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RSL Victoria is a registered charity, member based organisation and is the Victorian Branch of the Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL Australia)

Sunbury is the only RSL within the Hume Municipality

INFORMATION

ISSUE 2

Sunbury RSL Sub-Branch Newsletter

May 2024

VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY 8 MAY

Victory in Europe (VE) Day marks Germany's surrender in World War II after almost six years of conflict. It's a significant date for us to remember and reflect on the important role of many Australians across the European theatre of war.

Victory in Europe Day - or "VE Day"- signalled the end of almost six years of terrible fighting between the Allies and Nazi Germany on 8 May 1945.

The signing of an unconditional surrender by the German High Command took place on 7 May 1945. The surrender took effect from midnight on 8 to 9 May. The Allies proclaimed 8 May as Victory in Europe Day. It brought an end to the war against Germany and its European allies.

Most Australians read the news in their local newspapers, such as Germany Capitulates: Unconditional surrender.

Australians serving overseas celebrated the victory, as did their loved ones back home. However, the celebrations as a whole were dampened by the knowledge that the war in the Pacific was still to be won.

In Australia, churches held thanksgiving services. On 9 May in Melbourne, 100,000 people attended the service at the Shrine of Remembrance. In Canberra that same day, the editorial writer of The Canberra Times wrote that the floodlights over the Australian War Memorial stood in bright relief against the darkness which is now passing from Europe, and soon from the entire world.

Another headline: 1945 "Light in Our Darkness", The Canberra Times, 9 May, p4. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2626721>

The war in the Pacific continued until the Japanese surrendered in August of 1945.

Source: <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/commemoration/days/victory-in-europe>

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Sunbury RSL Sub-Branch

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SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DATE

Victory in Europe (VE) Day marks Germany's surrender in World War II after almost six years of conflict. It's a significant date for us to remember and reflect on the important role of many Australians across the European theatre of war.



Australian aircrew, who had flown more than 500 allied prisoners of war liberated from German camps back to England that day, belatedly celebrate the victory in Europe in their station mess. AWM UK2852

AUSTRALIA AT WAR

Prime Minister Robert Menzies declared Australia at war on 3 September 1939. Nearly 1 million Australians served in the armed forces during the war.

Many service personnel died in and around Europe, on the seas, on land and in the skies. Some 10,000 Australians lost their lives, at least another 10,000 were wounded and a further 8000 became prisoners of war.

The end of the war in Europe brought about liberation for Australians and other allied service men who were held as prisoners of war in German-occupied countries.

It also meant freedom for the hundreds of thousands of men and women held in internee, forced labour and concentration camps across Europe.

On VE Day, we remember Australia's war efforts across the European theatre of war.

DEATH OF AN AUSTRALIAN ON VE DAY

Private Lawrence Saywell of Double Bay, New South Wales, is believed to be the last Australian killed in the war in Europe.

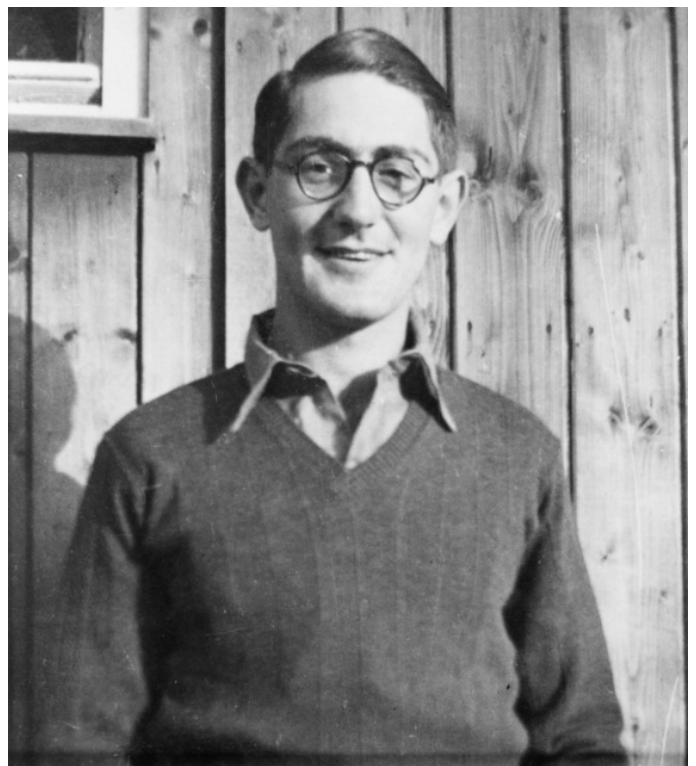
He enlisted in the 2nd Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in November 1939, aged 20. He served with the 17th Brigade Company, Australian Army Service Corps.

