



Australian Women's
Army Service 1941-1947



Women's Royal Australian
Army Corps 1951-1984

AWAS WRAAC JOURNAL

December 2017

WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc.

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From the Editor

Dear members,

Welcome to the December edition of our Journal and thank you once again for your support and significant contribution in bringing stories to life once again.

You may notice I'm still holding the position of Editor, this is due in part to a change in circumstance, that now make it possible.

Keep sending us your stories and articles as they are greatly appreciated by not only members of our great Association but also by the wider community,

I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Yours in friendship,

Jude Pinkerton-Treloar



Getting Together picture found in a book titled, *Keep Smiling Through, The Home Front 1939-45* by Susan Briggs.

I thought it reflects the joy of young people enjoying the spirit of Christmas albeit facing an uncertain future.

March 2018 Journal Deadline

The deadline for all articles to be included in the next Journal is

FRIDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2018

Articles can be posted or e-mailed to:

Editor AWAS/WRAAC Journal

Postal Address:

87 Westmelton Drive,
Melton West, VIC. 3337

E-mail:

johntreolar1@bigpond.com

— 2017 — Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT
NOVEMBER	
Friday 10th	Austin Health Remembrance Day Service
Saturday 11th	Remembrance Day
Saturday 25th	Ex Servicewomen's Service at the Cairn at Shrine of Remembrance
APRIL 2018	
Sunday 15th	Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings Box Hill
Wednesday 25th	Anzac Day
MAY 2018	
Sunday 6th	AWAS / WRAAC Shrine Service

From the WRAAC President

Dear Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, stay safe and well.

As this is my last Journal as President I would like to thank the committee for all the help and support they have given me over the last 3 years. Also, our Patron Iris Petrass for the support she has given the committee. As we welcome our new President Carol King I know the committee and our members will give her the support that is needed.

The last twelve months we have been extremely busy with ANZAC Day we had a wonderful turn out on a wet day it was great to see all our ladies and Jean Parry with her family there to support her.



AWAS/WRAAC Shrine Service we had a fantastic turn out and even the Air Cadets came to watch how we conducted our service and we enjoyed a cup of tea/coffee and cake after. We now have two or three family members of AWAS who attend, it is lovely to keep the memories still going. Bunnings Sausage Sizzle at Box Hill, a lot of laughter on a very hot day thanks to

*From the
WRAAC President*

Continued

the ladies that come to help as it is always an enjoyable day, and we still made a profit.

Our Luncheon was well attended again this year and an enjoyable day had by all. We had ladies that haven't been for a long time reuniting with friends, it was great to see, and all the ladies that come from interstate and country Victoria and Melbourne Metro Members, you all make this day so special. Thanks to Liz Maclaine and Lyn Board for organising the WRAAC Social Group Luncheon, we had a great day. Thanks ladies.

Once again thank you to the committee and members for your support and I know you will give Carol, our New President the same support, so as I sign off as President. THANK YOU and Have a Merry Christmas, please give a thought to our troops at home and overseas serving this wonderful country.

Yours in friendship,

Margaret (Robinson) Jager

Associations Contacts and Addresses

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Sub-Committee

Heather Hyatt
Gai Cooke
Robyn Gibson

WRAAC Membership

We would like **YOU** to contact any ladies whom you may know who were in the Army (ARA, CMF/ARes) regarding joining the Association.

Please contact our Membership Officer,
Diane Sherry on **0408 553 412** or email **dishe1946@yahoo.com.au**
and she will post out the appropriate form.

Annual Membership for 2017 / 2018 membership year is now due.

If you are an Annual Member and have not paid your fees yet;
please do so as soon as possible.

If you have any membership queries,
or are unsure whether your membership is paid,
please contact our Membership Officer.



WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VIC) INCORPORATED



Certificate of Incorporation No.: A0051572X

PRESIDENT: Carol King

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Diane Sherry

UNIT 73 / 2 GREMEL ROAD

RESERVOIR. VIC. 3073

Telephone: 408 553 412

Website: www.wraacvic.com

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I:
(Mrs, Miss, Ms, Rank)

(Surname)

(Given Names)

Maiden Name (If Applicable): Date of Birth:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Telephone (Home): (Mobile): (Work):

Email Address:

Apply to become a Member of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps Association (Victoria) Incorporated. In the event of my admission as a Member, I agree to be bound by the Rules of the Association for the time being in force.

Cost of Membership: Annual Membership (\$8.00 per year) Life Membership (\$80.00)

(Circle Type of Membership required) Payment Enclosed: Cheque. Cash. Other.

(Please Circle) - Branch of Service. ARA. CMF. ARES. AWAS. OTHER:

Regt No. WRAAC or Unit/s Served/Serving with Approx. Dates

.....

.....

.....

.....

Nominated By.

Name: Membership No:

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO

Miss Diane Sherry,
73/2 Gremel Road, Reservoir. Vic. 3073
Telephone: 0408 553 412
Email Address: dishe1946@yahoo.com.au



CONSENT FORM

I consent to the following details relating to myself and my service history being published in the Association Newsletter/Journal and Association website www.wraacvic.com

I understand that this information is for the purpose of advising other members of my joining the Association and with a view to renewing old friendships.

