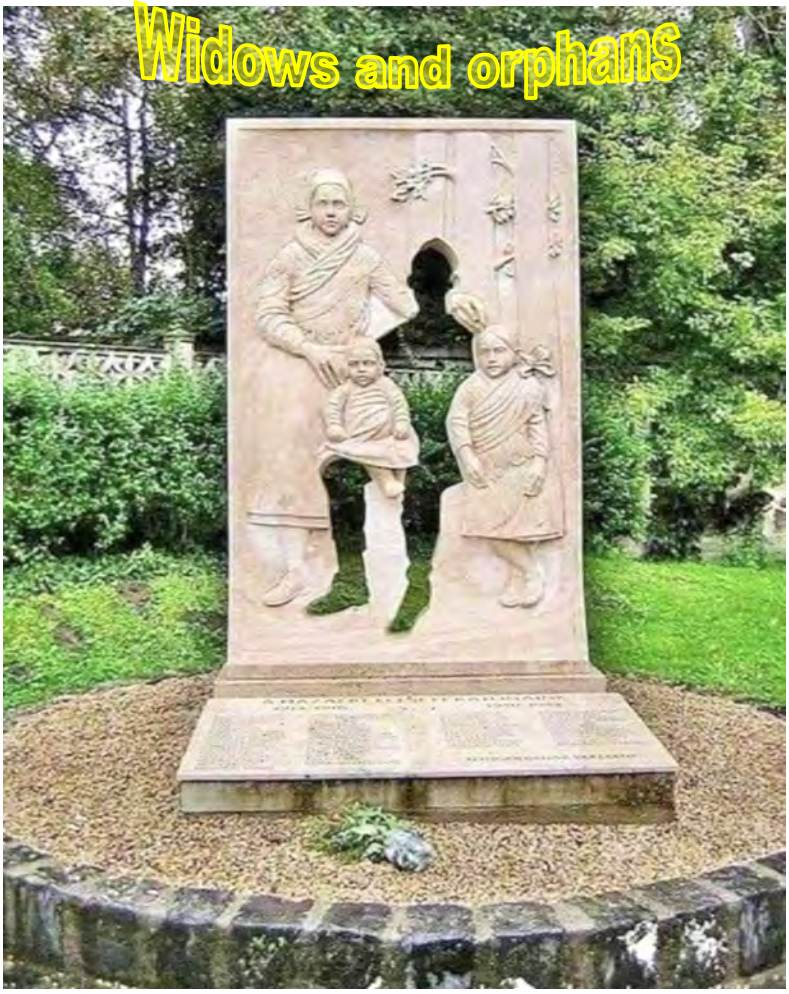
BUSTED BUGLE



RSL NSW
CARDIFF sub-Branch

CARDIFF RSL SUB-BRANCH NEWSLETTER

December 2024

Sub Branch Executive		
President	Geoff Kelly	
Vice Presidents	Ray Kelly	Jamie Purdon **BEng (Hons), MProjMgt, MSc (FTE), MIEAust CPEng**
Treasurer	Ben Coutman **BBus, PGDAFM, CPA**	
Secretary	Gary (Mick) James **AssocDipEng (Struct) JP**	

Committee		
Des Abberfield	Gary Griffith	Derek Kenyon JP
Peter Sneesby	Jennifer Kenyon	

Trustees		
Paul Feenan JP	Geoff Kelly	Damian Croke

Wellbeing Advocates	Peter Sneesby Gary Griffith
Compensation Advocate	Paul McGlynn MBA, MBus(HRM) MEd
Editor Bugle	Paul Feenan BSocSc (JusticeStud), AssocDip (PolStud), JP

Cardiff Sub Branch Welfare

Our Wellbeing Advocates continue their important welfare work.

For the months of August and November 2024, they made 115 visits to veterans in the following hospitals:. Lake Macquarie Private, Warners Bay Private, John Hunter and Newcastle Private.

Attended to two RSL funerals

While performing 6 Remembrance Day Services.

ON THE COVER

In many cases, war memorials focus primarily on the soldiers who fought. However, this Hungarian memorial shifts the narrative towards the profound loss experienced by families. It depicts a mother and her two children sitting beside an empty space where their father should be, poignantly representing his absence.

This memorial serves as a poignant reminder to Hungarians of the true cost of war, highlighting the impact on those left behind. It encourages reflection on the countless lives lost and the enduring pain caused by conflict.

The message of this memorial extends beyond national borders; it speaks to the world, emphasizing that there are no real winners in war. The true victors are not those who claim victory on the battlefield but rather the widows and orphans who must endure the aftermath. This memorial stands as a universal symbol of remembrance and a call for peace.

LAST POST

The following members of the Cardiff RSL sub Branch passed away since August 2024.

2742349	*Private*	*Theo Francis Walker*	*Army*
R55028	*Leading Seaman*	*Doug Gordon GREEN*	*Navy*

President's Christmas Message

Dear Members of the Cardiff Sub-Branch,

As we approach the festive season, I want to extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you. Christmas is a time for reflection, gratitude, and togetherness, and it is in this spirit that I write to you today.

This year has been one of challenges and triumphs, and through it all, the strength and camaraderie of our munity have shone brightly. Your dedication and support have been the cornerstone of our success, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

As we enjoy the festive season, let's take a moment to remember the brave service members who are deployed and working to protect our freedoms. Their dedication allows us to celebrate in peace. While we gather with loved ones, let's keep these courageous individuals in our thoughts and prayers. Their sacrifice is a true example of selflessness.

May this festive season bring you joy, warmth, and a renewed sense of hope. Let us look forward to the new year with optimism and a continued commitment to supporting one another.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Warm regards,

Geoff Kelly
President,

RSL NSW, Cardiff Sub-Branch

Cardiff Sub Branch Welfare and compensation Advocacy Service.

We are fortunate to have the volunteers who work for the benefit of veterans, and the offer is open for any member who has the time and inclination to volunteer and relieve the pressure our volunteers work under.

Compensation Advocacy Services for Veterans.

Paul McGlynn is the sub Branch Compensation Advocate, and is currently providing Claims Advocacy assistance to eighty four (84) Veterans, He works from the Cardiff sub-Branch office, where his in-person service is available on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Paul also offers Claims Advocacy assistance to Veterans other than sub-Branch members as well as current serving Defence personnel at the Hunter Veteran Wellbeing Centre and at RAAF Base Williamtown. He also providing his services every Tuesday as part of RSL LifeCare. His interaction and initiative is seeing a growth in Veteran inquiries and applications for sub-Branch membership.

Paul is dedicated to growing his training and experience to support all veterans. He has completed the Level 2 Workbook Experience Log (WEL) for Compensation Advocacy Training and will be undertaking the ATDP Level 2 Consolidation and Assessment Workshop scheduled this December.

Upon completion of this workshop, Paul will have completed the ATDP Level 2 training, obtaining all of competency that will enable him to provide Compensation Advocacy services without supervision which is also a prerequisites to become a Level 2 Mentor.

Paul plans to commence his Level 3 training in 2025 as currently, there are no Level 3 Compensation Advocates in the Newcastle or Hunter region.

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Birthday wishes

Wow, 102 years! That's an incredible milestone for our oldest veteran Murial Jackson, who reaches the landmark this month. Murial, your life journey is truly inspiring, and it’s a joy to celebrate this remarkable occasion with you.

Wishing you a wonderful birthday filled with love, joy, and all the happiness in the world. Happy Birthday, Murial

Hon Pat Conroy MP

Member for Shortland

One Step Closer to a Permanent Dredging Solution for Swansea Channel.

One of the key commitments I made at the 2022 election commitment along with the Member for Hunter, Dan Repacholi was $10 million in funding for Lake Macquarie City Council to purchase a dredge for the Swansea Channel.

I was really pleased that Lake Macquarie City Council voted to bring forward a proposal for ongoing dredging, including plans for a sand transfer system and investigating relocating dredged sand to Blacksmiths Beach.

This vote means we are one step closer to making a permanent dredging solution for Swansea Channel a reality. A permanent dredge for the Swansea Channel is essential for a long-term solution to the constantly reoccurring silting. It will unlock boating, tourism and water sporting activities on Lake Macquarie, and generating significant tourist visits and economic output.

I was honoured to be asked to deliver the keynote address at the recent Hunter Defence Conference. I spoke about the strength of our region's defence industry and opportunities for it to continue to grow. With a world-class university, a skilled and adaptable workforce and an amazing lifestyle, the Hunter Valley's future is brighter than ever before. Especially for those in the Defence industry.

The Government has now put in place the foundations for a stronger defence force that is fully-fit to respond to the challenges of a much less certain world. The first National Defence Strategy is our plan to deliver the significant and urgent changes required to address Australia's challenging strategic circumstances.

Together with the rebuilt Integrated Investment Program, and the Defence Industry Development Strategy, we now have the blueprint to transform the ADF into the integrated, focused force we need in order to safeguard Australia's security for decades to come.

I wish you a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Pat.

Committed to the deep.

Cardiff sub Branch member Petty Officer (rtd) Peter Burns, Royal Australian Navy passed away from pancreatic cancer on the 13th September 2022.

When Peter was diagnosed with the fatal disease, before his death he told his family of his wish to have his ashes spread at sea.

On the 8th November 2024 HMAS Hobart visited Newcastle and on leaving the harbour was carrying Peter's ashes.

HMAS Hobart

Off the coast the ship's crew gathered on deck where his ashes were scattered at sea, according to his wish.

HMAS Hobart Ship's Company attending the Committal of Ashes to sea Ceremony.

