Commemorative Services Across the State
LISTENING POST MESSAGE BOARD

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If possible, submissions should be typed and double-spaced. Preferred method of receiving submissions is via email. Photographs can be black and white or colour. This is your journal and contributions are welcome.
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INDEX
This Month in Australian Military History ..........4
From The President's Pen .........................5
From The Bunker .....................................6
Pensions, Advocacy & Welfare Services ...........8
From The Archives ....................................14
Notices ..................................................25-26
Sudoku and Crossword ................................27
Solutions .................................................28
The Last Post .............................................28
Cartoons ...................................................29
Contact Directory & Editorial Information ..........31

LISTENING POST

We are proud of our long association with the RSL and are pleased to provide members with the following services

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SAS WIDOWS

The RSL WA Branch has every respect for the widows of fallen SAS soldiers as it has for the widows and families of all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in serving their country.

As such, the Branch expresses its considerable disappointment concerning an article in The West Australian last week that was grossly inaccurate and unfair.

WA Branch president, Bill Gaynor OAM, said that since the motion was passed at State Congress in November last year to have the names of Australian Defence Force personnel entered on the State War Memorial, the RSL has worked tirelessly to ensure legal issues were resolved.

Mr Gaynor said the RSL had also ensured the State SAS Association had input into the process and that a memorandum of understanding was drafted and agreed to between Kings Park & Botanic Gardens and the RSL.

"Furthermore, an application had to be made to the Heritage Council for their support for the inclusion of a further panel in the crypt to include the names of those killed," Mr Gaynor said.

“It was well known that the deadline for completion was 24 April 2012. Throughout the process ASASA & the RSL worked closely together resolving all but one of the issues to arise."

Mr Gaynor said that, due to issues of confidentiality, the RSLWA was unable to obtain the contact list of SAS widows.

"The fact of the matter is we didn’t contact the widows individually as other agencies, due to confidentiality issues, would not give us the details," he said. "However both the ASASA and Channel 10 tried to contact those involved asking them to call the RSL.

“One of the widows eventually called the RSL prior to ANZAC Day and asked if wreaths could be laid as family were coming from the eastern states.

“The RSL gave her a firm and positive response saying we would be delighted. However we also advised that the Dawn Service was a silent service and that no special recognition of individual soldiers would be mentioned during the proceedings.

Mr Gaynor said the widow completely understood and was very appreciative of what the RSL had done.

“The RSL would never make a decision such as that suggested in The West Australian. Additionally, the remaining widows have made no attempt to call us or provide contact details.

“It is hurtful and unfair to portray the RSL in such a light. We have the utmost respect for war widows and will continue our core role to support the families of those who have fallen,” Mr. Gaynor said.

The above release has been endorsed by the Australian SAS Association, WA Branch.

Contact: William Gaynor, State President RSL WA 08 9287 3721

ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast

Months of planning and an early pre-dawn start for volunteers ensured that the 2012 ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast in Stirling Gardens was yet another success.

Changing from sausages to hamburgers this year was a great hit with the public, but caused havoc with both Lions and Rotary struggling to keep up with the constant demand for cooked food and hot drinks.

A huge thank you to Rotarians, Lions, relatives, friends and colleagues who pitched in to ‘serve’ our Diggers and the general public before the ANZAC Day March.

The gold coin donation raised over $4,000 for the RSL Welfare Fund, and Certificates of Appreciation were made to Volunteers and Suppliers at our breakfast meeting this morning.

We shared breakfast with Bill Gaynor OAM RFD, RSL State President; Philip Orchard, RSL CEO / State Secretary; Nola Keen, RSL Assistant State Secretary; Caitlin Harnwell, RSL Executive Assistant & Events; Marija Jelavic, ANZAC Day Event Manager; Jo Wilkie, Lotterywest; Garry Irvine and Rob Coysh, Lions Club of Bullcreek; Tony Marsiglia, Manager Coles Claremont Quarter; Margaret Guilfoyle & Kevin Trent, RC of South Perth-Burswood; Ian Fairnie, Rotary Club of Perth; Linda Le, Rotary Club of Mt Lawley; Volunteers Dianne Russell, Sue O’Donoghue and Josh Thorpe who was accompanied by his driver / mum Leanne Thorpe.

Robyn Colman – Editor – From The Bridge – Rotary Club of Canning Bridge

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Mr William Gaynor OAM RFD
State Vice President
Mr Denis Connelly
State Treasurer
Mr Phillip Draber
State Executive
Mr Damian Dixon
Mrs Donna Prytulak
Mr Gary Scott
Mr Ian Johnstone RFD
Mr John McCoart
Mr Peter Aspinall
Mr Peter Fardon
Mr Ross Davies
Mr Doug Rasmussen
Dr Neil MacNeill
Mr Kenneth Barrington
Mrs Donna Prytulak
Mr Gary Scott
Mr Ian Johnstone RFD
Mr John McCoart
Mr Peter Aspinall
Mr Peter Fardon
Mr Ross Davies
Mr Doug Rasmussen
Dr Neil MacNeill
Mr Kenneth Barrington
Trustees
Mr Don Blair RFD ED
Mr John Cox OAM JP
Mr Kevin Trent RFD
Mr Wayne Tarr RFD ED
CEO / STATE Secretary
CMR Phillip Orchard
AFNI RAN Rtd