DETAILS TO BE PUBLISHED

Service Number:

Given Names:

Surname:

Maiden Name (If Applicable):

Units Served with Approximate Years Served (Dates)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Signed: Date:

ONLY THOSE DETAILS FILLED IN BY THE APPLICANT WILL BE PUBLISHED

DO NOT COMPLETE THE ABOVE FORM if you do not wish to have your details published. Your decision to publish or not will be respected without question

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY: Application Accepted. Yes / No. (Please Circle)

Meeting Date: Receipt No: Dated:

Annual Membership Card No: Date:

Life Membership Card Issued No: Date:

Election News

Following the AGM on the October 2017

President – Carol King

Vice President – Liz MacLaine

Secretary – Margaret Brown

Treasurer – Heather Fry

On behalf of Members Maggie More thanked outgoing President Margaret (Robinson) Jager for an outstanding effort in her role as President of the Association and wished her well.

Margaret thanked her Committee for their work and dedication to the Association and welcomed the incoming President.

Army Posters



There's so much more to life in the Navy, Army or Air Force than a typical career can offer. From seeing the world, to making a positive difference in the lives of others, there are plenty of opportunities to do what you love in the Australian Defence Force.

There are more than 250 different roles in the Navy, Army and Air Force, and great benefits like competitive pay and free healthcare, plus you'll get the chance to keep learning and meet new people.

To find out more, come to the next information session to see where a career in the Australian Defence Force can take you.

INFORMATION SESSION
 Monday 14th September at 6:00pm,
 Level 14, 501 Swanston Street, Melbourne.
 To book your seat call 13 19 01 or email CPTVIC@dfr.com.au

DO WHAT you LOVE

NAVY ARMY AIR FORCE

CALL 13 19 01 OR VISIT DEFENCE.JOBS.GOV.AU/DOWHATyouLOVE

Have you noticed the current recruiting poster?

It appears to be a realistic reflection of today's values and expectations of women seeking to join the ADF.



"Let's get it over QUICK!"

"I'll stay up here ten years if necessary . . . that's my obligation to you . . . but don't make me stay ten minutes longer than I have to . . . *that's your obligation to me.*"

It. The Army will be on your side and you will be on the side of the Army. At the same time, however, you will be on the side of the Army. At the same time, however, you will be on the side of the Army. At the same time, however, you will be on the side of the Army.

JOIN THE
A-W-A-S OR
A.A.M.W.S.

The World War 2 AWAS recruitment poster (pictured) is iconic and revered by many Historians as it certainly reflected the urgency of the time.



Picture yourself in the
WRAAC
 WOMENS ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY CORPS

WRAAC *a fine career for you!*

Our WRAAC recruitment poster engaged another generation of women to think about a future in the Army with the striking beret adding to the feeling, this is something very special.

The WRAAC Luncheon

PHOTOS FROM THE 2017 LUNCHEON



This year was attended by 90 ladies and friends which was wonderful to see.

We welcomed back a couple of ladies that haven't been for a few years and June Fabre came from NSW and met up with Ann Keynes after not having met for 40 years.

A lot of chatter and laughter was had by all.

We are currently looking for a new venue for next year as we have been told by the Brighton International that they are closing in June.

We will keep you posted as to our new luncheon venue.



Soloist Kelli Brogan
Singing The National Anthem.



We All Love A Vera
Lynn Singalong

The WRAAC Luncheon



Our Much Loved AWAS
Enjoying The Day



Members And Friends
Celebrating Another
Wonderful Day Together



The WRAAC Luncheon



Members And Friends
Enjoying Themselves



Milne Bay

25TH August 1942- 7th September 1942

This year we commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the bombing of Milne Bay, the day when advancing Japanese were to suffer their first defeat by Allied Forces in the Pacific area.

This fierce battle stopped the Japanese from their probable march towards Australia, effectively denying them the use of airstrips from Milne Bay to Port Moresby.

The 4th Australian Field Ambulance news letter reads,

We arrived at Milne Bay at midday on a warm sunny day and as we approached Gili-Gili Jetty a Japanese plane decided to show the Australians who was in charge by bombing the boys as they attempted to take cover in their Liberty boats. The bombing lasted about 15 minutes with an American Corvette stationed about 50 yards from the Aussies firing their Ack-Ack guns in all directions.

Welcome to a war zone, lads.

After the boys set up camp the Japanese air raids became constant with the next big raid 5 weeks later. This consisted of 100 Japanese Bombers and fighter planes and as the boys did not have time to dig many trenches they bravely hugged the ground and jumped into creeks for cover.

Many of the men remarked, "never have I rattled off prayers that fast"

The boys later heard news of a Japanese Commando Force consisting of a few hundred men marching down the airstrip singing away thinking it was there for their taking. Apparently, with the intent to use it as a forward base for further operations against Australia.

All hell broke loose with Australian troops who had been lying low in the jungle attacking the unsuspecting Japanese who were annihilated in the attack.



Moving Camp

The CO decided to move the camp back into the jungle and move closer to a rubber plantation with huge trees and wide leaves giving lots of shade in an attempt to keep the camp cooler. The idea was good, but it was perfect for the mosquitoes that loved the rubbery sap that came from the rubber trees after the locals had bled the trees daily.