In our minds he remains forever present

We will remember him

How it happened.

Peter's wife, Karen, played a crucial role in ensuring his final wish was fulfilled, demonstrating her unwavering love and dedication.

Karen Burns with Loida and Ian Callaghan

Karen reached out to the Cardiff RSL sub-Branch for help in fulfilling Peter's wish. Wellbeing Support Officer Noel Hellier connected her with Midshipman Ian Callaghan from Training Ship Tobruk. Ian and his wife Loida, a Chaplain, played a key role in planning the committal ceremony.

On 30 October, the Navy confirmed that Peter's ashes could be scattered off Newcastle from HMAS Hobart. Since Karen could not travel to Sydney, Ian and Loida visited her for a handover ceremony and then delivered the ashes to Garden Island.

At 0630h off the coast of Newcastle, HMAS Hobart's crew conducted the committal. PO Horan scattered PO Burns' ashes, completing Peter's final journey. The ship then entered the Port of Newcastle, where Fort Scratchley fired a four-round salute. Karen and her children, Danielle, and Johnathon watched the warship enter the harbour. They later met with the Commanding Officer, Commander Williams, and the ship's Chaplain to receive photos and a map of the ceremony location. The Newcastle Morning Herald covered the event on 9 November 2024.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helped fulfill Peter's final wish. Your support has made a significant impact. We honour and remember Peter, a proud and cherished member of our sub-Branch. His commitment to service and unwavering spirit will always be remembered.

We would like to give special recognition to Midshipman Ian Callaghan and his wife Loida for their exceptional efforts in assisting Karen to fulfill Peter's final wish. Their dedication and compassion were truly remarkable.

Our thoughts are with Karen and her children as they navigate this challenging time. May Peter's memory inspire us to continue his legacy of service and dedication to our community.

Sub Branch trip October 2024 to the Singleton infantry museum

Our recent bus trip to the Singleton military museum proved to be a wonderful experience for all.

Starting with morning tea of scones, jam and cream at the Lone Pine café, we then had plenty of time to explore the museum at leisure. It was lovely listening to the camaraderie, mateship and the memories of our veterans as they spoke of their times together inspired by the museum.

I personally was impressed by the museum especially moved by the "human faces" of war. The stories of young men and women, some of them never to return.

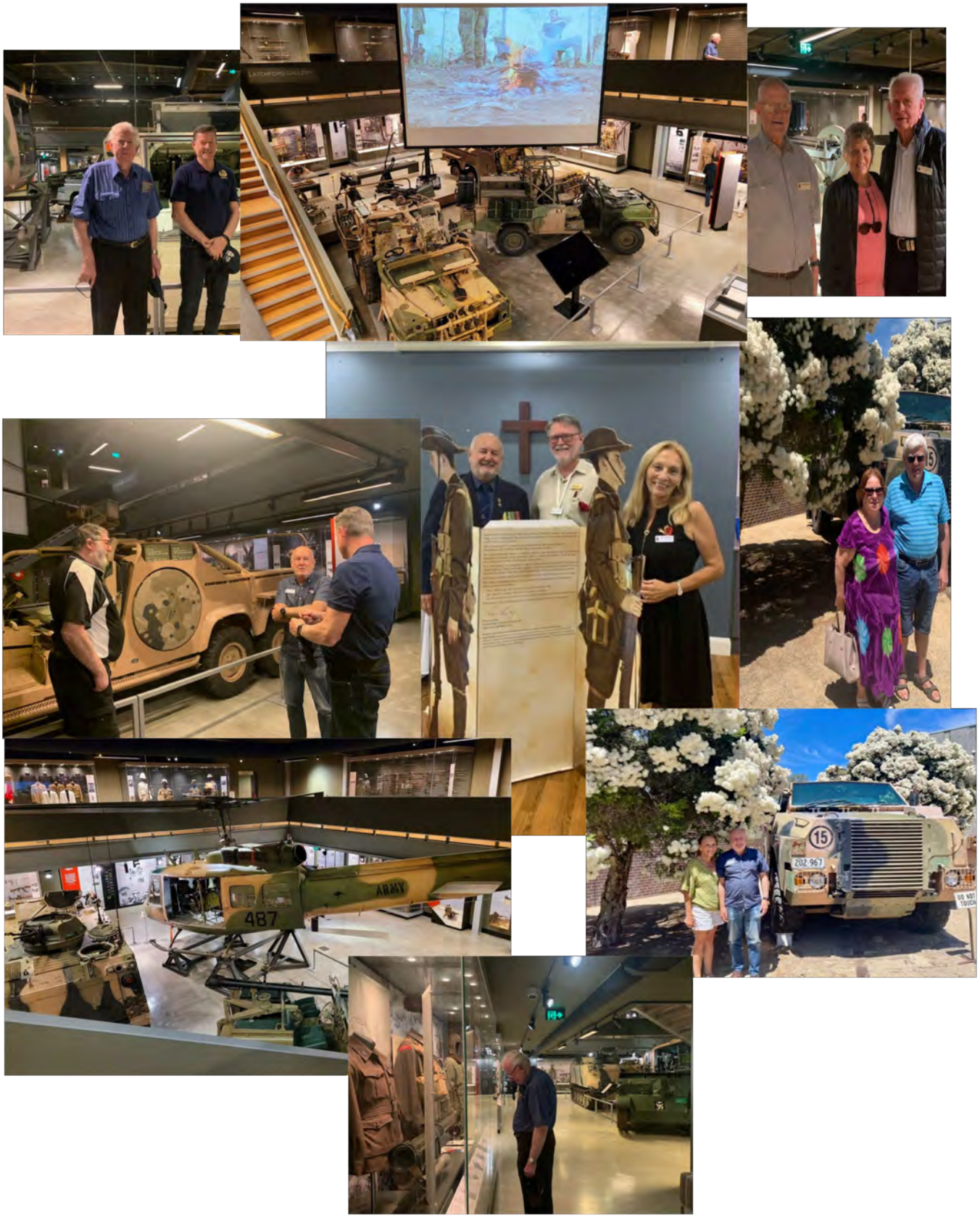
We then made way to Singleton RSL where we were greeted and made feel welcomed. A scrumptious lunch served with style.
Wonderful feedback with comments of what a fabulous day had by all.

Milla (Ludmilla) Sneezby
Travel co-ordinator

Happy sub Branch Travellers

And then lunch was served

The day at Singleton



I don't make mistakes; I make prophecies which immediately turn out to be wrong.

The Legacy and Evolution of the RSL Auxiliary

People generally will say to Veterans, *"Thank you for you Service"*. Alternatively, Veterans need to offer a *"Thank you"* to the RSL Auxiliary for their service supporting veterans.

The Returned and Services League (RSL) Auxiliary has a rich history rooted in the aftermath of World War One. Originally known as the Australian Imperial Service of Women's Auxiliary, it was established in Phillip Street, Sydney, in 1919 by the mothers, wives, widows, sisters, daughters, and aunts of men who served in the Australian Imperial Forces during the Great War. Their primary mission was to support the welfare of servicemen and their families, a mission that has evolved and expanded over the decades.

The formation of the RSL Women's Auxiliary was a response to the immediate needs of returning soldiers and their families. These dedicated women organised fundraising events, provided care packages, and offered emotional support to those affected by the war. Their efforts were crucial in helping veterans reintegrate into civilian life and ensuring that their sacrifices were not forgotten. The sense of community and solidarity that the Auxiliary fostered was instrumental in providing a support network for families who had endured the hardships of war.

As the years passed, the role of the Auxiliary broadened. Members began visiting veterans in hospitals and aged care facilities, assisting with sub-Branch commemoration activities, and providing meals for various events. Their work became an integral part of the RSL's mission to support veterans and their families. The Auxiliary's activities extended beyond mere fundraising; they became a source of companionship and comfort for many veterans. The personal connections formed during these visits often had a profound impact on the well-being of the veterans, offering them a sense of belonging and appreciation.

In 1922, the Auxiliary was officially named the Women's Auxiliary of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia (RSSILA). This name was later changed to the Women's Auxiliary of the Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL) to reflect the broader scope of the organization. In 2019, the RSL NSW adopted a new constitution that

marked a significant change in the Auxiliary's history. The word "women" was removed from the name, allowing men to join and participate in the Auxiliary's activities.

This change reflected a more inclusive approach, recognizing the contributions of all family members of servicemen and women. The decision to open membership to men was a progressive step, acknowledging that the support network for veterans extends beyond gender. It also allowed the Auxiliary to tap into a broader range of skills and perspectives, enhancing its ability to serve the veteran community effectively.

Today, the RSL Auxiliary continues to play a vital role in supporting current and ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force and their families. Through various fundraising activities and community support initiatives, the Auxiliary ensures that the legacy of service and sacrifice is honoured and remembered. Their efforts include organizing events such as Anzac Day commemorations, providing scholarships for the children of veterans, and supporting mental health initiatives for those affected by their service. The Auxiliary's commitment to these causes demonstrates their unwavering dedication to the welfare of the veteran community.

The RSL Auxiliary's journey from its early days to the present is a testament to the enduring spirit of community and support. As it continues to evolve, the Auxiliary remains committed to its core mission of caring for those who have served and their loved ones. To all members of the Auxiliary,

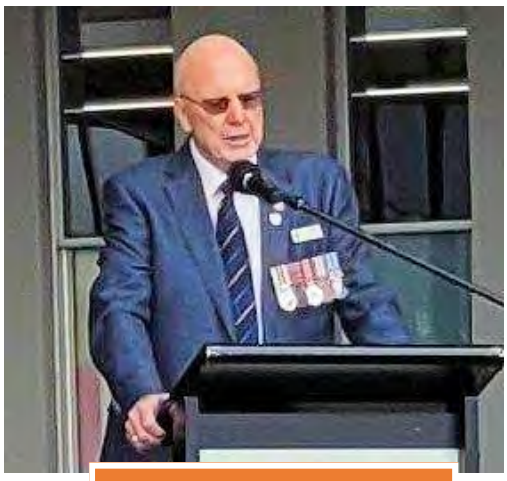
Thank you for your Service to Veterans.

