BUSTED BUGLE

CARDIFF RSL SUB-BRANCH NEWSLETTER

April 2025

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	Dave Rebetzke

Wellbeing Advocate Peter Sneesby **Hospital Visitor** Gary Griffith

Compensation Advocate

Paul McGlynn MBA, MBus(HRM) MEd

Editor Bugle Paul Feenan BSocSc (JusticeStud), AssocDip (PolStud), JP

Cardiff RSL sub Branch RSL Auxiliary

Co-Ordinator	Kerry Forrrester
Deputy Co-Ordinator	Ruth Crawford
Secretary	Paul Brien JP
Procurement Officers	Stella Brien

ON THE COVER

ANZAC Day 2017 Cardiff Dawn Service

The Catafalque Party for the Cardiff dawn service. In 2017 was provided by the Army Cadets of 211 Cadet Unit, Adamstown.

To commemorate the centenary of the First Australian Imperial Force (AIF) on the Western Front in 1917, the Sub-Branch equipped the cadets with replica uniforms representing Australian soldiers who fought in France and Belgium.

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President's Message.

ANZAC Day reminds us it is more than just a tradition. It is a powerful moment to honour the courage, sacrifice, and spirit of those who served — and those we lost.

This year marked 93 years since a group of Cardiff returned servicemen founded our sub-Branch. Their mission was simple but powerful: to look after one another and build a community grounded in mateship, resilience, and service. Today, that mission rests in our hands.

So, how will we carry it forward? Whether it is checking in on a mate, lending a hand at a service, or supporting a veteran's family in their time of need — every action, no matter how small, matters. It honours the past while building a stronger future for all of us.

One of our biggest focuses this year is ensuring we pass the torch.

Own members Peter and Millar Sneesby represented us at the 69th Newcastle Combined Schools ANZAC event, helping to keep the ANZAC story alive for younger generations.

Peter and I also attended the ANZAC Service at Christ Church

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Cathedral, where we came together as a community to reflect and remember.

We supported ANZAC services at seven local schools — including Kotara, Glendale, Whitebridge, Barnsley, Edgeworth, and Cardiff — helping students understand what ANZAC Day truly stands for.

And we have not forgotten those who came before us. We visited eleven aged care homes - reminding our older veterans that they are seen, valued, and never forgotten.

While our main community service was the Dawn Service at Cardiff, we also supported the10.00am Belmont Anzac Day service at Cullen Park, Belmont.

Behind the scenes, our Wellbeing Support Officers (WSOs) are doing incredible work. Congratulations to Peter McMahon, who has just completed his training, bringing us to seven WSOs. But the need is growing, and we urgently need Compensation Officers to help veterans access the support they have earned and deserve. If interested and you have the time, leave your name with our Secretary.

The sub-Branch Compensation Advocate Paul McGlynn and I attended the Hunter Veteran and Family Hub update in Maitland that is scheduled to open later this year. It is expected to be a great support facility for veterans and their families.

I also want to thank our volunteers who perform incredible work on behalf of the sub-Branch.

The strength of this Sub-Branch lies in its people. By staying connected and supporting each other, we are not only honouring the past, but also building our capabilities and growing our reputation. Together, we will ensure continued support for veterans and their families for years to come.

Warm Regards

Geoff Kelly, President, RSL NSW Cardiff sub-Branch.

Hello again from the Auxiliary

Due to health reasons, Pearl Abercrombie has chosen not to stand again as Co-Ordinator. As a life member of the RSL NSW Auxiliary, she has been an invaluable leader at both Cardiff and Adamstown, and we sincerely thank her for her dedication.

With ANZAC Day the Auxiliary was busy preparing for merchandise sales and volunteer coordination. This year, we supported services at both Cardiff and Belmont, with volunteers heading to Belmont after breakfast.

In June, we will hold a book stall on the 22nd, selling books from the library in the small function room at the RSL Club. Keep an eye out for updates as books will be advertised via in-house TVs, 2NURFM, and brochures to local sub-Branches.

Another Bunnings BBQ fundraiser is planned for Saturday, August 16th. If you can volunteer, your help will be greatly appreciated. Last year's event was a remarkable success that we hope to repeat.

We welcome all fundraising ideas, so please share them with a committee member. The Auxiliary continues to grow, with three new members this year—welcome to you all!

Until next time, stay safe.

Paul Brien

Gary (Mick) James - RSL ANZAC of the Year Award Recipient 2025

Our Cardiff sub-Branch secretary Gary (Mick) James has been recognized with the **RSL ANZAC OF THE 2025 YEAR AWARD**.

This is a prestigious award that is presented by the Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) designed so that those men and women amongst us can be recognised and honoured at a national level based on the nomination both of members of the RSL, and also those within the community of which the RSL is a major and visible part.

His citation reads, *"**Mr Gary James of New South Wales** in recognition of his unwavering dedication, leadership, and passion in his role as Hon Secretary of the RSL NSW, Cardiff Sub-Branch. His outstanding leadership, support for veterans, dedication to community engagement, and personal integrity exemplifies the ANZAC spirit."*

The three other recipients in Australia are **Mr Dennis Oldenhove of South Australia**, **Mr David Simmons of Queensland, and Mr Gary Penney of Queensland.**

The Awards are bronze medallions depicting 'Simpson' of Gallipoli and his donkey, and are presented in a specially designed presentation case. The Medallion is accompanied by a miniature bronze lapel badge for everyday wear, and a certificate setting out the nature of the Award and the citation on which the award was given.

The Prize is normally presented in conjunction with the local RSL State Conference, further enhancing the significance of this special recognition.

With some 1,095 Sub Branches across Australia and a membership base of around 149,000, being nominated for this award is a remarkable achievement. To be selected as a recipient by the Awards Committee is truly an exceptional honour.

The Cardiff sub-Branch proudly joins the RSL National Board and Members in congratulating Gary and the other three recipients of the 2025 ANZAC of the Year Awards.

REMEMBERING ANZAC

Anzac Day 2025 saw the dawn service at Cardiff with a larger crowd this year, a sign that the younger are interested in remembering the day and the Spirit of ANZAC, rather than a glorification of war.

Again, the street march coordinated by Vice President Wing Commander Jamie Purdon, led by the 211 Army Cadets Adamstown, and our piper Denis Browning, who has been piping for us for 38 years.

Students and staff from the area schools included Cardiff High, Glendale Technology High, West Wallsend High, Holy Cross Primary Glendale, Cardiff North Public, Cardiff South, Glendale West Public, Edgworth Public Garden Suburbs Public, Saint Kevin's Primary Schools and Macquarie Hills Community Preschool participated at the service.

President Lieutenant Colonel (rtd) Geoff Kelly reciting the ode of remembrance.

Sub-Branch Veterans also appreciate the volunteer service of our bugler Mrs Jou Kelin as well as the support offered by the registered club, and our padre Graham Gordon, with the efforts of the sub-Branch executive, and our Events Coordinator Derek Kenyon.

Belmont ANZAC Day Service 2025

With the demise of the Belmont as a Chapter of our sub-Branch, Cardiff adopted the responsibility of sponsoring the service at the Belmont War memorial.

Belmont Street Parade

The Belmont community came together at Cullen Park to honour the Day. The service assisted by Cardiff sub-Branch president Geoff Kelly and Event Coordinator Derek Kenyon and others, featured a march along High Street, moving speeches, the Last Post, and wreath-laying ceremonies at the Belmont War Memorial.

Assembly at Belmont service

Attendees of all ages reflected on the sacrifices made by servicemen and women, embodying the Spirit of ANZAC with unity and respect.

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ANZAC COMMEMORATION SERVICES

As a prelude to ANZAC Day services, Cardiff sub-Branch volunteers extended their dedication and compassion by providing ANZAC services to eleven aged care facilities and seven local schools.

some of the volunteers who presented the service at Koombahlar aged care home.

Volunteers who performed these services were Des Abberfield, Doug Baldock, Barry Copas, Charlie Stevens, Ray Kelly, Geoff Kelly, Pauline and Doug Roworth, with Jou Kerlin, Peter and Milla Sneesby.

Their commitment embodies the Spirit of ANZAC and makes a lasting impact on our community.

A very special bugle.

Bugle calls at the Cardiff's Dawn Service 2025 were made by our Bugler Jou Kerlin using a bugle that was the original bugle carried by the 2nd Battalion AIF on Gallipoli and through out the Western Front during World War One before it was handed over to the 2/2nd Battalion during World War Two.