Signs along the main road of Milne Bay read;

Do you sweat?

Do you chill?

Then remember it's a little yellow pill. Quinine tablets were a must.

The battle of Milne Bay lasted two

weeks marking a turning point in the war against the Japanese.

Of the 7000 Australians who served there were 370 casualties and more than 160 killed or listed as missing.

The battle repelled 2000 Japanese troops as they tried to advance on Port Moresby.

The Australian War Memorial has launched a new exhibition highlighting the conditions and physicality of the fighting.

A big thank you to my late father Harold who kept notes and newsletters all these years that now provide our family with an insight into the human side of war.



Vale



Jean (Docherty) Cornford *VF514459 1Aust Veh Park*

It is with great sadness we report the passing of Jean on the 7th September 2017. Jean was a valued Committee member of the AWAS Association, Victoria for many years.

Vale Jean

Muriel Bott *VF515373 AWAS*

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of our dear friend Muriel Bott who passed away on 19th October 2017.

Vale Muriel

Loreto Eileen Field *AWAS*

Passed away on 28th September at Cabrini Hospital.

Our sincere condolences to Loreto's family and friends.

Vale Loreto

Kate Doran

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of our dear friend Kate Doran who passed away in September 2017.

Kate was a friend of the late Captain Betty McLaren and both were great supporters of the Association.

Rest in Peace dear Kate.



Kathleen Mary Methven *NF 465558 Signals Operator AWAS*

Born 2nd July 1924

Our sincere thanks to Ken Mitchell JP, Glen Innes RSL sub-branch for contacting us regarding Kathleen's passing. (Her funeral service was on 4th September 2017)

Kathleen served from November 1943 to August 1946, initially training then as a Signalwoman.

Her postings were;

2 Australian Women's Army Service Training Battalion	2 November 1943
2 Australian Signal Training Battalion	6 December 1943
Detached to Land Headquarters Heavy Wireless Group	5 April 1944
2 Australian Signal Training Battalion	23 August 1944
21 Australian High-Speed Wireless Section	9 September 1944
83 Australian High-Speed Wireless Section	19 November 1944
21 Australian High-Speed Wireless Section	4 April 1945
Army Headquarters Signals	24 May 1946

Perhaps you may have served with Kathleen and would like to share your thoughts with us.



Don Kinsey AM
2 May 1931 - 30 August
2017

It was with great sadness when the Veteran Community were informed of the passing of Don Kinsey AM.

The WRAAC Association met Don through his role as Master of Ceremonies at the Shrine of Remembrance. We also reflect on his involvement with the Reserve Forces Day Council.

Don Kinsey was blessed with a magnificent voice and an endearing personality that made every occasion very special.

For many Melburnians, Don will be remembered for his radio days with 3DB and in the 1950s and 60s with Channel 7 as Station Manager.

In more recent times, Don was co-ordinator of the Good Friday Appeal.

Don was awarded an AM in the Queen's Birthday honours in 2008 for service to the Community.



Following Don's funeral service members of the WRAAC Association joined with the RFD Council and formed a guard of honour in a final farewell to a dear friend.

Our sincere condolences are extended to Margot and family on the passing of Don.

Don Kinsey AM was appointed Honorary Captain of the Reserve Forces Day Council Victoria and presented with Army beret complete with RACT badge. RACT reflecting Don's involvement with motor vehicles.

Vale Don



Steven Sherry
3167904 Army Reserve

1st December 1949 – 18th August
 2017

Our sincere condolences to the Sherry family on the passing of Steven on the 18th August 2017.

Steven is the husband of Heather (McKay) Sherry and the brother of our Membership Officer, Diane. As with so many members of the WRAAC who met and married a fellow service member as in this story, Heather met Steven through Diane and the rest is history.

Vale Steven

Melvin (Mel) Pettingill

Our sincere condolences are extended to our much-loved Association member Maxine on the passing of her husband Mel on the 22nd September 2017.

Mel was a 30 plus year veteran who served in Malaya, Vietnam, PNG and with CARO. Mel attained the rank of S Sgt (RAOC) Vale Mel.

Our thoughts are with Maxine and family at this sad time.

Vale Melvin

SICK PARADE

To all our members who are not feeling well, at this time, our thoughts and prayers are with you. If you wish to have a chat, please do not hesitate to contact a committee member or our Chaplain Rev.

William (Bill) Pugh – Editor

COMMUNICATION BOOK

Can anyone help with this enquiry?

Highett RSL in Melbourne have a 1960 Vietnam Medal, which they are having mounted. The medal belongs to Pte. A S McHoul 216096 who they have found was with the 527 Signal troop, part of the 709.

They are asking if anyone can tell them more about Pte. McHoul or the 527 Signal Troop.

If anyone has any information, please respond to the Editor and we will pass the details along to Highett RSL.

WRAAC AND RAANC ON FACEBOOK

Are you on Facebook?

Do you,

- Want to reconnect with girls that you joined up or served with?
- Want to know what is happening in the wider WRAAC community?
- Want to have a good gossip/ whinge/ or offload in a safe place?