Contact Details
The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated
ANZAC House 28 St Georges Tce
PERTH WA 6000
Email: info@rlswnq.org.au
Website: www.rlswnq.org.au
Telephone: (08) 9287 3799
Facsimile: (08) 9287 3732
WA Country Callers: 1800 259 799
PO Box 3023, East Perth, WA 6892

Contact Directory
Departments at ANZAC House
CEO / State Secretary: CMR Phillip Orchard AFNI RAN Rtd 9287 3799
Assistant State Secretary: Nola Keen 9287 3702
Membership: Kathy Clark, 8.00am to 3.30pm Mon-Thurs, 9287 3705
ANZAC House Manager: Matthew Holyday 9287 3714
Financial Services: Peter McGlade 9287 3718. Helen Beech 8.30am to 4.30pm Mon-Thurs 9287 3703
Archivist: Naomi Lam 9287 371, Departments at 8 Irwin St
Welfare: Rosalind Howat 8.30am 4.30pm Mon-Fri, 9287 3707 • 0412 009 191
Snr Advocate: Jim Boland 8.00am to 4.00pm Mon-Fri, 9287 3708
These events are only a selected number of significant dates when Australians were involved in activities of importance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 June</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, arrives in Vietnam</td>
<td>By 1967 Australia's commitment to the war in Vietnam was increasing as the Australian Task Force expanded its control over areas of Phuc Tuy Province.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 June</td>
<td>1944</td>
<td>D-Day</td>
<td>Allies land in Normandy, opening up a third front against Germany and beginning an eastward drive across northern Europe that ended with Germany's surrender in May 1945.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 June</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Diamond Hill, South Africa</td>
<td>Members of the 1st Australian Horse and the New South Wales Lancers participate in the battle of Diamond Hill, South Africa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 June</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, awarded United States Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation</td>
<td>United States Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation awarded to 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, for &quot;extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance&quot; at the Battle of Kapyong, Korea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 June</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Private L.T. Starcevich, VC</td>
<td>Private L.T. Starcevich, 2/43rd Battalion, originally from Subiaco, Western Australia, wins the Victoria Cross at Beaufort, North Borneo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 July</td>
<td>1941</td>
<td>Acting Wing Commander H. Edwards VC</td>
<td>Acting Wing Commander H. Edwards, No. 105 Squadron, Bomber Command, RAAF, originally from Fremantle, Western Australia, wins the Victoria Cross in a raid on Bremen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 July</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Death of Prime Minister Curtin</td>
<td>Prime Minister John Curtin led Australia through the darkest period of the Second World War when the threat from Japan was at its greatest. He died in office in 1945.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 July</td>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Four members of the Australian Army Nursing Service win the Military Medal</td>
<td>Four members of the Australian Army Nursing Service, Sisters Cawood, Deacon and Ross-King and Staff Nurse Derrer, won Military Medals for rescuing patients trapped in a burning Casualty Clearing Station at Trois Arbes, France. These were the first bravery awards won by Australian nurses in action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 July</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Darwin bombed by Japanese aircraft</td>
<td>Darwin was bombed 64 times during the war.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 July</td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>The advance party of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) arrives in South Vietnam</td>
<td>Colonel Ted Serong, Commander of AATTV, flies into Saigon, ahead of the main body of the AATTV, which would arrive on 3 August. The arrival of &quot;the Team&quot; signalled the beginning of more than ten years of Australian involvement in the Vietnam War.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sunny Service for ANZACS at Brockenhurst

A chilly damp day, followed by a gracious sunshine break was welcomed by all that attended the service at the historic St Nicholas Church at Brockenhurst in Hampshire, England on 22 April 2012. This annual service commemorates the 94 WWI ANZAC soldiers who are buried in the churchyard. They are still warmly remembered today by the local community, school children and NZ VIPs from London. The service was conducted by Reverend Neil Smart.

Dignitaries included Air Vice-Marshall Andrew Roberts, Mr Derek Leask, NZ High Commissioner, NZ Navy Chaplain Jamie McPhee and Air Chief-Marshal Sir Joe French. Local Normandy Veteran 98 yr Bill Price L ’d’Hon, (accompanied by Helen Playford from Western Australia), all braved the weather to give his respects and attend the service.

The Jubilee Brass band under the direction of Mr. Ian Smith MBE played wonderfully in difficult conditions under dripping umbrellas, raindrops from trees and damp long grass. The NZ bell, donated to the church in 1924 by the relatives of the soldiers was tolled 94 times during the service.

Bill Price

What ANZAC Means to Me

ANZAC Day is a day where we remember all the men and women who died to make this country what it is now. I know I would not be standing here now if it weren’t for them.

I have heard so many horrible stories about war which makes me want to ask, “Why do we fight?” “Why is there WAR?” If it were up to me war would not exist. There were very brave teenagers at the time that thought, “Oh I can do this!” and signed up to fight at Gallipoli but many died.

My Pop was the first Aboriginal man to join Australia’s most elite fighting force, the SAS. Corporal Harris enlisted in the Army 5 September 1960 and saw active service during the Borneo confrontation with Indonesia before joining the SAS in 1966. He went to Vietnam with 2 SAS squadrons and was accidentally killed by his own patrol commander while trying to locate the position of his patrol. He was one of eight Indigenous servicemen killed in action in Vietnam. Pop Ronald Harris is someone I will always remember. I wish War would just stop.

