responsible for administering the Act's provisions.
- The Administrative Appeals Tribunal has jurisdiction over appeals against decisions of the Commission.

**Extension of Benefits**

- The Bill extends benefits to war widows, widowers, and dependants for the first time.
- Specifically, these benefits include:
  - War widows will not lose their pensions if they remarry after a certain date.
  - Domestic allowance, a special pension supplement, will be payable to war widows.
  - Service pensions will be extended to veterans who served in Vietnam, although not allotted for special service.
  - Commonwealth or Allied veterans will not have to satisfy the present five-year residency requirement for service pension eligibility if the veteran becomes permanently incapacitated for war work while in Australia or during temporary absence from Australia.

- The Bill provides for the extension of benefits to disabled veterans, their dependants, and to war widows, widowers, and dependants, as well as to veterans who served in Vietnam, although not allotted for special service.

- The Bill also provides for the extension of benefits to veterans who served in Vietnam, although not allotted for special service, if they were injured or contracted a disease as a result of action by hostile forces.

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Page 38 - Listening Post - Spring, 1986
Vets' Entitlements Act cont.

- New Defence Force act will be adopted until the commencement of a financial year 2019.

**Disability Pensions**

- Higher provisions for disability pension act will provide benefits in accordance with the act.

- The Special Disability Pension will be based on the veteran's disability.

- The preparation of a plan for the amendment of the Act will consider all applicable to the payment of travelling allowance where a veteran or his dependent travels for or in connection with active service.

**Tribunal**

- The Bill will also provide for an intermediate tribunal. The Bill will also provide for an intermediate tribunal.

**Allowances and Expenses**

- Allowances and expenses will be subject to appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. The Bill will also provide for an intermediate tribunal, as well as an appeal to decisions on service pensions.

**Standard of Proof**

- The preparation of a plan for the amendment of the Act will consider all applicable to the payment of travelling allowance where a veteran or his dependent travels for or in connection with active service.

**1986 Prince Of Wales Award**

ON TUESDAY 15 JULY 1986, Lieutenant Colonel P.J. Kynaston, representing the National RSL, presented Warrant Officer Second Class Tom Arnautovic with his award for the Prince of Wales Award.

The award comprises a two-week military attachment followed by a two-week civilian attachment in the Reserve, with one award being solely sponsored by the National RSL.

The Prince of Wales Award was established in 1986 by the Citizens in Support of Reserve Forces (Trust) and is majorly sponsored by Qantas, with major sponsorship from DAA, ANZ, and the Commonwealth Bank. The purpose of the Award is to recognize individual excellence within the Australian Defence Forces, broaden individual knowledge in their fields of aeronautics, and promote national aviation education.

The Prince of Wales Award has been endorsed by the Australian Government and is supported by the Australian Defence Force. The award is presented annually to outstanding Servicemen and Servicewomen who have made exceptional contributions to the Australian Defence Forces.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- The preparation of a plan for the amendment of the Act will consider all applicable to the payment of travelling allowance where a veteran or his dependent travels for or in connection with active service.

- Provision to ensure that it is an offence under the Act to provide false or misleading information.

- Provision to ensure that it is an offence under the Act to provide false or misleading information.

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Developers Honor Diggers

It was a program entitled for the Blackboy Hill commemorative site committee when Markham & Heath, who are developing the site into housing lots, decided to consult with the committee to name the streets in the development. After reviewing and discussing the suggestions, the committee decided to name the streets after battles and events in which members of the original AIF had fought and visited in the Great War.

Many had done their initial training at Blackboy Camp, and although other names had been chosen earlier, the committee and many people connected with the site, were deeply grateful to Markham & Heath for their sincere interest.

The new names in the subdivision will now be: Damascus Drive, Messines Court, Lone Pine Way, Quinn's Close, Gaza Court, Polygon Place, Fleur Road. As a result of an entry in "The Listening Post" for a committee and on behalf of diggers who trained at Blackboy Camp and attended with seven apologies, a meeting was held on the fourth Monday, 25 August, 1986, at 11.30 am at Blackboy, with the Jewish s, and a further meeting was held on the Anzac Club on Monday, 28 July, 1986. Twelve members were elected, with seven apologies. Further meetings were held on the fourth Monday, 25 August, 1986, at 11.30 am at the Anzac Club. All co-members and their spouses were invited to attend. For further information contact the undersigned.
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How To Sponsor A Veteran

WHEN THE War Veterans' Home first opened in 1961 all the residents' rooms were sponsored by sub-branches, women's auxiliaries, unit associations, or anyone who was willing to undertake the furnishings of those rooms.

It is unfortunate that, in the intervening years, many of the sponsors, in one way or another, are not with us any longer.

Recently the home board has expressed concern in this matter, and it has been a sponsors' privilege to visit the residents, especially on birthdays and during the festive season, with small gifts totalling around $25 per year. Although the veterans are well taken care of by the home's administration, visits by sponsors make life more sociable.

Appoint a proxy: The board would like to hear from any group, or individual, who would be willing to sponsor a veteran. If you live in the country and are unable to visit the home, I am sure there are many people in the metropolitan area who would be willing to visit a resident on your behalf.

