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The official newsletter of the Highgate (WA) Sub-Branch of the Returned & Services League of Australia

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Monthly Luncheon

Monday 16 August 2004

Venue: Gallipoli Room, ANZAC House
Time: 11:30 hrs Fellowship 12:30 hrs Luncheon
**Speaker: The Governor of Western Australia
Lt General John Sanderson AC**
Topic: Recent Visit To China

Presidents Report

June Luncheon - Members Birthday Celebration

The July Birthday Luncheon was a sell out with 114 people attending. Sir Charles Court proposed the toast, which was extremely well received and Warren Smith, a foundation member, replied and presented Sir Charles with his 50 year certificate. There were some 22 members celebrating their birthday with Highgate among them two ladies who most ably cut the cake. Thanks to Bruce Taylor (JVP) for his job on the day.

August Luncheon

His Excellency Governor of WA Lt Gen John Sanderson AC also a member of Highgate will address the meeting on 16 August.

Ladies Luncheon - Carine

Unfortunately this function has now had to be cancelled by Carine TAFE. See note at the foot of the following page.

VJ Day 2005

With members agreement from the June meeting Highgate will form a small Sub-Committee to organise commemoration service at the State Memorial in Kings Park to be followed by a luncheon at ANZAC House with a selected guest speaker.

I feel that we owe it to those that have gone before to honour their part in bringing WW2 to a closure.

Regards, Ian

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

**Committee: 10:00 hrs Monday
6 Sep 2004**

**Luncheon: 11:30 hrs. Monday
20 Sep 2004**

Assistant Cashier for June - **Errol Smith**
Members, please assist by bringing the correct money of \$25.00

Hospital Visits – Otto Pelczar	New Memberships
Notice was received of two members attending hospital this month. Jim Hall – ex President of both the RSL and Highgate – had a short stay in Hollywood and more recent member Greg Lakeman was briefly a patient at St John of God Murdoch. Both are now recuperating at home. Otto Pelczar 9311 2429 or. 0408 940 928.	The committee has pleasure in welcoming Bert Lane as a new member to Highgate. Bert has been an RSL member for some time but has now seen the light and transferred. This may mean an increase in the wearing of 'flag' ties and bow ties by current members attending future functions.

Sub Wardens Duties

Wreath laying ceremonies currently scheduled at the State War Memorial, Kings Park:

Tuesday 31 August 1145 hr for Noon	NMBVAA (Merdeka)
Sunday 5 September 1045 hr for 1100 hr	Thirtyniners Assn
Sunday 12 September 1145 hr for Noon	Maltese Assn of WA Inc

From The Pensions Officer

It's not generally well known that Australians who served in other Commonwealth forces during WW2 can become eligible for benefits under the Veteran's Entitlement Act. Provided however that the veteran served with the forces of a Commonwealth country or of an allied country, he was domiciled in Australia or an external territory immediately before that service and rendered continuous full time service during WW2 outside the country and in such circumstances that the service should be treated as service in actual combat against the enemy. An example of this is where a young man has gone to England in 1938 as a Rhodes Scholar to study at Cambridge University. He was due to return to Australia at the end of his studies. When war was declared he enlisted in the RAF and served with Bomber Command. In order for that person to be recognized by the Act he needs to have been domiciled in Australia prior to his appointment or enlistment in those forces. A person acquires at birth a domicile of origin. Normally the domicile is that of the father or if he is deceased then the mother. So, in this example, if the young mans father was domiciled in Australia and the young man himself was also domiciled in Australia prior to the War then he could be recognized by the VEA. There are other examples of the issue of domicile but the above gives some idea of what is involved.

I've raised this item because I am currently representing a WW2 veteran whose background seems to fit the above criteria. I've noticed that where one case exists then there are perhaps others too. If anyone needs to find out more about this then I advise them to contact me or any of the other advocates/pension officers in the system.

Best wishes from Jim Eayrs

Congratulations

A special congratulation goes out to Peter Hummerstone on his appointment as a Warden of the State War Memorial Kings Park officially representing The Royal Australian Air Force Association. Peter's appointment is for 12 months.

URGENT NOTICE: The scheduled Ladies Luncheon for Wednesday 25 August has been cancelled by Carine TAFE due to insufficient numbers of students for the current course. Our apology to all members subscribing to this and all monies will be refunded shortly.