By Donna Furey

Note: Donna Furey, a year 6 student, is a Prefect at the new Malvern Springs Primary School in Ellenbrook. At the Combined Schools ANZAC Service she spoke of the loss of her Grandad Ronald (Harry) Harris in tragic circumstances in January 1969 in Bien Hoa Province. Harry Harris was the first Indigenous soldier to join the SAS.
ANZAC Day 2012

It is pleasing to receive reports from Sub-Branches and communities throughout Western Australia telling of attendances at ANZAC Day Services and to hear that they were the largest seen for many years.

While our veteran community is diminishing through the loss of our Second World War veterans the marked increase in younger veterans and the general public is becoming a defining feature of the esteem in which veterans are held.

Communities and our own members are to be congratulated on the professional manner in Services were planned and conducted. Special thanks are also offered to Lotterywest for their financial support for infrastructure and for the Gunfire Breakfast. Without their support we would not be able to achieve the impact we make in communities to remember the contribution veterans and our Defence Force make to the Australian way of life.

We were also delighted to receive communications from many remote and country areas eager to report on their ANZAC Day Services. Geraldton enthusiastically advise that over 6,000 were at their Dawn Service – and from a town population of 49,000 they considered that a record. Similarly from Cockatoo Island in Yampi Sound a small number of mineworkers on site conducted an Anzac Day service.

Island in Yampi Sound a small number of mineworkers on site conducted an Anzac Day service. Perth Dawn Service continues to attract large numbers of participants by veterans and ex-service men and women as well as descendants proudly wearing their parent’s medals on parade.

New Perth Arrangements Tested

With road development and the unavailability of the Perth Esplanade for our ANZAC Day Service we were obliged to completely review our presentation of the 2012 ANZAC Day March and Service in Perth. For 97 years (less 3 years – during rail construction) the Perth Esplanade has been our ‘Traditional Parade Ground’ but the Perth Foreshore Development means that location will no longer be available.

As an alternative we were offered – and accepted – Supreme Court Gardens for our Service. With just three years to the Centenary of ANZAC we accepted the offer and planned accordingly. We were also able to re-route the March through the Central Business District by marching from West to East thus achieving the outcome of marching through the City. In review, the operation was a success but some refinement will be necessary for the management of the parade and general public in Supreme Court Gardens at the Service.

This year we also experienced increased participation by veterans and ex-service men and women as well as descendants proudly wearing their parent’s medals on parade.

Newspaper Report

Following a most successful ANZAC Day it was most disappointing to note an article prominently displayed in “The West Australian” on Thursday 26 April 2012 taking the RSL to task over its alleged handling of the placement of inscriptions on the State War Memorial of deceased veterans killed in action in recent conflicts. The article was published without giving the RSL the opportunity to respond to the allegation that the widows were not personally notified of the completion of the task.

The RSL has responded to the allegation and that response is published for your information. (page 3)

From The National President

The Australian Government’s stated intention to bring the Federal Budget back into surplus led inevitably to reductions in appropriations for the two portfolios of most interest to members of the League - Veteran’s Affairs and Defence. While some aspects of the budget were reasonable given prevailing circumstances, others such as the projected reduction in funding for Defence over the forward estimates are worrying.

It was also disappointing, if entirely predictable, that the government continued to reject a more equitable method of indexing military superannuation payments. The option of crafting an immediate RSL response to the 2012 Federal Budget outcome was not taken up because the long term implications of the budget reductions need to be examined carefully in the light of prevailing and projected global and Australian economic and strategic circumstances. The bleak economic outlook in Europe, ongoing weakness in the US economy and volatility on world financial and stock markets do not augur well for future security. In this context it is worth recalling that the seeds of the Second World War were sown in part by the economic collapse of European economies in the 1920s and early 1930s – and the reduction in defence spending by the European democracies in the forlorn hope that peace would prevail.

For these and other reasons there is a need to thoroughly consider the many issues arising from the 2012 Federal Budget. This includes the apparent abandonment of the 2009 Defence White Paper intentions for the future structure of the Australian Defence Force; and the implications for the future of changes to the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004.

Work has started on producing a detailed RSL response with the aim of launching this as an RSL policy paper at the 2012 National Conference in Sydney on Wednesday, 26 September. This document will take account of representations by members of the League at the forthcoming State & Territory Branch Conferences along with input from the National Veterans’ Affairs Committee, the National Conditions of Service Committee, and the National Defence Committee. It will be considered by the National Executive before being made public at the National Conference. To the extent possible it is intended that the document will identify areas of federal expenditure where savings might be made.

Examples of two areas which may be included are:

• The substantial and questionable expenditure by Governments of both the major political parties on advertising and promoting their policies when occupying the treasury benches. Oppositions traditionally complain bitterly about the lack of justification for such expenditure – but when in office resort to using Commonwealth funds for precisely the same purpose. Massive national advertising blitzes are very expensive and substantial savings could be made.

The contrary argument about the essentiality of keeping Australians informed about government policy initiatives is specious when judged against the protestations and condemnations of the major Australian political parties about this practice and expenditure when in opposition.