For further information or acceptance, please contact the Administrator, RSL War Veterans' Home, 51 Alexander Drive, Mt Lawley, 6050, or telephone (09) 272 1811 or (09) 271 2419.

Letters To The War Veterans' Home

Dear Sir,

I made a remark to my wife and friends on how the grounds of the Home are looking like 'Fairy Land'.

However, a few nights ago I was writing home to M.B. and saw a 'Wondrous' sight that gave joy to my heart and made me realize how small I am in this world of ours. Although I have no idea what it was as it was behind a church located near Edna's window, which stood out in stark relief, so much so that it made me think of you and your staff for all the many kindnesses I have received.

I am sorry to have the light on such a short time from 6.00pm to 8.30pm on Monday.

Yours sincerely,
Jim Woodall.

Dear Sir,

It gives me much pleasure to say to all of you that you are good people. You are kind and very thoughtful. It is wonderful to know there are people for you.

I am sorry to say that I have been ill, and how you have really cared about my father. Mr Ron Minn. Thank you.

May all your lives be specially blessed by the wonderful work you do for others.

Yours sincerely,
Jim Woodall.

Defence Service Home Loans

Extension of Service Eligibility - Vietnam Service

On 22 May 1986 the Minister for Defence announced the extension of the Vietnam Service Eligibility to those who served in Vietnam or Vietnamese waters between 31 July 1962 to 11 January 1973, inclusive. The notification also stated that any veteran who served in Vietnam or Vietnamese waters between 12 July 1962 to 11 January 1973, inclusive, served in operational areas defined in section 3 of the VEA were deemed to have been allotted for operational service in those areas.

The result is that generally, any veteran who served in Vietnam or Vietnamese waters between 31 July 1962 to 11 January 1973, inclusive, served in operational areas defined in section 3 of the VEA were deemed to have been allotted for operational service in those areas.

Any person who needs information or clarification of the issues raised in this article is welcome to put their enquiry to Corporation staff.

You may telephone (09) 425 8314 or (008) 11 3304 (toll free for country clients) for prompt and efficient service.

Letters To The War Veterans' Home

Dear Sir,

I make a remark to my wife and friends on how the grounds of the Home are looking like 'Fairy Land'.

However, a few nights ago I was writing home to M.B. and saw a 'Wondrous' sight that gave joy to my heart and made me realize how small I am in this world of ours. Although I have no idea what it was as it was behind a church located near Edna's window, which stood out in stark relief, so much so that it made me think of you and your staff for all the many kindnesses I have received.

I am sorry to have the light on such a short time from 6.00pm to 8.30pm on Monday.

Yours sincerely,
Jim Woodall.
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Page 42 - Listening Poor - Spring, 1984
**Sub-Branch News**

**North Bondi**

NORTH BONDI RSL Sub-Branch club building will celebrate its 35th birthday on the 31 March 1987.

When the Sub-Branch was originally formed in 1952, many of the members were Indeed “Tabruk Rats”, so the building became known as “Tabruk House”.

The Sub-Branch meets second Tuesday each month. Members are cordially invited to attend.

NORTH BONDI RSL Sub-Branch club building will of New South Wales, Sir Eric Woodward on the 31 March, 1962.

To commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the building, a joint Committee of the Sub-Branch and Club decided to move these stones and place them as a centrepiece on a wall which will be known as “The Tobruk Wall”. Around the stones will be placed the plaques of HMAS Stuart, Waterhen, Vendetta, Vampire, Napper, Diam and Pannawatta, who served in the “Beef and Spud” run.

The Sub-Branch will commemorate the 25th Anniversary of 1962. A function suitable for this occasion is expected to equal the size of the recent Tobruk victory celebration.

To provide interest in the Anzac Day, our Sub-Branch conducted an essay in our district schools under the heading “What Anzac Day Means To Me”. The response from the primary schools was very good and the judges had a hard task picking out the best. The major award winners were: Upper Primary - Avril Criddle (St. Joseph’s) and Lower Primary - Pamela Fahey (Vasse School) and the judges had a hard task picking out the best. The major award winners were: Upper Primary - Avril Criddle (St. Joseph’s) and Lower Primary - Pamela Fahey (Vasse School).

The major award winners were: Upper Primary - Avril Criddle (St. Joseph’s) and Lower Primary - Pamela Fahey (Vasse School).
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Sub-Branch News cont.
Darling Range
Ex-Servicewomen's Group

THE Administrator of the War Veterans' Home, Mr Ernie Broad, invited members of our group to afternoon tea at the Home to see the outdoor furniture which had been purchased with our recent donation of $998.

Twenty Ex-Servicewomen were taken on guided tours by residents of Clifton and Vasey Wings and we were much impressed with their modern, self-contained accommodation and with the restoration of the stained-glass memorial window in the Chapel.

Our thanks to the Administrator, staff and residents for a most enjoyable afternoon.

BARRABA HARPER-NELSON
ACTING PRESIDENT.

Scarborough

SINCE our last report, and despite the cold, inclement weather, our average monthly attendance has increased with the addition of several new members. During this period, we have held three bus trips, one to each of the armed forces.

Our first was a visit to the Sergeants' Mess at Pearce, where the Air Force made us thoroughly welcome. The games night and the evening were a great success, and our journey home in the double-decker bus was quite a musical event, accompanied by Steve on his mouth-organ. A couple of stops were necessary to regain our energy.