CARDIFF Ladies Auxiliary formed 90 years ago this year.

Returned men of Cardiff Sub Branch of the Returned Soldiers League held its annual general meeting in the School of Arts. There was a good attendance, Mr Kitching Sydney representative of the league, was in attendance, A ladies' auxiliary was formed, and the first function will be a card party night.

Newcastle Morning Herald: Thursday 26 April 1934

Cardiff sub Branch of the RSL remembers.



Remembrance Day M.C.

We gather here to reflect on the day when the guns fell silent on the Western Front in 1918 after four years of continuous fighting. Armistice day as it was then known was renamed after the Second World War to Remembrance Day, a day to commemorate those killed in both wars. It now gives us the opportunity for us all to acknowledge all the sacrifices.

We honour the spirit of those who gave their lives in war, peacekeeping, and humanitarian efforts. We pay tribute and contemplate the sacrifices made for us.

Born from the blood they shed for each other, for us, and for the ideals of mateship, we remember.

In November 1918, Australia's official First World War correspondent, Charles Bean, witnessed it all—from the Gallipoli landing to Pozieres, Passchendaele, Mont St Quentin, and the

(Continued on page 15)

Hindenburg Line.

On the day of the Armistice, Bean chose not to celebrate. Instead, he took a photographer and drove to Fromelles, the site of Australia's worst 24 hours with 5,533 casualties, including 1,917 dead. He wanted to be with the men who had dreamt of the day they would never see, but for which they had given their *lives.*

In silence, he walked the battlefield and then wrote, "We found the old no man's land was simply full of our dead. The skulls and bones and the torn uniforms were lying about everywhere."

"It is over. The enormous efforts of the men – yes, and women and children are finished we are free to be happy again."

But this happiness came at the cost of 60,000 Australian lives, with almost 153,000 casualties and thousands more who would die in the decades that followed.

Reflecting on the deaths, years later, Bean was asked, *"What was so special about the Australians?"*

His response was: *"The answer lay in the courage of the men themselves. To be the kind of man who would fail when his mates were trusting on his firmness, and then have to live the rest of his life haunted by the knowledge that he lacked the determination to carry it through, was a prospect with which these men could not live."*

Bean realised he had observed and recorded the emergence of a distinct Australian identity. Just a generation later, a small group of Australians, defending crucial interests on the Kokoda Track, overcame harsh terrain and endured immense suffering, fighting, and dying in Jungle isolation. Their legacy is immortalized in four granite pillars at Isurava with the four values that shape our national character:

Courage - Endurance - Sacrifice - Mateship.

Our nation's most highly decorated soldier of the First World War was Lieutenant Colonel Harry Murray. He received the Victoria Cross, Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George, Distinguished Service Order with Bar, Distinguished Conduct Medal, and was Mentioned in Dispatches four times.

Although Murray rarely spoke of the War, in 1933 he wrote that it was 'discipline' that got him through: *"The discipline not to give in to natural instincts like fear. You had a duty; you must look after your mates."*

A century after Harry Murray's description of mateship observed by Bean and enshrined at Isurava, we see it again today.

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SAS Sergeant 'S', reflecting on the Afghanistan battle of Tizak, where another Australian was awarded the Victoria Cross, said: *"To let down your mates in combat would be worse than death."*

We now see that tradition passed down in civilian acts of courage motivated by concern for others. From bushfires to floods to pandemics and other extremes that will always affect our country.

We see it in the brave actions of civilians like Kirsty Boden. Kristy was a 28-year-old nurse from Adelaide where amid the chaos of the London Bridge terrorist attack in June 2017, she ran towards the danger to assist the wounded. Tragically, she was fatally stabbed while providing care. Her final words being: *"I am a nurse. I have to go."*

Kirsty was honoured as 'the Angel of London Bridge' and was posthumously awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal, the highest international recognition for bravery shown by a nurse.

We remember those who have given us what we have and made us who we are.

We remember the men and women who have worn the uniform of the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army, and the Royal Australian Air Force.

We remember our 103,000 dead.

We remember the wounded and the traumatised. We remember families, their love for their lost, and their silently endured hardships.

After the bloodbath at Fromelles, Sergeant Simon Fraser spent three backbreaking days bringing in the wounded from no man's land. An Australian voice rose through the morning mist, *"Don't forget me Cobber!"*

He didn't. We won't. We never will.

The first and the last.

Two unobtrusive graves amongst numerous others are in the St Symphorien Military Cemetery in Belgium. Lying within metres of each other are the graves of Private John Parr and Private George Edwin Ellison.

Private Parr was the first British soldier killed in the Great War near Mons, Belgium on the 21st August 1914. Private Ellison was the last British Soldier killed in the War on the 11th November 1918 also near Mons.

The Bugler and the Piper.

Sounds like the title of a great book, but they are valuable contributors to our services, namely our bugler Jou McDougall and Piper Peter Campbell.

Both volunteered their time for our Remembrance Day service, while Jou is one of the better buglers around while we think she is the best. She has been a frequent participant at our services, both ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.

Thank you Jou and thank you Peter.

End of World War One for the Aussies in the AIF.

The 11 hour of the 11 day of the 11 month marked the end.

On the night of the 10th November 1918 General Ferdinand Foch the Supreme Allied Commander on the Westen Front ordered all operations to cease at 11 o'clock the following day.

None of the Australian AIF were in the front line, but they were reorganising and starting to go back into the line. On the 11th November, there was only a few AIF specialist troops anywhere near the front line.

The end of the conflict came as an anti-climax. There was no general demonstration, the sound of guns ceased, and for the soldiers the gates of the future suddenly opened for each of them.

There was wonder, hope, grief too deep and uncertainty for speech that tormented the minds of every man who had survived.

Casualties incurred on the final day, the 11th November 1918.

In any sane world it would be a consideration that the last day of fighting would be a day of non activity, just keeping the head down and surviving.

The armistice was signed by the German delegation at 0510 hours on November 11th dictating that the cassation would be at 1100 hrs allowing the news to travel to the many parts of the Western Front. Technology allowed the news to go to capital cities by 05.40 and celebrations began before very many soldiers knew about the Armistice.

In London, Big Ben was rung for the first time since the start of the war in August 1914. In Paris, gas lamps were lit for the first time in four years. But on the Western Front, many tens of thousands of soldiers assumed that it was just another day in the war and officers ordered their men into combat.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) states that their records show that 863 Commonwealth soldiers died on November 11th 1918 – though this figure also includes those who died on that day but of wounds received prior to November 11th.

Ironically, a number of the final casualties were at Mons in Belgium – Mons was one of the first major battles in 1914.

Last Soldiers to die in the Great War.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records that the last British soldier killed in World War One was Private George Edwin Ellison of the 5th Royal Irish Lancers.

He was killed at Mons where he had also fought in 1914 at 09.30 am, just 90 minutes before the ceasefire.

The last French soldier to die was Augustin Trebuchon from the 415th Infantry Regiment.

He was a runner and was in the process of taking a message to his colleagues at the front informing them of the ceasefire. He was hit by a

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single shot and killed at 10.50 am. In total, 75 French soldiers were killed on November 11th but their graves state they died on November 10th.

The last Canadian soldier to die was Private George Lawrence Price of the Canadian Infantry (2nd Canadian Division) who was killed at Mons at 10.58.

Officially, Price was the last Commonwealth soldier to be killed in World War One.

The last American soldier killed was Private Henry Gunter who was killed at 10.59 am.

Officially, Gunter was the last man to die in World War One. His unit had been ordered to advance and take a German machine gun post. It is said that even the Germans – who knew that they were literally minutes away from a ceasefire – tried to stop the Americans attacking.

But when it became obvious that this had failed, they fired on their attackers and Gunter was killed. His divisional record stated: *"Almost as he fell, the gunfire died away and an appalling silence prevailed."*

Santa visited the Cardiff sub Branch Christmas Party to meet with sub Branches oldest and youngest members.

James GEORGE is 96 years of age having served in Korea with 2RAR.

Calum CRAWFORD is 20 years of age, currently serving with 5/7 RAR.

The stupidity of an American General sending soldiers to their deaths for a bath.

On the morning of the Armistice, one of the most bizarre actions was launched by General William Wright, Divisional Commande1r of the American 89th Infantry Division. Unlike many commanders who advised their men to wait for the official ceasefire, Wright, with his 12,000 soldiers, decided to attack the French town of Stenay. This town had no significant military value, but it was believed to have public baths, and Wright thought that after weeks in the fighting line, his dirty and exhausted men could use a bath and shave—at least those who survived.

Stenay, despite its small size, was well-defended by the Germans with artillery, machine guns, infantry, and snipers. Wright's decision led to 365 American casualties, including 61 killed and 304 wounded, due to his astounding command decision. Significant German casualties were also reported. Had the Americans waited a few more hours, they could have entered Stenay without resistance.

Despite a public inquiry into the attacks ordered by Wright and some other American commanders on November 11, Wright was never disciplined. After the war, Wright served as the Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff of the United States Army and acting Army Chief of Staff. He later commanded IX Corps and, before retiring in 1923, led the Department of the Philippines. General Wright passed away on August 16, 1943.