• Ongoing expenditure by the Attorney General’s Department and the Department of Defence in seeking to revise the Australian system of military justice. The current system of military justice based on the Defence Force Discipline Act 1982 may have shortcomings – but it is constitutionally sound, is respected, is well understood by members of the Australian Defence Force and has stood the test of time. Legislation to substantially amend this military justice system based on Courts Martial was enacted by the Howard Government in the Defence Legislation Amendment Bill 2006 but subsequently was found to be unconstitutional by the High Court. More recent attempts at revision by the Rudd and Gillard Governments have thus far failed to produce legislation likely to withstand similar constitutional challenges. Despite this decade of expensive failure, substantial scarce resources continue to be devoted to this highly questionable aim.
The Battle of Maryang San

Continuing on with our series from the “Forgotten War” (Korea War 1950-1953). In this article we look at the battle for a hill that was known as Maryang San (Hill 317).

After the battle at Kapyong (See January edition of “The Listening Post”) on 26 April 1951 3RAR was transferred to the 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade and in June-July the Brigade joined with the 25th Canadian and the 29th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade to form the 1st Commonwealth Division which was to take part in “Operation Commando”.

“Operation Commando” was tasked with the attacking and securing of Maryang San along with the hill known as the “Hinge”. As long as the Communist forces held Maryang San they had control of the area.

An earlier attempt by American forces to dislodge the defences had failed with the Americans suffering heavy losses. In September the 1st Commonwealth Division was given the task for a general advance, “Operation Commando”, to push the Communist Forces beyond the 38th Parallel.

The commander of 3RAR was Lt Col Hassett. The attack for Maryang San began on 5 October 1951 at 0400hrs with a heavy mist allowing the Australian forces to make steady forward movements. At 1000hrs the mist began to lift exposing the attackers; however, the Communist Forces defenders hesitated in their momentum. This allowed the Australians to capture the first line of defence in a fierce burst of fighting. In the afternoon, after containing a series of attacks, “C” Company under the command of Major Jack Gerke, a West Australian, moved quickly to occupy the summit resulting in 3RAR capturing their objective. Over the next few days the Australians had to resist continuous attacks trying to wrest the hill back under their control.

The Australians were successful in achieving their objective on 3 and 5 October 1951. This was a result of the company and platoon commanders responding skilfully to Hassett’s directions with the individual of the company and platoon commanders responding to Hassett’s directions with the individual objective on 3 and 5 October 1951. This was a result of the Communist forces held Maryang San they had control of the area.

The strategically important Maryang San remained in the hands of communist forces for the remainder of the Korean War. Warrant Officer Arthur Standley called Maryang San:

One of the best planned operations, commanded by experts, fought with outstanding bravery by all who took part, in some of the worst country in the world, with victory at the end.

Note: Some Korean Veterans have said that this engagement at Maryang San was more intense than Kapyong, which 3RAR received the Presidential Citation. See April edition of The Listening Post, From the Bunker.

Foot Note:

Lt Col Hassett continued with his service career becoming Chief of Defence Force, General Sir Francis George Hassett AC KBE CB DSO MVO passed away on the 20 April 1977 in Canberra.

Major Jack Gerke DSO AM passed away on the 20 April 2005.

WO1 Arthur Standley MBE MM later became RSM, Training Command.

Reference:

1. Australian War Memorial

From the Bunker

Battle of Maryang San
3-7 October 1951

Machine-gunners fire in support of C Company during Operation Commando

1 Hill 317 and adjoining country, site of battles between 3 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment and Chinese forces. Known as Operation Commando. Hill 317 was a strongly defended Chinese position that was captured by 3 Battalion RAR during the battle of Maryang San in October 1951. During five days of fierce fighting, Australian troops dislodged a numerically superior enemy from a position of great strength and retained Hill 317 while under heavy enemy fire. For their actions in the battle of Maryang San, the men of 3 Battalion RAR won altogether two Distinguished Orders, nine Military Crosses, ten Distinguished Conduct Medals, nine Military Medals, one Member of the Order of the British Empire and fifteen mentions in despatches.

Foot Note:

Lt Col Hassett continued with his service career becoming Chief of Defence Force, General Sir Francis George Hassett AC KBE CB DSO MVO passed away on the 20 April 1977 in Canberra.


WO1 Arthur Standley MBE MM later became RSM, Training Command.

Reference:

1. Australian War Memorial

Canberra
### 227 General Francis George Hassett

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth</td>
<td>1918-04-11</td>
<td>Marrickville, NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1935-03</td>
<td>Entered the Royal Military College.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date promoted</td>
<td>1938</td>
<td>Promoted to under officer, the senior cadet in a company, which is the equivalent to a company sergeant major.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1938</td>
<td>Posted to the Darwin Mobile Force and given command of a rifle platoon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date and unit at appointment</td>
<td>1940-03-01</td>
<td>Enlisted in the 2nd AIF.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of honour or award</td>
<td>1941-07-08</td>
<td>Mention in Despatches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date promoted</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, the youngest in the Australian Army.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of honour or award</td>
<td>1945-07-19</td>
<td>Officer of the Order of the British Empire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of honour or award</td>
<td>1947-03-06</td>
<td>Mention in Despatches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1948 - 1951</td>
<td>Appointed General Staff Officer Grade 1 to the 2nd Division.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1951-03</td>
<td>Took command of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1951-06</td>
<td>Took command of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, in Korea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1951-10-05 - 1951-10-08</td>
<td>The 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Francis Hassett, fought the battle of Maryang San.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of honour or award</td>
<td>1952-02-01</td>
<td>Companion of the Distinguished Service Order.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1960 - 1963</td>
<td>Commanded the 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Group in Malaya.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of honour or award</td>
<td>1966-01-01</td>
<td>Commander of the Order of the British Empire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Became General Officer in command of Australia’s Northern Command.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of honour or award</td>
<td>1970-06-13</td>
<td>Companion of the Order of the Bath.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Promoted to Vice Chief of the General Staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Chief of the General Staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1975-11-24 - 1976-02-08</td>
<td>Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of honour or award</td>
<td>1976-06-09</td>
<td>Companion of the Order of Australia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of honour or award</td>
<td>1976-06-12</td>
<td>Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1977-04-20</td>
<td>Retired due to ill health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of death</td>
<td>2008-06-11</td>
<td>Canberra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Canberra.  

Maryang San is the highest pyramid-shaped hill to the right. Lieutenant Colonel Frank Hassett celebrates his 34th birthday with Major Jeffrey "Jim" Shelton, 4 November 1951.
Welfare & Pension News
With Rosalind Howat Welfare Officer

PENSIONS ADVOCACY & WELFARE SERVICES

Wintry weather has arrived in Perth and along with winter we have the “Flu Season”. Seniors who contract the flu can on occasions be susceptible to complications. This is often due to pre-existing medical conditions worsened by the flu virus. Check with your GP if a flu vaccine would be beneficial to you. There have been mixed opinions on the benefits of an annual flu vaccine for the elderly. Heating the home and eating well in winter are also a concern to some elderly Veterans.

With the recent State Budget again announcing substantial increases in utility charges people on a fixed limited income are finding it more difficult to pay high utility accounts and feed themselves. If you are having difficulties in this area please contact the Welfare Officer at ANZAC House. Some assistance may be available to eligible Veterans and their dependants experiencing financial hardship.

Bomber Command memorial dedication grants
The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Warren Snowdon, has announced the names of 32 veterans who will travel to London next month as part of an official commemorative mission to recognise the service of Australians who served with Bomber Command during the Second World War. The Welfare Officer has received a number of requests for assistance from veterans wishing to attend the Bomber Command memorial dedication in London. The Government, through the RAAF Association, is helping Australian Veterans of Bomber Command make the journey to London. For more information on how to apply for a grant visit www.dva.gov.au/grants.

RLS Volunteers
RLS has a number of wonderful volunteers who regularly visit Veterans in local Hospitals and Aged Care Facilities. The Welfare Officer would like to introduce you to the latest hospital visitor to join the team. Rev Canon Ken Barrett is a City of Mandurah RSL member and is offering to visit Veterans and their dependants in the Peel region.

Rev Barrett joined the RSL in Collie many years ago when he arrived in Australia from England. He has served as Chaplin to both City of Mandurah and Collie RSL Sub-Branches. During the latter part of WWII and for a period afterwards Rev Barrett served in the Royal Air Force. This was followed by a period in private business prior to his ordination. Now retired, Rev Barrett is currently Chaplin to Peel Community Palliative Care Service where he is on call 24 hours a day seven days a week. Rev Barrett is happy to offer the same to RSL members and their families. Rev Barrett can be contacted on 9581 2519.

The WA Sailors Soldiers & Airmen’s Relief Fund Trust
The WA Sailors Soldiers & Airmen’s Relief Fund Trust assists members and their dependants experiencing financial hardship or unable to provide the necessities of life for themselves.

The Trustees meet on the second Tuesday of each month to consider applications for assistance. The Trustees will evaluate all reasonable requests for assistance. Financial grants are restricted to those that are genuinely in need and unable to pay for some items or purpose required to preserve quality of life. For further information please contact the Fund Administrator on 9287 3707 or mobile 0412 009 191.

Did You Know?
Changes to the nature of service:

Periodically, the nature of service in an operation may be changed following extensive review. Any such change may result in a change to medallic recognition.

For example, if the nature of service in an operation is upgraded from non-warlike to warlike service, then the medallic recognition for that service may change from the Australian Service Medal (ASM) to the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM). In a case like this, recipients of the ASM will be obliged to return that medal to the Directorate of Honours and Awards before being issued with the AASM. This aligns with the long standing policy that two medals are not awarded for the same service.

Fraudulent wearing of medals:
While most people only wear the medals to which they are entitled, sadly there are some people who wear medals they have not earned.

Section 808(1), (4) of the Defence Act 1900 makes it an offence for a person to wear a service decoration that they are not entitled to wear, or to falsely represent themselves as a person on whom a service decoration was conferred.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) has primary responsibility for conducting investigations into alleged Commonwealth offences, while the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP) has responsibility for prosecuting such offences.

Defence is not in a position to influence or comment on the AFP’s Case Categorisation and Prioritisation Model, which determines if the reported matters are investigated by them. However, Defence will respond to a request by the AFP, CDPP or some other authorised investigation agency to supply information on individual medal entitlements as part of a formal investigation of improper or fraudulent wearing of medals.