Lawrence had been captured by the Germans during the evacuation of Crete in 1941. He escaped from a prisoner of war camp in Bohemia (present-day Czech Republic) in January 1945.

After joining a Czech resistance group, he fought with the partisans against the Germans for four months.

Sadly, on the day the war ended in Europe, Lawrence was shot and badly wounded by a retreating German soldier near the village of Miretin. He died of his wounds on 8 May 1945 and is buried in the Prague War Cemetery.

Saywell was posthumously awarded the Czech Meritorious Cross. His medal is held in the Australian War Memorial collection.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P02551.001

Portrait of Private Lawrence Phillip Saywell, 17th Brigade Company, Australian Army Service Corps, Germany, c1941. AWM P02551.001

5326 PRIVATE MARTIN JOHN ALEXANDER

RIDDELLS CREEK, ROMSEY & TRENTHAM MEMORIALS

Private Martin John Alexander enlisted on 4 February 1916 in Brunswick, Victoria. He was born in Blue Mountains (Trentham), Victoria in 1894, to Robert Alexander and Margaret née Spellecy, Registration 9397. Therefore, he was 21 years 8 months at enlistment.

He attended Trentham Catholic School.

Martin was single. He was a farm labourer living with his parents and their address was Lancefield Junction, Victoria. His family later moved to Riddells Creek.

At Martin's medical, the following statistics were recorded:

Height: 5' 4 3/4" (163 cm)
Weight: 136 lbs (61.68 Kg)
Complexion: Red
Eyes: Grey
Hair: Brown
Religion: Roman Catholic



AWM Embarkation Roll number: 23/23/4

Rank from Nominal Roll: Private

Unit from Nominal Roll: 6th Battalion

War service: Western Front

Fate: Killed in Action in the field by shellfire at Ypres, Belgium on 16 September 1916. Cemetery records state that he was 22 years old at the time of death.

Martin is buried at Bedford House Cemetery, Enclosure No 4 (Plot I, Row F, Grave No 2), Zillebeke, Belgium, one mile south of Ypres.

Parents: Robert and Margaret Spellecy Alexander, Riddell, Victoria

For his war service on the Western Front, PTE Martin Alexander received the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Family/military connections:

Brother: 1377 Driver Reginald ALEXANDER, (pictured right) 11th Field Artillery Brigade, returned to Australia, 2 January 1919.

Reginald is listed on the Sunbury War Memorial as returned but his brother, PTE Martin Alexander KiA is not listed at all.

Lest we forget



Unit name:
6th Battalion, 17th Reinforcement

After training at the Bendigo Camp for a month, his Unit embarked from Melbourne on board HMAT A14 Euripides on 4 April 1916. Martin's age at embarkation was 21 years.

Next of kin: Father, R Alexander, Lancefield Junction, Victoria

Unit name:
6th Battalion, 17th Reinforcement



THE AE1 AND THE AE2 SUBMARINES AUSTRALIA'S FIRST SUBMARINES

HMAS AE1 was an E-class submarine of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). She was the first submarine to serve in the RAN, and was lost at sea with all hands near what is now East New Britain, Papua New Guinea, on 14 September 1914, after less than seven months in service.

Australia's first submarines, HMAS AE1 and HMAS AE2, were launched in England in 1913 and manned by composite Australian and British crews.

HMAS AE1

At the outbreak of the First World War the two



submarines were sent from Sydney to German New Guinea with the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force to help capture the German colony.

On 14 September, a day after the official German surrender of the colony, AE1, commanded by Lieutenant Commander Thomas Besant, left Rabaul harbour to patrol Cape Gazelle. It never returned.

An initial search lasted two days, but no wreckage or oil slick was found. For 60 years AE1 was all but forgotten. From 1976 several searches were undertaken by various teams, but it remained missing until 20 December 2017, when the wreck was located off the Duke of York Island group. In April 2018 high-definition cameras helped produce a 3-D model of the wreck, allowing experts to study it and perhaps learn what happened.

After the discovery of the submarine in December 2017, Rear Admiral Peter Briggs, retired, said the likely cause of its loss was a diving accident. He added: The submarine appears to have struck the bottom with sufficient force to dislodge the fin from its footing, forcing it to hinge forward on its leading edge, impacting the casing.

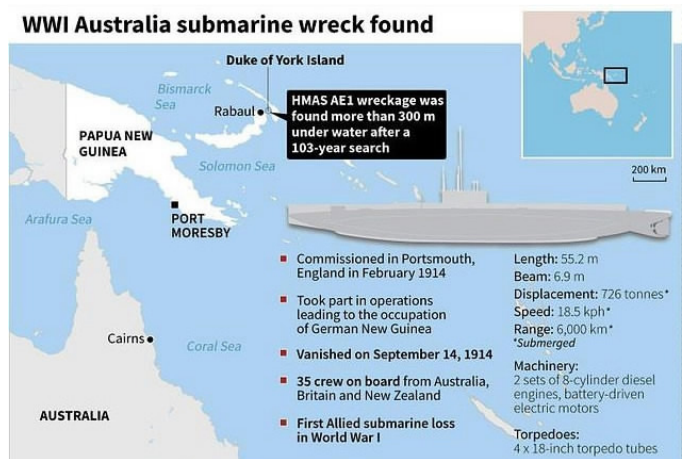
As of April 2018, the best-supported theory for the submarine's loss was that it went below its crush depth due to a mechanical failure.

