



RSL
SA/NT

THE SIGNAL

RSL SOUTH AUSTRALIA, NORTHERN TERRITORY & BROKEN HILL
2020 WINTER EDITION



VE DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

75th Anniversary of the End of World War Two
11am Saturday 15th August 2020
South Australian National War Memorial
North Terrace, Adelaide

Information and Resources - www.rslsa.org.au/vp-day
Public Attendance subject to state Covid-19 Regulations



We Will Remember Them



RSL
South Australia

THE SIGNAL 2020 WINTER EDITION No 93

FEATURED ITEMS

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TORRENS TRAINING DEPOT
RSL CARE SA

Front Cover: Piper Phil Wyld, Victory in Europe 75th Anniversary Commemoration

Editorial

The Signal publication was the primary communication method between RSL SA State Branch and members for several decades. Over the years, as technology and members' expectations changed, it evolved from newspaper print to glossy magazine, to a combination of print and digital, to solely digital editions.

Members have expressed their wishes to see The Signal reinstated. This edition was produced in-house by staff and is intended to be ongoing in a digital form.

Sub-Branch and member contributions are encouraged, email material to Signal@rslsa.org.au.

Considerations:

- Contributions should be interesting and relevant
- Written in the third person unless to be attributed to the author
- Creative, well composed, high resolution photographs
- Editorial team's discretion to amend or omit material

CALENDAR

13th August	RAAF Birthday
15th August	VP Day
18th August	Vietnam Veterans Day
31st August	Malaya Borneo Veterans Day
3rd September	Merchant Navy Day
5th September	Dardanelles Cenotaph Commemoration
13th September	Peacekeepers Commemoration
5th October	Labour Day Public Holiday
7th November	RSL SA/NT State Conference
11th November	Remembrance Day
2021	RAAF Centenary. Activities to be confirmed.



STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Introduction

We have had quite the start to 2020. From bushfires commencing late in 2019 and continuing into the beginning of 2020 and now to a pandemic. It has been a year almost without precedent. We have had to invent new ways of doing things and have been reminded of the goodness inherent in some old fashioned ways; of looking out for one another, placing real value on spending time with family and friends, and thinking deeply about what truly matters.

Bushfires

Cudlee Creek and the Adelaide Hills along with Kangaroo Island were the hardest hit here in South Australia. Many of our younger and not so younger veterans rallied together to assist those in need and in particular, those veterans who these bushfires impacted on. While the State Branch did not have a Bushfire Appeal as such, many ESOs came together and donated funds which were coordinated by RSL Care SA and we thank Nathan Klinge and his wonderful team for doing this on all our behalf. Significant donations were received from interstate RSL Sub-Branches as well as the Malay Borneo Veterans Association in New Zealand. All of these people have been duly recognised. A Sub-Committee was formed for the allocation of the donations received. These funds have all been distributed and were done on a percentage needs basis.

Regional Coordinator, Rod Murray worked with those on Kangaroo Island and had Open Arms along with DVA put in place on Kangaroo Island. Team Rubicon assisted greatly in the Adelaide Hills. A mammoth effort by all and not to forget the Sub-Branches in those areas who pulled together to assist in those areas. Under the leadership of Adam Weinert, President of Lobethal RSL Sub-Branch who kept us informed of where things were at and what was needed.

COVID-19

Unfortunately, this has become a dreaded word in Australian society these days and the cause of these unprecedented times. With up to date directives from the State Government we have kept our Sub-Branches informed with the 'Roadmaps' to recovery as they have come to hand. All Sub-Branches were put into lockdown and many took the opportunity to carry out maintenance work and are slowly opening up as they are able to comply with the latest information. Many have also applied for the stimulus packages that were available through the State and Federal Governments. We thank them all for their cooperation.

Honours and Awards

The League congratulated Mr Garry Wellington OAM of Tarlee SA on his Award of the Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to veterans, their families, and his community work, in the Australia Day Honours.

ANZAC of the Year Awards

The ANZAC of the Year Awards are made annually 'to recognise the efforts and achievements of up to seven Australians who have given service to their fellow Australians and to the community in a positive, selfless and compassionate manner.' The award recipients exemplify the Spirit of ANZAC within the community through their dedication and commitment to the benefit of others. They are exemplars of community service and an inspiration to all Australians. South Australia was very fortunate indeed to have an Awardee of this prestigious Award for 2020. Mr Geoff Tattersall in recognition of his many years of service to the community through various organisations. Geoff will be presented with his Award at a time and place that we are able to do so under the current climate.

Commemoration

In February this year, nine ESOs including the RSL contributed to the Michael Herbert Vietnam Veterans Bursary. The late Michael Herbert whose body and that of his fellow serviceman Robert Carver was repatriated back to Australia marking them as the last servicemen killed in action to be recovered from Vietnam. The bursary also honours three other Sacred Heart Old Scholars who lost their lives during the Vietnam War, along with 61 Sacred Heart Old Scholars that served in the Vietnam War, and was launched at Sacred Heart College. The Michael Herbert Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Bursary will be awarded to one Year 11 student that displays 'Courageous Service to Others'.

Throughout the country, ANZAC Day the most significant day of the year on our Calendar, was scaled back heavily this year and only allowed for city Dawn Services at a minimum to accord with the restrictions that were in place. The 'Light Up the Dawn' initiative was taken up nationally allowing all walks of life to commemorate from their driveways and balconies and was a huge success. We thank all the Sub-Branches for their contribution and I was most impressed in the way they handled their scaled back Services.

A very small Commemorative Service was conducted at the State War Memorial for the 75th Anniversary of the Victory in Europe on the 8th May with minimal invited guests.

STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We are looking forward to conducting the 75th Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific on the 15th August at the State War Memorial. Plans are underway to make this a successful Commemoration and we are working with Veterans SA to bring this to the public and those World War Two Veterans who are unable to attend due to their age and fragility.

Advocacy

Our Advocates right across the board continue to work tirelessly to meet the needs of our Veterans. The load is shared between too few however, training is in place for some more advocates and I trust when they have finished their formal training they will be out there in the space to relieve some of the workload of those currently carrying out this service. Female advocates are greatly needed to address that expectation.