At the landings of Gallipoli the British Engineers landed 76 horses. Three months later there were 9 still alive.

Minister visit to sub Branch

Hon Pat Conroy MP, the Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Minister for Defence Industry and Capability Delivery, and Member for Shortland, formally handed over a memorabilia display case to the Cardiff RSL sub-Branch on Saturday 23rd November 2024.

President Geoff Kelly welcome and thanks the Minister Pat Conroy.

The Federal Government funded this display case through DVA's "Saluting Their Service" grant, allowing us to share a part of our history with the local community.

Pat joined us for coffee during the Sub Branch's monthly Coffee Catch-Up, chatting with over 50 members and learning about our compensation and well-being team's work supporting veterans.

Also, a big thank you to our Auxiliary for preparing snacks and cakes.

Thank you, Pat, for your continued support of the Cardiff RSL Sub Branch and the wider veteran community.

There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what isn't true;

The other is to refuse to believe what is true.

The sub Branch membership continues to grow with four new members receiving their badges and welcome from President Geoff Kelly at the November 2024 meeting witnessed by the 94 members present.

Tony Murphy

Norm Bowes

Noel Hillier

Victoria Hillier Auxiliary member

Never look at your beer as half—empty. Look at it as you're halfway to your next beer.

Noel Hillier

Dennis Tarran

Doug Baldcock

Gary James

Jamie Purdon

Geoff Kelly

Congratulations to the above veterans photographed receiving their certificates of completion of the Wellbeing Support officers training course (WSO)

Each year, at the 11th hour on the 11th day of 11th eleventh month, I pause to honour the sacrifices of Allied service people at the time when fighting in WWI officially ended. Along with the nation, I am silent. These brief moments of reflection bring to mind the hardships and events leading up to the 1918 Armistice, along with the continued sacrifices of our ADF members in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

This year I observed Remembrance Day at the Sydney Cenotaph. As the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, I had the privilege of laying a wreath upon the memorial with the President of the Legislative Council, the Hon Ben Franklin MLC. Doing so was a deeply personal honour for me, knowing the contributions of our many veterans and service people in Lake Macquarie. Thank you for your service.

I am pleased our Lake Macquarie community commemorates these important days with high attendance numbers at services at Cardiff, Toronto, Wangi Wangi, Dora Creek and Speers Point. These services are an opportunity for people to come together and learn about conflicts which have shaped our nation, and their personal impacts on service personnel and their families. It is our collective responsibility as a community to support our current and ex-ADF members. Learning about and acknowledging their sacrifices is part of this. Lest We Forget.

In State government news, registered clubs including RSLs will no longer need to enforce the "5km rule". This rule required people living within 5km of a club to become a member before signing in, while those living further away could sign in as visitors. It’s hoped this change will get more people to visit their local clubs.

I was also thrilled to announce, along with the Minister for Sport Steve Kamper, that land has been secured for a new sports facility at Morisset. NSW Health has agreed to transfer a 7 hectare land parcel of the Morisset Hospital grounds to the Office of Sport. The loss of the Myuna Bay Sport & Recreation Centre deeply affected our community, and I'm so pleased we'll have a new space to gather for recreational activities. The new facility will be open to the general public and purpose-built to suit the community's current needs. The Office of Sport will provide an opportunity for the community to suggest what they’d like on the site during a consultation period. I’ll certainly spread the word when that is happening. As the State member for Lake Macquarie, I can help you with State Government issues such as housing, police matters and public health. Feel free t to contact my staff on 4953 3200, email lakemacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.au, or visit my office at 126A Cary Street, Toronto.

Kind regards

Greg.

First contact by the Australian AIF with the Japanese at the Gemencheh Bridge Malaya on the 14th January 1942.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL 117484

The year 2024 is the 82nd Anniversary of the AIF's first contact with the Japanese army in World War two. In the State of Negri Sembilan Malaya, B company of the 2/30th Battalion set an ambush for an advancing Japanese force at the bridge at Gemencheh. The bridge was a small wooden bridge where the road from Tampin crossed the Gemencheh River, twelve kilometres west of Gemas.

The Australian plan was to allow a small lead element of the Japanese force to cross the bridge before springing the ambush, and those who had crossed would be dealt with further diggers concealed further along the track. There was a further plan for the rear Japanese who were not caught in the ambush to be targeted by the Australian 2/15th Field Regiment.

Right is Lieutenant Colonel Galleghan in Malaya

B Company was deplored on top of the cuttings at 1600 hrs on the previous day. The following day as the Japanese approached and crossed the bridge, the ambush was sprung. B Company used their Bren guns, small arms, grenades to maximum effect, disabled the Japanese force killing seventy and wounding fifty-seven.

The Australians suffered nine wounded and one who was killed on

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL PL00129

This plaque is displayed in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial. An honour was awarded for participation in the ambush and subsequent fighting at Gemas. The battle honour is unique to the 2/30th Infantry Battalion.

their journey back to Gemas.

The man responsible for undertaking the action was the commanding officer of the 2/30th Battalion Lieutenant Colonel Frederick (Black Jack) Galleghan. The remainder of the event is that the Australians were to become prisoners of the Japanese after the surrender of Singapore where Black Jack became the deputy commander of the AIF prisoners in Malaya.

Photograph of Major General Frederick Gallagher in 1967

Better known as 'Black Jack' Galleghan was a significant figure in the Australian military during World War two. He was born on January 11, 1897, in Jesmond, New South Wales, and completed his schooling in Newcastle. He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in January 1916 and was posted to the 34th Battalion, Maitland's Own. He served on the Western Front and was wounded twice. After the war, he joined the militia and was commissioned as a lieutenant in 1919. In 1922 he married Vera Dawson a usherette at the Strand theatre in Hunter Street, Newcastle.

In World War two, Galleghan took command of the 2/30th Battalion in October 1940 and they sailed for Singapore in July 1941. In January 1942, Galleghan led a successful ambush against a superior Japanese force at Gemas in southern Malaya, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

After the surrender of Singapore, Galleghan became a prisoner of war. In Changi in August 1942, he became commander of Australian prisoners. He was given the nickname "Black Jack" due to his complexion, dark hair, and brown eyes. Despite being a stern figure, he was a respected leader who understood that his men's survival depended on their morale, which he maintained through the imposition of military discipline, so much so that some officers said they feared Galleghan more than the Japanese.

During his internment he concealed his collection of documents, photographic negatives and records in a latrine, valuable in the prosecution of Japanese war criminals. Galleghan passed away on April 20, 1971, in Mosman, New South Wales. His leadership and dedication to his troops during the challenging times of World War II have earned him a place in Australia's military history.

"BLACK JACK" GALLEGHAN

by a digger who was there

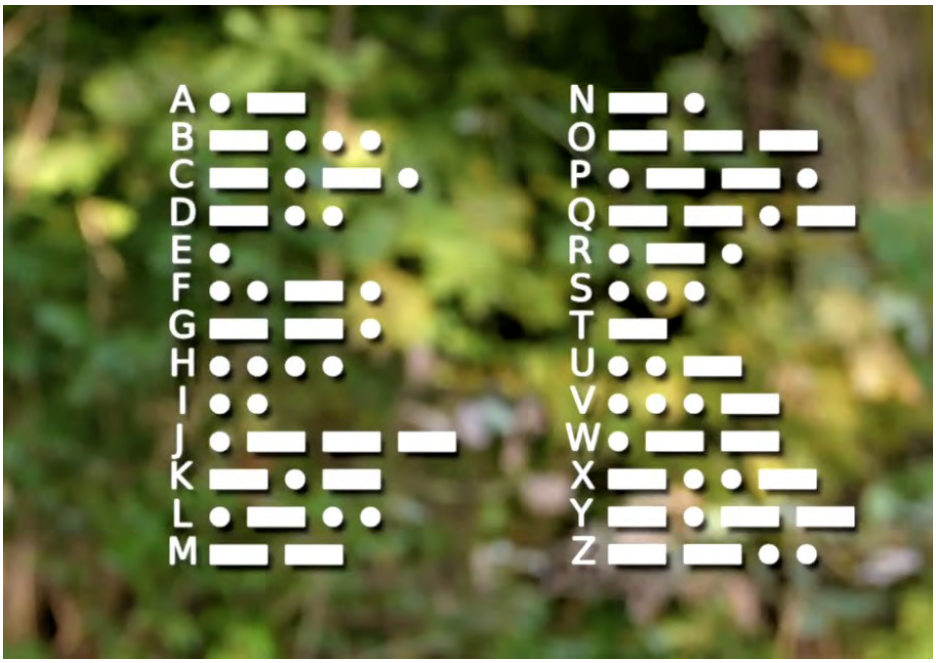
published in 1942.

One of the most popularly applauded decorations for the Malayan fighting is the DSO given ex-Commonwealth Serviceman Lt-Col Fred Galleghan. Like his boss, Bennett, whom he admired tremendously, Gallaghan is an old campaigner in fighting brass-hatted apathy. Dating back to his militia, commands, he waged a one-man war for equipment for his men and became one of the most-disliked commanders with those higher up and one of the best-loved by the men under him.

He exacted stern discipline, because World War No. 1 taught him that that way lay safety. "Black Jack" the boys called him, but they admired the bloke who insisted that the soldier's' primary duty was to kill and come back, to kill again.

The efficient Morse Code

Designed .by Samuel Morse, along with his assistant Alfred Vail, they designed the Morse code with efficiency in mind for speed of transmission.