Then the WRAAC and RAANC Facebook page is the place for you. With over one thousand members this group has seen and heard it all and will welcome you with open arms.

We have members from the 1950s through to the end of the WRAAC period and now into the modern post WRAAC years. There are also members from the British WRAC and also from our Australian Navy and Air Force.

Type WRAAC and RAANC in to the Facebook search bar and then click on the group. You will be contacted on Messenger by one of our admin and asked to prove you are ex WRAAC. Then you are in.

Come and join us and bring your memories with you.

Angela Muir

CARRY ON (VICTORIA) AND CARRY ON OP SHOP PENINSULA BRANCH. LEST WE FORGET THE LIVING

Carry On Victoria was formed in 1932 by ex-servicemen from World War 1 with the sole aim of providing assistance to needy ex-servicemen and women and their families.

Since then Carry On has assisted over 50,000 families and children with welfare, education grants, homes for the aged and counselling. Carry On has branches at Dandenong, Hastings, Mildura, Ballarat, Geelong and Mildura.

There are also 83 residential units at various locations across Melbourne and Victoria. All money raised is obtained by fund raising activities, donations from various organisations and the public. With few exceptions members of Carry On are former members of the armed services. Carry On can provide emergency accommodation for homeless veterans and also monetary help in the form of shopping vouchers in emergency situations.

Our new endeavours are our Op Shops, the first one being

at Hastings on the Mornington Peninsula and the second at Morwell.

At Hastings we have just about everything in stock. We are an old-fashioned type store, not fancy but a bargain hunter's paradise.

We are also on Facebook as Carry On Victoria Op Shop Peninsula Branch. We are always in need of volunteers, so if you have a day or a few hours free a week then come and join our merry band of helpers. All our staff in the shop are volunteers and even myself the Store Manager is not paid, so that the income generated by the store goes towards assisting our veterans.

We also in the process of getting our Veterans Centre up and running at the shop address.

Carry on Op Shop: *Unit 2/61 Cool Store Rd Hastings*

Opening times: *Monday to Friday
10am to 3pm*

Angela Muir



STEVEN SHERRY & HEATHER MCKAY MEETING



CAROL HAMILTON & JUDITH BROOKS AT 7TPT COY

Steven met Heather McKay while on a driving course at
7 Tpt Coy Coburg.

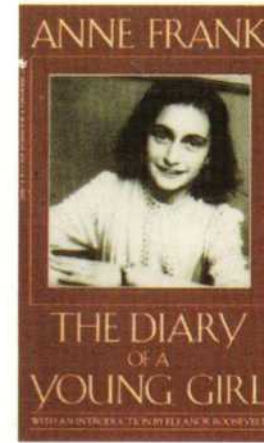
There were 5 girls on the course – Diane Sherry, Heather McKay, Judith
Brooks, Carol Hamilton and Helen Browne.

Out of the 5 girls; 3 married course instructors.

Heather McKay married Steven Sherry, Carol Hamilton married Grant King
and Judith Brooks married Kevin Kennedy

YOU MAY HAVE MISSED THIS

*Judith (Bailey) Jones. Writer, Editor.
3rd October 1924 – 2nd August 2017*



The literary editor who rescued
Anne Frank's diary from a United
States publisher's rejection bin
has passed away aged 93 of
complications from Alzheimer's
disease, said her stepdaughter,
Bronwyn Dunne.

Judith (Bailey) Jones is credited
with bringing Anne's story to the
attention of Doubleday's New York
office.

It is suggested Judith was struck
by the photograph of Anne Frank

on the front cover of an advanced
copy of the French edition.

Judith is quoted as saying "I made
the book quite important because
I was so taken with it, and I felt
it would have a real market in
America. It's one of those seminal
books that will never be forgotten".

Judith went on to Publish her own
cooking books and was portrayed
by American actress Erin Dilly in the
2009 film, Julie & Julia.

Well done Judith Jones.

Colonel Hal Oxley

Our thanks to Ruth (Marshall) Smith for this interesting article.

Ruth writes,

As I have always been interested in history I have been delighted to learn more about our Servicemen and women through articles in the AWAS/WRAAC Journal.

For those who live in the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne Oxley College is a familiar landmark as one approaches Chirnside Park Shopping Centre. I have always been amazed how well this complex was founded and how quickly it progressed.

When my Grandchildren became students at Oxley I saw first-hand just how well it was run and wondered, who is Hal Oxley?

As I read a local magazine celebrating his 100th birthday, I found out who this extraordinary man really is.

Colonel Hal Oxley served with the Australian Commander In-Chief's Forward Battle Headquarters as the youngest Colonel in the AIF.

From Headquarters in Moresby, Colonel Oxley worked as General Service Officer (Operation Plans) during the critical battle for New Guinea. He was later transferred to General Douglas MacArthur's Forward Battle HQ in New Guinea to co-ordinate Australian plans with the Americans.

Earlier in WWII he fought as an Infantry Officer in Africa and Syria and spent 6 months in the siege of Tobruk.