Later that year, a team of researchers headed by the National Maritime Museum director Kevin Sumption, concluded their investigation into the sinking of AE1. They concluded that a ventilation valve, which was likely open to make the tropical conditions a little more bearable while the submarine was cruising on the surface near the Duke of York Islands, was insecure when the submarine dived, causing a flood of the submarine's engine room and total loss of control of the AE1.

The submarine subsequently sank below 100 metres and imploded, killing everyone on board instantly; 35 officers and crew.

MEMORIALS

In 1933, a stained-glass window commemorating the losses of AE1 and AE2 was added to the naval chapel at Garden Island in Sydney. In September 2015, a floating sculpture to commemorate AE1 was unveiled outside the Australian National Maritime Museum. The sculpture takes the form of a stainless steel wreath, 6 metres (20 ft) in diameter, which projects patterns of light onto the water at night. In 2008 a memorial plaque was dedicated to HMAS AE1 at the Tasmanian Seafarers' Memorial at Triabunna on the east coast of Tasmania.

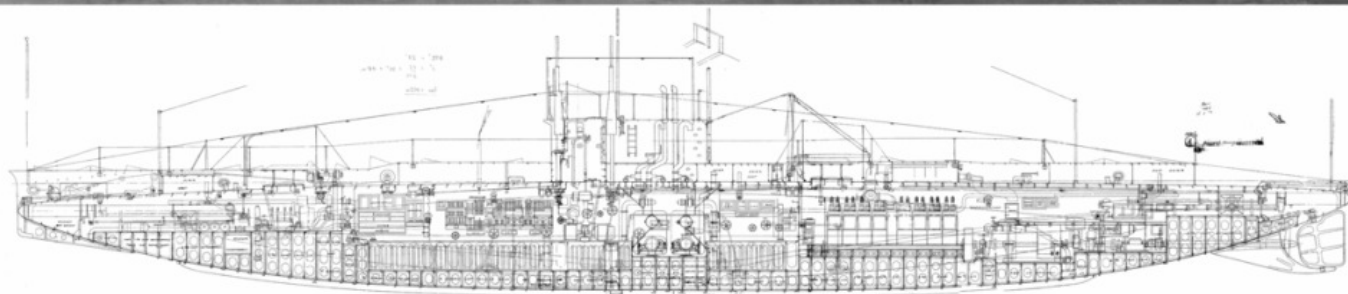
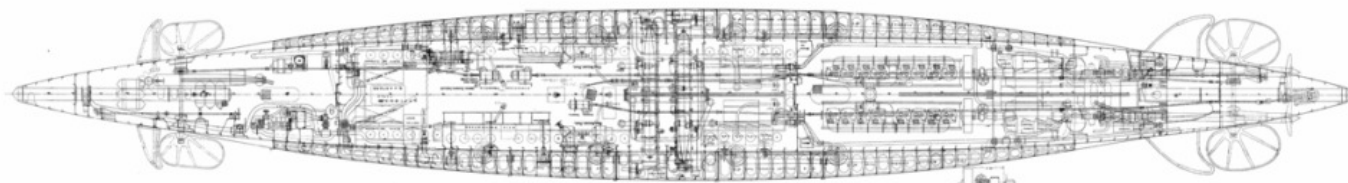


Next month: The Demise of Submarine HMAS AE2

NAVY NEWS



THE AE1 AND THE AE2 SUBMARINES AUSTRALIA'S FIRST SUBMARINES (CONT)



MISSING IN ACTION: THE CREW OF AE1

OFFICERS

- Lieutenant-Commander Thomas F **Besant**
- Lieutenant Charles L **Moore**
- Lieutenant The Hon Leopold F **Scarlett**

PETTY OFFICERS AND MEN

- Joseph W **Wilson**, Chief Engine Room Artificer 2nd class
- Thomas F **Lowe**, Chief Engine Room Artificer 2nd class
- John A **Marsland**, Chief Engine Room Artificer 2nd class
- James A **Fettes**, Engine Room Artificer 3rd class
- John **Messenger**, Engine Room Artificer 3rd class
- Harry **Stretch**, Chief Stoker
- Robert **Smail**, Petty Officer
- Henry **Hodge**, Petty Officer
- William **Tribe**, Petty Officer
- Thomas M **Guilbert**, Petty Officer
- John J **Maloney**, Stoker Petty Officer