Employment Program

The RSL Employment Program is supported by the resources and expertise that has come out of the already in place RSL Queensland program. With the assistance of RSL Queensland we are pleased to advise that we now have in place a Case Manager in South Australia and we welcome Lauren Martin who was successful in the application for this role. This program is supported by Federal Government funding which has been allocated and managed through our National Headquarters in Canberra.

Avoca Hotel

You will all be aware and have read the media regarding hotels in South Australia taking a hard hit, some having to close their doors. While some hotels have fallen on hard times, the Avoca continues to trade. It has not been easy, however, the wonderful team, throughout these difficult times have volunteered their time and have been working tirelessly to upgrade and refurbish areas throughout the hotel. A huge thank you goes out to them all. A new Chef and menu is in place and we have had some excellent feedback in the service that is being provided. Some Ex-Service Organisations continue to patronise the hotel with their Association gatherings on a regular basis. If you are in the area at any time, pay the crew a visit. RSL Members obtain a generous discount on meals and beverages.

Veterans SA

We have welcomed the new Director of Veterans SA in Catherine Walsh. Catherine has hit the ground running and visiting many ESOs. RSL SA/NT is working with Catherine and her team to forge good relationships between the two organisations moving forward.

State Branch Staff

We are down to minimal paid staff with very few volunteers. Under the leadership of the CEO, David Grenvold, a new Strategic Plan has been put in place and to date, both the Board and Staff are working toward our Strategic Priorities – Board, People & Culture, Veterans Services, Membership, Commemoration and Fundraising. I thank the staff and volunteers most sincerely for their efforts.

Sub-Branches

While it is understood that many Sub-Branches are low in membership, I sincerely thank you all for 'soldiering' on to keep yourselves relevant. We, at State Branch, are trying to forge better relationships with the Sub-Branches and I would hope that they can also do that with us. It is the responsibility of the RSL SA/NT State Branch to work with the Sub-Branches to ensure their sustainability and we intend to ensure that this is carried out. This includes our Sub-Branches in the Northern Territory and Broken Hill. Many Sub-Branches (30 plus) over the last 12 months have had their Centenary and we congratulate them on their continuing achievements.

Annual Sub-Branch Conference (ASBC)

RSL Sub-Branches have been advised that our Annual Sub-Branch Conference will take place on Saturday 7th November at Torrens Training Depot. A Regional Coordinators Meeting will be held at 9.00am in the morning, with the ASBC commencing at 1.00pm. This will be conducted on a smaller scale with an Official Opening by the Governor and the Premier invited to address the Conference. There will be no interstate guests or speakers on the day.

State Board

Our State Board continues to work tirelessly with issues that have arisen. We have welcomed two new Board Members in Paula Dabovich being appointed and Gregory Crotty who was elected.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the hard-working staff and volunteers at the State Branch. My thanks include all our Regional Coordinators and Sub-Branch Volunteers who put in many a long hour to keep what has been built up by our forebears going. I also ask that we all continue to assist in restoring the image of the RSL. We have all done and continue to do many wonderful things and we look forward to future opportunities that we hope will come our way.

Cheryl Cates

COMMEMORATIONS IN 2020

How Australians commemorated was not traditional and took on a vastly different look this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It called for compromise and conditions.



Adelaide ANZAC Day Dawn Service Guests

ANZAC DAY

ANZAC Day plans that had been put in place for several months were undone and the public requested not to attend. With several weeks' notice of cancellation of formal ANZAC Day services a groundswell of the concept for commemorating at home gained momentum. Nationally the RSL developed and promoted LIGHT UP THE DAWN, encouraging people to remember from their homes, driveways and balconies.

RSL SA developed a web guide with a format for conducting and personalising an at-home ceremony, with links to bugle calls and national anthems. This received tremendous web traffic and appreciative comments from the public.

Across the country families and neighbours were united by their separation. We lit candles, played the Last Post, ate ANZAC biscuits and gave thanks for service and sacrifice. The few formal dawn service ceremonies were strictly restricted in attendees and were broadcast on radio, television and the internet. RSL SA expects that audiences will return to dawn services, and visiting the RSL afterwards, when permitted but that LIGHT UP THE DAWN will continue with those whom it suits.

Ian Smith, Chair of the Adelaide ANZAC Day Committee, restructured the guest list several times as gathering restrictions changed and with Police Commissioner's approval was granted permission to conduct a dawn service with limited invited guests and no public attendance at the SA National War Memorial.

Around the state visitors were still permitted to visit war memorials and pause to reflect before moving on. The main thing is that *We Did Remember Them*.

COMMEMORATIONS IN 2020

VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY

At 8:15am on Friday 8th of May RSL State President Cheryl Cates held a brief commemoration at the SA National War Memorial to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War 2 in Europe. The poignant event was attended by the Governor, Premier and several invited guests to pay their respects. Piper Phil Wyld played a lament during the tribute placing. Sometimes 'less is more' and this was such an occasion.



Adelaide VE Day Service Guests

ABORIGINAL VETERANS COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

This annual event is held during Reconciliation Week at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial at the Torrens Parade Ground in Adelaide. Planning was well underway when the committee realised several months prior to the 29th of May that it would most likely not be able to proceed. At that stage it was cancelled and the invited guests were advised. With the experience of seeing how services could be held it was reinstated at short notice with a volunteer work party (pictured) to sweep and prepare the memorial prior to the afternoon ceremony with 10 invited guests.



COMMEMORATIONS IN 2020



Owing to Covid-19 controls ANZAC Day services were cancelled or restricted and Australians were encouraged, for the first time, to stay home on ANZAC Day and to commemorate service and sacrifice privately by LIGHT UP THE DAWN. Nationally the RSL adopted and promoted the concept with images and interviews.

Communities and neighbours, mainstream and social media became the methods to spread the word that we could pay our respects from driveways, balconies and loungerooms.