The next visit was to the Army at the Sergeants' Mess at Western Command. Again, we received a right royal welcome by the president of the Mess, W.O. Pepper. A keen sports night followed, and our journey home included a visit to the National Zimbabwean Deli, where we enjoyed a meal.

Our last visit was to the Naval Base at Garden Island, where we were made welcome by the staff and given a tour of the base. We were particularly impressed with the modern, self-contained accommodation and with the restoration of the stained-glass memorial window in the Chapel.

Our thanks to the Administrator, staff and residents for a most enjoyable afternoon.

BARRABA HARPER-NELSON
ACTING PRESIDENT.

Belmont

AT the June Meeting of the Sub-Branch guests included the State President Jim Hall, Mike Hall and Joan Dowson from the State Executive and Members of the Returned Ex-Servicewomen's and Returned Ex-Servicemen's sub-branches. Special guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Ian Gollings the National Secretary.

Mr. Gollings gave a very interesting and informative talk on 'Where does the R.S.L. stand in today's National Problems?' It was most enjoyed by all present. Afterwards, he was presented with a Branch pennant by Ron Gwynne, the Branch President.

More guests arrived for the social get-together held after the meeting - Peg Parkin Deputy Mayor of the City of Belmont, Eddie Burton Town Clerk and Don McCallum Deputy Town Clerk. During the evening, the State President, Jim Hall, presented to Don McCallum an 'In Appreciation Certificate' for services rendered to the Branch over a number of years which included serving as an auditor in the Branch. We were also pleased.
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Sub-Branch News cont.

To welcome Jim Hall and his wife, Vera, as members of our Club.

The Anzac Day essay competition, which the Branch is organizing for children living in the Belmont area, is well underway. The sub-committee formed for this purpose has worked hard. It is hoped the competition will be very successful and that the children of the area will learn more about the R.S.L., and what it stands for.

To all Sub-Branches who were awarded prizes this year, congratulations for your good work!

DOT BALCOMBE

Wyndham

Wyndham has successfully celebrated its second year of full operations after a spell of quite a number of years.

Our President, Brian Dillon, has placed the R.S.L. as a top priority and has worked unceasingly to build up Wyndham's Sub-Branch.

Prior to Brian taking the helm, the branch only just existed with two members living in Wyndham; Ivan Thorley as President and Pat McDonald as Secretary. Pat carried on stoically and even paid accounts from his personal funds. Therefore, we all decided to make Pat a lifetime subscriber to honour him for his dedication.

Unfortunately due to several circumstances when the branch was restarted, we also inherited over $1,100 in water rates and charges. But, with the help of Norforce and weekly raffles, we have managed to clear the debt and have become financial.

Last December we held our first Reunion Dinner. It was a great night and enjoyed by all. The numbers swelled from 30 people to over 50 and more wanted to come. It was quite different from the usual Wyndham functions, attended by a large selection of people who do not usually socialise.

For two years running, Wyndham has received a membership pennant for increasing its membership by more than 10%. We now have approximately 30 - due mainly to the President, Brian Dillon, who is ever alert for new members.

Our ANZAC Day Parades for the past two years have been extremely well-attended as we marched from the Police Station to the Memorial. Each year we have had a Fly Past, courtesy of Ord Air Charter with two Barons. Late last year, Brian managed to coax the State Secretary and the Department of Veterans' Affairs to come up as far as Kununurra for a visit and meet some of the members, so we all took the bus over to Kununurra to attend a successful meeting. The people of the North West love a colour carnival. Thank you, Des. Our non-smoker appreciation night sold 100 tickets.

We are planning our 2nd Reunion Dinner in September and trust it will be as successful as last year.

Our Branch has been trying to inject incentives for citizenship in our youth and we have, just recently, donated a beautiful French polished Honour Board to the Local High School.

IN 1982 members of the Returned Ex-Servicewomen's Sub-Branch took part in a tree-planting ceremony at King's Park—to the right of the concourse as you approach the War Memorial.

On 9 July, twelve members attended our now-flourishing tree to view the plaque which has been attached to a boulder beside it. The wording reads:

"This tree was planted by the Returned Ex-Servicewomen's Sub-Branch R.S.L. to honour all women who served in the Armed Forces during War-time. 27.7.1982".

As the tree grows, it will be a permanent reminder to future generations of the contribution made by women during times of conflict.

T.A. KORBOSKY

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Women's Auxiliary

President's Report

Our Conference is over and we are already planning the next, but with this I thought that it would be a worthwhile place to begin in my report on the activities of Auxiliaries in WA.

This year's Conference was well-attended and we welcomed our visitors, Mrs M. Kayser from Tasmania. A highlight during the Opening was the presentation by R.S.L State President, Mr J. Hall, of a Certificate of Appreciation to Mrs L. Price who has served continuously for 33 years on State Executive. Glad was I to meet members and exchange all the news.

Kojonup Auxiliary had their Special Day on May 6. Mrs and Mrs Taylor and I attended. There were also representatives from Armadale, Mrs. Baker, Albany Boyup Brook Auxiliary and our own. As usual the weather was most favourable, the speech was very interesting and enjoyable. It was a very enjoyable day. I also patrons in need and members exchange all the news.