- Charles F **Wright**, Stoker Petty Officer
- William A **Waddilove**, Stoker Petty Officer
- Gordon C **Corbould**, Leading Seaman
- Sidney C **Barton**, Leading Stoker
- John **Meek**, Leading Stoker
- William E **Guy**, Leading Stoker
- John **Reardon**, Able Seaman
 - Frederick W **Woodland**, Able Seaman
 - Jack **Jarman**, Able Seaman
 - James B **Thomas**, Able Seaman
 - Arthur H **Fisher**, Able Seaman
 - Frederick G **Dennis**, Able Seaman
 - George **Hodgkin**, Able Seaman
 - Percy L **Wilson**, Stoker
 - John J **Bray**, Stoker
 - Ernest **Blake**, Stoker
- Richard B **Holt**, Stoker
- James **Guild**, Stoker
- Henry J **Gough**, Stoker
- George **Dance**, Signalman
- Cyril L **Baker**, Telegraphist



ARMY NEWS



BLOOD LIFELINE ON THE FRONTLINE

In a first for the ADF health system, 2nd Health Battalion (2HB) medics simulated giving patients blood at the point of injury as part of early treatment during Exercise Viper Walk.

This is a change from the current system, where patients only receive blood when they arrive at the Role 2E hospital, which is traditionally deployed at great distances from the frontline.

2HB used the exercise to showcase the ability to use fresh whole blood – transfusing directly from donor to patient – to increase survivability of the casualty.

Commanding Officer 2HB Lieutenant Colonel Kelly Dunne emphasised the importance of delivering forward blood on the battlefield to save lives.

“Giving blood to critically wounded soldiers within 30 minutes is crucial for casualty survival,” Lt Col Dunne said.

“As part of our readiness culture, we need things to change, and ensuring we have pre-screened our eligible donors is a critical part of preparing for the next fight.

“We need a blood solution for the pre-hospital space, particularly if we know that we are likely to experience capacity challenges in the casualty evacuation space.”

Currently, blood groups A, B, O and AB are held in fridges at the deployable hospital, and while this is ideal for casualties who make it back to the R2E for treatment, it doesn’t provide a solution for the many casualties who need blood replacement on the battlefield.

“In being able to transfuse from one arm directly to another on the battlefield, we reduce the cold chain burden on the logistics system and increase the survivability of our fighting forces by ensuring casualties receive life-saving blood earlier,” Lt Col Dunne said.

2HB also aims to demonstrate that about 30-35 per cent of eligible blood donors across the ADF could

safely transfuse their blood to casualties, regardless of their blood type.



Australian Army medics from 2 Health Battalion provide medical care to simulated casualties at the point of injury during Exercise Viper Walk 2024

To develop an exercise on this scale, Lieutenant Colonel Dunne applied the 2-30-1 planning metric, which represents the medical and physiological needs of a combat casualty.

“Two minutes is time to initial treatment via tactical combat casualty care; 30 minutes is time to blood replacement through advanced resuscitation by medic or

Role 1; and, one hour is time to damage-control surgery,” Lt Col Dunne said.

“When it comes to blood, if combat commanders cannot get their casualties back to the preferred cold-stored blood option at the deployable hospital, then 2nd Health Battalion wants to provide warfighters with a forward blood solution to reduce their risk.

“The raising of the 2HB has been a key leap forward in enabling this cultural shift and focus on supporting the combat brigades across Army.”

Lt Col Dunne said pre-screening volunteer donors was necessary to identify 0+ and 0- blood types to enable whole blood transfusion. The method, used by the US military, forms part of emergency donor panel and walking blood bank protocols.

To date, the ADF doesn’t provide specific training for this, however, the battalion has developed a two day military transfusion course for clinical staff training.

If approved, the course may be used across the brigade and wider ADF in future.

Lance Corporal Kalista Prince, a medic who participated in the exercise, has trained with the US Marine Corps on walking blood bank protocols.

“Hopefully in the future this incredibly simple and lifesaving capability can be officially trained, so that ADF clinicians can continue progressing with skills in accordance with the most up-to-date research,” Lance Corporal Prince said.

AIR FORCE

Borroloola residents leave the McArthur River area of the NT after flooding caused by Tropical Cyclone Megan



Air Force, Army and NT Fire and Rescue personnel work together to assist Borroloola residents leave the McArthur River area of the NT after flooding caused by Tropical Cyclone Megan.

In the wake of Tropical Cyclone Megan, the ADF responded to a request from the Northern Territory government to provide assistance to the community of Borroloola.

Over several days, ADF personnel and aircraft deployed to the NT to assist local emergency services with the evacuation of local residents, delivery of much-needed stores, and soil strength testing of the airfield.