In suburbs and towns neighbours took on roles to put local commemorations together – reciting the Ode, sounding the Last Post, reading a prayer, cooking BBQ breakfast with ANZAC biscuits and a cuppa. RSL representatives and individuals were able to visit war memorials and place tributes as part of their permitted, non-gathering recreation.

The LIGHT UP THE DAWN concept brought unity to communities and was well covered in the media. We said *We Will Remember Them* and we did.



MILITARY VEHICLE CONVOY Rather than let the cancelled ANZAC Day March go unrepresented Dave Carmen and enthusiasts from the National Military Vehicle Museum drove their vehicles through Adelaide along the March route to the Torrens Parade Ground. That's the spirit.

CORAL BALMORAL Hard fighting with hard lessons. The battles of Fire Support Bases Coral & Balmoral over several weeks from May to June 1968 were major attacks on Australian forces by North Vietnam Regular Army soldiers and Viet Cong. 26 Australian soldiers were killed and over 100 wounded. Four former 102 Field Battery gunners, veterans of the battle, gathered at the Vietnam War Memorial, Adelaide to pay their respects and place tributes. Ubique.





TUMBY BAY RSL CENTENARY

The Centenary of the Tumby Bay RSL Sub-Branch was held on the weekend of 7,8,9 February 2020. The first meeting was held on 29 December 1919 and the first President elected on 7 February 1920.

Activities began on Friday evening with a meet and greet BBQ at the clubrooms. The President welcomed everyone and then the Ode was observed, this was done on-screen incorporating a local soldier's story, Walter Henry Williams, Military Medal recipient, put together by Mr Geoff Stewart. The local SES cooked the BBQ, with the women of the club having made the salads and desserts. Musicians from the Australian Army Band Adelaide entertained the guests.

On Saturday the local Police Officer led the street parade, ending at the town oval. It included ex-service personnel, the Army Band, members of the Barossa Light Horse and local Light Horse members, members of the Tumby Bay RSL, Port Lincoln Army and Navy Cadets, with floats by the local businesses and clubs. Military vehicles were provided by owners from Port Lincoln and were on display at the oval.

The Army Band entertained everyone during lunch, provided by the many stalls. The Light Horse put on a display followed by the firing of a cannon to commence the traditional games for the children, egg and spoon race, 3 legged race, sack race, tug-of-war (local police officer against the children, then the netballers) provided entertainment and laughter for the many spectators.

That evening a formal dinner dance was held at the Soldiers Memorial Hall. Guests included His Excellency the Governor Hieu Van Le and Mrs Le; RSL SA State President Mrs Cheryl Cates and Mr Peter Cates; Mayor of Tumby Bay Mr Sam Telfer and Mrs Karla Telfer; Mr Ian Bates (son of the first RSL President) and Mrs Lyn Bates. RSL ANZAC of the Year awardee Mr Geoff Stewart was Master of Ceremonies and also launched his book, "Tumby Bay District Veterans' Memoirs". Music for the evening provided by the Army Band, entertaining 150 guests.

The Governor addressed the gathering, followed by Mrs Cheryl Cates presenting the Centenary Certificate. The Mayor also gave an address, followed by the cutting of the cake, by the Governor and Mr Ian Bates. An evening of dancing completed the night.

A past Presidents and past Secretaries Dinner was held on Sunday with approximately 70 in attendance. The State President, Mrs Cheryl Cates, was the guest speaker, giving an interesting and informative address. The Eyre United Netball Club catered for the meal.

The excellent decorating of the Soldiers Memorial Hall in period military theme and the club rooms was done by Mrs Lisa Povey. A memorable weekend of activities was had by all who attended, with visitors from all over Australia attending. The club has received many accolades for its centenary events.

Article by Graeme Noske



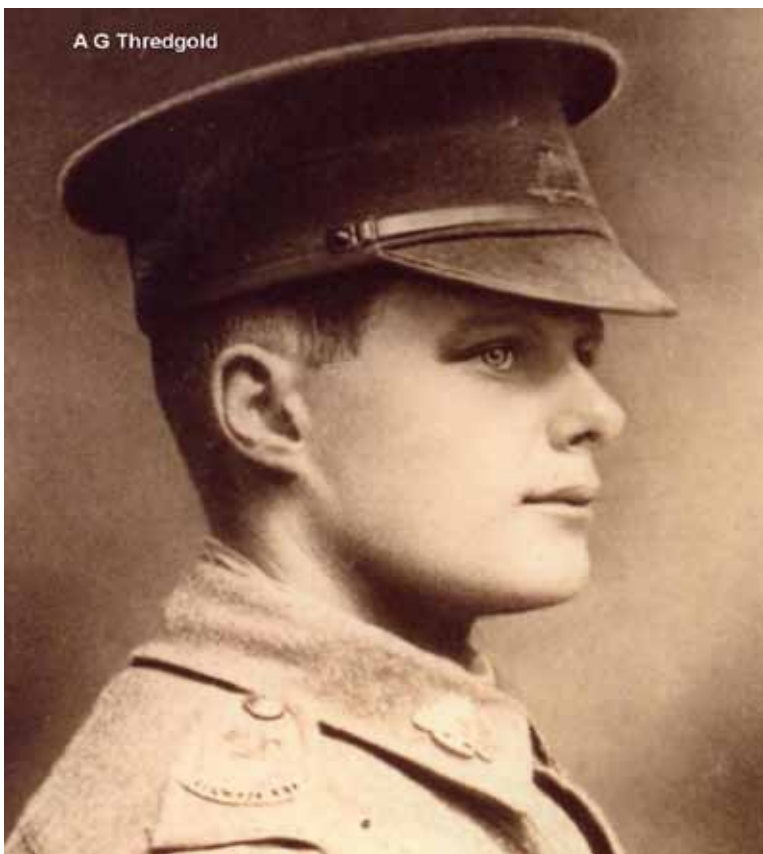
WESTERN FRONT 2019

When 20 year old South Australian Alfred Thredgold enlisted into the AIF in June 1915 he would have known that he could be leaving his family and probably fighting in a faraway country. He could not have imagined the life-changing events of the next four years, nor the following fifty years and his grandchildren's pilgrimage one hundred and four years later.