On May 9, it was my pleasure to officially form the Swan-Central Women's Auxiliary. We welcomed them and wish them a long and happy future with us.

The Bullsbrook Auxiliary invited members of Parliament to their Luncheon on June 3. It was a lovely day and hearty. The Bullsbrook girls had been busy revising their book which we were happy to be given with our welcoming address.

attended the League's Congress to read my Annual Report and the presentation of our Agendas, Plans of Executive with the report for Congress. Mandurah Auxiliary held its Birthday Luncheon on June 12 with representatives of State Executive, Nurse Doctors Armstrong, Corkery, Jones, Armstrong, North East Fremantle, and Mr. and Mrs. McLeod and hisottie. It was a busy day and we were happy to be there.

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State Conference Report

CONFERENCE 1986, held on 27-29 May, was well-attended by Delegates and Observers. Our Guest Visitor was Mrs M. Kays, Immediate Past State President. When she addressed the Delegates, there was an avalanche of speaking.

Mr. J. Hall, State President R.S.L. WA, officially opened the Conference with a statement thanking Auxiliaries for their continued support of the League. Mrs. G. Rolfe received a Certificate of Appreciation for serving continuously for 30 years on State Executive. Officers were presented to the League for the War Veterans' Home and for the Maintenance of the State War Memorial; the money was donated by Auxiliaries. Delegates assembled after the War Memorial Service for our small-laying ceremony. Many colourful wreaths and sheaves were laid, and we were again blessed by the sun.

Back in the Conference room, reports were read and general business attended to. Key word, Agenda Items were discussed and noted. Members were selected unopposed, a motion for Vice-Presidents and Committee attended to. The Conference Luncheon the next day was enjoyed by all and we were allocated to have the C.W. Blackwood and the tray to Victory Park. Many colourful wreaths and sheaves were laid, and we were again blessed by the sun.

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Information

Sir:

I write on behalf of the Donnybrook Sub-Branch seeking information about the history of the gun depicted in the enclosed photo. We would like to record this before it is too late.

Possibly a reproduction of the photo in the Listening Post, with a request for information, may prompt some old memories.

The weapon, believed to be a Howitzer, reposes in a corner of our Memorial Gardens and bears the number 6180. It was in use in the 14-18 "box on".

Any assistance you may be able to give in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

G.E. ANDERSON

Historical Event

I am a long-time member of the R.S.L., having served with the RAAF during World War II in Africa and Great Britain.

Although I have no known contact with former members of the 2/24 Battalion, I am always interested to read about any historical event that rises in the media, no matter which of the armed services is involved.

Therefore, as a matter of interest, I raise the question: Have members of your committee read the very interesting article on page 54 of the 4 March 1986 issue of The Bulletin?

I have enclosed a copy for your information. (Held at Anzac House).

In my opinion, it could form the basis of a future article in the "Listening Post", particularly if some members of the 2/24, who were in the conflict, added their first-hand information.

Yours faithfully,

JIM LINCOLN

Photograph

Sir:

I have a photo taken by me while serving with the AIF at Balikpapan. It is of two graves side by side on the edge of a track. The names on the graves are WX2633 Lt. H. A. Wallace and 119431 Lt. J. R. W. Melville.

On the back of the photo I have the date August 16, 1945.

These photos may be of interest to someone, next-of-kin, or such. Anyone interested can contact me.

Yours

LAURIE MOLONY

Book

I am enclosing some documents and photos belonging to Mr. Paul del Rosario, a resident of Singapore. Paul is at present writing a book and wishes to get in touch with some of the members of the Australian unit with whom he worked. The names are:

Major Toby Carter, S.R.D. 9th Division, Marudl Baram (G.S. Carter).

Major Wilson, S.R.D. 9th Division, Marudl Baram.

Major Tom Horsnell, S.R.D. 9th Division, Marudl Baram.

W.O. Don Horsnell, Upper Baram Division, Marudl Baram.

Major John Gilbert, Brunei Town, C.A.O. Marudl.


I hope you will be able to help in some way as Paul and his family were very hospitable to my wife and myself on an recent trip to Singapore.

Paul’s name and address are as follows:

Paul Palma del Rosario, Apt Block 48A, 12-121 Dorset Road, Singapore, 0821.

Yours sincerely,

JIM LINCOLN

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Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

We have been requested by Cunderdin R.S.L. to make formal acknowledgement of a donation from them to the R.S.L. W.W.W. Soldiers’ Home of $1000. I hope this may be noted in your next issue.

Yours faithfully,
E.J. BROAD
ADMINISTRATOR.

Dear Editor,

The Board of the Home has decided to change its policy regarding the date of our Remembrance Day Services at the Home.

Our Services have been held in the past on the 11th Day of the 11th Month, but with effect from this year they will be held on the Sunday preceding the 11th Day of the 11th Month, or the Sunday before if the 11th falls on a Sunday.

Would you please, through the medium of the Listening Post, advise all your members of the change?

All of those who place Crosses at our Service will again be reminded at the time the invitations are sent out.

Yours faithfully,
E.J. BROAD
ADMINISTRATOR.