It war further handed down to Newcastle's Second Battalion The Royal New South Wales Regiment, a battalion that has direct lineage with the First AIF Second Battalion that landed on Gallipoli on the first day. Cardiff sub-Branch are now custodians of the bugle and according to Jou, the bugle has the sound that is still as good as the rest.

Some of us older members know about living on the edge. They used to answer the phone without knowing who it was.

Williamtown based Aussie Wedgetails trump their United States counterparts.

Acknowledgement Matthew Kelly Newcastle Herald Article from Sunday the 9th March 2025.

US AIR Force chiefs have quietly conceded Australia's fleet of Wedgetail surveillance aircraft are superior to any comparable aircraft in their multibillion-dollar defence arsenal.

Minister for Defence Industry and Capability Delivery Pat Conroy MP made the revelation while announcing that the government would spend $569 million to upgrade the Williamtown-based E- 7A fleet.

The investment will secure 300 defence industry jobs including 170 in the Hunter. The seven Wedgetails have played a critical role in the past decade assisting in the search for the missing Malaysian aircraft MH370, supporting allied forces fighting ISIS in the Middle East as well as defending Ukraine. Mr Conroy said, *"I have heard from my counterparts in the United States that during the insurrection against ISIS in Syria and Iraq that US* Strike fighter squadrons preferred to partner with the seven Wedgetails from the Australian Air Force squadron compared to their own surveillance aircraft"

He added, *"They said it in a very respectful way, but they could see the*

great capability that was being offered and that's why they are acquiring these aircraft".

The funding package will ensure Australia's Wedgetail's remain the most advanced surveillance aircraft fleet in the world. The work will include critical upgrades to the aircraft's software and support systems.

The aircraft entered service in the 2010s and are due to be replaced between 2035 and 2040.

Communication systems on Royal Australian Navy ships will be upgraded under a $200million program with Boeing Defence Australia.

HMAS Brisbane will be home to the main hub for design and development work for this project. The contract will deliver a state-of-the-art secure and interoperable communications system known as the Maritime Warfighter Network and will provide the Australian Defence Force with a single, integrated communications network.

Now that the Statues of early pioneers have been removed and places renamed, tell us how has your life improved?

Arthur Leggett: Western Australia's oldest surviving World War Two Prisoner of War dies aged 106 years.

Born in 1918, Arthur Leggett joined the 2/11th City of Perth Battalion, fighting across Libya, Greece, and Crete during the Second World War. But in 1941, at just 22 years old, his fate changed when German forces captured him during the Battle of Crete.

Leggett faced the brutal reality of being a prisoner of war, spending four years in captivity, forced into hard labour in Polish coal mines under harsh conditions.

In 1945, as the war neared its end, Leggett and thousands of other POWs were forced to endure a gruelling 800-kilometre march across Europe in the freezing cold. Exhausted but determined, he pressed on—until U.S. Forces finally liberated him.

After the war, Leggett became one of Western Australia's strongest voices for ex-POWs. He served as President of the Ex-Prisoners of War Association of Western Australia for 29 years, ensuring that the sacrifices of Australia's POWs were recognized and respected.

More than just an advocate, Leggett was an educator. He visited schools, sharing his experiences so that younger generations understood the true cost of war. He believed in teaching resilience, reminding students that even in the hardest times, the human spirit can endure. He passed away on the 6 April 2025.

Greg Piper MP

Member for Lake Macquarie

Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly

On 25 April each year, we commemorate those Australians who have served in times of war and peace.

This ANZAC Day also marked 110 years since Australian and New Zealand forces landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula. From that harsh battle and unbelievable sacrifice emerged the ANZAC Spirit.

The ANZAC Spirit has helped shape our national identity. As Australians, we take pride in our mateship, courage, resilience and sacrifice. These are the same qualities our service personnel carry with them, fulfilling their duties in the spirit of the original ANZACs at Gallipoli.

While attending ANZAC Day services at Speers Point Park, Neville Thompson Oval and Rathmines Catalina War Memorial, I was heartened to once again see the immense respect our Lake Macquarie community has for Australia's service personnel.

Many veterans call the shores of Lake Macquarie home. Days of commemoration allow us to come together and teach our young people their stories, so that we may always honour their sacrifices. Lest We Forget.

I thank the RSL sub-branches that organised commemorations throughout Lake Macquarie, and Jake Foster from my office for attending the Cardiff Dawn Service on my behalf.

Please contact my office if you have any questions or need help with State Government matters, would like to arrange congratulatory messages for significant birthdays and anniversaries or require JP services. You can visit my office at 126A Cary Street, Toronto, or phone: 4953 3200, or email: lakemacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

Kind regards

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few." Winston Churchill 1940.

The Last of the Few

The Life and Service of Legendary RAF Pilot John "Paddy" Hemingway of Ireland.

John "Paddy" Hemingway, born on July 17, 1919, in Dublin, Ireland, was a distinguished Royal Air Force (RAF) pilot and the last surviving member of "The Few" who fought in the Battle of Britain.

Hemingway joined the RAF in 1938 and served with No. 85 Squadron during World War Two. His early service included missions over France, where he provided fighter cover for retreating Allied Forces.

During the Battle of Britain in 1940, Hemingway flew Hurricanes and participated in intense dogfights against the German Luftwaffe. He was forced to bail out of his aircraft twice during this period. Once landing in the sea off Essex and another time in marshland. Despite these incidents, he continued to serve with resilience. For his bravery and service, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) in 1941.

Hemingway's career extended beyond the Battle of Britain. He served as an air controller during the D-Day operations and later commanded No. 43 Squadron, flying Spitfires in Italy. Remarkably, he survived being shot down four times during the war, including an incident in 1945 when his Spitfire was hit by anti-aircraft fire near Ravenna, Italy. He parachuted into enemy territory but managed to return to his squadron with the help of local partisans.

After the war, Hemingway remained in the RAF, eventually attaining the rank of Group Captain before retiring in 1969. He passed away on March 17, 2025, at the age of 105.

Raymond Towers Holmes: The RAF Pilot Who Took Drastic Measures to Protect London.

Raymond Towers Holmes, born on August 20, 1914, in Wallasey, Cheshire, England, was a Royal Air Force (RAF) pilot whose decisive actions during the Battle of Britain captured the public's imagination. Before joining the RAF Volunteer Reserve in 1936, Holmes worked as a journalist, a profession he would return to later in life. His military career, however, placed him among the ranks of "The Few," a term used to describe the RAF pilots who defended Britain during its darkest hours.

On September 15, 1940, a day referred to as "Battle of Britain Day," Holmes was flying a Hawker Hurricane with No. 504 Squadron as part of the effort to repel German air attacks. During his patrol, Holmes encountered a German Dornier Do-17 bomber heading toward central London. Based on its trajectory, Holmes believed the bomber's intended target might be Buckingham Palace.

After engaging the bomber, Holmes successfully damaged the aircraft but ran out of ammunition. Faced with no other means to neutralize the threat, Holmes made the split-second decision to ram his Hurricane into the tail section of the Dornier, shearing it off and causing the bomber to crash near Victoria Station. Holmes' Hurricane was severely damaged in the collision, and he was forced to bail out. Parachuting to safety, he landed near Chelsea, unharmed, and his actions were widely reported in the press, earning him a place in wartime folklore.

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The Dornier's wreckage was later recovered, and its tail section became a physical testament to Holmes' quick thinking and determination during a pivotal moment in the Battle of Britain. This act of bravery was seen as a reflection of the resolve displayed by RAF pilots in protecting Britain from invasion during the summer and autumn of 1940 and saw him receiving a Mention in Dispatches. (MID)

Holmes continued to serve in the RAF throughout the war and later worked as a King's Messenger, carrying sensitive government documents, before he eventually returned to journalism, Holmes passed away on June 27, 2005, at the age of 90. His story remains a poignant chapter in the history of the Battle of Britain, illustrating the resourcefulness and courage of the RAF pilots who played a critical role in the defence of Britain.

If your wife says, "What would you do without me?"
"Live happily ever after" is not the correct answer.
Stay tuned for more marriage guidance advice.

Demarcation stones

At the end of the Great War, a line of sculpted stones was placed across France and Belgium to mark the positions where the Germans made their greatest penetration, and from where the Allies launched their counter-attacks and repelled enemy advances. These stones commemorate significant locations along the Western Front.