Defence Honours and Awards Publication – Issue 12, April 2012

St John of God Health Care

St John of God Health Care is working with Bunbury-based Perkins Builders, to construct the largest scale redevelopment of the South West Health Campus and boost specialist services for thousands of people in the entire South West of Western Australia for decades ahead.

The single storey, 868sqm Coronary Care Unit and the two-storey 1450sqm Comprehensive Cancer Centre will offer a range of services to enable public and private patients access to high quality care within the South West, nearer to families and support networks.

The South West of WA is home to more than 150,000 people. Every year, more than 2,000 of these people are admitted to hospital with acute heart disease. And more than 700 are diagnosed with cancer.

Due for completion in late 2012, this bold and visionary project includes an Angiography Suite, expanded Renal Dialysis Unit and off-campus accommodation and wellness centre for cancer patients and their carers only 4kms and minutes away at nearby Dalleyup.

Irene Burlein - Manager Community Engagement & Marketing - St John of God Bunbury Hospital - Carr Russell Hwy & Robertson Drive Bunbury WA 6230 - PO Box 5067 Bunbury WA 6231 - T (08) 9722 1632 - F (08) 9722 1650 - M 0438 620 020 - irene.burlein@sjog.org.au - www.sjog.org.au/bunbury

EX-WRANS Association (WA) Branch
Meet: 2nd Monday each month at 12.30 pm
Venue: ANZAC House, St Georges Tce, Perth
Past and present serving personnel welcome to join for social activities, renew friendships and make new friends.

President: Mrs Suzanne James - 9332 1294
Secretary: Mrs Natalie Cullity - 9380 4414

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2012 ANZAC Day Commemorations

Three Springs – Arrino RSL Sub-Branch

The ANZAC service held at the War Memorial in Three Springs was a great success, the best ever, and was attended by over 330 residents and guests.

We had the usual support of the Geraldton Sea Cadets and our guest of honour was Mr Warren Nathan MNZM, originally from New Zealand and of Maori decent. He performed a very impressive Maori war ritual (complete with spear) with an educational speech, partly in his native language, translated by Mrs Nathan.

New Zealand expats loved the service and talked of home sickness. Local singer-songwriter Warwick Trant sang and played “The Pain of War” written by Sean Boonstra and composed by Warwick Trant.

The school choir from Carnamah of combined primary and secondary students, conducted by Miss Emily Guthrie (high school teacher), did an excellent job. At completion of the service everyone enjoyed a sandwich and a drink in the Community Hall.

Sean Boonstra, publicity officer.

Mr Warren Nathan MNZM with Three Springs Arrino RSL President Ray Morgan.

Esperance RSL Sub-Branch

Our Dawn Service was well attended once again by the young and aged community. We also had some visitors from interstate and a few from overseas as well. The Gunfire Breakfast was again provided by the Esperance “Rotary Club” and was enjoyed by all.

Our Main Service was also well attended with a larger crowd than the Dawn Service. The weather was very kind to us, not too hot, just comfortable. Lunch was provided by the “Lions Club” of Esperance, (hopefully for years to come!)

To the members of Rotary and Lions Clubs, a big thank you to you both for your ongoing support.

Ray Gray – Publicity – Esperance Sub-Branch.

This photo shows part of the mid-morning march up the main street to the War Memorial. A good time and camaraderie was enjoyed by all.

An Anonymous ANZAC Day Tribute

Whilst visiting the Monument at the RSL Memorial Park, Spearwood Avenue, I spotted something on the monument which, at first glance, I thought was rubbish. As I got closer I found this very touching tribute to the ANZACs, it was a UDL can and a note written on a piece of cardboard, it read – “I will remember them for their sacrifice, me a simple lonely stupid hard working ozy that will never amount to anything that those brave heros did…”

To this unknown person I say you are not stupid, far from it, your tribute was from the heart and it has touched the members of the RSL. I would like to shake your hand and say “Thank You” on behalf of all those that have served and gave their lives for our country – “We Will Remember Them”.

Arthur Stanton - RSL Vice President (Ceremonial)

ACU

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SERVICEMEN AND SERVICEWOMEN

Are you a current service person or an ex-serviceman or ex-servicewoman of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent? If so, we would like to speak to you as part of a new project documenting the experiences of Indigenous service personnel and veterans both in the armed forces and civilian life.

If you would be interested in participating in this project or would like more information, please contact:

Dr. Noah Riseman
School of Arts and Sciences
ACU
03 9953 3226
Noah.Riseman@acu.edu.au

OR

Naomi Wolfe
Academic Coordinator, Jim-baa-yer Centre for Indigenous Education and Research
03 9953 3839
jimbaayer@acu.edu.au

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ACU for Indigenous Education and Research
School of Arts and Sciences
Academic Coordinator, Jim-baa-yer Centre

The lady in this photo is Alva Courtis who is one of our esteemed members, who recently attended the 70th Anniversary of the bombing of Darwin where she happened to be during that time as a member of the Army Nursing Corps.