The ADF support included two C-130J Hercules, one C-27J Spartan, and their respective crews, who were assigned to this disaster-relief tasking, including C-27J pilot Flight Lieutenant James Bendun.

“We have offloaded thousands of kilos of fresh food, medicine, and a number of NT police, fire and rescue, and medical teams to assist Borroloola,” Flt Lt Bendun said.

“Members from 35 Squadron and 37 Squadron worked alongside air movements, airfield

engineers and NT police and firefighters to conduct these evacuations.”

The ADF was tasked through the National Emergency Management Agency following a request from the NT government to support the cyclone and flooding relief efforts.

Over the first three days, ADF personnel supported the evacuation of about 370 local residents of Borroloola to Darwin.

Loadmaster on the C-27J Corporal Nicholas Winkler said it was a rewarding task.

“Being first in on the ground, working alongside emergency services and helping people in need was a great experience to be a part of,” Corporal Winkler said.

“It was very busy out there but we had a great team to work alongside.”



Air Force aviator Corporal Kate Kershaw, of 37 Squadron, delivers a pre-flight safety brief to residents of Borroloola prior to evacuation to Darwin via a C-130J Hercules. Photos: Sergeant Andrew Eddie

Prior to the evacuation, an Air Force and Army engineering team conducted soil strength testing to analyse the condition of the runway, as airfield engineer Flying Officer Patrick Tanner explained. “This testing determined the maximum

allowable operations of various aircraft types on the Borroloola airfield,” F/O Tanner said.

“The importance of this was to ensure we did not overstress the pavement following the cyclone, as there was a risk that landing aircraft here could damage the surface further, ceasing operations.”

The engineering team’s survey ensured the airfield was safe for air mobility aircraft to land in order to aid the evacuation efforts.



Monthly Dinner Photos curtesy Noela Rose



ANZAC ASSEMBLY KILLARA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Sylvia McQueen, representing the Sunbury RSL and Nola Williams and Margaret Jager representing the WRAAC Association of Victoria, were delighted to attend the annual Anzac Day Assembly and Service at Killara Primary School.



Killara Primary School is very proud of the many ways our students and wider school community commemorated ANZAC Day. Whether through our school's very special commemorative assembly, the stories read in classrooms explaining the significance of ANZAC Day, the beautiful art work created during Visual Art, our school's participation in the Sunbury ANZAC Day community march to the Sunbury War Memorial Cenotaph & wreath laying ceremony, as well as our school choir having the honour of performing both the Australian and New Zealand National Anthems at the conclusion of the official service. Well done and thank you everyone!



HONOURING OUR YOUTH: A TESTAMENT TO COURAGE AND COMMITMENT

by Jarrod Bell, Founder of the Sunbury ANZAC Youth Vigil



In the silence of the night, more than 140 young people from across our Sunbury community, standing in solemn reverence for those who gave their all.

The 2024 Sunbury ANZAC Youth Vigil was a poignant reminder of the unwavering spirit of our community's youth.

From the 1st and 3rd Sunbury Scouts, to the Sunbury Girl Guides, Sunbury CFA, Sunbury SES, and St John Ambulance, these young souls, each with their own dreams and aspirations, came together for a singular purpose: *to honour the sacrifices of our ANZAC heroes.*

For 12 hours, they stood vigil, their presence a testament to the enduring legacy of those who fought for our freedom. Through the chill of the night, their resolve remained unyielding, a beacon of hope and remembrance.

But behind every young participant stood a guiding light, an adult leader from each organisation, offering support and encouragement



every step of the way. Their dedication, often unseen but deeply felt, ensured the success of this remarkable event.

As the dawn broke and the bugle sounded, echoing across the quiet dawn, we were reminded once again of the power of unity and the importance of never forgetting. The 2024 Sunbury ANZAC Youth Vigil was not just a commemoration; it was a promise - to honour, to remember, and to uphold the values for which our ANZACs fought.

To each and every participant, young and old alike, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. Your presence, your commitment, and your unwavering spirit have touched the hearts of our

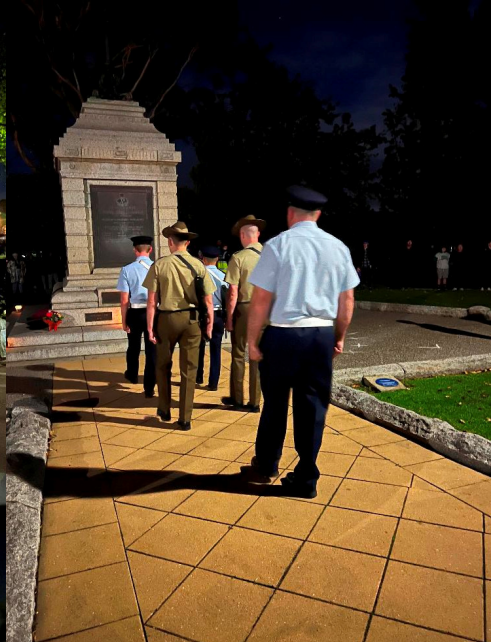
community and ensured that the flame of remembrance continues to burn bright.