By analysing the frequency of letter usage in the English language to create a more effective system., where the most common letters, such as 'E' and 'T', were represented by the shortest sequences of dots and dashes. For instance, 'E' is a single dot (.) and 'T' is a single dash (-). The lesser used letters ‘Q’, “Z’, ‘X’, and ‘J’ were given longer sequences. It was only beneficial for use in the English Language.

Vice President Jamie Purdon NSW Governor Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC

Secretary Mick James and NSW Governor Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC

The RSL NSW Congress was held at the Newcastle convention and exhibition centre from Sunday the 22nd October to Tuesday 24th October 2023.

Cardiff sub-Branch was represented by delegates Vice President Jamie Purdon and Secretary Mick James.

While there they managed to communicate the deeds of our sub Branch even gaining the ear of the NSW Governor, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC.

In a good relationship, both the man and the woman are willing to admit the man's mistakes.

Was this someone's Brain Burst? From the achieves of 2013.

The Australian War Memorial (AWM) council has decided to retain the inscription "KNOWN UNTO GOD" on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Canberra. Initially, the council planned to replace it with "WE DO NOT KNOW THIS AUSTRALIAN'S NAME. WE NEVER WILL," a phrase from Prime Minister Paul Keating's eulogy during the re-interment ceremony 20 years ago.

The decision to keep the original inscription came after receiving around 40 complaints from various groups, including Christians, politicians, and historians. AWM Director Brendan Nelson revealed that the council decided to compromise by retaining "KNOWN UNTO GOD" and changing another inscription to "HE IS ONE OF THEM, AND HE IS ALL OF US."

The inscription "KNOWN UNTO GOD" is found on thousands of memorials worldwide, honouring soldiers whose identities remain unknown.

The compromise followed interventions by Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Minister for Veteran's Affairs Michael Ronaldson. Director Nelson emphasized that the decision was not driven by political correctness but by historical considerations, noting that Charles Bean, who conceived the memorial, intended it to be free of religious symbols.

The Unknown Soldier, killed in World War I in France, was re-interred in the Hall of Memory in 1993, with Prime Minister Keating delivering a eulogy during the ceremony.

Second Corporal rank

The rank of Second Corporal was used in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) during World War One.

This rank was part of the rank structure of the British Army including the AIF,

The AIF introduced ranks and appointments in 1917 (Military Order 516), and the rank of Second Corporal was included.

Second Corporals wore one chevron similar to a Lance Corporal, however unlike a Lance Corporal's rank which was an appointment, Second Corporals held the rank as a full appointment.

Underarm bowling was compulsory well before Australia played New Zealand?

In the early 19th century, underarm bowling was the standard in cricket, where the ball was delivered with the hand below the waist. This technique allowed for greater control and accuracy but limited the speed and bounce of the ball.

Underarm bowler George Simpson-Hayward bowling as it was in Cricket until 1864.

Christina Willes, the sister of Kent cricketer John Willes was bowling to him in backyard as practice when she found underarm bowling was challenging due to the restrictive skirts worn by women.

To overcome this, she began bowling with her arm raised higher, leading to the development of overarm bowling. This innovation, initially controversial, was legalised in 1864, revolutionising cricket by allowing faster deliveries and more varied bowling techniques.

The Rule of thumb
A common global benchmark

History –
Legend has it that 17th Century English Judge Sir Francis Buller ruled it was permissible for a husband to beat his wife with a stick that was not wider than his thumb.

I think my wife has started to show the first signs of Alzheimers. She is saying she can't remember what she ever saw in me!

The first air to air kill over Australian Territory in World War Two.

Richard "Dick" Cresswell was a RAAF pilot known for his exemplary service during World War Two and the Korean War.

Born on July 27, 1920, in Launceston, Tasmania, Cresswell joined the RAAF in 1938. He swiftly ascended the ranks, demonstrating exceptional skill and leadership. In World War Two, as a Wing Commander he took command of No. 77 Squadron RAAF.

In the early hours of November 23, 1942, the squadron flying P40 Kittyhawks was scrambled from Livingstone base in the Northern Territory to intercept Japanese aircraft. Locating the attack flight he engaged the Japanese bombers, shooting one down, becoming the first pilot to shoot down an enemy aircraft at night over Australian soil.

Cresswell's career continued into the Korean War, where he again commanded No. 77 Squadron from September 1950 to August 1951. During his tenure, the squadron transitioned from P-51 Mustangs to Gloster Meteors, making him the first RAAF commander of a jet squadron in combat. His leadership earned him both the Commonwealth and the US Distinguished Flying Crosses.

He passed away on December 12, 2006,

REAL HEADLINES PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS.

- NEW SICK POLICY REQUIRES 2-DAY NOTICE.
- .GREENLAND METEORITE MAY BE FROM SPACE
- BRIDGE CLOSURE DATE: THURSDAY OR OCTOBER
- PLANES FORCED TO LAND AT AIRPORTS.
- ANYTHING WE ASSUME AT THIS POINT IS AN ASSUMPTION.
- INVESTIGATORS DETERMINE THAT THE CRASH OCCURRED WHEN THE PLANE STRUCK THE GROUND.
- DRINKING SNAIL MUCUS MAKES PEOPLE SICK.

The mighty havesack

For infantry soldiers, carrying all their belongings on their backs is a time-honoured tradition.

One of the most indispensable items in their gear is the haversack. This simple yet crucial bag has a fascinating origin rooted in practicality and history.

The term "haversack" comes from the French word "havresac," which combines the Old French words "havre" (meaning oats) and "sac" (meaning bag).

Originally, the haversack was a bag designed to carry rations, particularly oats, for soldiers. Dating back to the 17th century, haversacks were essential for both soldiers and travellers, providing a convenient way to carry food and other necessities.

Over the years, the haversack evolved into a sturdy, single-strap bag that could be easily slung over one shoulder, making it ideal for soldiers on the move. Its design focused on durability and ease of access, allowing soldiers to quickly grab their essentials.

Today, while the term "haversack" generally refers to any small, durable bag used for carrying personal items it still retains its strong military connotations.

I helped my neighbour out with something this morning and she said, "Thank you, I could marry you".
I couldn't believe it... You do something nice for someone and they threaten to ruin your life in return.

General Holmes Drive in Sydney

The Drive is a five-kilometre-long stretch of divided road in Sydney that runs between Botany Bay and Sydney Airport, so you probably used it if you travelled to the Sydney airport. So, who was General Holmes and how did the road come to commemorate him?

As a Colonel he was the commander of Australia's first military operation in World War one to seize German New Guinea at the start of the war in 1914. This was a joint operation between the Royal Australian Navy and the Australian army from a force that was raised in one week and titled the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (ANMEF) that sailed two weeks after the declaration of war.

Holmes was a veteran of the Boer war and experienced citizen soldier. He was born at Victoria Barracks, Paddington where his father was stationed. After the success in the capture of New Guinea, Holmes was given command of the 5th Brigade AIF and led them to Gallipoli and later to France.

General Holmes and army Staff watching disembarkation of troops in New Guinea 1914.

In January 1917 he was promoted to Major General and commanded the 4th Australian Division. He was killed by shellfire on the 2nd July 1917 while escorting the Premier of New South Wales over the ground won by the AIF on the Messines battlefield.

The roadway was named in his honour and a memorial erected near the junction of The Grand Parade, Brighton-Le-Sands is inscribed:

IN MEMORIAM
MAJOR GEN.W. HOLMES C M G. D S O V D
SOUTH AFRICA. NEW GUINEA. GALLIPOLI. FRANCE.
KILLED IN FRANCE ON ACTIVE SERVICE JULY 2nd 1917
Dulce Et Decorum Pro Patria Mori

(Continued on page 34)

The White Feather— was it a stupid and hurtful custom?

During World War One a white feather was representative of cowardice and used to shame men of enlistment age who had not enlisted. Usually handed out by young women who were happy to confront, and publicity try and embarrass the men when handing out a white feather. As the practice grew, it was complicated by the large casualty lists where men were discharged from the Services from their wounds and were then being handed white feathers in the street for being dressed in civilian clothes and not in uniform or at the Front. This forced the government of the day to issue the Silver War Badge for wearing on civilian dress.

Silver War Badge

Following on to this story, the following article was published in 1940 at the start of the Second World War.

A Bundaberg Digger, who served two years in the trenches and had been sent a white feather by a young woman before leaving for the front. He carried that white feather with him while serving overseas, where he was decorated for bravery.

Twenty-five years later after World War Two commenced, he sought her out and handed her back the feather. He said she was almost speechless, and she apologised profusely to him about what she had done to him all those years ago.

The digger reported that she was then 'probably' thinking about her own two sons who were of fighting age, but still had not enlisted in the Second AIF.

(Continued from page 33)

September 11 2024 marks the 110 Anniversary of the day the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force landed in New Britian when a party of naval reservists from the AN&MEF encountered German resistance that killed six Australians and wounded five. RAN Lieutenant Thomas Arthur Bond was awarded the DSO is disarming 8 Germans and capturing 30 Armed German native troops.

"Crocks" Mowed Down Japs - by a digger who was there.

published June 6, 1943

At Wau (New Guinea) an heroic stand of the "crocks" helped to smash the Japanese attack on Wau aerodrome in February, will gain honourable mention in the history of the AIF in New Guinea, when the enemy made his desperate attempt to seize this vital airstrip a number of diggers suffering from malaria joined forces with cooks and orderlies to defend a small hut in the battle zone.

They set up two machine guns and poured a withering fire into the advancing Japs. When the smoke of battle cleared the "'crocks" counted the bodies of 70 Japs scattered in the jungle.