Archie Courtis, ARN, WAC

An anonymous ANZAC Day tribute

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Arthur Stanton - RSL Vice President (Ceremonial)
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Northam RSL Sub-Branch

The Northam Sub-Branch had an extremely successful ANZAC Day again this year. The Dawn Service attracted a record attendance of around 330 - 350 people and it was very encouraging that a large number were younger people and family groups.

The Memorial Hall was full for the Gunfire Breakfast with the local Apex Club and RSL members cooking up and serving another fantastic breakfast.

A large number of participants in the march made for a great spectacle. Lead by Phil Sullivan riding in full WWI Light Horse uniform. The parade consisted of several restored military jeeps carrying those unable to march, a restored 1940's model Chevrolet army truck, contingents of Naval personnel from HMAS Stirling and RAAF personnel from 79 Squadron, Pearce and local veterans from WWII, Korea, Vietnam and other South East Asian conflicts and National Servicemen. There were many local services also represented including Western Australian Police Service, Northam Fire and Rescue, St Johns Ambulance and Northam SES. Girl Guides, several local schools and the Salvation Army were also represented. Parade Marshall Ed Freemen-Smith was in fine voice and the Reviewing Officer, Peter Altham ED, did a splendid job and certainly looked the part wearing his old 10th Light Horse beret.

A large amount of people attended the main service and it was again encouraging that so many young people were in attendance. Sub-Branch Secretary, Reg Stevens, gave the ANZAC address and spoke briefly on the Gallipoli Landing and went on to the fine work Australian soldiers are doing in the rebuilding of facilities and the training of people in Afghanistan which is aimed to allow self-sufficiency and the eventual withdrawal of our soldiers.

Bugler and former RAN sailor Luis Lim performed very well at both the Dawn and main services. We have been extremely lucky to have the Combined Districts Concert Band play in the march and at the service which has lifted the entire service to another level. Local tenor, Mr Don Moore, performed the Australian and New Zealand National Anthems with a high level of professionalism.

The 519 Australian Cadet Unit gave support to the RSL all day and did much fine work including Flag Raising, Colour Party and Wreath Laying escorts. Commanding Officer Captain, Terry Dyer, has the unit at a very high standard.

Refreshments were available for the community at the conclusion of the service.

The Northam Sub-Branch was extremely proud to once again host very professional and well attended ANZAC Day commemoration services.

Reg Stevens

Ellenbrook Combined Schools' ANZAC Service

On Friday, 27 April the Ellenbrook Combined Schools (Arbor Grove, Avely, Ellenbrook Christian College, Ellenbrook Primary, Ellenbrook Secondary College, Holy Cross, Malvern Springs, and St Helena’s) held their ANZAC Service at what will become the Ellenbrook Memorial Amphitheatre.

Over 1,100 students attended this moving service that was marked by Premier Colin Barnett’s personal story of his own family’s involvement in our wars. The students from each school then told of their own understanding of ANZAC. Vietnam Veterans were deeply moved when Corporal Ronald Harris’s (17 January 1969) grand-daughter spoke. State President, Bill Gaynor, said the Ode, and members of the Ellenbrook Sub-Branch supported the program.

Dr Neil MacNeill

Rottnest Island

The ANZAC Day service held on 25 April carried on a great tradition of celebrating this special day for all Australians. The first ceremony on the Island is recorded as taking place on 25 April 1931 – when a parade of service men and women was held.

The moving ceremony began at 6.00 am on the fuel jetty with a solitary piper ending with a lament as he reached the terraced area in front of the Dome.

Around 350 Island visitors and residents gathered in the early dawn. This year joined for the first time by the Western Australian Consul from Croatia and Vice-Consul from Italy, as internees on the Island in WWI and WWII were also remembered.

The service was followed by a Gunfire breakfast sponsored by Lotterywest. The Rottnest Volunteer Guides co-ordinated the Gunfire breakfast, supported by the Rottnest Island Business Community. We have it on good authority that their efforts were gratefully appreciated by visitors and Island residents alike who gave up a warm bed for an early morning start!

Helen Priestley - A/ Event Development Officer - Rottnest Island Authority
13 Field Squadron, Karrakatta

Another brilliant dawn with sapper mates at 13 Field Squadron, Karrakatta. Mick Ryan

Royal Australian Engineers Association

"Fall out" in Stirling Gardens, Perth ANZAC Day 2012.

Port Hedland RSL Sub-Branch

The Dawn Service in Port Hedland was a sea of "high vis". Workers arrived at the Service on their way home from work or on their way to work. This was the biggest crowd we have ever had.

Following the Dawn Service a Gunfire Breakfast was held at the Pilbara Regiment. The parade at 9.00 am attracted a smaller but enthusiastic crowd. The highlight was a fly-over by a Spitfire.

ANZAC House was open to patrons from 10.00 am. This was well supported by members and guests.

Robyn Middleton - Secretary

ANZAC Day Service at Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre

2012 witnessed the tenth anniversary of an ANZAC Day Parade at Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre with 4 Platoon cadets providing the guard and flag raising team. Young detainees gave presentations of poems, the Ode and In Flanders Fields in an outdoor auditorium in front of staff, 100+ detainees, teachers and guests.

The guest speaker, Dr Tony Thatcher, who is chair of the RSL State Tribunal, spoke about a different type of courage now needed by the detainees to work at their studies and never to return to institutional life.