Dear Editor,

I am trying to arrange a reunion with ex Airforce colleagues and am endeavouring to contact about 15 local and 9 Eastern States ex members of the FJ.A.A.F. I would be most grateful if you could insert notice in the quarterly journal, 'The Listening Post' advising ex-members who may now belong to the R.S.L. to contact me for details of the reunion. Hereewith are the details:

Reunion - ex R.A.A.F. members
No 9 Permanent Airforce Recruit Training Course R.A.A.F. Pearce - Jan to April 1948
Please contact Brian Hardy - Tel (09) 450 4531 or write to 3 Canavan Cres, South Como, WA 6152.

Dear Editor,

The following may interest many of your readers.

My husband A.E.M. (Bert) Crocker died on July 15 after a long illness. He was a member of the Yokine R.S.L. after moving there from R.S.L. Boulder.

I enclose cutting from Kalgoorlie Miner which says:

CROCKER (A.E.M.): Sincere sympathy to this family on their sad loss. A former President, Life Member, and Foundation Committee member. A treasured long serving member who will be sadly missed.

Committee, Members and Staff, Boulder Ex-Servicemen’s Club.

Thanking you,
Yours truly,
Mrs M. Crocker.

Andrew Lewis, far right, at commissioning of training ship 'Marmlon' at Wanneroo.

Dear Editor,

On a cold, blustery morning in July a very proud grandmother travelled from Kalamunda to Fremantle to see the fleet enter the harbour, but particularly to greet her 14-year-old grandson, Andrew Lewis of Training Ship Marmlon, on his arrival from an exciting 8-day voyage on H.M.A.S. Stalwart.

Andrew was one of twelve W.A. naval cadets who were chosen to take part in the project. The boys travelled to Adelaide by coach — a rewarding experience in itself — where they were transferred to H.M.A.S. Stalwart and bedded down after a hearty meal.

The time at sea was spent in activity and in general duties such as swabbing decks, painting the side of the ship (he lost only one paintbrush), transferring from ship to ship in rough seas, watch-duty and particularly experiencing the joys and rigours of life at sea. After all this, his enthusiasm for joining the Navy has not been dampened but rather enhanced. After arrival in Fremantle, Andrew took his family and grandparents on a guided tour of the ship, his attitude reflecting the pride he felt in the ship and the crew.

The Royal Australian Navy is to be congratulated for providing this opportunity for Naval Cadets to gain an insight into what they hope may be their future careers.

Gwenda Workman, Ex W.A.A.A.F.
Darling Range R.S.L. Ex-Servicewomen’s Group

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54 - Listening Post - Spring, 1994
Vale
Jim Gordon, VC

GENTLE, modest and unassuming would hardly be the fundamentals to win a nation’s highest award for bravery, the Victoria Cross. But such were attributed to James H. Gordon who passed away on July 19 this year:

Joining the 2/11 Battalion AIF in Perth 1940 he sailed for the Middle East after basic training and was transferred to the 2/31 Battalion on arriving at his destination. As part of the 7 Division, the Battalion went into action in Britain July 1941.

During the battle for El Alamein, when the going was tough, something special had to be done. Without thought for his own safety, Jim Gordon using his initiative advanced alone.

With bullets from an enemy machine-gun post flying around him, he suddenly charged the post and bayoneted the four machine-gunners.

Part of his citation reads - "His action completely demoralised the enemy in this section and the company advanced and took the position. During the remainder of the action on that night and the following day Private Gordon showed a high degree of courage, bearing with equal gallantry." He was subsequently awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions.

On his return from Syria, he fought in the New Guinea campaign with equal courage, including the notorious Kokoda Trail with almost the same result.

After the war, Jim returned to farming but, deciding the army was for him, he re-enlisted in 1947 and reached the rank of Warrant Officer before his retirement in 1968.

Once again he enjoyed a quiet life in his Grahamsdale home with his wife Myrtle, son Lindsay and his daughter-in-law Joan.

I spent many happy hours with the family over the years and, on numerous occasions, I borrowed books from Jim’s interesting library, mainly on the history of the Australian Army. He was honoured in 1983 by the Swan Barracks Soldiers Club when the name was changed to the J.H. McDonald from Darwin, B. (Slim) Harrison, 2/25 Bn. (N.S.W.), Air/Cdr. S. Dallywater, President Regular Defence Forces Assoc., and Jack Axford, son of the Late T.L. (Jack) Axford, V.C. and M.M.

The funeral service concluded with the sounding of the Last Post and Reveille by a bugler from the 5 M.O. Band. So was laid to rest a great and brave Australian.

The full military funeral was accorded Jim Gordon, lead by the 5th Military District Band and a firing-party from the S.A.S. Regiment. Approximately 300 people from all walks-of-life paid their respects, and the State President of the Victorian Branch of the R.S.L., Mr Bruce Ruxton, made a special trip from that state.

Mr Jim Hall, W.A. State President and Members of the State Executive represented the League Members of W.A. Among the many others present were John Coates, Royal Australian Artillery Association, Brig. H. Koomen, Lt/Cdr. Leon V. Goldsworthy G.C., D.S.C., G.M., paid his respects, and the State President of the Returned Services League and extend deepest sympathy to his family.
Wally Fleming

Wally Fleming was a man of great kindness and loyalty, and kept up his membership for many years after retiring and moving away from the district.