Prisoners of War World War One

An estimated 8 to 9 million men were prisoners of war during World War One. The vast majority of this took place on the Eastern Front where fighting was much more mobile than the trench warfare of the Western Front. However, at key moments in Belgium most notably in 1914 and 1918 when significant movements were made in the frontlines, there was an increase in prisoner taking on both sides.

Allied prisoners were released when Armistice was signed in November 1918, but it was not until after the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in June 1919 that German prisoners of war started to be repatriated. Many were put to work clearing battlefields in France and did not return home until 1920.

The treatment of prisoners was a key humanitarian and diplomatic issue of the day and formed some of the basis for the later 1929 Geneva Convention.

A prisoner of war is someone who just tried to kill you and is now pleading with you not to kill him.

Memorial Plaque in Amiens Cathedral France commemorating the Australian Imperial Force magnificent defence of Amiens in August 1918 through their defence and holding the village of Villiers Brettoneux, for the loss of that village would have opened up the capture of Amiens and perhaps lost the war.

On April 24, 1918, during the Second Battle of Villers-Bretonneux in Northern France, history witnessed the first tank versus tank battle and watched by many soldiers of the First AIF there defending the town. The German forces, aiming to capture Villers-Bretonneux, deployed three A7V tanks, including one named “Nixe,” commanded by Second Lieutenant Wilhelm Blitz.

The British forces, defending their positions, fielded three Mark IV tanks. These tanks came in two variants: “male” tanks, armed with 6-pounder naval guns, and “female” tanks, equipped with machine guns.

As the German A7Vs advanced, they encountered the British Mark IV tanks. The battle commenced with the German tanks firing their 57mm Maxim-Nordenfelt guns. The British male tanks responded with their 6-pounder guns. The exchange of fire was intense, with both sides sustaining damage.

A British female tank attempted to flank the German A7Vs, using its machine guns to target the German tanks. The German crews shifted their focus to this new threat, leading to a close-quarters engagement.

After a fierce battle, the British tanks gained the upper hand through superior numbers and tactical manoeuvring. The German A7Vs, including “Nixe,” were forced to retreat. The British emerged victorious in this historic tank battle.

A mate asked me, “What rhymes with orange?”
I said, "No it doesn't”.

The most decorated tank crew of World War One

In 1917 during the Passchendaele battle of World War One the embryonic British tank corps driving their newly developed Mark IV tank, a newly created weapon that was supposed to be capable of breaking the trench war stalemate, however one that was mostly a large and cumbersome machine prone to malfunction, and this is exactly what happened; One particular tank became disabled in a shell creator and started sinking into the soft mud.

The British crew members were Captain Donald Richardson, Second Lieutenant George Hill, Sergeant Robert Missen, Gunners William Morrey, Ernest Hayton, Frederick Arthurs, Percy Budd, James Binley, and Ernest Braedy; eight of the nine crew were to spend three days and two nights stranded possibly the worst place they could have picked; between the Germans and their own forces in no Man's Land.

An early Mark IV tank

Sergeant Missen and Gunner Braedy both exited the tank from each side sponson doors, where Brady was immediately head shot and fell under the side of the tank that was sinking into the mud. His body was never recovered.

Missen attempted to apply unditching gear to allow the tank to climb back onto firmer ground, when some 30 German soldiers commenced heavy firing from a range of about 30 yards, forcing him to return to cover inside the tank.

The crew endured continuing machine gun fire, snipers, grenades and artillery fire from the Germans. To top it off, they also came under fire from their own military, as this was 1917 and tank warfare was still in its infancy. The British could not risk allowing the Germans to get hold of one of their tanks and were willing to sacrifice the crew to make sure it did not happen.

For the next sixty hours, the Germans tried to approach the tank but were repelled every time. Because of the angle the tank was leaning while sinking, the tank's guns were useless and the crew had to use their personal weapons and Lewis guns to fight off the attacking Germans.

At one point, a German soldier made it onto the tank and dropped a

(Continued on page 38)

(Continued from page 37)

grenade inside. The British soldiers managed to throw it back out before it blew up.

Miraculously, eight of the nine crew members although most were wounded by flying pieces of metal inside the tank, survived those terrifying three days, and knowing that they could not let the tank's weapons fall into enemy hands, the injured men fought on before they were able to remove the Lewis guns and crawl back to the British lines with them, one at a time.

For their gallantry all eight men received medals for gallantry that included the Distinguished Conduct Medal, the Military Cross for the officers and Military Medals for the remainder of the crew, making them the most decorated tank crew of the war.

Eighty Years ago this year the tragic crash of RAAF Beaufighter A19-4 off Newcastle.

On the night of November 8, 1944, A Beaufighter A19-4 of the Royal Australian Air Force's No. 5 Operational Training Unit (5 OTU) crashed into the sea off Port Stephens. The fighter was being piloted by Warrant Officer Francis Smallhorn and crewed by Sergeant Brian George Markman and Sergeant William Lawrence Mather.

The aircraft had taken off for a night training cross-country exercise with three other aircraft tracking between Williamtown, Tamworth, Dubbo and back to Williamtown.

When over Dubbo the weather deteriorated, and the aircraft were ordered back to Williamtown. At 0030 on the 8 November 1944 two aircraft landed at Williamtown in inclement weather, while the A19-4 overshot on attempting to land and was going around again. It was last seen heading in a northerly direction where it crashed into the sea about 4 miles off Cemetery Point, Port Stephens,

The entire crew were killed. Pieces of the aircraft, including a port inner fuel tank, were later found washed up on the beach. The crew, with the exception of Sparkman whose body was never recovered, were laid to rest at Sandgate War Cemetery.

Cruise and cargo ships managing lessons.

As passenger ships travelling the world are getting larger as too are the cargo ships, the master of these ships continues to astound by how well they manage the ship, especially when berthing and mooring.

Of course they have to be trained. However, there are very few centres in the world where training can be completed without endangering large ships. The United Kingdom has a centre at the Solent University Southampton who have a ship handling training centre at Timsbury Lake, near Romsey where scaled models are used to provide a safe and controlled environment for practising and developing ship handling skills on different vessels in a variety of conditions,

The scaled models are capable of replicating the handling characteristics of an actual vessel including single and twin-screw propulsion, delivery and rudder response times are correctly scaled. This also applies to bow thrusters and windlass where fitted.

The optimum scale used for most vessels is 1:25 and the models themselves are substantial, each measuring between seven and nine metres long and weighing approximately five tonnes. The electrically powered models are ballasted by a combination of water and solid ballast, which can be configured to provide loaded, part loaded or ballast conditions at different trims.

Forerunner of Radar – The Sound Mirrors.

Also known as acoustic mirrors, were constructed between 1916 and the 1930s along the southern and northeastern coasts of England, sound mirrors, also referred to as ‘listening ears’, were designed as early warning systems. Their purpose was to detect incoming enemy planes and airships that were enroute to attack coastal towns.

These structures operated by collecting distant sound waves and focusing them onto a single point. A technician could then interpret these sounds and make a determination about the approaching aircraft. However, the advent of RADAR, a covert system in its early stages, led to the obsolescence of these sound mirrors, especially after its successful application during the ‘Battle of Britain’.

Despite initial attempts to demolish them with explosives, some of these mirrors in England remain intact. Today, they serve as tourist attractions and stand as historically significant artifacts, reminding us of past technological innovations.

LONE PINE then originally known as Lonesome Pine

Australian war Historian C.E.W. Bean's photograph of the Lone Pine Gallipoli battlefield taken in 1919 when he revisited the area. He was deeply moved describing the area as littered with the remnants of the war, trenches, barbed wire and strewn with the unburied remains of soldiers

(Continued on page 42)

The Legacy of Lone Pine seeds of Remembrance come home.

Sergeant Keith McDowell of the 23rd Battalion on Gallipoli carried a cone from the remains of the Lone Pine tree throughout the war and later gave it to his

(Continued on page 42)

LONE PINE BATTLEFIELD NOW

(Continued from page 41)

who fought and died there. Above is the same view of the Lone Pine battlefield now a cemetery showing the vast contract between then and now. The Australian attack was from the camera position looking to the lone pine tree, however the tree had been destroyed before the attack.

(Continued from page 41)

aunt, Emma Gray, in Victoria. Emma successfully grew several seedlings from the seeds, and one of these was planted at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne in 1933.

Lance Corporal Benjamin Smith of the 3rd Battalion collected cones and sent them to his mother in Inverell, New South Wales, in memory of his brother who was killed in the Lone Pine attack. The seeds were planted years later, and one of the seedlings was planted at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra by Prince Henry, the Duke of Gloucester, in 1934.

Leslie Bull Allen Spirit of Mateship.

A small figurine that is readily displayed in Australia is captioned *'the Spirit of mateship.'* It is an Australian soldier of World War two carrying a wounded colleague.

There is a story about the digger and his exploits that you might find interesting.

On the 30 July 1943 a photograph by war correspondent Gordon Short captured Australian digger Corporal Leslie Bull Allen rescuing a wounded American soldier on Mount Tambu, New Guinea during a combined Australian and American attack a Japanese position.

in the midst of the Battle of Mount Tambu despite being injured in the fighting, and under heavy enemy fire with no assistance, he rescued 12 American casualties by carrying them over his shoulders, despite two other medics having already been killed attempting this.

Supposedly, each time he appeared with another man, his mates would make bets over if he would return. He did. After returning with the last one, he collapsed from exhaustion.