He worked in the family brickmakers, on the land where Marion RSL now stands. Trained at Mitcham Camp he was posted to the 32nd Australian Infantry Battalion and embarked on an overseas adventure. Gallipoli was still fresh and the European war was new to Australian forces.

The hell that we now know as the Battle of Fromelles was in French Flanders countryside where the battalion attacked the enemy on 19th July 1916, with horrendous loss of over 700 soldiers and Australia's greatest divisional loss of the Great War, over 5000 men. Alfred was badly wounded and evacuated to England where he recovered then returned to the front. Another major wounding in December finished his active service and meant several years recuperation and rear echelon duties in Weymouth, a port on the English south coast. He met, courted and married a local girl, Margaret Hall and they married on 20th July 1919 in Weymouth. Alfred brought his bride to Marion, they had six children and twenty grandchildren.

At 10am on July 20th 2019 three middle-aged cousins from Adelaide, and their partners, held a commemoration in the same Weymouth church that their grandparents had married in one hundred years earlier, then travelled to Torquay where the newlyweds had honeymooned.



The anniversary was the purpose of the trip to Europe for my wife Debby Thredgold and her cousins Susan and Lindsay. Cousin Neil and family from Bendigo had visited the church a few days earlier. Most important for Deb was to also visit Salisbury where her beloved grandmother had lived as a young girl before working in Weymouth and meeting a wounded Australian soldier. Salisbury exceeded expectations, highly recommended for history and a relaxing pace. Our late friend Adrian Horan recommended the Haunch of Venison as a must-see pub in Salisbury. Cheers Mate, it was just as you described, we went twice and toasted you with each drink.

We fitted in some days touring London, interesting during its hottest day on record, with a change in the British prime minister, Brexit and cabbie protests adding to the experience. The hottest day on record in Paris wasn't comfortable either but we were on holidays.

Months prior I had researched companies offering Great War battlefield experiences and after friendly, easy to understand email correspondence with Australian expat Phil Hora we chose Sacred Ground Tours, based in Arras, north of Paris. Phil offers 1, 2 and 3 day tours from Arras into the sectors of France and Belgium that cover many Australian battles. He was able to customise the tour to suit our personal wishes as well as his other guests. Phil and his French tour guides have enthusiasm, passion and wonderful knowledge of the Australian battlefields.

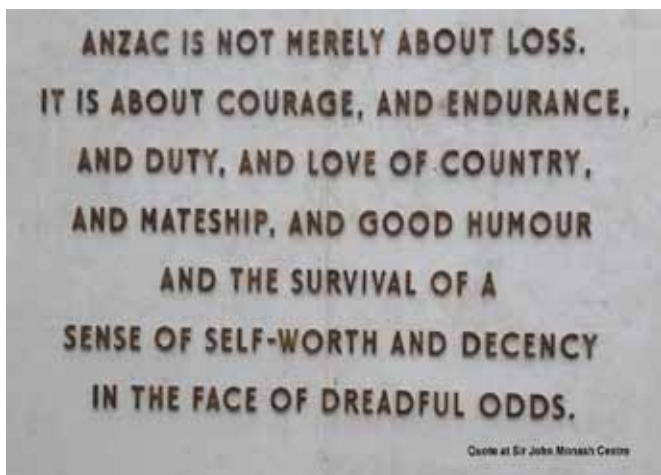
The military history I learned in school was mostly about Gallipoli and Kokoda, but the Western Front seems to have become better known in recent decades. My involvement with the RSL, Army Museum of South Australia and 10th Battalion Association, had increased my interest in what Australian service men and women endured.

The tour took us to the legendary places that existed in photographs and documentaries until then – Albert, Pozieres, Amiens, Villers-Bretonneux, Fromelles, Ypres, Mont St Quentin, Peronne, Hamel, Passchendaele, the Windmill, Lochnagar Crater and more. We walked part of the Fromelles battlefield and the more recent Pheasant Wood Cemetery. As kids the cousins remember seeing Grandpa Thredgold's wounds but he didn't talk to them about the war.

Museums

These are done very well and each has a uniqueness. I highly recommend Peronne, Passchendaele, Villers-Bretonneux, Wellington Tunnels,

Johan's Anzac Rest Cafe and the Sir John Monash Centre. Australian and New Zealand soldiers are respected and significant tribute is made to them.



Cemeteries and Memorials

So many, so frequent, covering many nationalities and units. Thiepval, Pheasant Wood, Vimy Ridge, Menin Gate, Tyne Cot, Villers-Bretonneux. Sad for those who lie there, sad for generations of affected families but heartening that they are well looked after and interesting. Headstones with so much to speculate about. Walls of names with no known graves. Headstones signifying that allied towns and districts must have lost a generation of young men.

My grandfather George Gray and his family were farmers from near Virginia, County Cavan in Ireland. When war clouds loomed George's brother Charles showed interest in joining the army so my great grandparents sent him to Canada, thinking he would be safer there. It wasn't to be and he enlisted into the Canadian Army in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. He was posted to the 10th Canadian Infantry Battalion and was killed in action in May 1916, aged 27. Canadian forces suffered terribly as did France, Britain, US and allies.

Is there a nice place to be buried? Yes, the Woods Cemetery near Ypres is serene, in a woodlands setting that one wouldn't find by accident. Charles lies peacefully with his mates and has had a few family members visit. I have the engraved, bronze plaque and scroll from the King that was issued to families of those killed, which I placed at his grave, along with a replica medal set, the first time this has been done. It was sad but fulfilling. None of my mother's generation ever knew their uncle.

Impressions

I expected grapevines but there were none in this sector. The surrounding farmland produces maize, sugar beet, grain, potatoes, and flax with the potentially deadly crops of the Iron Harvest - unexploded artillery shells, mortar rounds and grenades. If you are lucky shuffling around in the fields you may unearth projectiles and shrapnel only.

The land is fairly flat and the strategic high ground is often not a significant height. The St Quentin Canal Tunnel is unique, we were fortunate to be there when the chain boat towed two barges and a leisure boat through.