Initially, 118 demarcation stones were installed—22 in Belgium and 96 in France. Each stone stands one meter high and features a laurel wreath at the top, alongside a helmet representing the allied troops who held that section of the line. The helmets vary by country, with Belgian, British, or French designs. Each stone also displays symbolic items of soldiers' equipment: a water bottle and gas mask on either side, and a hand grenade and flame burst on each of the four corners.

Today, 19 of the stones remain in Belgium, although some have been relocated due to road widening projects. The exact number still standing in France is uncertain; many were destroyed during the Second World War when German Panzers ran over them during their advance and occupation.

Offending Memorial

Replaced memorial

Ironically, Hitler and the Nazis spared most Allied memorials and cemeteries from the Great War, possibly due to Hitler's own experience as a soldier in World War One. However, he did take exception to a single Australian memorial—the one erected at Péronne. This memorial marked an Australian victory over the Germans' last stronghold defending the Somme line, celebrated as the finest achievement of the AIF 2nd Division during the Great War. The memorial was removed by the German Army in 1940, as they found it offensive. It was eventually replaced by a new statue of a digger in 1971.

The Australian Army has adopted the SIG Sauer P320 X-Carry Pro pistol as its new standard sidearm, replacing the Browning Hi Power, as part of the LAND 159 program aimed at modernizing the Australian Defence Force's weaponry.

The P320 X-Carry Pro features advanced technology such as the SIG ROMEO2 Micro Reflex Sight and SIG FOXTROT2 flashlight, enhancing its reliability and usability in combat. This model has also been chosen by other nations, including Denmark, indicating its effectiveness and global appeal.

Was so depressed last night, I called lifeline. Got through to a call centre in Afghanistan, told them I was suicidal, they go all excited and asked if I could drive a truck....

People ask if Kokoda was a track or trail?

The term Kokoda Track and Kokoda Trail are both used to describe the 96 kilometre footpath in Papua New Guines famous for its role in World War Two.

Kokoda Track.

This term is more commonly used in Australia and aligns with Australian English where Track is a familiar term for a path or trail.

Kokoda Trail

This term is official recognised by the Papua New Guinea government and is used in the battle honour awarded to Australian forces who fought there.

Both Terms were used interchangeable during the war, and neither is incorrect, the choice often depends on personal or regional preferences.

Sick and tired of boiling water for pasta? Boil a large bowl and freeze it.
Stay tuned for more cooking hints

In 2017, the Cardiff subbranch's ANZAC Day dawn service paid tribute to the 100th anniversary of the First AIF's contributions in France and Belgium. The year 1917 was a tragic one for Australia, with over 76,000 battle casualties at key locations such as Bullecourt, Messines, Ypres, Polygon Wood, and Passchendaele.

To honour the Western Front diggers, we worked to secure accurate, authentic, and high-quality reproductions of World War One AIF infantry uniforms. This endeavour was inspired by the movie Beneath Hill 60, which led us to reach out to the movie production team for information on their uniform suppliers. With assistance from Major Peter Lockwood of the 211 Army Cadets, we successfully obtained uniforms tailored for five cadets in the unit. Included was:

After conferring with the New South Wales Police firearm registry we gained permission for .303 rifles to complete the accuracy of the uniformed party which comprised four soldiers and a guard commander.

Steel Helmet as 1917
Tunic with colour patches and chevrons
Undershirt
Trouser braces
Breeches
Putties
Identity discs
Ankle boots - brown
1908 Webbing Equipment
Small Box Respirator pack

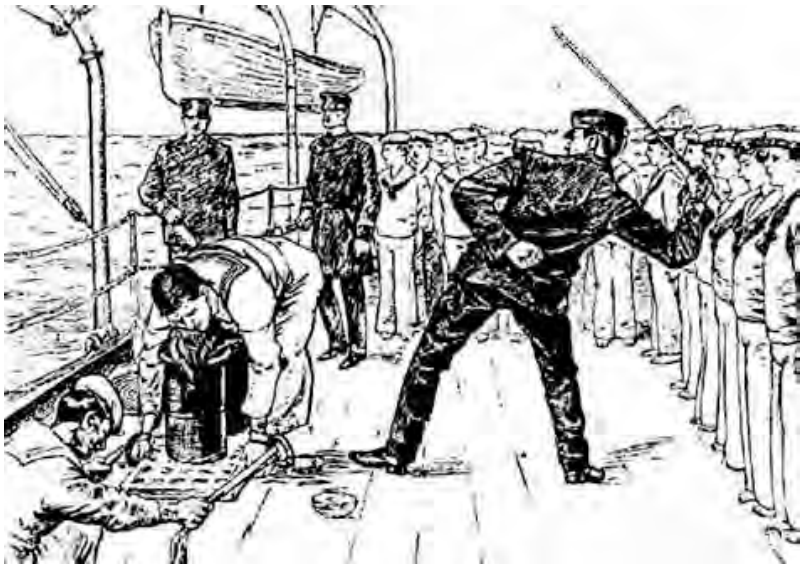
Assistance was then obtained from the Australian Armed Forces Re-Enactment Heritage Unit, Newcastle who provided the rifles and also instructed the cadets in the appropriate rifle drill for the Dawn Service.

The cadet's display was so well accepted that they were then invited to lead the ANZAC DAY city march in Newcastle.

211 Cadets undergoing .303 rifle drill training for the ANZAC service.

211 Cadets leading the Newcastle city ANZAC DAY march.

Kissing the gunner's daughter



Is an old naval term referring to a form of corporal punishment used in the British Royal Navy. It involved a sailor being bent over a cannon (the "gunner's daughter") and flogged with a cat-o'-nine-tails or a similar whip. This punishment was typically administered for serious offenses and was intended to maintain discipline and order on the ship.

The phrase is a stark reminder of the harsh conditions and strict discipline that sailors faced during the Age of Sail. It's a vivid example of the historical practices that have since been abolished in modern navies.

In the 1940's males faked their age to fight in World War two.

In 2025 males pretend to be females to win in sports.

Know your history.
The evolvement of the RSL badge

1915-1919: During this period, there were badges for state-based Associations. However, in 1916, a national badge appeared and gradually replaced the State badges.

1919: This style of RSL member's badge was worn when the organisation was known as the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia.

1922: This style of RSL member's badge with a slight design change was worn until 1941.

1941: The RSL name was changed to the Returned Sailors', Soldiers' and Airman's imperial League of Australia and this badge issued.

1966: The name changed to the Returned Services League of Australia.

1971: The name changed to the Returned Services League of Australia and the crown changed from the King's to the Queen's crown.

1990: The badge was changed to be the Returned and Services and added the female image reflecting the service given by the Women's Services.

No wealth or influence can purchase the badge which may be worn only by those who have served the country.

The badge is in the form of a shield and the shield is a protection to the wearer. In the badge the red represents the blood ties of war that exist between comrades. White stands for the purity of the motives in joining the league - to render service without thought of personal gain or ambition. The blue indicates a willingness to render that service to a comrade anywhere under the blue sky - wherever he may be. The wattle is symbolic of Australia. The leek, rose, thistle and shamrock are symbolic of, and represent the link with Wales, England, Scotland and Ireland respectively.

Depicted in the centre of the badge, and encircled by the name of the organisation, are a sailor, soldier, airman and servicewoman marching together with their arms linked in friendship. This is to show that within the circle of the League, all Services and all ranks march together in unity and comradeship.

Green on Green

The term “green on green” is used today in military jargon to describe situations where troops accidentally or intentionally harm their comrades during combat. However, it is not widely known in history.

Lieutenant Colonel George Frederick Braund, the Commanding Officer of the Second Battalion AIF, was accidentally shot on Gallipoli.

Around midnight on May 3, 1915, he was returning to his dugout from a brigade headquarters meeting. Taking a shortcut through some scrub, he was challenged by an Australian sentry. Braund, who was hard of hearing, did not hear the sentry’s challenge and kept approaching. Mistaken for the enemy, he was shot dead by the sentry.

Another incident occurred when Lieutenant Colonel Walter Ramsay McNicoll of the 6th Battalion AIF was briefing the CO of the English Deal Battalion, Royal Naval Division, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Nelson Bendshye. They were mistaken in the dark for the enemy. Bendshye was shot and killed, while McNicoll was bayoneted but survived with serious wounds.

Time Dilation

A fascinating concept in physics is the phenomenon where time appears to pass at different rates in different reference frames.
For example, if you left Earth at the age of 15 and travelled at nearly the speed of light, spending 5 years in space, you would return at the age of 20. However, due to time dilation, all your friends who were 15 when you departed would be 65 years old upon your return.