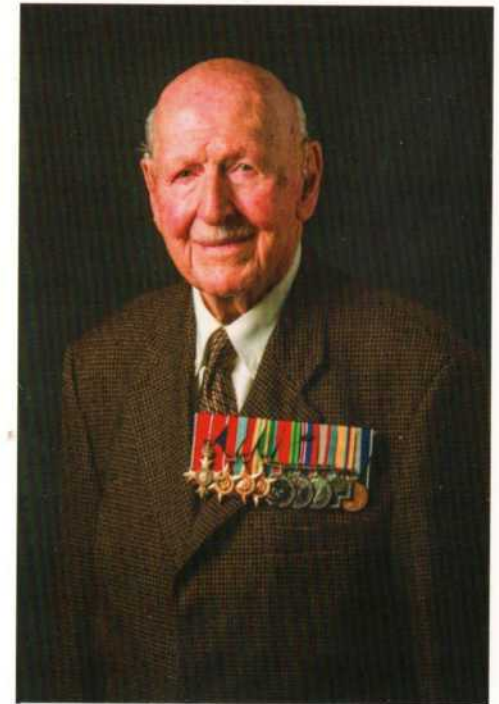
After the bombing of Darwin, he returned from the Middle East to prepare for the defence of Australia from the feared imminent Japanese invasion.

He left the Army with the rank of Lt Colonel and his decorations include, The Order of the British Empire Military OBE and Star of Courage.

After WWII he became a successful Industrialist and in later years he founded Life Ministry Church and the Oxley College Complex.

Thankyou Ruth for this interesting article about a truly great Australian.

Ruth (Marshall) Smith, is a life member of the Association and served with 3 WRAAC Co.



WRAAC DOLLS

There has been an explosion of little knitted WRAAC and now RAANC dolls of late.

I was given my first one quite a while ago and she stared down at me every time I sat at my desk in the study.

Then a few months ago I was attending a WRAAC meeting in Bendigo where I was given another one and, so I had two dolls looking at me in the study.

These WRAAC were knitted by Shirley Bohun and at the WRAAC Social Group luncheon in October Shirley came down from Albury/Wodonga with more and it was wonderful to meet her as by then, one of my girls "Marj", had taken on a life of her own and Shirley had loved hearing about Marj's adventures on holidays in Thailand.

Marj now has a full name, Marjorie Le Gless and a Regt No FM39589 and will soon be joined by Betty in her adventures or should I say misadventures.



Meanwhile there are many other knitted WRAAC also starting to make themselves known and I have high hopes of a knitted get together in the future.

Shirley Bohun can be contacted by email and from what I understand, but she can verify this herself, is that although she doesn't charge for the girls a donation to your local RSL would be appreciated.

Shirley's email address is:
bostonb2@bigpond.com

Angela Muir

WRAAC Social Group Luncheon

Saturday 21st October 2017



Gay Markey, Lyn Board, Pam Phillips, Ellen May, Iris Petrass, Sheila Vennels-Praed

The WRAAC Social Group Luncheon was held at the Orrong Hotel in Armadale on Saturday 21st October 2017.

28 ladies attended with 16 apologies.

Two ladies traveled down from Wodonga, with six ladies coming from Bendigo.



Metty Davis, Denise Warren



Gwenda Walker, Margaret Jager, Margaret Prowse, Margaret Dark, Freda Murphy, Glenys Williamson



Jenny Hayes, Angela Muir, Denise Warren, Pam Phillips, Lois Hore, Nola Williams, Anette Curtis, Metty Davis

Two ladies met for the first time in 49 years to the month from when they were at WRAAC School on Rookies 123/68.

They had seen each other on Facebook and decided to meet up at the Luncheon.

The Orrong Hotel as usual provide a lovely setting for us as well as good food. There was plenty of loud voices and lots of laughter and plenty of seat changing.

All who attended said they enjoyed the Luncheon and were looking forward to the meeting again in February.



Lexie Golla, Liz, Metty Davis, Rosalie Rogers

Sandakan Commemorative Service 2018



The Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch Inc. will be holding its Annual Commemorative Service on Sunday March 2018.

For further information contact the Bendigo District RSL on 003 5443 2950

Email: rs1@rs1club.com.au

The service honours all servicemen who either returned to their home country or lost their lives whilst Prisoners of War at Sandakan and Kuching in North Borneo or on the infamous Sandakan-Ranau "Death Marches".

This year we commemorate the 73rd Anniversary of the end of the "Death Marches"

National Servicemen's Association



Our sincere thanks to Lt Col Rusty (Russell) Adams and the National Servicemen's Association, Victoria for their kind permission in allowing us to share these thought provoking words whilst officiating at a recent service held at the National Servicemen's Memorial, Buchan Park, Berwick. Lt Colonel Adams is NSAA Vic Senior State Chaplain

"In no way do I glorify War, it's a poor method for settling disputes.

From the days of Adam & Eve, when Cain killed Abel, extreme violence tends to be the chief way mankind deals with issues. The truth is no one ever really wins in a war. However, we should never forget the extraordinary heroism and sacrifice of men and women in the defence of our nation and the freedoms we enjoy. The courage and the sacrifice must never be forgotten.

During 2017 there are many Anniversaries that relate to WW1 & WW2.

This October marks the Centenary of the Battle of Beersheba in Palestine and the famous charge of the Australian 4th Light Horse Brigade on 31st October 1917.