He attended Congress for us, made sure we were informed immediately of anything that may be of interest, and thanks to him, we were kept abreast of happenings.

We are a very small, poor Sub Branch and Wally's telephone calls may have been higher than our bank account. One cannot underestimate the telephone calls he made, as unimposing, almost merely to inquire if we were well now.

We still remember and greatly miss him.

F. M. E. B. President.
R. SMITH Secretary.
Mary R. S. B. Branch.
H. HEALY.
Anzac Club.

William Carruthers

RESIDENTS of the Yealerng-Bullaring districts were saddened to hear of the death of William Carruthers, an early resident, on May 21 at the Corrigin Hospital.

He was born in Warrington, Lancashire, England, in 1904. He married his Cumberland lass Jane, and they had two sons, Jock and Jim, by the time Bill left England for Australia in 1926.

Whilst there Bill was driver to one Charles Court who, on returning, was driver to the Premier of W.A., as Sir Charles, was Premier of W.A. He was a vital person, Mollie Robertson took a keen interest in these happenings.

His military number was in the low 80000 — proof that he could not join the R.A.F. when war was declared.

He was stationed on the islands of the W.T.O. for nine months, whilst the R.A. was driven to one Charles Court who, as Sir Charles, was Premier of W.A.

After the war he was granted a soldier settler block at Yealerng.

In 1972, Bill retired to Mandurah and lived an active life until shortly before he died.

Bill was a man with a great skill for life — to share his company was a delight to his family and friends. People in the district recall no one who got more from the joy of living than Bill.

He was a genuine supporter of all community affairs including the R.S.L., the Yealerng and Mandurah Bowling Clubs and the Football Club.

He is survived by his four children and daughters-in-law, his 12 grandchildren and his 18 great-grandchildren.

W.M. E. B. Past Pres.
Yealerng Sub Branch.

Phyllis Myrtle Fowler

Phyllis Myrtle Fowler, A.A.A.F.N.B.

Phyllis Myrtle Fowler died on 28 June 1986 after a protracted illness. Through her post-war service 1910 had a long association with War Veterans as well as an interest in the St John of God Hospital in Claremont, where she was much appreciated by the patients and staff.

A former trainee of the Perth Children's Hospital, Phyllis was educated at the N.S.W. Government Teachers Training College before the war, and immediately joined the A.A.A.F.N.B. in 1929 and served overseas overseas. Following her discharge from the Airforce, Phyllis Fowler joined the Repatriation Department where she remained until retirement.

A member of a number of organisations including the R.S.L., Phyllis served on the executive of the United Services Institute for some years. A memorial service was held at St Lawrence's Anglican Church, Dingley, which was attended by colleagues of the Sub-Branch.

Mary (Mollie) Robertson

Mary (Mollie) Robertson, A.A.A.F.N.B.

Mary (Mollie) Robertson was a valued member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the War Veterans' Home.

In 1943 she was posted to the 118th A.G.H. Northam, where she met, and married, a young Army Officer. After the war she served with the A.A.A.F.N.B. in Claremont, and subsequently to the 1st Australian Army Hospital. Mollie Robertson took a keen interest in the various activities in the country areas in which she lived and became especially involved in women's bowls clubs. However, she did not lose touch with nursing and was a valued member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the War Veterans' Home.

Mollie died on 2 July 1986. In addition to members of her family, her funeral was attended by police, nursing colleagues and representatives of the R.S.L. Returned Servicemen's Sub-Branch.

Memorial books in honour of Phyllis Fowler and Mollie Robertson have been placed in the library of the War Veterans' Home.

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Page 62 — Listening Post — Spring, 1986
LISTENING POST proclaims Unit Associations that it is of the utmost importance that they inform all office bearers of this edition up to date. Sponsorship of their own name must be maintained.

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NUET at ANZAC HOUSE, on the Tuesday of the month of February, May, August and December, at 2.15pm. President: J. Mason, 39 Robert Street, North Perth. 6006. Tel: 442 1934. Secretary/Treasurer: J. Anderson, PO Box 84, Claremont, 6010. Tel: 422 1722.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION (WA)

President: J. Appley, 143 1/5 Haigh Street, Tuart Hill. 6060. Tel: 344 4416. Treasurer: B. Mondson, 3 Moness Place, Shelley. Tel: 457 5620.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY ASSOCIATION—Western Australia (City of Perth Sub-Section)

Meets fourth Tuesday of each month at 7.00pm, ANZAC House, 28 St George's Terrace, Perth. President: T.F. Bushe-Jones, 63 Gravity Street, Perth. Tel: 339 3461. All Correspondence to: Hon. State Secretary, PO Box 8289, Stirling Street, Perth, 6000.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY ASSOCIATION—Western Australia (City of Fremantle Sub-Section)

President: A. Hole, 79 Hale Road, Wembley Downs, 6019. Tel: 341 2648. Secretary: M.E. Pearson, 361 Grove, Booragoon. Tel: 417 9877.

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Nomination for pre-selections of Senate Candidates will close on 15 September 1986. Donations are also being received.

ENQUIRIES: Telephone (042) 831867 or (042) 942355.