Bite the bullet

Meaning - Accepting something difficult or unpleasant.

History – In the day when there was no time to administer anaesthetic for surgery in battle or none was available, the surgeon made the patient bite down on a bullet in an attempt to distract them from the pain.

Blood is thicker than water

Meaning family comes before anything else.

History – in Ancient middle eastern culture blood rituals between men symbolised bonds that were far greater than those of family. The saying also has to do with blood brothers because blood they shed in battle together were said to have stronger bonds than biological brothers.

Break the ice

Meaning to commence a project of initiate a friendship.

History – before the days of trains or cars, port cities that thrived on trade suffered during winter because frozen rivers prevented commercial ships from entering the city. Small ships known as ice breakers would rescue the icebound ships by breaking the ice and creating a path for them to follow. Before any type of business arrangement today, it is now customary to break the ice before beginning a project.

Butter someone up.

Meaning – to flatter someone.

History – An ancient Indian custom involved throwing balls of clarified butter at statues of the gods to seek favour.

Caught red Handed.

Meaning – to be caught doing something wrong.

History – This saying originated because of a law, that if someone butchered an animal that did not belong to him, he had to be caught with the animal's blood on his hands to be convicted. Being caught with the freshly cut meat did not make the person guilty.

Studies show that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.

An Australian Corp that was despised by the AIF

Considered a necessary evil, the 'Jacks' or MP's were said to be despised by 'all good troops and hated by the bad ones'.

The Australian Army Military Police, the forerunner of the today's Provost Corps was established on April 3, 1916. Initially known as the ANZAC Provost Corps, its responsibilities included traffic control, security, handling prisoners of war, and maintaining discipline.

Preparations were introduced during December 1915 when the army decided to employ men as military police. Originally it was for men who had some slight physical imperfection and had been unable to get past the military doctor at the recruiting hall, and who had some experience in work similar in nature to that performed by military police.

After training in Australia, they were deployed overseas. Their role, which included upholding military law, was unfamiliar to them and to the diggers—many of whom had previously experienced strained relationships with the British Military Police. Before Gallipoli, diggers had clashed with the strict disciplinary regime of the MPs in Egypt. Known for their larrikin spirit and mateship, the diggers often found the rigid and formal structure imposed by the MPs to conflict with their own values and camaraderie.

Sub: - "Don't you know what to do when you pass an officer? - You're a soldier are you not?"
Private Anzac: - "No - I'm a farmer!"

Many of the diggers had worked in Australia before enlisting, bringing with them the attitudes and expectations they had at home: to work hard and play hard. The military hierarchy of the AIF mirrored the relationships between officers and the rank and file that existed in civilian life. They viewed their enlistment as an extension of their civilian roles, and the class distinctions upheld by the British aristocracy were not recognized by the Australians.

An interesting dynamic within the AIF was that Australian soldiers promoted to Commission rank based on merit, often came from humble backgrounds, including those who had previously worked for property owners. During the war, these newly

commissioned officers commanded those same property owners who, at the war's end, would likely return to their pre-war positions of authority.

The appointment of Australian military police saw their emulation of the British Military police uniform and tactics at a time when the British Army was revered.

While no doubt some soldiers in the Provost corps performed their duties with fairness including some diggers who during the course of the war were decorated and wounded, and after rehabilitation, were moved out of the line having earned less strenuous roles, with some attached to the military police. Others were more overbearing and domineering going above and beyond enforcing regulations that strictly restricted soldiers behaviour, enforcing curfews and the consumption of alcohol, while metering out punishments that were resented by the soldiers who felt it infringed their personal freedoms.

Incidents of two diggers being on leave in London hailing a cab and when entering they were ordered out of the cab by military police who then gave the cab to officers.

Such factors combined to create a general dislike and mistrust of the military police amongst the AIF who knew them by imposed nick names including Recaps, Monkeys, Snowdrops and the Jacks.

So bad was the animosity that when Lieutenant General Sir John Monash took over command of the Australia Corps he considered a forced rotation of soldiers in and out of the Military Police trying to ease tensions. This was never implemented, and the animosity of the diggers continued.

Albeit there were soldiers who accepted the military police as a necessary part of maintaining order and decline within the ranks, the varied resentments were influenced by the individual soldier's experience with the police.

After the war numerous antidotes written by returned diggers on the extreme behaviour of the Military Police, both Australian and British describing them as parasites too numerous to mention. It was also standard at AIF reunions that when the role was called, the final call was, "are there any Jacks here?" With the thunderous reply, "NO!"

One up on the Jacks'

By a digger who was there Published August 1931

Was one of a fatigue party that had been unloading a supply train at Albert railhead in 1916 and just as the empty rattler was preparing to pull out a couple of Tommy sergeants bound for Blighty rushed on to the platform.

"This train going to Boulogne?" asked one of them. "Yes," replied our Corporal – "hop aboard and close the door", and as the train moved out he deftly fastened the door of their 'hommes and chevaux" carriage with a piece of wire. Of course there was a reason.

Firstly, those Tommy NCOs belonged to that beloved unit, the Military foot Police and secondly the train was bound not to Boulogne, but Rouen, where no doubt two furious "Jacks" arrived swearing eternal vengeance on the AIF.

Disciplined the "Jacks" by a digger who was there

WHEN the 5th Light Horse were-camped at Deidar in the Sinai Desert, many crime sheets came from the Military Police in Port Said for trivial offences committed in that putrid city, and the O.C. got so fed-up that he decided all cases would not be heard unless the "Jacks" were sent out to support the charges.

The first three "Jacks" to come out were the last. Horses had to be sent over to railhead to transport them, and someone saw that the lead horses were buck jumping remounts just arrived from the depot.

The Tommy "Jacks" who managed to reach the saddle at the railhead, were immediately thrown, and the three M.P.'s did the long trip across the hot desert on foot. That was the last time members of any Light Horse regiment on leave in Port Said were Interfered with by Tommy "jacks."

Then there was the problem with returning Military Police back to Australia on troopships and while recognised by the authorities it remain a problem.

On one occasion in 1919 the troops recognised an MP who was concealed amongst the troops not wearing his corps patches. He was travelling with a English 'War bride' so they had a cabin onboard.

However his exposure resulted in a fractured jaw as he rushed to escape the mob and locked himself in the cabin where he spent the remainder of the trip to Melbourne.

Another from a digger who was there published in 1929

DIGGERS who returned to Australia in the troopship "Plassy" at the end of 1919 will recall an incident which happened on the high seas two days' sail from Colombo. The military quota aboard ship consisted mostly of convalescent soldiers and camp details among whom were a number of ex-military police. One of these was well known to several of the Diggers as a Jack who had often exceeded the limits of his official duties while in London. About mid-day as the Jack was on his way to the orderly room for some breach of discipline, he was roughly seized by several Diggers and hoisted overboard.

The ship was doing fourteen knots, in a fairly rough sea. Luckily for the Jack, the incident was noticed by the Captain on the bridge, who threw a lifebuoy and Jack clung to it.

A life-boat which the ship's black crew attempted to launch met with mishap, anil precipitated the whole of the crew Including one of the ship's officers into the water. By this time confusion reigned. The Jack was being carried out of sight, and the boat's crew were hanging on for dear life to life-buoys thrown to them.

Better luck was experienced in the launching of another lifeboat. The crew of the first boat were rescued, and the ‘Digger’ Jack was picked up more dead than alive, after having been in the shark-infested waters for about two hours. If that man is alive today, he must often remember his perilous experience. No official inquiry was held, and the Jack remained a patient in the ship's hospital for the remainder of the voyage.

2nd AIF Military Police 1939

The statement was made at the commencement of the Second War that the new military police i.e. provost corps is going to start with a clean slate, and unlike all previous military police the new team will have a policy of cooperation with the diggers.

A call at one of the AIF training camps for volunteers for the military police resulted in a couple of men volunteering to the hisses and boos of the soldiers in rank. The reputation of the ‘Jacks’ from the great war prevailed from father to son in World War Two.

Then after finding out what their duties would be, their tried to return to the ranks were refused.

Australian soldiers threaten to shoot British military Police i.e. Red Caps.

Clearly both sides did not do much to endear themselves with each other. Historically proven true, but not from Australian sources, rather from the sources of the British, including their Military Police.

Australian diggers threatened to shoot military police over the treatment of British soldiers serving field punishment in Flanders in 1917.

Field punishment was imposed for minor offences like getting drunk off duty, where British soldiers were tied spreadeagle usually to the wheel of gun limbers.