Distances are not as we know in Australia. Some major battles and villages were only a stone's throw apart, same with the frontlines. Apart from the frontline moving during some offensives it was a very static war once the German's dug in to the land they had captured. They built bunkers that remain today, want to buy one?

The world owes a lot to General John Monash for his modern analysis of warfare, using new tactics and supporting arms, as the other commanders had not adapted their centuries old tactics that were unsuitable against artillery, machineguns, chemical weapons and aircraft.

Follow the heroes and walk in the footsteps of ghosts. Don't just keep it on your wish list and talk about going someday, take the next step and visit the Western Front battlefields when you can travel again, you will get a new perspective, a greater understanding and a deeper appreciation of service and sacrifice.

Keith Harrison



Keith Harrison is Commemorations Manager for RSL South Australia. His trip was for family reasons and was financed privately. This article was originally featured in The Last Post magazine Issue 21 and is reprinted with the publisher's permission

www.thelastpostmagazine.com

BUSHFIRE RESPONSE

The group of veterans (below) volunteered their planning, time and skills to help Marc Webb and his family to cleanup their bushfire damaged Aristaeus Farms property at Cudlee Creek in January. Other veterans, families and friends took part also, a marvellous team effort, to help keep Marc's projects going and to re-establish resources.

Donations came from across Australia to an ESO consortium and were administered by RSL Care SA to provide immediate monetary assistance to affected ADF veterans in the Adelaide Hills and on Kangaroo Island.

A more dangerous scenario for Gareth Desmond and his veteran TreeCrew High Risk Tree Removals team who were at the frontline assisting the CFS and emergency services to battle the bushfires and provide safe access. The veteran community rallied to replace equipment he lost fighting the fires and to donate towards his costs. Well done those men.



WHEN IS THE ANZAC APPEAL NOT QUITE AN ANZAC APPEAL?

RSL SA Veterans Services relies heavily upon the ANZAC Appeal and Poppy Appeal for funds. This year was disappointing when restrictions prevented our volunteers from collecting public donations by traditional methods. Sub-Branches were shut, face-to-face street collections were stopped and fewer businesses took part.

However, there were heartening opportunities. Some Sub-Branches tried alternatives; country town businesses hosted counter boxes and tins or allowed collectors to set up a table in the shop and accept donations; organisations made donations or offered help.

Rob Kidman and his Victor Harbor Coles Supermarket team made a display tribute to WW1 service and collected over \$6600.00 for the appeal. Fish out of Water at Hyde Park put an appeal box on the counter and raised several hundred dollars; so did the Keswick Barracks Café, Mount Compass town, Kersbrook Hardware & Fodder, Mister Minit Colonnades, Terry White Chemmart Edwardstown, Westpac Call Centre plus some dedicated volunteers who tried whatever they could. Thank you all, every donation helps.

You can make secure, online appeal donations: www.rlsa.org.au

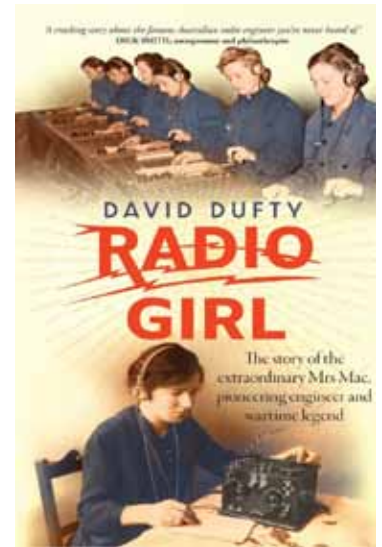


BOOK REVIEWS

RADIO GIRL The story of the extraordinary Mrs Mac, pioneering engineer and wartime legend. A smart girl from a poor mining town, Violet McKenzie became an electrical engineer, a pioneer of radio and a successful businesswoman. As the clouds of war gathered in the 1930s, she defied convention and trained young women in Morse code, foreseeing that their services would soon be sorely needed. Always a champion of women, she was instrumental in getting Australian women into the armed forces. Wikipedia entry: <https://bit.ly/3hwwpel>

Mrs Mac was adored by the thousands of young women and men she trained, and came to be respected by the defence forces and the public too for her vision and contribution to the war effort. Author David Dufty brings her story to life in this heart-warming and captivating biography.

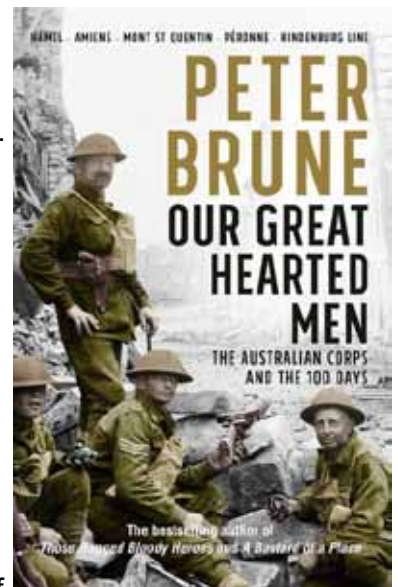
Publisher: Allen and Unwin. 312 page paperback. RRP \$29.99.



OUR GREAT HEARTED MEN The AIF and the battlefields of Gallipoli, Fromelles, Pozières, Bullecourt and Passchendaele are burnt into the Australian Great War psyche. The sheer guts, fortitude and sacrifice of the diggers in those battles had often been wasted by poor leadership and planning. From an Australian perspective, such sacrifice engendered bitterness and frustration, which resulted in an emergent sense of Australian nationalism. The AIF now sought a unification of its five divisions to fight under its own command and administration.