Corporal Allen was awarded the Military medal and also received the American Silver Star for efforts that earned him *"the unstinted praise of all who witnessed his action."*

Leslie "Bull" Allen was born in Victoria and when the war began in 1939, he volunteered for the Second AIF and posted to the 2/5th AIF Battalion. Sent to Palestine for training he was made a stretcher bearer for D Company.

Bull Allen saw service throughout the Second World War, including the Western Desert and Syria-Lebanon Campaigns, where In one instance, he looked after his wounded throughout the night, and then walked six miles

(Continued on page 44)

the following day after no sleep to get them transport.

Corporal Allen was medically discharged in September 1944 as a traumatised veteran after serving in three campaigns . He retreated to a farm in Victoria having lost his power of speech that took many months to restore.

Australian 2/5th Battalion, during the fighting at Mount Tambu, 1943.
(Photo Credit: Robert John Buchanan Australian War)

He passed away on the 11th May 1982 aged 65 from heart failure.

The Australian Honour Flag

This was a special flag created by the Commonwealth Government in 1918 as a result of World War One.

It features a white field with the national flag in the canton, a large 7-pointed star beneath the canton, and three blue vertical bars in the fly, all surrounded by a red border.

This flag was awarded to towns and districts in Australia that subscribed twice their quota of funds to the Commonwealth Government's Seventh War Loan in 1918. Individual contributors received a certificate known as a House Badge, which featured an illustration of the Honour Flag without the bars and star.

Z Special Force Singapore Harbour raid in World War two.

During the Second World War, an audacious Allied operation against Japanese ships docked in Singapore Harbour known as Operation Rimau, was executed by the Z Special Unit using Hoehn military MKIII folboats crafted in Australia.

It was to be a sequel to the earlier triumphant Operation Jaywick and was spearheaded by Lieutenant Colonel Ivan Lyon from the Gordon Highlanders, a British Army infantry regiment.

Ironically, Lyon was convinced that the Japanese would not anticipate a repeat assault on Singapore, planned a more ambitious second strike, and with the green light from the British Special Operations Executive, he travelled to England to survey the latest gear and technology. He selected the ‘Porpoise’, a sizable minelaying submarine, and tested the ‘Sleeping Beauty’ (SB), a compact 13-foot vessel capable of transporting a person at speeds up to four and a half knots on water and three and a half knots submerged, with a 12-mile range on a full battery.

In Australia, Lyon began assembling and preparing a team at Careening Bay, near Fremantle Western Australia. He named the operation 'Rimau,' which means 'tiger' in Malay.

He selected four veterans from Operation Jaywick and recruited 17 additional British, Australian sailors and commandos. The party left Freemantle on the 11 September 1944 in HMS Porpoise where they were dropped on Merapas Island off Singapore. The plan was to set up a camp there and activate the use motorized semi-submersible canoes to destroy Japanese vessels by stealth, attaching limpet mines in Singapore on the evening of 21/22 November to pick up the attackers.

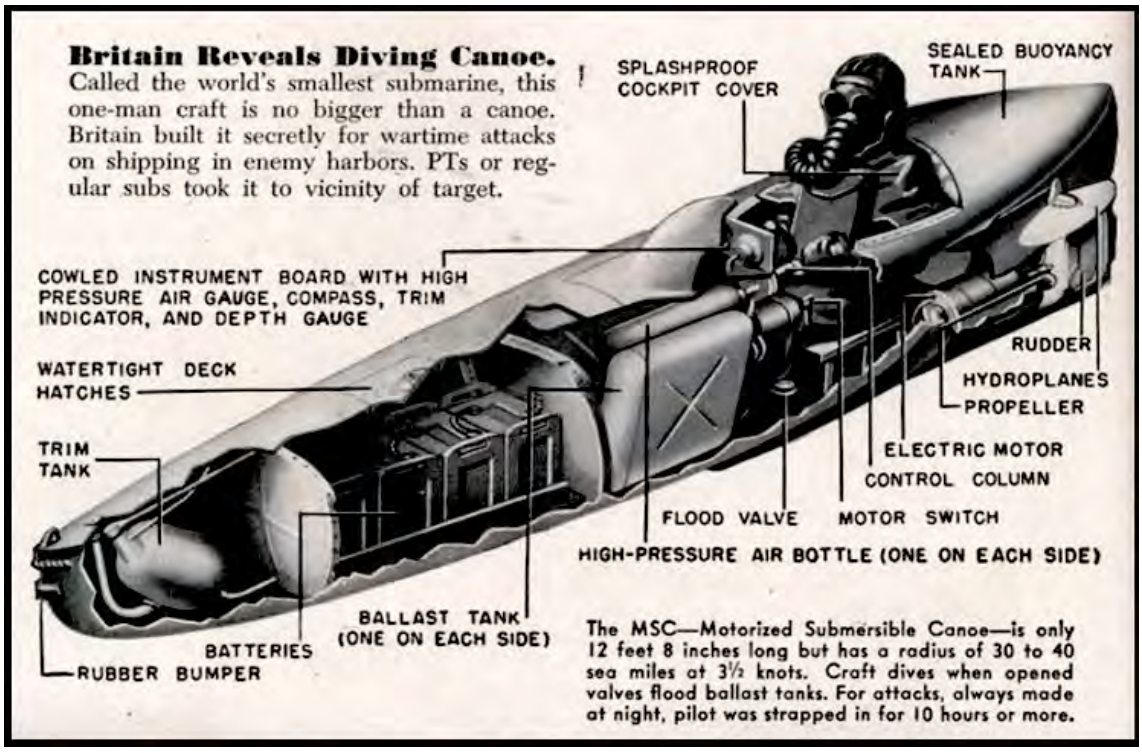
There was no sign of the party on shore however there was evidence they had been there, but that evidence suggested the raid had been a failure even though the search b submarine continued for some time.

Later piecing together, the fate of the commandoes mainly from self-serving Japanese reports with other native reports, it seems that the raiders had been detected by either a Japanese patrol boat of local Malay police and after a subsequent fire fight, some escaped and had a short respite before further fire fights occurred.

Thirteen operatives, including Lyon, were either killed in skirmishes across various islands or succumbed to injuries while imprisoned by the Japanese. It was further established from post war investigations that ten members, were incarcerated in Singapore where the Japanese, honouring the Bushido code, respected them as valiant combatants who had been captured in battle rather than surrendering.

In late May 1945, a new Japanese commander in Singapore decreed a court-martial for the captured operatives. Despite apparent disapproval from several Japanese military ranks, the trial proceeded in early July. The charges included engaging in clandestine activities, not donning proper military attire, and misusing the Japanese flag to show confusion among foes. Their conviction led to a death sentence.

On July 7, 1945, just a month before the Pacific War's conclusion, they were escorted to a hill outside Singapore. There, they exchanged final words, shared cigarettes, and bid each other farewell. In a solemn ceremony befitting warriors, they met their end by the sword, their remains laid to rest in pre-dug graves.

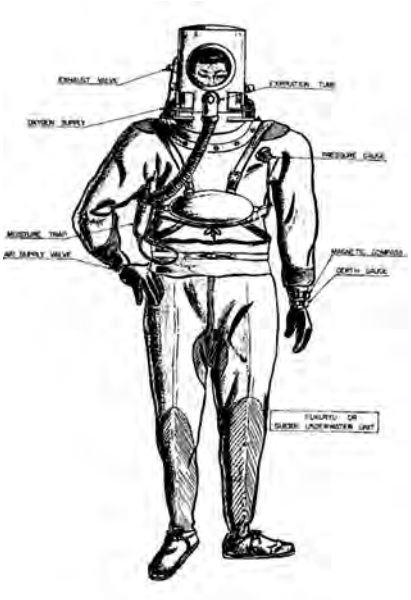


Kamikaze Frogmen

In the final stages of World War two, extravagant plans were devised to end the fighting. The Americans planned an invasion of Japan, known as Operation Downfall, which included two phases: Olympic and Coronet.

This would have been a larger amphibious invasion than D-Day, starting in November 1945 with an assault on Kyūshū, followed by a larger force targeting Tokyo Bay in March 1946. However, Japan surrendered after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, preventing the invasion.

In response to Operation Downfall, the Japanese developed questionable defences, including kamikaze frogmen and manned torpedoes. The idea of Fukuryu attacks, or “crouching dragon” strikes, involved kamikaze frogmen attacking enemy vessels from beneath the water. Proposed in 1944 by Capt. Kiichi Shintani, these frogmen would live underwater at strategic locations, emerging to attack with explosive bamboo spears.



Plans were made to train 6,000 kamikaze frogmen, requiring specialized equipment and underwater hideouts. However, only 1,200 were trained by the time Japan surrendered, and production of diving suits and mines lagged. Many trainees died during training due to issues with breathing apparatuses and other hazards. . The suits were rudimentary, so each diver had to inhale through their nose and out through their mouth into a tank, which would turn the carbon dioxide back into oxygen. If the diver mixed up the sequence they would inhale caustic lye and faint while underwater. Many did and died in training. Ultimately, the Fukuryu were never used in combat.

MAY DAY MAY DAY MAY DAY!

The distress call "Mayday" was conceived in the early 1920's by Frederick Stanley Mockford, a senior radio officer at Croydon Airport in England.

He was asked to come up with a word that would be easily understood by all pilots and ground staff in an emergency. Since much of the air traffic at the time was between England and France, he chose "Mayday," which is derived from the French phrase "m'aider," meaning "help me".