The 4th Light Horsemen charged the Turkish lines at full gallop, the momentum of the surprise attack carried the Australians through the Turkish defences and Beersheba was taken.

This and the battle at Polygon

Wood, at Passchendaele in Belgium, about the same time although hundreds of miles apart, helped turn the tide towards victory and the end of WW1. There is an excellent book written by Nasho, Monash sub-branch member, Peter Kemp based on diaries kept by his Grandfather Trooper James Ryan who served with the 4th Aus. Light Horse at Beersheba and took part in that battle.

This year also marks the 75th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore to the Japanese and the subsequent Bombing of Darwin in 1942.

Generally speaking, most Australians are unaware of how close Australia came to being invaded by the Japanese in 1942.

Most of us know someone who has in recent years walked "The Kokoda Track" and live to tell their story. I do not underestimate the extraordinary effort of physical and mental endurance it takes to complete that adventure. But those who have been to New Guinea - say it is nothing compared to the incredible

- National Servicemen's Association -

suffering and persistence of both the Australian and Japanese troops during the New Guinea Campaign and battle for Port Moresby. It was mostly hand to hand fighting with terrible casualty rates on both sides.

Almost 90% of the Australians were wounded, killed or taken prisoner.

Having bombed Darwin and Port Moresby in February 1942 the Japanese planned to attack Darwin again in April, then Port Moresby in March and invade the north-eastern coast of Australia in May 1942.

However, it was not until July of that year, they actually invaded New Guinea, even then, they made the mistake of invading New Guinea three months too early, running into the Monsoon season with torrential rain that bogged them down in mud and sickness.

Although in the end it went badly for the Australian troops, it was the first land defeat for the Japanese Imperial Army and marked the start of the great roll-back of the Japanese forces from the

southernmost part of the Pacific area. The Kokoda battle saved Australia from isolation and certainly invasion by the Japanese.

It is right that we should pause and remember those who have fought for the freedoms and values we enjoy today. More than 280,000 Nashos served in the Australian Defence Force in the 1950's to the 1980's. More than 103,000 Australian Service personal including 212 National Servicemen, have died in wars or peacekeeping operations.

We too, should remember and pray for those members of the Australian Defence Force serving around the world today, risking their lives with courage and determination in the service of our Nation."

All present were then asked to join together in prayer.



National Servicemen's Memorial at Buchanan Park, Berwick



This memorial is dedicated to Australia's National Servicemen who served in the Navy, Army and Air Force between 1951 & 1972 in particular to the 212 who paid the supreme sacrifice during active service in Borneo & Vietnam. Erected by the South East Victorian sub-branch of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia Victorian Branch Inc.

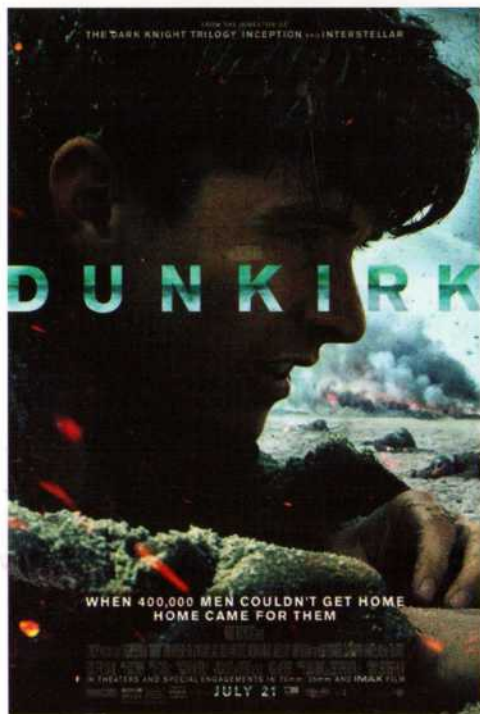
- National Servicemen's Association -



Unveiled by Douglas Black NSAA State President on the 12th of November 2006. Service to the nation

MOVIE AND BOOK REVIEW

Dunkirk (film)



If you appreciated the original 1958 John Mills, Richard Attenborough film depicting the evacuation of British, Belgium and French troops from the beaches of Dunkirk under horrendous conditions, you may not like remake of this classic movie. The 1958 film was based on the novels, *The Big Pick-Up* by Elleston Trevor and *Dunkirk (Retreat from the Brink of Destruction)* co-authored by Lt Colonel Ewan Hunter and Major JS Bickford.

However, the widely promoted 2017 version of the well documented evacuation is extremely bleak, graphic and at times difficult to watch as fleeing men attempt to board assorted boats to escape the fast approaching German Army. The contrast between the 1958 black and white version is possibly

the feeling that the men were abandoned by the Royal Air Force (RAF) by not providing enough air support during the evacuation.

The 2017 version depicts The Royal Air Force flying the mighty Supermarine Spitfire doing an amazing job against the German Messerschmitt Bf 109 and the fearful dive bombing Stukka aircraft. The sound of the Stukka (with its Jericho siren blaring) is ear shattering and horrendous to watch the damage inflicted on men and shipping.