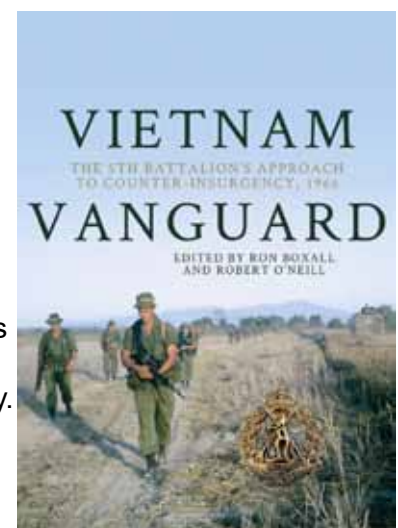
By mid-1918, after the calamitous German March offensive in which hard won territory had been lost, the British Expeditionary Force had begun to learn its lessons. In just 100 action-packed days Germany was brought to its knees and Lieutenant-General Sir John Monash and his Australian Corps played a critical role in that stunning victory.

In this authoritative account of the 100 days, Peter Brune traces the painstaking BEF acquisition of its tactical doctrine with regard to its artillery, tanks and its air force. And the consequence of this knowledge was a sophisticated inter-locking all arms approach to war: incorporating coordinated firepower rather than the futile expenditure of manpower. Brune's use of participants' diaries brings an immediacy to his story. Be taken to the bloody interface of battle, hear the voices of some of the Australians involved, and gain a sense of the cost of ultimate victory. Publisher Harper Collins, 464 page hardcover; list price: \$49.99; e-book \$16.99.



VIETNAM VANGUARD attempts to make the true nature of the Vietnam War clearer to readers, emphasising how hard fought it was during major operations. Providing rare and vivid insights into the servicemen of the 5th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (5 RAR), it surveys the success and pitfalls of Australia's war efforts.

Twenty-seven of the contributing authors of this book were involved in the 1966 deployment of the 1st Australian Task Force into Phuoc Tuy Province. 5 RAR was in the vanguard as the task force's first element committed to operations to seize and occupy Nui Dat base and embark on establishing dominance over the enemy. Available in print from www.press.anu.edu.au or online for free at <http://doi.org/10.22459/VV.2019>



BROTHERS IN ARMS MEMORIAL PROJECT



Inspiration can come from profound sadness. During road works in the Belgian village of Westhoek in 2006, the machine operator considered that he had found human remains alongside the road, on what was once a Great War battlefield. Amateur archaeologist Johan Vandewalle was called and confirmed that the remains were of a soldier. Continued clearing revealed five bodies of Australian soldiers.

The final body was better preserved and had been buried more carefully than the others. Someone had taken care in laying him to rest wrapped in a ground sheet. The body would later be identified as 3504 Private John (Jack) Hunter who had served in the 49th Australian Infantry Battalion with his brother Jim and it was Jim who buried Jack's body with love. Research led to the family in Australia, who confirmed that the story in the family was that Jack had been buried by his younger brother. Jim intended retrieving Jack's body later to give him a proper burial but was unable to find the grave amidst the carnage the battlefield had become, before he returned to Australia. DNA evidence confirmed identification of Jack's body and 90 years after his death Jack was reburied with full military honours at Buttes New British Cemetery in Polygon Wood, together with the other 4 soldiers that were exhumed by Johan Vandewalle and his team.

The story of the Hunter brothers made Johan think about other sets of brothers that must have experienced

a similar fate. Together with a team of WWI enthusiasts he started digging into the history looking for other brothers that were killed in the war and found there were many. After receiving an email from a relative of Jack and Jim Hunter, saying that Jim called out to his brother Jack with his very last breath in 1975, Johan realized that it would be an amazing thing if we could reunite their souls, and at the same time commemorate so many other family tragedies.

Johan's vision of a memorial park located in the battlefields of Belgium to commemorate the thousands of brothers who served and died in the Great War was realised in 2017 with the opening of the first stage of the Brothers In Arms Memorial beside his Anzac Rest Café & Museum at Polygon Wood, just east of Ypres. In 2019 the foundation of the memorial and a steel silhouette were in place. When completed a statue of Jim Hunter cradling his brother Jack's body will symbolise the sacrifices made by many families during the Great War.

Brothers In Arms Memorial Project Australia is the Australian division of Johan's vision. The bronze sculpture of Jim cradling his brother Jack will be the main feature of the Memorial. Research into families who lost 2 or more members has over 3450 names registered, capturing 1650 families. To learn more visit: www.brothersinarmsmemorial.org and www.facebook.com/brothersinarmsMPAustralia.



That V.C.

'Twas in the days of front attack;
This glorious truth we'd yet to learn it -
That every "front" has got a back.
And French was just the man to turn it.
A wounded soldier on the ground
Was lying hid behind a hummock;
He proved the good old proverb sound -
An army travels on its stomach.

He lay as flat as any fish;
His nose had worn a little furrow;
He only had one frantic wish,
That like an ant-bear he could burrow.

The bullets whistled into space,
The pom-pom gun kept up its braying,
The four-point-seven supplied the bass -
You'd think the devil's band was playing.

A valiant comrade crawling near
Observed his most supine behaviour,
And crept towards him; "Hey! what cheer?
Buck up," said he, "I've come to save yer.

"You get up on my shoulders, mate,
And, if we live beyond the firing,
I'll get the V.C. sure as fate,
Because our blokes is all retiring.

"It's fifty pound a year," says he,
"I'll stand you lots of beer and whisky."
"No," says the wounded man, "not me,
I'll not be saved - it's far too risky.

"I'm fairly safe behind this mound,
I've worn a hole that seems to fit me;
But if you lift me off the ground
It's fifty pounds to one they'll hit me."

So back towards the firing-line
Our friend crept slowly to the rear-oh!
Remarking "What a selfish swine!
He might have let me be a hero."

Banjo Paterson. Published 1900

75TH ANNIVERSARY END OF WW2 BADGE

Mark the end of WW2 with a \$30 ANZAC APPEAL badge.

Available at the RSL SA office at Torrens Parade Ground,
open Mon - Fri. Enquiries to marketing@rslsa.org.au.



JACK COX MM

SX7436 John (Jack) Cox was a 2/48th Battalion soldier who served in the Middle East where he was wounded in action. He was awarded the Military Medal for his courage, coolness and devotion to duty under continuous enemy fire during the Tarakan Campaign of 1945.