Last we forget

Ed: We at the Sunbury RSL echo the heartfelt gratitude of Jarrod. Our community is proud of all of you!



Dawn Service



ANZAC DAY SPEECH AT DAWN SERVICE 2024

LT COL WARREN SMITH (RET'D)

Can you get killed Dad? I don't want you to die. Yes mate, there is a chance I could get killed. I will do everything in my power to come back home but I cannot make a promise that I may not be able to keep. Do you understand?

Good morning everyone and especially to all those who are representing family members who have served this great nation, fellow veterans and those still serving.

Those were the first words that my 9 year old son asked me as I sat my two boys down and told them I was going off to war in Afghanistan in two and half weeks. I had been given three weeks notice.

I served for 25 years in the Army having joined at 16 yrs and nine months. It took me 22 years before I would get the opportunity to go to war. I had trained my whole career for such an opportunity. I was honoured and remain honoured to have served my country.

I am also honoured to be wearing the medals of my father-in-law who fought in the second world war and Korea.

On the 25 April 1915, Australian and New Zealand forces advanced towards the Gallipoli coastline. Some were no doubt frightened. Some feeling lonely, others full of adrenalin and eager to take the fight to the enemy. All were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice. As they stormed the shoreline some were cut down by machine gun fire before they even put a foot on Turkish soil while others made a few steps and fell beside their mates as they continued to charge towards the cliffs in front of them. On that first day, over 2000 personnel were killed or injured. Over the next 8 months through various battles and actions the ANZAC Legacy was born.

Anzac Day has been one of the most important dates on Australia's calendar since 1916. At first, it gave people a chance to honour the original ANZACs. Today on Anzac Day we remember and honour the service and sacrifice of those who have served our nation not just at Gallipoli but through World War II, Korea, Vietnam, The Gulf War and Afghanistan, as well as other conflicts and peacekeeping operations to the present day.

Anzac Day is a collective act of remembrance, reflection and gratitude

You will all have your own reasons for attending a service such as this. For me it is to acknowledge those

who have died in service to our nation to reflect on how that service and sacrifice has contributed to what and who we are as a nation today and to understand what our response should be to honour that legacy.

Over 102,000 people have made the ultimate sacrifice in military operations carried out in our country's name while countless more carry the physical and mental battle scars of their operational service. Two of my mates lost their lives; not in battle, but in the Black Hawk disaster while training for Counter terrorism operations to protect you and me.

We talk of the ANZAC Legacy as having key characteristics including: loyalty, selflessness, courage, endurance, mateship and sacrifice.

In essence, these characteristics say that we are people who, in adverse situations, are strong, look out for each other, and are prepared to put others

before self.

To me mateship is the glue which binds the other characteristics together. Mateships formed in defence are mates forever and will be there in your time of need no matter what.

I also believe these characteristics are in each and every one of us and many of us are yet to realise just how much ANZAC spirit we truly have.

Across our country this morning, Australians have gathered in peace, free citizens of a proud and free nation.

If we are to truly honour our veterans, we owe them something more than just gratitude. Just as they stepped up for us, we must step up for them.

The ANZAC legacy should serve three purposes. to call on us to thank those earlier generations for their sacrifice, to energise us in looking after our veterans, and to inform us of what those earlier generations would expect of us today as we face our own generational test.

Today if you see someone wearing medals on their left breast give them a nod and a smile, perhaps mouth the words 'thank you for your service' or even walk up to them and have a conversation. Most will appreciate the recognition even if they do not seek it.

We are all proud of our Anzac forebears, let us make them proud of us.

Lest we forget.





The March





The March





10:30hrs Service





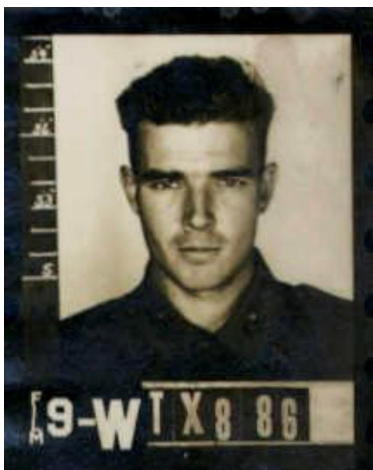
The 3000+ Crowd



A TRIP TO EGYPT TO THE GRAVE OF CORPORAL GERALD THOMAS HAY TX886 2/3 FIELD COMPANY, RAE, AUSTRALIAN ARMY

BY BOB & WENDY WALTERS
AFFILIATE MEMBERS

The call to Muslim prayer at dawn (around 5am) woke us in the morning reminding us that we were in Egypt. A long held-dream to visit Wendy's father's brother's grave was being realised. Dad's eldest brother died of wounds on 10 August 1942 in the lead up to the second battle at El-Alamein, Alexandria, when he stepped on a mine.