The Australians so incensed at the treatment of the Tommies they cut them loose and then dared to British military police with loaded rifles to truss them up again.

The mentality of the digger was that he was not going to be pushed around and did their best to ensure that nobody else was pushed around either.

The Slur of being an MP could stop someone becoming an MP

The slur of being a member of the military police in the World War One was seen as sufficient to stop a candidate being elected to parliament.

In 1925 a letter from a digger concerning the slur he thought connected to the candidates for election in the Byron electorate, where Lieutenant J K William DCM was standing for election and a rumour was going around that he and been connected with the military police during the great War, an allegation that would have seen him unelectable in the day,

Northern Star (Lismore, NSW: 1876 - 1954), Monday 25 May 1925, page 4

MILITARY POLICE

(To the Editor.)

Sir, —I regret the necessity of having to uphold and defend one of the Progressive candidates against the wild and malicious lies that have been circulated in all parts, of the Byron electorate, to the effect that Lieut. J. K. Williams was connected with the military police during the war, or after.

The circumstances of such an attack compel me to say

that no one but a Digger with a knowledge of the distaste in which a Jack was regarded by the lads on the mother side, could conceive the value of such a rumour directed and circulated because of its damaging effect it will have on an opponent's candidature and chances of being returned to Parliament on Saturday next.

Lovers of fair play know the untruthfulness of the rumour and that the lie has been' nailed, and realising the position will vindicate the honour of a decent, capable, clean fighting Digger, such as Lieut. Williams, D.C.M.

An Audacious move by flying under the bridge.

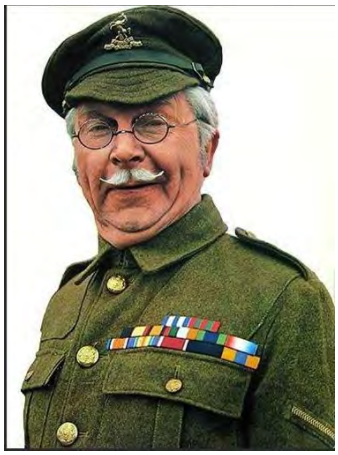
During World War II, an Australian pilot named Peter Isaacson, from the 156 Pathfinder Squadron RAF, undertook a remarkable feat. On 22 May 1943, he piloted a brand new Avro Lancaster bomber known as "Q for Queenie" from Prestwick in Scotland to Amberley in Australia. The journey took them through Montreal, Ottawa, San Francisco, Hawaii, and Canton Island, finally landing at Amberley airfield, west of Brisbane, on 4 June 1943. The total flying time for this extensive journey was 74 hours.

Afterwards, "Q for Queenie" flew on to Mascot airfield in Sydney. On 22 October 1943, Isaacson performed the daring act of flying the Lancaster under the Sydney Harbour Bridge as part of a tour to promote war loans. Isaacson was a highly decorated pilot in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), honoured with the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Force Cross, and the Distinguished Flying Medal.

Britain's Home Defence – known colloquially as Dad's Army

A completely fictitious television series ,Dad's Army ran from 1968 to 1977. Depicting a platoon of Home Guards in the fictional town of Walmington On Sea during the Second World War.

The series acknowledged the antecedents of soldiers on the Home Front and their previous military experience.



One character was Lance Corporal Jack Jones and his chest full of medals, that indicated he was a long serving soldier in campaigns leading up and including World War One.

Lance Corporal Jones' ribbons in the series correspond to genuine campaigns, showing the experience of some members of the real British Home Guard.

The character purports to have been a member of the First Battalion Warwickshire, a real unit of the British army, and as such he was awarded the following medals for service in Egypt, the Sudan and India.

He wears :

The Egypt medal

The Khadir star

Queens Sudan medal

The Khadir Sudan/Khartoum medal

Queen Victoria Punjab Frontier medal

The Queens South Africa medal

The Kings South Africa medal

The Indian General Service medal

Army long service and good conduct medal

The 1914 Star

The British war medal

The Allied victory medal

Britain's Home Guard was more than Dad's Army

Unlike the bumbling nature of the men in the DAD'S ARMY television program, during the Second World War, when confronted with the crisis, one and a half million joined the Home Guard.

Men who were veterans of previous service in the Boer War, India and Sudan campaigns, and World War one enlisted. There is evidence to suggest that some men were particularly concerned about any potential capitulation by the British Government to the Germans given the dire situation in Europe, and considered plans that may have included overthrowing the British Government if such a capitulation should occur.

Many people felt the men of the Home Guard would come to grief quickly at the hands of the well trained German army with its mechanized armour columns. However, the men guarding the coastline were developed into a disciplined and organized force and clearly brave.

When an air raid took place at the Vickers Aircraft Factory at Weybridge, Surrey a section leader of the Home Guard rushed in to find himself face to face with an unexploded 500 lb. bomb. In his 36 years, he had never seen one so near as he led his party of men, handling it with care to haul and secure it to a piece of scrap to be towed away by truck to a safe distance. That day was September 21, 1940, and his efforts won him the

(Continued on page 35)

(Continued from page 34)

George Cross. He later enlisted with the Royal Engineers and was killed in Normandy in 1944.

Another Home Guard recipient of the George Cross saved the lives of 6 people found unconscious in a cellar filled with gas fumes. The section commander was lowered repeatedly into the space in order to pull men out, dying in the last attempt while pulling 2 men clear.

These men were not fools, and had a few tricks up their sleeves. They contrived to make their own flamethrowing weapons and various camouflaged roadside bombs to surprise invading army units. Their Flame Fougasse could send a barrel full of flaming gelled petrol onto a target. There were 50,000 buried in preparation for an invasion in 1940.

Even the older men were capable of heroic efforts. Lieutenant William Foster, a 61 year old veteran of the Boer War who was seriously wounded while serving in the 2nd Imperial Light Horse and a recipient of the Military Cross as a member of the 3rd Battalion Royal Fusiliers in the First World War fighting at Ypres and Mons,. He was to receive the George Cross as a member of the Home Guard. On September 13, 1942, he threw himself over a grenade when a training exercise went wrong, the bomb landing in a trench full of men. He died saving 30 of his fellow soldiers.

With the fall of France, Hitler planned an operation to invade England to, *"eliminate the English Motherland as a base from which the war against Germany can be continued".* Such an invasion would have been fronted by the Home Guard. Just how militarily viable Hitler's invasion plans were will never be known, as Operation Sea Lion was cancelled in February 1942.

The home front in wartime viewed the Home Guard as a courageous unit that stood in the face of the enemy, prepared to fight to the last if necessary. A film was released as a propaganda effort in support of the Home Guard, called :WENT THE DAY WELL", with heroic actions of the men against an invading German military advance force.

I learnt a lot from my mistakes, so I decided to make more mistakes to learn more.

Australia's Home Guard—the Volunteer Defence Corps.

The threat of invasion of the Australian mainland was a boost to the strength and purpose of Australia's Home Guard – The Volunteer Defence Corps (V.D.C.) This was an Australian part-time volunteer military force, inspired by the British Home Guard, known as the V.D.C. Formed in February 1942, it became part of the Australian Military Forces.

The Returned Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia (or now the Returned and Services League of Australia) was given the responsibility of organising the V.D.C., with units of First World War veterans trained for the defence of their local area, who were issued with the V.D.C. patch. By 1942 the V.D.C. was 45,000 strong and growing. It initially consisted of distinguished ex-servicemen from World War One who were too old for frontline duties.

As the Australian front-line fighting forces were given first call on weapons and equipment, the V.D.C. had to make do with improvised weapons. But from 1941 onwards, it was supplied with standard army uniforms until eventually the army took full control of the organization. They trained in guerrilla tactics and devised schemes for local defence. In February 1942, the V.D.C. opened membership to men aged 18 to 60, including those in reserved occupations. In March 1942 the V.D.C. units in Broome and Wyndham, Western Australia were deployed to defend their towns against Japanese air attacks.

Approximately 5,000 of these men were called up for full-time service as coast watchers, airfield defenders, and security guards, freeing up younger men for combat roles. As the Pacific War

(Continued from page 36)

evolved, the government expanded the V.D.C. which reached a peak strength of nearly 100,000.

V.D.C. members wore green uniforms, including the iconic Aussie slouch hat. Some were armed with .303 rifles and Vickers or Lewis machine guns, while others had to improvise. Due to a lack of suitable training equipment, V.D.C. members often created their own mortars, machine guns, rifles, and grenades. These homemade weapons ranged from crude and dangerous to relatively sophisticated, but still leading to several accidents during the war.