Jack was married to Audrey Joyce Cox, they lived in Beach Street, Grange SA and he died in 1968. His family seek the whereabouts of his seven medal set (pictured right). If you can help contact Jack's grand-nephew Liam Chaplin: 0422 299 880; liamrchaplin@gmail.com. Virtual War Memorial Australia <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/601799>



MEDAL COMPLIANCE GUIDE

MEDALS

Military service to your country is a proud achievement. The Australian Government awards medals and honours to signify service and contribution to the nation. Most people wear their medals appropriately, knowing that they have earned them. A minority embellish their service with lies and trinket medals, thinking it will earn them respect. It does not; it diminishes the worth of their real awards. In some cases individuals who have little or no military service infiltrate ex-service organisations with false claims.

WEARING MEDALS

When the situation is appropriate, medals awarded to you are worn on your left breast. These include medals issued by the Australian Government and foreign awards authorised by the Governor-General for wearing. They should be worn in the correct order of precedence and not include unauthorised medals. Official state and territory issued medals are worn on the right breast unless authorised by the Governor-General to be included within an approved medal set.

Medals issued to another person, worn in commemoration of their service, are worn on the right breast.

UNOFFICIAL MEDALS

Purchased or unofficial commemorative medals, known as tinnies, must not be included with approved medals and not worn on your left breast at public ceremonial or commemorative events. This also applies to unofficial medals issued by organisations and non-approved foreign medals. A small number of society and organisation issued medals are approved.

Examples of purchased, unofficial medals include:

Regular Forces Medal

Citizens Military Forces Medal

Commemorative Peace Medal

Active Service Medal

Conscripted Service Medal

General Service Cross

Atomic Test Medal

Volunteer Service Medal

Vietnam Veterans Medal

RSL members with unauthorised and non-compliant medals or clasps in their awarded medal group must remove them from the group.

BADGES

Defence issued badges including the Returned from Active Service Badge, Infantry Combat Badge, Army Combat Badge, Army Individual Readiness Notification Badge, ADF Commendation Badges, Instructor Badges and Unit Citations are worn only by the person entitled to wear them and only when appropriate. Some may only be worn whilst serving and only on ceremonial uniform. Relatives should not wear them.

FALSE CLAIMS

If you have given false written and/or verbal statements about your military service you should advise your RSL Sub-Branch committee of the false claims so that records can be corrected.

This may be embarrassing but is preferable to being found guilty of a federal offence and fined, or being exposed in the media.

OFFENCES

It is a federal offence to falsely represent as, or impersonate, a member of the ADF or to falsely wear medals. It is also immoral and an insult to serving and ex-service personnel to misrepresent service. It is not an offence to wear uniforms or medals as part of a dramatic portrayal, such as a film or play, or artistic representation.

INFORMATION

www.pmc.gov.au/government/its-honour

www.defence.gov.au/medals

Developed by the Returned & Services League (South Australia Branch) Inc.





RSL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

RSL SA is proud to introduce the RSL Employment Program to the South Australian Defence family. This program supports our ex-serving members and Defence partners in their search for meaningful and sustainable employment.

Veteran wellbeing is at the core of everything we do, so when we began the journey to introduce this program to South Australian Veterans, we wanted to make sure that it would fundamentally improve the quality of life of for them and their families. Underpinning this program is the knowledge that establishing a fulfilling career is essential to making the successful transition from active service to post-service life.

The months and years following transition from service can be a challenging time. Finding the right role gives every individual purpose, direction, and stability. Sometimes, it can be difficult to know where to start when looking for new employment opportunities and it can be even more difficult knowing how to explain your skills and qualifications to a civilian employer. The help you will receive from our motivated and skilled Employment Team will focus on developing an individualised case plan to support your path to employment. Whether you are looking to start work immediately and need a resume update or have more complex issues preventing employment, such as housing instability, mental health challenges, managing service-related injuries or long-term unemployment, the RSL Employment Program will help you develop the skills and resources you need to be employment ready.

The types of support you can expect to receive include:

- Assistance translating your skills for the civilian job market
- Assistance interpreting selection criteria, writing CVs and cover letters and developing social media profiles
- Interview coaching
- Career counselling to assist with identifying industries and roles to fit your individual circumstances, skills, qualifications, and interests.
- Connections to employers
- Non-vocational assistance such as links to housing support, mental health support, financial guidance, and social connection

To be eligible for employment assistance through the RSL Employment Program you must be a resident of South Australia and be either:

- an ex-ADF member not in regular employment or a current ADF member with a confirmed discharge date
- who has exhausted all DFTP entitlements
- and is not currently eligible for a DVA work program
- the partner of a current ADF member who has used their PEAP entitlement
- the partner of a former ADF member.

To register your interest or to find out more head to rslemployment.com.au/South-Australia

Funding for RSL Employment Program in South Australia is through DVA's Enhanced Employment Service for Veterans program.

SOLDIERS' LAND GRENACHE

After both world wars demobilised service men took up Government granted agricultural blocks in the Soldier Settlement Scheme. South Australian blocks were on Kangaroo Island, Riverland, Murraylands and the South East. Some farms succeeded, some failed.

Vignerons Ashley and Holly Ratcliff own Ricca Terra Farms. After he had cleared old grape vines from a former Soldier Settlement block Ashley saw it as a mistake and wanted to maintain the link the vines had with Australia's military history and to preserve them.

In 2019 he made a small batch of Grenache from 90 year old Riverland vines and labelled it Soldiers' Land. He approached RSL South Australia and kindly offered a commission from Soldiers' Land sales to the ANZAC Appeal, to assist our veterans. This was gratefully received as it came when appeal donations had been significantly impacted by Covid-19 restrictions on public collections.

The Ratcliff's vision is to plant, nurture & make wine from grape varieties best suited to Australia's warm & dry climate.

Ricca Terra is innovative, has vision and makes opportunities. View the wine and product range and place orders: www.riccaterravintners.com.au

We remember Ashley's grandfather Royal Air Force Flying Officer John Ratcliff DFC.