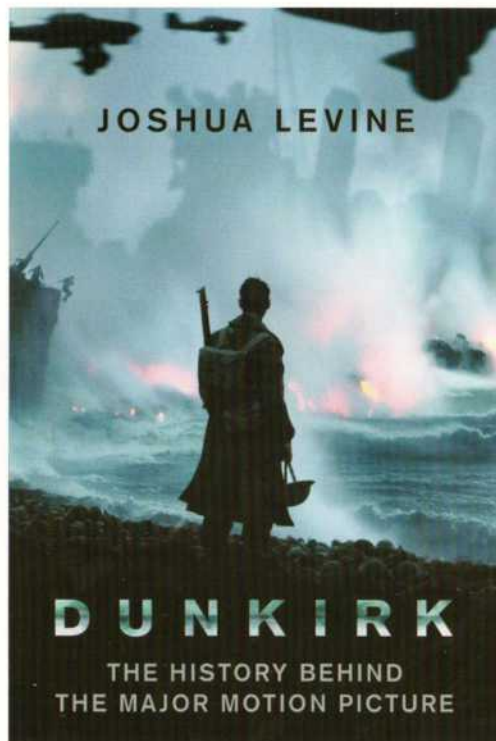
We know the RAF had to conserve fuel on the Channel Crossings perhaps only managing to provide about an hour of air cover therefore appearing not to support the desperate men waiting to be rescued.

The RAF at times were unfairly shunned and mocked by the rescued troops who felt they has been let down by their own Air Force.

The thought that they had been abandoned by their mates would have been catastrophic on morale and on their families back home.

Footnote: Elleston Trevor (1920-1995) also wrote the incredible story (circa 1964) *The Flight of the Phoenix*.

- *Dunkirk (film)* -



This book, by Author Joshua Devine delves into the History behind the 2017 movie with interviews and research into the background of survivors and those who were in leadership roles at the time through archival notes.

Joshua Devine's story offers a viewpoint covering Land, Sea and Air that turned defeat into a victory

for a demoralized Great Britain.

DUNKIRK THE History Behind the Major Motion Picture by Joshua Devine William Collins.

Our reviewer's comment; "The book is better than the 2017 movie."

Stamp Collectors Note



Current members of the ADF standing on the steps of Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance with oversized stamp replicas (L-R) Able Seaman Medical (ABMED) Lillie Heymann — Navy; Corporal (CPL) Amelia Hagger — Army; Squadron Leader (SQNLDR) Evelyn Wright — Air Force; Leading Seaman (LS) Zoraya Tibos — Navy; Flight Lieutenant (FLTLT) Robyn Connell — Air Force

In the lead-up to Remembrance Day, Australia Post pays tribute to Australian women, past and present, and their contribution during times of war with the release of a new stamp issue.

Australia Post Philatelic Manager, Michael Zsolt said: "This stamp issue, the fourth in a series commemorating a century since World War I, acknowledges the important roles women have played in war and conflict."

Prior to and including World War I, the involvement of women in

conflict zones was almost entirely limited to nursing.

In World War II, women served in the nursing corps of the Navy, Army and Air Force, with other roles also open to women, including the Women's Land Army and the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force.

Today all roles in the ADF are open to women.

- World War I (1914—18) saw more than 3,000 nurses join the war effort, most serving abroad with the

- Stamp Collectors Note -

Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) while others served with organisations like the Red Cross. Women on the home front also made an immense contribution.

- World War II (1939—45) saw women serving in the nursing corps of the ADF with other roles opening up for women. During World War II, 3,477 AANS nurses served, with more women joining the auxiliary services and volunteer organisations.

- Korean War (1950—53) and Vietnam War (1962—73) saw Australian servicewomen involved in both conflicts. During the Vietnam War, Australian women civilians participated in a number of roles: from members of civilian medical teams, Red Cross support, and entertainers, to Embassy staff and journalists.

- Afghanistan War (2001—present) and Iraq War (2003—11) involved women serving on active duty in the Middle East, including the Gulf War (1990—91), in critical operations as pilots, medics, combat engineers and other roles.

- Peacekeeping has involved Australian servicewomen active in peacekeeping forces in many countries including East Timor, Indonesia, Korea, Zimbabwe, Namibia and the Solomon Islands.

The five-domestic base rate (\$1) stamps are designed by Melbourne-based, Stacey Zass of Page 12 Design. The products associated with this stamp issue are a minisheet, first day cover, stamp pack, medallion cover boxed set, postal and numismatic cover, prestige cover, booklet of 10 x \$1 self-adhesive stamps, five gutter strips of 10 x \$1 stamps with design and a set of five maxicards.

The A Century of Service: Women in War stamp issue is available now at participating Post Offices, via mail order on 1800 331 794 and online at auspost.com.au/stamps while stocks last.

*These details sent by: Ray Payne
OAM*

Veteranweb Network: Ed

Rifle Green Berets

Our association has some Rifle Green Berets which were sent to us from Directorate of Logistics - Army in 2014.

The Rifle Green Beret was issued to RAR soldiers in 1964 - 1997 and is not the same colour or design as the WRAAC Beret. We have been able to handover some of the berets to RAR Association members, but we still have some small size berets in hand.