The V.D.C. found a ready-made base in the Australian rifle clubs under the National Rifle Association, which was associated with the Department of Defence. Rifle club members were highly skilled marksmen, well-versed in firearm handling and prepared for the tasks at hand. Almost every significant Australian town had at least one rifle club. In Western Australia alone, there were 128 rifle clubs affiliated with the Western Australian Rifle Association, boasting about 12,000 members.

The Role of the National Emergency Service in Newcastle, during World War Two.

The National Emergency Service (NES) was a critical organization established in Australia in 1939, right before the onset of World War Two. This service aimed to coordinate the efforts of various civil defence groups and ensure the safety and preparedness of civilian populations across the country, including the industrial hub of Newcastle, New South Wales.

Formed in response to the growing threat of war and the potential for air raids and other wartime emergencies that could affect Australian cities and towns. The organization brought together volunteers from all walks of life who were united by a common purpose: to protect their communities and support wartime efforts on the home front.

Advertisements popular at the time.

One of the primary functions of the NES in Newcastle was to implement and manage air raid precautions. This included training and deploying air raid wardens.

The NES worked closely with local councils, police, fire brigades, and work towards educating the public about the necessary precautions and actions to take during emergencies.

Acquitted

By a digger who was there published 1936

In the early days of the war in Cairo there had been many assaults and the rapacious Gippos often had themselves to blame,

One of my cobbers was charged with assaulting and robbing an Abdul of everything but a 5-pound note, How do you plead" asked the CO. Cobber says, "You say that he had a fiver on him? "Yes" replied the CO. Well in that case I plead softening of the brain.

Newcastle Morning Herald dated Monday 27th August 1945.

LAST PARADE OF V.D.C.

After more than four years' service the 5th Battalion V.D.C. held its final parade as a battalion on the Show ground yesterday.

Serving as past members marched on to the parade ground where the former commander of B group, Colonel J C M Corlette, took the salute.

The ceremony was simple, Col Corlette and the commander of the battalion Lieutenant Colonel OP Charlton addressed the men, Equipment was returned.

"A little more than four years ago the first parade of the 5th battalion V.D.C. was held on this ground. In the interval men have done a great deal of unselfish defence work: Lieutenant Colonel Charlton said.

At one stage in Newcastle and on the coalfields, there were 3000 in the V.D.C. to form the original 5th Battalion. The unit had grown until the 20th, 31st and 32nd Battalions had been formed".

Lieutenant Colonel Charlton thanked the men for their loyal service colonel Corlette said that after the Japanese entered the war there had been a big push of middle-aged men to join the V.D.C.

The battalion gave three cheers for its Commanding Officer, then led by the 5th Battalion Band marched past Lieutenant Colonel Charlton for the final salute.

Nix.

The word "nix" comes from German, where it is derived from nichts, meaning "nothing." It entered English in the mid-18th century, originally as slang for "nothing" or "no", and later developed into a verb meaning "to cancel" or "reject."

Arming of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The northern Pylons.

The gun platforms were added to the tops of Sydney Harbour Bridge pylons in 1942, their locations can be clearly seen in the photo taken in January 1949. The addition to the pylons and the bofors were not noticeable when looking from the ground.

During World War Two the Sydney Harbour Bridge was fortified to protect Australia from potential attacks.

As early as 1938, inspections of the bridge's pylons were conducted to identify optimal locations for machine guns. The rising threat of war necessitated these defensive measures, reflecting the strategic importance of Sydney Harbour.

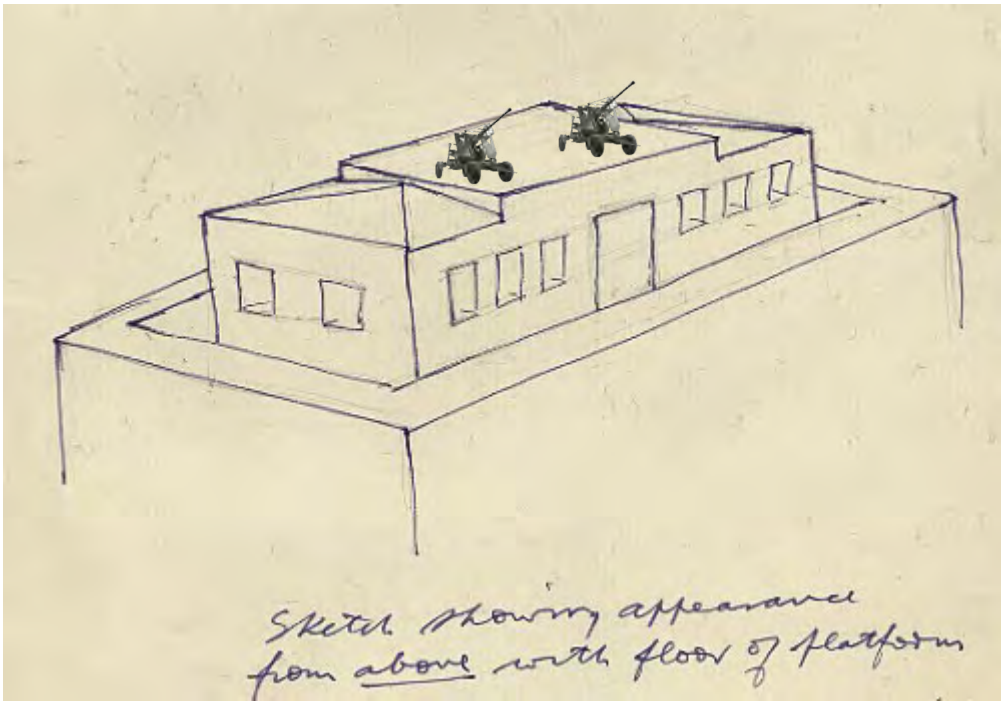
By November 1939, No. 5 Section, 1st Anti-Aircraft Battery, began conducting training exercises within all four pylons of the bridge. These exercises were essential in preparing the defences against potential air raids and ensuring the readiness of the Australian forces.

In April 1942, with the threat of Japanese attacks on Australia looming, the Army took control of the bridge's pylons and installed bofor guns on two of them.

This fortification was part of a broader strategy to defend Sydney Harbour, a key military and economic asset for the country. The gun platforms in the pylons were not only strategic defensive positions but also served as accommodations for troops stationed to guard the bridge.

The fortifications at the Sydney Harbour Bridge were part of a larger network of defences established to protect Australia's major cities and critical infrastructure. These measures included anti-aircraft batteries, coastal defences, and the establishment of air raid defence. The preparations undertaken at the bridge demonstrated the seriousness with which the Australian government and military viewed the threat of attack and their commitment to safeguarding vital assets.

Although the feared large-scale attack on Sydney never materialized, the defensive measures taken, including the fortifications of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, highlighted the city's strategic importance.



Design sketch plan of the amendment to the top of the Sydney harbour Bridge pylons for gun platform with two 40 mm bofors anti aircraft guns superimposed onto the sketch.

Bofors 40 mm L/60 gun

Although this gun is often seen in WWII images from British and America service, neither of these countries actually designed it. It was designed in Sweden, a neutral country during World war two.

Designed capable of destroying or deterring a fast moving target by aiming not where it is, but where it will eventually be.

Countering high-speed aircraft as a small hard to accurately hit, it relied on a sheer volume of firepower.

The Bofors 40 mm, was designed in the 1930s having been developed in the early 1920s, when the Swedish Navy desired a more capable replacement for their Vickers Pom-Pom anti-aircraft guns. The navy handed their request over to Bofors, who entered into a contract in 1928. Soon into this new weapon's development, Bofors encountered problems with its cycling requiring a much larger 40 mm round.

Interestingly, around this time Krupp the major German industrial company that produced tanks, guns, battleships, and U-boats for Nazi Germany during WWII purchased a one-third share of the Bofors company but fortunately, Bofors kept their new anti-aircraft weapon a secret which went into production by 1933.

The result was an anti-aircraft gun that could fire 900-gram high-explosive shells to a maximum of 23,600 ft. (3,800 metres) The gun operated on a gravity-assisted feeding mechanism that was loaded with four round clips by hand and could achieve a maximum rate of fire of 120 rounds per minute.

By the time it was completed the Dutch Navy was one of the first to order in the Bofors 40 mm, placing five twin-gun mounts on the cruiser De Ruyter in the mid-1930s. Soon, many more nations wanted the anti-aircraft gun, especially after Bofors unveiled a towed version in 1935.