To the Secretary D.E.S. Party,
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Please enrol me as a Party Member for which I enclose $25 for Foundation Membership (or only $2 as Ordinary Member).

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In the Secretary D.E.S. Party, Box 117 P.O. Bag, N.S.W. 2516.
Pre-selections will be by a Party Member for whom the Club's Past Foundation Membership is for only $2 or Ordinary Membership.

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ADDRESS ...........................................

Authored by A. Hany, Free P. Medal (33, Jan)
Unit Associations cont.

5/16TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION
President: W. H. Sobel, 53 Port Street, Dandaragan, 6062. Tel: 377 4019. Secretary: G. G. McKenzie, 11 Marsall Road, Spring, 6021. Tel: 448 1198. Treasurer: C. Paul at Leschenault Shire, Busselton, 6280. President: Mrs Jane, 422 Cambridge Street, Forest Park, Tel: 397 4416. Meetings are on first Wednesday each month. ANZAC House, 10.30am.

5/16TH BATTALION - 24TH ANTI-TANK COY
President: E. A. Jackson, 74 Corinthian Road, Shelley, 6010. Tel: 421 4332. Secretary: Mrs N. Angwin, Unit 7/6 Mt Henry Road, Como, 6152. Tel: 364 3244. Treasurer: W. B. Moore, 2/72nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: P. A. Tomkins, 2 Devlin Place, Morley. Tel: 447 7984. Secretary: Mr D. Fullarton, 13 Riverview Road, East Victoria Park, 6155. Tel: 446 3362. Treasurer: Col. E. W. Dubberlin, EO, A-V, 444 9158. Secretary: Mrs Lake, Tel: 332 1342. All correspondence to PO Box 153, Applecross, 6153.

5/17TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION
President: Mrs Jean Hanley, 16 Miller Avenue, Claremont, 6010. Tel: 386 3619. Secretary, Major G. T. Howitt, 1st Thursday of the even months. 10am-12 noon.

5/18TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION
President: Mrs Marie Corry, 4 Nottingham Street, East Victoria Park, 6155. Secretary: Mrs M. Archer, 64 Mundaring, 10 James Road, Swanbourne, 6010. Tel: 384 7938. President: P.C. Findlay, 22 Sudbury Way, City Beach. Tel: 271 4448. 2/2ND BATTALION ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: D. McLean, Unit 2/50 Endeavour Avenue, Redcliffe, 6004. Secretary: L. McDougall, 31 Marigold Street, South Perth, 6151. Tel: 421 4210. Meetings at Listening Post - Spring, 1986 - Page 69
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Tel: 275 4888. Secretary: H.M. Oldham, UNI 2.14 Pearson Place, Morley Park. Tel: 357 0231. Meetings are held monthly. Please phone our Chairman for details.

AUSTRALIAN LEGION OF EX-SERVICEWOMEN (INC) WA BRANCH
State President: W. L.C.M. Houghting, 69 Kippens Street, Joondanna. Tel: 444 2819. Honorary State Secretary: Mrs D.A. Smith, 820 East Street, East Fremantle. Tel: 330 7741. Details of Sub-Branch meetings will be notified by mail of March 1979.

TOTALLY & PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION

WOMEN (INC) WA. BRANCH INC.

LIMBLESS SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC)

PARTIALLY BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
General meeting held at ANZAC House. 23/1 George's Terrace, Perth, at 9am, last Tuesday each month, except January. Secretary: D.J. Smith, 16 Siddell Place, Mount Lawley. Tel: 240 6660.

FEDERATED TO SAILORS' SOLDIERS' & AIRMEN'S (INC) ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
Second Floor, Wellington Buildings, 150 William Street, Perth. President: Mr W.F. Buckland. Tel: 277 4869. Secretary: Mrs Grace Storer. Tel: 277 4869. Meetings: third Tuesday each month.

EX-PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: J. (Jim) Dunstan, 40 Kennedy Street, West Perth, 6005. Hon. Secretary: Mr J. Pickles, 11126-16 Pressmennan Place, Perth. Tel: 327 4713. Assistant Secretary: E. E. Rodgers, 166 Chirnocks Road, Wulfrith. Tel: 279 9323. Treasurer: Mr T. Duston. 29A Orko Street, North Perth. Tel: 279 9323. Monthly meetings: third Tuesday each month.

LADIES AUXILIARY EX-POW OF WA
President: Mrs U.M. Brown, 24 Milroy Street, Wembley. Tel: 327 9191. Secretary: Mrs N. Dunstan, 40 Kennedy Street, West Perth. Tel: 327 9191. Meetings: third Thursday each month.

KATES OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: W. Nakas, 212 Narrogin Street, Palmyra. Tel: 333 4197. Secretary: Mrs N. Nakas, 40 Kennedy Street, West Perth. Tel: 333 4197. Meetings: second Tuesday each month.

ROTYL AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
Meets Second Monday in June, September, and December at Belmont RSL. 322 Victoria Street, Belmont. Meetings will be held by mail of March 1979. President: Mr H.B. McDougall. Tel: 330 4197. Secretary: Mrs V. Gordon. Tel: 330 4197. Meetings: second Monday each month.