His brother, Harry, was there and helped him to the first aid tent. Returning several days later, Harry was told his brother had died. He was a Rat of Tobruk, therefore one of the many who Churchill said helped turn the tide of the war away from Germany.

Australia, New

Zealand and the Allies, are revered by the Egyptian people for their help which saved their beloved country.

Gerald was a precious son, brother, husband and father - lost to this family at just 30 years of age.

What Bob and I said at his grave (I wrote and Bob said it, as it was too emotional for me to say out loud):

“ We visit with love from Australia, especially Tasmania, to thank you for your ultimate sacrifice which resulted in the many freedoms we enjoy today. Your brothers Harry (Army) and Ray (Air Force) and your younger brother Mervyn, remained friends all their lives and adventurous fishing trips were part of their later years. Harry especially remembered you, and Remembrance Day was very emotional for him as he had helped you to the first aid tent, where you died.

You would have loved your nieces and nephews, Margaret, Rosemary, Judy, Peter, Carolyn, Wendy (me), Joanne, Kerry and Mervyn's children and all their partners and children. Your only child, Geraldine, had a full life and was an adventurous soul and even worked in the opal fields in central Australia. She proudly carried your name. Thank you, Gerald.

Lest we forget.”

Son of Alfred James Hay and Agnes Margaret Hay of Launceston, Tasmania;
husband of Doreen Dorothy Hay, of Launceston
The inscription on his head stone:
HE IS NOT DEAD, HE IS JUST AWAY.



El-Alamein, Alexandria, Egypt

The Commonwealth War Graves are partially maintained by the Australian Government and are beautiful and a pleasure to visit.

We hope this will become part of future visits by Australian and New Zealand tourists.

Gerald is also remembered in Canberra at the Australian War Memorial.

Our special thanks to our tour leaders and bus friends who found this a highlight of not only our trip but also of their trip.

TIM HEALY

A SECRET WAR & LUCK OF THE DRAW

THE INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION OF THE 1960S

For Tim Healy, a young fitter and turner from Ascot Vale with a newly completed apprenticeship under his belt, the 1960s were an exciting time of opportunity in Australia.

However, for some of our near neighbours across the sea, tensions were rising, and the future looked uncertain.

Having been granted independence from British colonial rule in 1957, Malaya had plans to introduce to their region the more recently independent areas of Singapore, Sarawak and North Borneo (Sabah) to form the 'Federated States of Malaysia'.

Indonesia, also having achieved independence and under the rule of their first President, was in strong opposition to this plan. They were critical of Malaya's perceived hangover of Commonwealth allegiance to the British - and viewed the plan for a Federation as a means for the Commonwealth to maintain control despite granting independence in Southeast Asia.

What resulted was a conflict between Indonesia and the planned Federation States, a conflict tiptoeing ever so strategically on the side of caution so as not to inflict full-scale war.

However, these somewhat covert hostilities erupted in early 1963 when Indonesia embarked on a series of cross-border raids into Malaysian territory.

Triggering Commonwealth support for the Malaysian troops, this escalation was a key motivator for the re-introduction of Conscription to national military service in Australia under the Menzies Government in 1964.

Not long before Xmas in 1964, a series of letters were delivered to households across Australia. Tim

Healy's group of friends all received an envelope in the mail, the sheet inside advising them that their services were not required in this round of Conscription, and they had been henceforth removed from the draw.

Tim never received this letter.

As Xmas was enjoyed and packed away, a December midnight clicked over to 1965, and

summer evenings sailed past. Tim eventually received a different type of correspondence.

A wooden ball bearing the number '64' had been pulled from a ballot, representing the 64th day of 1965. This fell on 5 March - Tim's birthday.

As a result of this draw, the Menzies Government requested that Tim report for duty at Richmond Barracks on 30 June 1965.

Bidding farewell to his parents, his two sisters and his brother, Tim spent the next few months training and working at Puckapunyal and South Australia, before heading to the Land Headquarter's (LHQ) training Centre in Jungle Warfare in Canungra, Queensland.

This would prepare Tim and his battalion for their upcoming 12 months' service in the unfamiliar conditions of Butterworth, Malaysia as

Commonwealth support during the clandestine Indonesian conflict.

Tim's two years of service were spent with military colleagues who soon became friends, and some considered family. Tim reflects upon his time in service with humility and pride, despite the mandated separation from his family and friends back in Australia, awaiting his return.