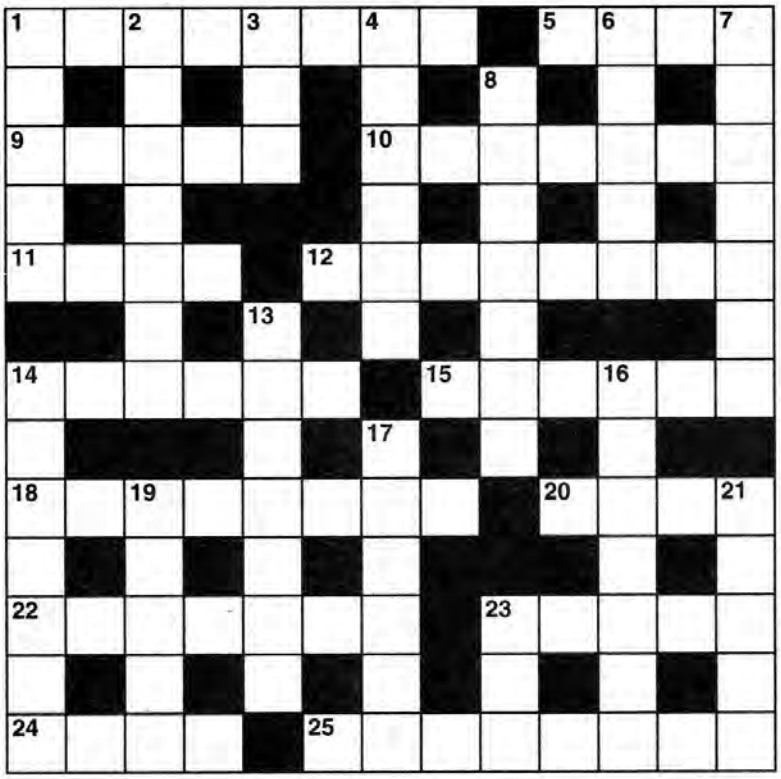
This new distress call was introduced for cross-Channel flights in February 1923 and was later adopted internationally. It replaced the Morse code signal SOS for voice communication because SOS was difficult to distinguish over the radio.

Anniversaries of ships and units

1-Dec	Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	1942	82 yrs
	3rd Field Engineer Regiment	1972	52 yrs
	Royal Australian Army Chaplains Department	1913	111 yrs
	8th Signal Squadron	1988	36 yrs
	141st Signal Squadron	1987	37 yrs
	Army Logistic Training Centre	1995	29 yrs
	12th/40th Battalion, The Royal South Australia Regiment	1995	29 yrs
3-Dec	5th/7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment	1973	51 yrs
4-Dec	St Barbara's Day	1973	51 yrs
	Commissioning of HMAS MERMAID	1973	51 yrs
	Medical School, Portsea	1952	72 yrs
	Deakin University Company	1983	41 yrs
5-Dec	Commissioning of HMAS WATERHEN	1983	41 yrs
	2nd/17th Battalion, The Royal New South Wales Regiment	1987	37 yrs
6-Dec	Australian Intelligence Corps	1907	117 yrs
8-Dec	103rd Signals Squadron	1965	59 yrs
10-Dec	Commissioning of HMAS GERALDTON	1965	59 yrs
11-Dec	Commissioning of HMAS NEWCASTLE	1965	59 yrs
15-Dec	Commissioning of HMAS BUNBURY	1965	59 yrs
16-Dec	Commissioning of HMAS BRISBANE	1965	59 yrs
18-Dec	Commissioning of HMAS HOBART	1965	59 yrs
22-Dec	Commissioning of HMAS ONSLOW	1965	59 yrs
24-Dec	17th Air Defence Squadron	1971	53 yrs
31-Dec	5th Training Group	1985	39 yrs

Crossword No.27

(Solution on page 51)



ACROSS

1 Do things thoroughly (2,2,4)
5 After-bath powder (4)
9 ___ DeGeneres, comedienne (5)
10 Superficial beauty (7)
11 Granted (4)
12 Finland's capital city (8)
14 Rule (6)
15 Balkan republic (6)
18 Male TV presenter (8)
20 Surge of wind (4)
22 ___ *Nights*, Eastern tales (7)
23 Foreign (5)
24 Action (4)
25 Less rough (8)

DOWN

1 ___ Wallace, *MasterChef* judge (5)
2 Major Israeli city (3,4)
3 Great weight (3)
4 German opera composer (6)
6 Oak's fruit (5)
7 Old Ford saloon model (7)
8 Swirly fabric pattern (7)
13 Important body fuel (7)
14 UK charity tax incentive (4,3)
16 Senselessly cruel (7)
17 Double-size bottle (6)
19 Declaim (5)
21 Channel selector (5)
23 Clamour (3)

32

Word search No. 27

(Solution on page 51)

27 English Words of French Origin

L	L	E	T	N	V	T	P	V	U	P	F	N	V	E
T	E	N	O	H	P	O	X	A	S	R	D	D	A	Y
Q	O	R	W	P	T	D	R	O	C	C	A	E	V	R
E	P	Q	R	S	A	T	I	L	E	I	E	I	O	F
M	A	Z	B	I	I	C	D	K	S	Q	L	U	L	L
B	R	L	T	L	U	I	E	L	T	L	U	A	V	P
A	D	K	L	B	H	Q	E	D	A	C	A	F	V	S
S	O	E	I	I	C	E	S	I	A	E	A	V	O	R
S	R	S	E	G	A	T	N	O	M	R	U	K	O	P
Y	M	U	D	A	N	N	L	I	H	Z	T	R	U	N
L	A	S	A	J	I	A	C	E	L	I	H	R	B	E
H	R	S	G	I	P	D	G	E	M	A	O	E	J	R
I	I	D	I	T	S	N	Y	U	P	A	R	I	S	H
Y	N	X	R	T	E	O	R	A	A	U	C	P	T	B
R	E	A	B	S	R	F	O	T	V	T	J	I	U	R

ACCORD
AISLE
ALLIANCE
ARTILLERY
AUTHOR
BRIGADE
CAMEL
CUBISM
EMBASSY
FACADE
FONDANT
LEOPARD
MARINE
MONTAGE
PARISH
PRALINE
SAXOPHONE
SPINACH
SQUIRREL
VAULT
VILLAIN

Crossword solution No. 27

No. 27

G	O	T	O	T	O	W	N	■	T	A	L	C	
R	■	E	■	O	■	A	■	P	■	C	■	O	
E	L	L	E	N	■	G	L	A	M	O	U	R	
G	■	A	■	■	■	N	■	I	■	R	■	T	
G	A	V	E	■	H	E	L	S	I	N	K	I	
■	■	I	■	P	■	R	■	L	■	■	■	N	
G	O	V	E	R	N	■	S	E	R	B	I	A	
I	■	■	■	O	■	M	■	Y	■	R	■	■	
F	R	O	N	T	M	A	N	■	G	U	S	T	
T	■	R	■	E	■	G	■	■	■	T	■	U	
A	R	A	B	I	A	N	■	A	L	I	E	N	
I	■	T	■	N	■	U	■	D	■	S	■	E	
D	E	E	D	■	S	M	O	O	T	H	E	R	

Word Search No. 27 solution

27

L	L	E	T	N	V	T	P	V	U	P	F	N	V	E
T	E	N	O	H	P	O	X	A	S	R	D	D	A	Y
Q	O	R	W	P	T	D	R	O	C	C	A	E	V	R
E	P	Q	R	S	A	T	I	L	E	I	E	I	O	F
M	A	Z	B	I	I	C	D	K	S	Q	L	U	L	L
B	R	L	T	L	U	I	E	L	T	L	U	A	V	P
A	D	K	L	B	H	Q	E	D	A	C	A	F	V	S
S	O	E	I	I	C	E	S	I	A	E	A	V	O	R
S	R	S	E	G	A	T	N	O	M	R	U	K	O	P
Y	M	U	D	A	N	N	L	I	H	Z	T	R	U	N
L	A	S	A	J	I	A	C	E	L	I	H	R	B	E
H	R	S	G	I	P	D	G	E	M	A	O	E	J	R
I	I	D	I	T	S	N	Y	U	P	A	R	I	S	H
Y	N	X	R	T	E	O	R	A	A	U	C	P	T	B
R	E	A	B	S	R	F	O	T	V	T	J	I	U	R

RSL NSW CARDIFF SUB-BRANCH

2025 MEETING DATES

RSL NSW CARDIFF sub-Branch

RSL NSW CARDIFF sub-Branch

Note: - General Meetings start at 1015 hrs.
- Coffee Catch-Up from 1000 to 1200 hrs.

- Office will be closed on Wednesday 18 December 2024 and re-open on Saturday, 11 January 2025.

General Meeting (Sunday)	Coffee Catch-Up (Saturday)
12 January 2025	NO Coffee Catch-Up on 26 January 2025
9 February 2025 (AGM Only)	22 February 2025
9 March 2025	22 March 2025
13 April 2025	NO Coffee Catch-Up on 26 April 2025
18 May 2025 (3rd Sunday) (Mother Day 11th May)	24 May 2025
8 June 2025 (Kings Birthday Holiday on Monday)	28 June 2025
13 July 2025	26 July 2025
10 August 2025	23 August 2025
14 September 2025	27 September 2025
12 October 2025	25 October 2025
9 November 2025 (Remembrance Day Tuesday)	22 November 2025
14 December 2025 (Christmas Luncheon)	NO Coffee Catch-Up on 27 December 2025

- Office will be closed on Wednesday 17 December 2025 and re-open on Saturday, 10 January 2026.

Other important dates for 2025.
- ANZAC Day – Friday 25 April 2025.
- Remembrance Day – Tuesday 11 November 2025.