REGULAR DEFENCE FORCES WELFARE ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM VIETNAM (WA)
Meetings: 1.30pm Thursday each month (except January). Secretary: P.O. Box 158, Toodyay. Tel: 444 5197. Meetings: second Tuesday each month.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION
Secretary: Mr W. M. Roberts. Tel: 330 4197. Meetings: Wednesday every month (except January). Secretary: Mr W. M. Roberts. Tel: 330 4197. Meetings: second Tuesday each month.

ROYAL FUSILIER ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
Meetings: 1.30pm, first Tuesday each month (except January). Secretary: Mr R. M. Roberts. Tel: 330 4197. Meetings: second Tuesday each month.

ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIA
President: W. W. James, 72 James Street, Gosnells, 6010. Tel: 398 4508. Secretary: Mr S. Kent, 3 Pascoe Street, Gosnells, 6010. Tel: 398 4508. Meetings: second Monday each month.

ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION WA BRANCH
Meeting: 10.30am, second Tuesday each month. General meeting at 10.30am, second Tuesday each month. All correspondence to Cameron Barracks, Gatton Highway, Victoria Park.

VIETNAM VETERANS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
Meetings: 1.30pm, first Tuesday each month (except January). Secretary: Mr R. M. Roberts. Tel: 330 4197. Meetings: second Tuesday each month.

VIETNAM VETERANS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
Meetings: 1.30pm, first Tuesday each month (except January). Secretary: Mr R. M. Roberts. Tel: 330 4197. Meetings: second Tuesday each month.

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Secretary: D.W. Bungate, tel: 342 8704
All correspondence to the Secretary, C/- PO Box 447, Wembley.

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 (Rtd), 453 Abernethy Road, Cottesloe, 6163. Tel: 277 5751. Meets third Wednesday each month in Dining Room of ANZAC Club, Perth, at 7.30pm.

BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION WANNEROO BRANCH
President: Brigadier N.E.G. (Tony) Manual (Retd), 398 Belmont Avenue, Kewdale, Tel: 277 2367. Honorary Secretary: Rupert Plaisier, 49 Bankstick Street, Joondanna, Tel: 444 4914. Meets second Tuesday each month at the Nollamara Autumn Centre, Sydney Street, Nollamara, at 7.30pm.

THE DUNKIRK VETERANS' ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH
President: Mr. Peter W. Hassell, 244 Myerston Way, Joondalup, 6027. Tel: 244 7555. Secretary: Mr. W.H. Fanter, PO Box 70, Greenbank, 6146. Tel: 2337 64 2397.

NETHERLANDS EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
President: Mr. R. Waichart, 52 Western Drive, Spearwood, Tel: 294 7019. Secretary/Assistant Treasurer: Mr. J. van Lon, 27 Breda Road, Bulimba. Meets last Wednesday each month at Association Headquarters 828 Fourth Street, Belmont. All correspondence to Secretary: NESAA, PO Box 99, Belmont, 6984.

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FROM 1970 to 1980, Paul Dibb worked in the Joint Intelligence Organisation in the Department of Defence. For all of those years he held the position successively of Head of the National Assessments Staff (1974-78) and Deputy Director of JIO (1978-80).

From December 1980 to November 1981, he worked in the Strategic Assessment and Policy Branch of the Department of Defence.

Since 1981, Mr Dibb has worked for the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre (SDSC), Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University. He is a Senior Research Fellow and Deputy Head of the Centre.

His main area of work at the ANU covers four areas:

1. Analysing Australia's strategic environment, particularly developments in the Asia-Pacific region and their implications for Australia.
2. Australian defence policy, its strengths and shortcomings and future problems.
3. The global strategic situation.

In the past twelve months, Mr Dibb has edited a book on Australian foreign relations in the 1980s which examines new Australian foreign policy and economic relations issues. He has also just finished a book on the future of Soviet strategic power during the next decade.

At a recent luncheon at Anzac House, Paul Dibb delivered a summary of the Dibb Report to over 100 RSL members. The main points from his address follow:

- We have a highly professional defence force in Australia and it is important that we develop, for this country, an Australian defence forces policy which grows an agreement among the services about the direction in which we are going and priorities that should be given.
- Expand and accelerate current development for the Indalee over-the-horizon radar programme and consider at least two more.
- Keep the Hill strike force with update programme to keep it in service until 1996.
- Build 8 light patrol frigates to perform ocean patrol and sovereignty tasks in key maritime areas.
- Australia needs a greater capability to examine nuclear treaty and nuclear main bases.
- Reduce the four B707s for inflight refuelling.
- Modify the four B707s for inflight refuelling.
- Retain present size of the regular army (32,000).
- Reserve forces: Long-term goal of 3,000 naval reservists, 26,000 army reservists, and 6,000 airforce reservists, and increased integration with regulars.
- Defence expenditure can be raised by 3% average annual growth in defence expenditure.

Mr Dibb stated that he is a great supporter of the ANZUS Treaty. It is possible, he said, to have a situation that could develop in our areas in which the United States may decide not to come to our assistance and, therefore, we would have to defend ourselves.

The USA would continue supply us with the intelligence information, spare parts and logistic support and weapons we need, but the USA has made it clear that it will not spill the blood of its own troops in support of an ally, who has not credibly done something to support its own security, who has not credibly done something to support itself.

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