Of his service, Tim says one of the most unexpected challenges was returning home to his life in Melbourne, so far removed from the intensity,



purpose and drive of barracks life. He reflects on a sense of loneliness, despite being reunited with his loved ones, that permeated the days usually filled with loud voices, laughter, hard work and camaraderie. This positive outlook on national service is one of the many qualities that personify



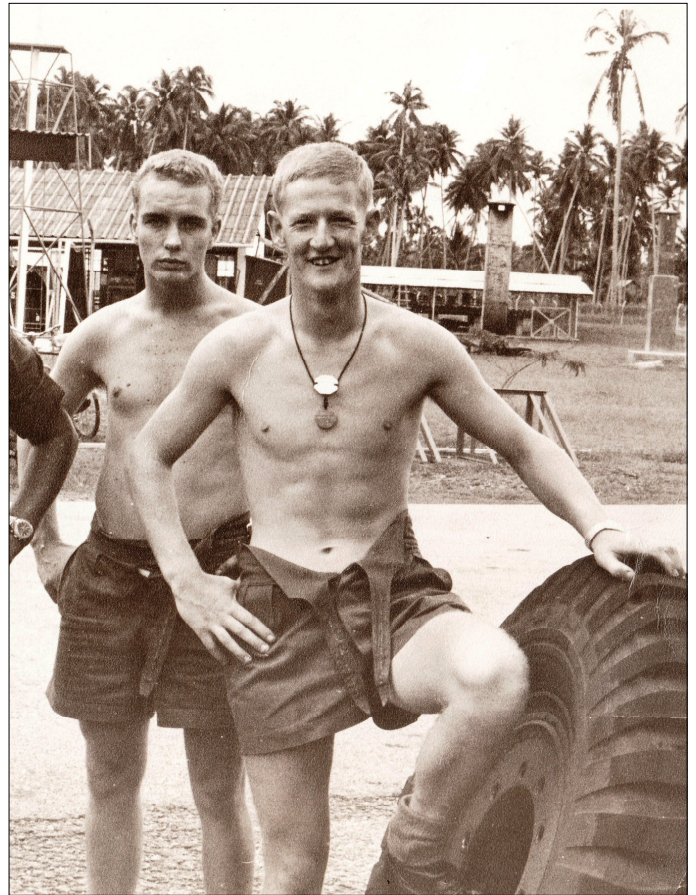
the gentle, humble and inspiring nature of Tim Healy.

Settled once again back into Australian life in the years following his return from service, Tim met and married Carol, now his wife of 38 years and became a proud father to two daughters and grandfather to two

grandchildren. He and Carol relocated to join the Sunbury community three years ago to be closer to their grandchildren, with Tim now an active member of the Sunbury RSL.

Between 1965 and 1972, over 63,000 Australian men were conscripted into national service - and of these, hundreds lost their lives.

We are so honoured to have returned service



L-R Ross McDonald & Tim Healy at their workshop in Butterworth, Malaysia 1966

people like Tim join our Sunbury community.

This ANZAC Day we remember those we have lost and also thank those still among us for the humility and selflessness of your service and for the freedom, peace and sanctuary we enjoy here in Australia today.

Source: Josh Bull MP 2024 ANZAC Day tribute brochure

THANK YOU

I would like to convey my thanks to all the committee members for their assistance in the preparation, planning and execution of ANZAC Day.



Particular thanks to our President Graeme, and Nola, who patiently answered our questions, verbally or via phone, email and text at any hour of the day or night.

Our Appeals Officers, Gary and Tim, worked tirelessly with their worthy volunteers and raised a considerable sum that will certainly be used to aid our Service personnel and their families.

Arriving at 04:30hrs, Nicole Andrews from Werribee organised the sound files, as directed by Judy, since Judy had pneumonia. A big thank-you here. Judy's sound system produced flawless recordings for both services. Thanks, Judy.

Thanks also to members of the Sunbury community who provided their advice and services.

That it was, and always will be, a team effort cannot be sufficiently emphasised. Thank you Fellow Members and Team.

Sylvia McQueen (Sunbury RSL Secretary)



MAY 2024 | SUNBURY RSL Sub-Branch

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 From 1300hrs Afternoons @ Club Rooms	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 From 1300hrs Afternoons @ Club Rooms	9	10	11
12	13 1830hrs Committee 1930hrs General Meetings	14	15 From 1300hrs Afternoons @ Club Rooms	16	17	18
19	20	21 1800-1830hrs Monthly Dinner Club Sunbury Nola 0417 296 411	22 From 1300hrs Afternoons @ Club Rooms	23	24 1200hrs Monthly Lunch Carol 0402 819 863	25
26	27	28	29 From 1300hrs Afternoons @ Club Rooms	30	31	

Thanks to

Josh Bull MP STATE MEMBER FOR SUNBURY

for printing Information and the Commemorative Programs