The British inspected the system in 1937, made a few changes, and began building it themselves under license, where it was called the "QF 40 mm Mark I."

The British held the gun in extremely high regard and put a massive

emphasis on its production during the war with Commonwealth factories produced over 19,000 Bofors 40 mm guns.

The gun could be mounted on any platform it could fit, like tanks and even civilian trucks. Both the British Army and Navy made extensive use of the Bofors. During D-Day, Bofors guns were vital in protecting newly captured areas, with crews from the Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery shooting down 17 enemy aircraft over the Orne River in France.

During the war they were also used as signalling tools, firing color-coded tracers over safe areas of minefields and indicating the directions of enemy movements.

The weapon also holds the title of being the first ground-based anti-aircraft weapon to shoot down a jet aircraft – in this case, it was a German Me 262.

The US was a major manufacturer of the weapon, with the Army and Navy needing large numbers of them. To fulfill these orders production was given to Chrysler who built 60,000 guns and 120,000 barrels.

In 1940 the US Navy was shown a demonstration of the weapon, and they knew such a weapon would be extremely useful. However, during the discussions that sought to give the Navy a license to produce the weapon, Sweden requested that the US give them the manufacturing licenses for aircraft in return. The Navy declined, and supposedly, secretly acquired imperial drawings from the British. With these, they started building guns illegally. An official deal was made with Bofors in 1941.

Extracted from War History online

It is amazing how many people are ashamed of their body, and how few of their minds

MacArthur planned to destroy the Sydney Harbour Bridge in World War Two.

The Sydney Harbour Bridge photographed during World War Two.

In 1942, General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander of Allied forces in the South-West Pacific, devised a secret plan to destroy the Sydney Harbour Bridge if Japan invaded Australia. Explosives were to be placed at strategic points on both ends of the bridge to ensure its complete demolition. This iconic bridge, opened in 1932, was to be destroyed to prevent enemy forces from using it.

These plans were forgotten until they were rediscovered after the 9/11 attacks while the New South Wales Government was researching ways to protect landmarks from terrorism and they found a document titled "Sydney Harbour Bridge Demolition Plan" in the State Archives.

Former army engineer Brian Nicholson revealed that he was tasked with determining how to destroy the bridge. He identified spots for explosives that, when detonated, would collapse the southern half of the bridge into the harbour.

Carl Scully, a former New South Wales Roads Minister, discovered these plans while writing his biography. Post 9/11, the NSW authorities reinforced the bridge at key points to prevent demolition by truck bombs.

The secret World War Two plans remain locked away to prevent them from being viewed by potential terrorists. This history highlights the extreme measures considered during wartime and ongoing efforts to protect national landmarks.

Newcastle attacked

During World War Two, many incidents were kept from the Australian public to avoid panic and maintain morale. However, submarine attacks on the east coast couldn't be concealed. On May 31 and June 1, 1942, Japanese mini-submarines launched from the I-24 attacked Sydney Harbour, sinking the converted ferry Kuttabul and killing 21 Naval Ratings. The I-24 later sank the merchant ship Iron Chieftain off the Central Coast, resulting in 12 more deaths.

On June 8, the I-24 fired 10 shells at Sydney Harbour, with only one exploding in Bellevue Hill. Coastal defence authorities, fearing a broader attack, alerted Newcastle. Although the initial threat passed, the same night I-21 submarine began shelling Newcastle from Stockton Bight around 2:15 am. Commanded by Captain Kanji Matsumura, the I-21 targeted Newcastle's shipyards, firing 34 shells from about nine kilometres northeast of Fort Scratchley. Several shells were duds, but two exploded on land, causing damage in Parnell Place and near Newcastle Baths.

Eight star shells burst one by one in the sky to illuminate potential targets. An enemy shell hit Nobbys but didn't explode, nor did two others that landed in the east end's tram terminus. Another five shells were also duds, landing at Stewarts and Lloyds, Lysaghts, Rylands, and the BHP. Many shells apparently crashed harmlessly into the Hunter River. Two did explode on land, one shattering against the sea wall just north of Newcastle Baths and one in Parnell Place, hurling a shower of metal splinters towards nearby houses, peppering walls with metal shards, slashing rainwater downpipes with shrapnel, and blowing out house windows.

The attack lasted about 20 minutes until Fort Scratchley' s guns returned fire. The fort's two six-inch guns fired four shells (number two gun was quickly out of action with a damaged loading mechanism) and the submarine made its getaway. Following the attack, ports in Sydney and Newcastle were temporarily closed, and merchant shipping along the coast was suspended. Convoys were introduced to protect shipping, and surface and air searches for enemy submarines were conducted.

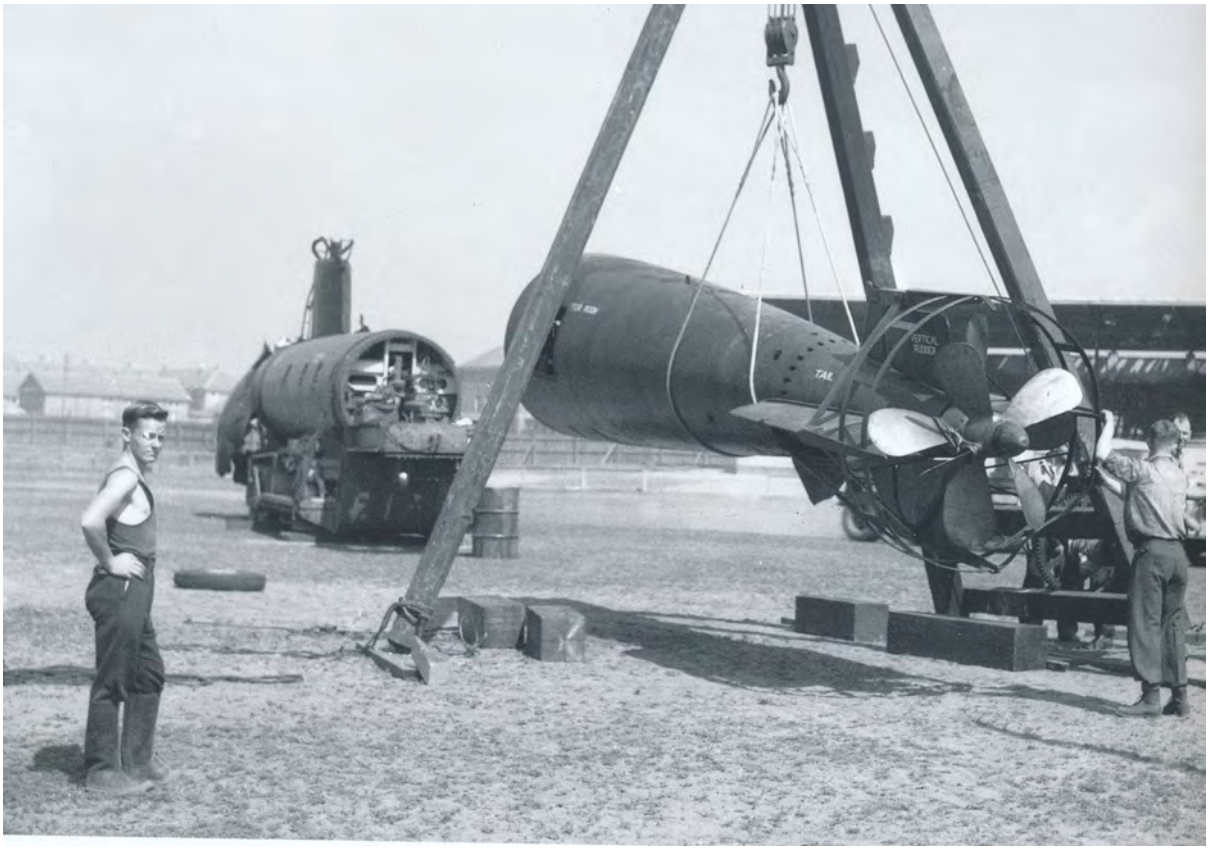
The I-21 left the area after the attack but returned in February 1943, sinking the Iron Knight off Montague Island, killing 36 merchant mariners, many from Newcastle. The I-21 was eventually sunk by aircraft from the USS Chenango near Tarawa in late 1943.