The sizes are:

X SML 52 - 53 cm

SML 54 - 55 cm

The berets are non-returnable as they are surplus stock and we are eager to pass these berets on to interested persons. As they are small sizes they would be ideal for children to wear at Remembrance Services or even school productions.

The berets are *free of charge*, but cost of postage will be required. If interested, please contact:

Heather Fry.

Ph: 03 9795 8472

Mobile: 0417 979 826

Email: hfry44@bigpond.com

AROUND THE WRAAC PACK

Best wishes to Robyn Nash and thank you for your kind thoughts regarding the journal.

Good luck with your new venture.

Amelia Earhart

Born 24th July 1897 disappeared 2nd July 1937



Amelia Earhart In 1937

The recent discovery of a photo suggesting to be that of Aviatix, Amelia Earhart has been found.

The blurry figure sitting on a dock on Jaluit Atoll, in the Marshall Islands has some people wondering is this pilot who went missing 80 years ago.

Amelia was the pioneering aviator of her era, the first female pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic.

On July the 2nd 1937 Amelia and her Navigator, Fred Noonan

disappeared while attempting to fly to Howland Island in the Pacific Ocean.

The world was spellbound by the disappearance of Amelia and Fred with so many theories and false leads taking many paths.

Alas, the world may never know what happened to this truly remarkable woman.

Below we reproduce an article originally published by New York Post: Ed

Eerie evidence Amelia Earhart died a castaway

Did Amelia Earhart survive her plane crash? This is the most likely theory, with evidence emerging that she was making contact for days after her plane disappeared.

The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery (TIGHAR) believes Earhart safely landed her plane

when it disappeared in 1937 and died as a castaway.

During a presentation in the US in August 2016, TIGHAR's Ric Gillespie backed up all of the group's theories.

Earhart's plane was last seen on radar on July 2, 1937.

After becoming the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, she embarked on a mission to fly over 29,000 miles around the world.

But on July 2, 1937, four months after beginning her trip, she found herself in trouble.

She was flying at 375 meters



New Findings Claim That Earhart Made Over 100 Radio Transmissions For Help From July 2 (When Her Plane Was Last Seen On Radar) To July 6, 1937

(1,230 feet) looking for Howland Island, southwest of Honolulu, but was low on fuel.

It is believed she was not as close to the island as expected, so she safely landed on another island, believed to be Nikumaroro. also known as Gardner Island. which is surrounded by a reef and about 400 miles southeast of Howland Island.



Earhart With Navigator Fred Noonan. July 2017 Marked The 80Th Anniversary Of Their Disappearance.

Gillespie said that from the time the plane vanished off radar on July 2 to July 6, there were more than 100 radio transmissions from Earhart calling for help.

A woman in Melbourne even picked up her frequency.

People started hearing radio distress calls from the airplane and they were verified," Gillespie said.

About six hours after she went missing, a very weak and unreadable voice was picked up by credible radio operators. They recognized her voice.

A housewife in Texas listening on a short-wave radio a short time later also heard Earhart's pleas. She heard the plane had landed part in water and part on land.

Gillespie said Earhart told radio operators she was injured, but not as badly as her navigator, Fred Noonan.

"She's out there calling for help," Gillespie said.

He believes Earhart landed safely with some fuel left in the tank, because she wouldn't have been able to work the radio without the engine running.



A new History Channel special claims this photo is proof Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan were in the Marshall Islands after their plane disappeared.

Her local transmitter also would not have worked if she landed in water.

Earhart, the pioneering aviator who became the first female pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic, famously

disappeared with her navigator Fred Noonan on July 2, 1937, while attempting to fly to Howland Island in the Pacific Ocean. Her fate has been a figure of fascination, and professional and amateur investigators have offered many theories over the years on what happened to the daring pilot.

The photograph, recently discovered in the National Archives by former US Treasury Agent Les Kinney, allegedly shows Earhart and Noonan among a group of people on a dock on Jaluit Atoll in the Marshall Islands.



Some experts believe the figure highlighted at left is Fred Noonan and the person sitting, facing away from the camera, is Amelia Earhart.

Facial recognition

An expert in facial recognition said the hairline of a man standing at far left in the photo matches that of Noonan, while the torso measurements and short hair of a person sitting on the dock matches that of Earhart, according to

a clip shown on NBC's "Today."

The expert came to this conclusion by comparing Noonan's nose, teeth and hairline to the man in the image. He then used Earhart's torso measurements to compare her with the other figure.

The documentary also says that a blurry form in the background, on the far right beyond the bow of the large ship, appears to be Earhart's plane.

The photo could support the documentary's theory that Earhart and Noonan crashed in the Marshall Islands and were captured by the Japanese military. This means the duo could have died in Japanese custody on the island of Saipan rather than in a crash landing, according to the History channel.

The image would corroborate witness accounts who have previously said they saw the Electra aircraft land and the pair in custody, History says. It also supports speculation surrounding pieces of metal discovered in 2014, which were thought to be a part of the plane.

WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc. Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

15th April 2018



At Bunnings Box Hill

Middleborough Road, Box Hill

From 08:00 to 16:30

Anyone available to assist at any time during the day please contact
Heather Fry

Telephone: 03 9795 8472
Email: hfry44@bigpond.com

We do have a good day.
Please come along and join us.