ESO & VETERAN HOSTED LOCAL RADIO PROGRAMS

RSL Today	Vision Australia Radio 1197AM, Thursday 6pm and online
VVF Vets On Air	Coast FM 88.7, Tuesday 6pm - 8pm
Service Voices	Radio Adelaide 101.5FM, Monday 6pm and online.
Music with Bert & Margaret Newell	PBA FM 89.7, Friday 9am
Vietnam Vets with Haydn Madigan	Port Pirie Trax FM 105.1, Monday 6pm - 8pm
Conversations with Cornesy	5AA 1395AM

Veterans SA

Veterans SA is the state government department with responsibilities for:

- supporting the special needs of the veteran community resulting from the unique nature of military service
- promoting the well-being of all members of the veteran community in SA
- encouraging co-operation across all ex-service organisations in SA
- providing the link for the veteran community to communicate directly to the highest levels of state government
- monitoring and providing advice about matters relating to recognition and commemoration of the service of veterans
- promoting Australia's wartime history and the significance of national commemorative events

Veterans SA works closely with the Veterans' Advisory Council to provide advice to the Premier about matters relating to South Australia's veteran community. Director is Ms Catherine Walsh. Contact Veterans SA on (08) 8226 8552; veteranssa@sa.gov.au; www.veteranssa.sa.gov.au



AUSTRALIAN VETERANS' CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST

The Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust is a national independent charity helping the children and grandchildren of Australian ex-service men and women to a better future through tertiary education. Through the generous support of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, ex-service organisations, corporate sponsors and private donors, AVCAT provides scholarships which assist recipients to obtain the tertiary qualification they need for their chosen career.

Applications for 2021 Scholarships will open on 18th August and close 31st October 2020. Information and application details: www.avcat.org.au



ASVA

The Australian Student Veterans Association's mission is to promote the academic success, empowerment, and professional development of student veterans at university through advocacy and supporting resources.

As non-traditional students, ex-ADF personnel have a lot to add to classroom discussions and can offer unique perspectives. Just imagine the positive impact a population of educated veterans could have on our society. ASVA wants to provide support, mentorship and a collaborative voice to the student veterans of Australia www.asva.org.au.

RSLs, businesses and organisations wishing to support the ASVA team can contact the SA chapter on: asva.flinders@gmail.com; <https://www.facebook.com/FlindersUniASVA/>

In July the group had a mid-year business and social get-together at Plympton Glenelg RSL.





TORRENS TRAINING DEPOT AND PARADE GROUND

The Torrens Training Depot Drill Hall timber floor has been driven on, slept on, spilled on, marched on and danced on. The stories are many and legendary.

In recent years drainage issues underneath caused swelling of the parquetry several times but in 2020 it was at its worst and caused the floor to buckle significantly at the northern end. The SA Department for Environment and Water is responsible for the building and arranged the repairs. The damaged sections were lifted and left to dry then relaid, sanded and oiled.

After the Army vacated the Torrens site it became a state government asset and was completely renovated and modernised to suit the tenants and hirers. It was reopened in 2004 and the redevelopment received several architectural awards.

Enquiries to hire the drill hall or parade ground should be directed to the Site Manager Mr Jacek Gniadek: Jacek.Gniadek@sa.gov.au; 0417 574 316.

The small RSL Memorial Hall is managed by RSL SA, enquiries to: admin@rslsa.org.au; 8100 7300.



Floor repairs (left); Completed (below)





Plans underway for 72 bed residential aged care facility in Murray Bridge

The Board of RSL Care SA has announced its intention to construct a new 72-bed residential aged care facility in Murray Bridge, to be called Romani.

RSL Care SA is a proud not-for-profit operator that has supported the veteran and wider community in South Australia for well over 100-years, and are looking forward to bringing this considerable experience to the new development.

Romani is a \$22m project that will deliver a very impressive capability not only for Murray Bridge but for the broader rural communities in the river land.

The facility is named after the battle of Romani, which was fought between the 3rd and 5th of August 1916. The battle of Romani was one of the most important and decisive victories in WW1. It was a battle that finally put a stop to the Turkish threat to the Suez Canal and marked the beginning of the British and Australian forces' drive out of Egypt and into Palestine. 136 Australians died in the battle, many of them from country and rural areas.

Apart from the very important benefits Romani will bring for older community members, the broader community benefit also includes the equivalent of approximately 93 job-years of employment during the construction phase, and ongoing employment for approximately 80 staff once the facility opens in early 2023.

Romani will be a state of the art facility, delivering state of the art levels of service. There will be a café, hairdresser, allied health support and doctor's rooms, along with separate resident dining areas in each wing and a central activities area for major events and entertainment.

Every room in Romani will have its own private bathroom and there will be many small meeting spaces throughout the facility. It will have industry-leading laundry and catering facilities, and three very distinct areas of accommodation for residents that all can be managed completely separately from each other as needed. Romani will also have a significant amount of separate outdoor spaces where residents can enjoy garden areas safely, and every bedroom will have their own windows to the outside.

Plans are currently being assessed by the Rural City of Murray Bridge Council, and RSL Care SA CEO, Nathan Klinge observes that, "We have been very impressed with the level of engagement and interest shown by the Council for this project. Their input to date has been invaluable, and I thank them for their ongoing work under the very difficult circumstances at present".

To keep up to date with Romani developments, please visit the RSL Care SA website: www.rslcaresa.com.au





RSL CARE SA

DID YOU KNOW RSL CARE SA RESERVES 40% OF PERMANENT RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE ACCOMMODATION FOR LOW MEANS RESIDENTS?



Fees associated with entering residential aged care depend on an individual's assets and income. To ensure applicants with low assets and income are not disadvantaged from being offered placement, accredited residential aged care facilities must reserve a percentage of their beds for those with 'low means'.

At RSL Care SA, we aim to keep our low means resident ratio at 40%, giving special preference to veterans and their families.

For more information on permanent or respite care, or aged care DVA entitlements, feel free to contact our friendly admissions team.

WAR VETERANS' HOME

55 Ferguson Avenue, Myrtle Bank, SA 5064
Tel: 08 8379 2600

MORLANCOURT

18 Trafford Street, Angle Park, SA 5010
Tel: 08 8379 2600

www.rslcaresa.com.au