Newcastle Attacked

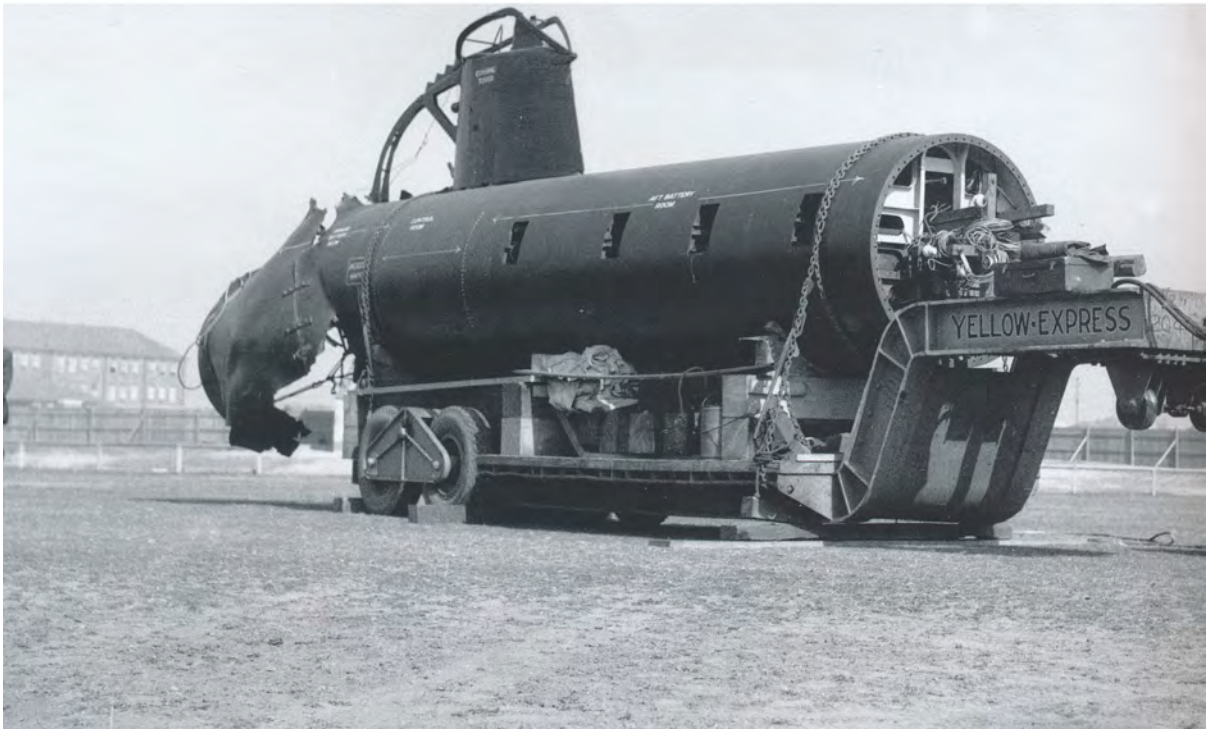
Parnell Place was peppered with shrapnel from shells fired from the deck gun of the Japanese submarine.

Shell strike on the road surface of Parnell Place, Newcastle.

An unexploded 5.5 inch shell fired from the deck gun of the Japanese submarine I -21, that landed n Parnell, Place Newcastle East.



Sections of the two Japanese mini submarines that attacked Sydney Harbour being assembled in the Newcastle showground.



This assembled submarine parts are on display is in the Australian War Memorial Museum, Canberra,

Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway Board Chair Jennifer Collins AM and The Hon. David Harris MP.

Last year, the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway unveiled The Poppy Project, featuring over 7,500 handcrafted poppies made by war widows and communities from NSW, ACT, and QLD, creating a memorial garden honouring veterans. Led by KTMW Board Chair Jennifer Collins AM, the project emphasized community collaboration, with participants receiving support for crafting. War widow Yvonne and her sister contributed to the project, connecting with local RSL members, including Major Scott Babington, who plans to honour fallen soldiers on the Kokoda Track. The display serves as a collective tribute to those who served, highlighting gratitude and the importance of remembrance.

(Sub-Branch trip details to Memorial on page 52)

Daylight Saving

Germany was the first country to implement daylight saving time (DST) on a national scale.

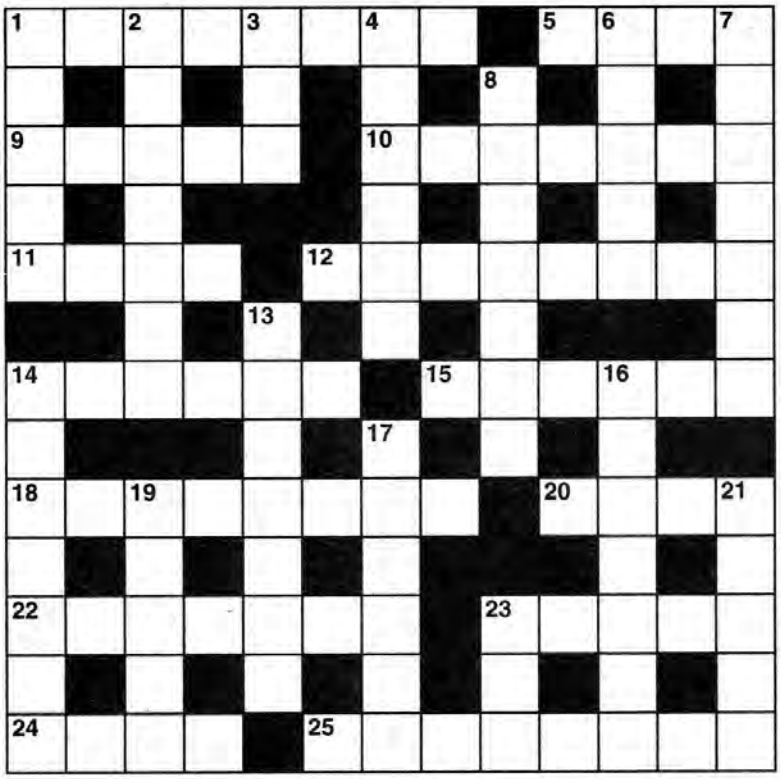
This change took place on April 30, 1916 during World War One.

The idea was to conserve fuel by making better use of natural daylight. Following Germany's lead, several other countries, including the United Kingdom, France, Italy, and even the United States, soon adopted DST.

I want to grow my own food, but I can't find bacon seeds.

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

Sub-Branch trip being organised to the memorial walk.

R.S.L. N.S.W. Cardiff sub-Branch

Tuesday 10 June 2025

RSL NSW CARDIFF sub-Branch

Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway

The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway is a unique tribute to the bravery of Australian troop s who fought through atrocious conditions and against vastly superior enemy numbers in the Papua-New Guinea campaign of July 1942-January 1943. With support from the United States, the Australians inflicted on the Japanese Imperial Army its first defeat. The fighting on the Kokoda Track was one of the vital elements which saved Australia from invasion in the Second World War.

The Papua campaign, including the Kokoda Track, Milne Boy, Buna, Gona and Sanananda resulted in total Australian and United States casualties of 8546. Casualties from malaria were more than 27,000 and from tropica l diseases at least 37,000. More than 2000 Australians and 600 Americans were killed. During the four months of fighting in the Owen Stanley Ranges, the Australian infantry lost 607 killed and 1015 wounded.

The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway covers more than 800 metre's from Rhodes Station to Concord Hospital in Sydney's inner-west and runs along the mangrove -studded shores of Brays Boy on the Parramatta River.

BRIARS SPORTS

The Guided tour along the wheelchair and walker friendly paths or relax and view the presentation in house, morning tea will also be provided.

Then over to Concord for a two-course lunch at the Briars Sports Club.

Luxury Coach transport provided:

- **Depart time: 7:30am from Cardiff RSL Club (To be confirmed)**
- **Return approx., 4:30pm. (To be confirmed)**
- **Total cost for the day is: $35 per RSL NSW member.**
- **Booking inquiries contact: Milla on M: 0481 775 678**

or Cardiff sub-Branch office: Ph: 02 4953 7770, - E: admin@cardiffrslsubbranch.org.au

Payment options:

- **RSL NSW Cardiff sub-Branch office hours: Wednesdays or Saturdays, 10:00am to 1:00pm.**
- **CASH or EFTPOS - at RSL NSW Cardiff sub-Branch Office.**
- **-Or Direct Deposit to RSL NSW Cardiff sub-Branch Mutual Bank, BSB: 646 000 Acct: 100061575.**

in Reference or Description enter your initial, last name and date paid. (eg, J Jones 9/10/25).