Tony Thatcher

The Pickering Brook Heritage Group

The Pickering Brook Heritage Group held its inaugural commemorative Dawn Service for ANZAC Day at the newly completed District War Memorial.

The service was attended by approximately 150 locals from the district and surrounding area. Wreaths were laid by two identities on behalf of the local community, two local councillors from the Shire of Kalamunda as well as personal wreaths laid on behalf of families.

The district was part of the Returned Soldier Settlement Scheme and we felt that it was appropriate to erect our own monument to those who served.

Beverley Giumelli - President
The release of the 1920s and 1930s issues of The Listening Post is scheduled for 3 August 2012. We will be releasing these issues on the internet, details of which will be announced in the next issue of The Listening Post. The Listening Post is the official organ of the League in Western Australia and since December 1921 has been communicating League policy, repatriation policies and issues affecting the defence of Australia. We will be slowly releasing the remaining back issues of The Listening Post throughout the year which will be announced on our website and in this publication. For this article, the focus will be on some of the highlights of The Listening Post in the 1920s and 1930s.

During the 1920s and 1930s, the League in WA fought for the establishment of the State War Memorial. The conflict between establishing a utilitarian memorial as opposed to a monument was debated throughout Western Australia with the Premier of the time supporting the building of a hospital rather than a monument. The details of which are documented in The Listening Post together with the issues experienced in fundraising for a memorial.

The issue of preference in employment for returned service personnel is a recurring theme throughout this period and is documented within The Listening Post. One particular editorial focussed on the appointment of a secretary to the RSPCA that was not a returned service person. The appointment of Miss Villiers, who was not a returned service person, to the position sparked much debate with a rally organised in the Perth Town Hall with the President of the RSL in the Chair. The protest continued for over a year with the RSL continuing to push for the appointment of a returned service person.

Details on repatriation policies form the main part of The Listening Post during this period with the publication both advertising the entitlements available for returned service personnel and voicing concern for any inequalities in repatriation policies. Articles outlining entitlements and the take up rate were included in The Listening Post as well as information from Sub-Branches as to the hardships experienced by soldier settlers.

The building of ANZAC House, the emerging threat posed by Germany and Japan and the announcement of war are all features of The Listening Post in this period. As the official organ of the League in Western Australia, The Listening Post is a valuable research tool in understanding the returned soldier experience.

A section of the crowd at the Ellenbrook Dawn Service.

On a very warm morning, 1,200 people gathered at the Ellenbrook Amphitheatre in the still, predawn darkness. The crowds at the Ellenbrook Dawn service just keep getting bigger each year. Families moved into position from 5.00 am. The Ellenbrook service is very much community-based, with strong support from the Scouts, Police and Air Force Cadets, Sing Australia, Ellenbrook Youth Performance Group, Craig Anderson and Sanden Honda (spiritual), Andrea Taylor (vocalist), and Jeremy Garlett (WA Police and didgeridoo player extraordinaire).

Our Gunfire Breakfast catered for about 450 people who took the opportunity to stay and reminisce. This successful service was made possible by the strong support from our community and our brilliant, hard-working members. Dr Neil MacNeill (Secretary/Membership)
ANZAC Day 2012 in Kokoda

Chief of Army, Lieutenant General David Morrison AO represented the Australian Defence Force on the 70th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign at the 2012 ANZAC Day services in Papua New Guinea.

Three Kokoda war veterans of the 39th Battalion, Alan “Kanga” Moore, Cecil Driscoll and Bill Bellairs, were hosted by the Chief of Army at the Dawn Service at the Bomana War Cemetery. The Dawn Service was attended by dignitaries from Papua New Guinea and Australia including the Minister for Defence, The Hon. Mr Stephen Smith MP.

The Chief of Army and the veterans then went by helicopter to the Isurava Memorial Service on the Kokoda Track. Accompanying the veterans was Senior Cadet Under Officer Nicholas Dolling from The Southport School Army Cadet Unit located on the Gold Coast who carried the 39th Battalion Banner at both services.

The veterans received a rousing reception from the many trekkers who had camped overnight at Isurava to join the ANZAC Day memorial service. During the moving service at the Memorial, in the mist covering the Owen Stanley Ranges, the veterans of the 39th Battalion laid wreaths in memory of their fallen comrades. The World War Two battles in Papua New Guinea claimed the lives of more than 8,000 Australians in campaigns fought between January 1942 and August 1945.

The fighting in Papua New Guinea was shaped by the hostile terrain, the vicious close quarter ground war, the stoicism and the bravery displayed by troops on both sides. Allied soldiers who lost their lives fighting in New Guinea are buried in the Bomana War Cemetery, their bodies brought in by the Australian Army Graves Services from burial grounds in the areas where the battles had been fought.

70 Years Since Kokoda

Proposed Australian Government commemorative mission to Timor-Leste in August 2012

The purpose of the Mission is to conduct activities to commemorate the Timor campaign during the Second World War.

The Minister would like to invite the nomination of Australian veterans who served in the Timor Campaign in 1942-1943. The total size of the group will be no greater than six veterans. The mission itinerary is still being developed; however, the delegation is likely to be away for approximately four days from around 24 August 2012.

Contact the Department of Veteran Affairs for more information.