MILESTONES OF WWII – August 1942

Courtesy of Senior Vice President Norm Manners.

(Can you recall what you were doing during these historic events? (Try and refrain from swearing ☺))

AUGUST 1942

- August 1 The British and Americans decide to strike against the Vichy French along the coastlines of Morocco and Algeria. Churchill decides to fly to Moscow and acquaint Stalin of the opening of a second front codenamed Operation Torch.
- August 7 The German refugee scientist Klaus Fuchs became a British citizen swearing allegiance to the British Crown. He was working on the Anglo-American project “Tube Alloys” the research into an atomic bomb.
- Also on this day the Americans launched Operation Watchtower, the first Allied counter-offensive in the Pacific- the landing at Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. In the course of the battle the warships Quincy, Astoria, Vincennes and the Australian cruiser Canberra were sunk leaving more than 1,000 allied sailors dead. In one month of fighting on Guadalcanal nine thousand Japanese soldiers would die together with that of 1,600 Americans.
- August 9 German forces reach the oilfields of Maikop to find that the Soviets have blown the wells denying them the oil.
- August 10 Another attempt was made by the British to supply Malta and a convoy, under escort, was despatched. The next day the convoy was attacked and both the aircraft carrier Eagle, the destroyer Foresight, Cario and Manchester together with five laden merchant ships were sunk.
- August 13 Hitler, realising a second front must eventually happen in Europe briefs his Armaments Minister, Albert Speer that an ‘Atlantic Wall’ was to be built. It was to consist of 15,000 bunkers set, some at 50 and others at 100- yard intervals and regardless of cost. ‘Our most costly substance,’ he explained, ‘is the German man. The blood these fortifications will spare is worth the billions’
- August 17 A small force of American Marines land on Makin Atoll in the Gilbert Islands where thirty Marines loose their lives, nine accidentally marooned, were captured by the Japanese and taken to Kwajalein and then beheaded.
- August 19 A joint force of one thousand British and five thousand Canadian commandos accompanied by fifty American Rangers and two dozen Free French soldiers launched a raid on the French port of Dieppe some sixty-five miles across the English Channel from Britain. The code name was Operation Jubilee and the objective was to practise techniques for an eventual invasion of northern Europe. Over one thousand of the raiding force were killed and a further two thousand taken prisoner. Three Victoria Crosses were awarded for courage one British, one Canadian and one to a Canadian Chaplain. Three hundred and forty five Germans were killed in the action.
- August 23 Units of the German army reach the outskirts of Stalingrad.
- August 24 American forces sink the Japanese aircraft carrier Ryuho as well as a light cruiser, a destroyer and a troop ship with the loss of several thousand Japanese lives.
- August 25 Japanese troops landing at the south-eastern end of new Guinea, near Rabi, are attacked by Australians, and, despite further reinforcements, forced to withdraw two weeks later. Australians however, are still being slowly forced back along the Kokoda Track.
- August 30 In the Western Desert Rommel launched an attack, which he hoped would take him on to Cairo. However, British, New Zealand, Australian, South African and Indian troops awaited him and he was forced to withdraw from the Alam Halfa Ridge in front of El Alamein.
- The commander ranged against him was General Montgomery, whose first desert victory this was.



Nurses return from Quiet Lion tour

Two Hollywood Private Hospital nurses were part of a 60-strong tour group that recently returned from a pilgrimage to the area where Australian POWs worked on the 'death railway' in Thailand.

Hollywood nurses Zarina Ismail and Janine Pritchard said it was a privilege to be part of the annual Weary Dunlop 'Quiet Lion' tour and travel with four ex-POWs who shared their amazing stories with them.

Hollywood proudly sponsors two nurses every year to go on the tour, as part of efforts to educate the hospital staff about the experiences and sacrifice of the POWs. This is the seventh year the hospital has supported nurse participation in the tour.

"At each campsite stories were told to us by the ex-POWs who worked on the railway, which left us teary eyed," Zarina said.

"The lasting message for me is not the cruelty of the captors but the resilience and triumph of the Australian spirit."

Both Zarina and Janine said the dawn service at Hellfire Pass and the memorial services at Kanchanaburi War Cemetery on ANZAC day were the highlight of the tour.

"For me the tour was a journey of emotions - sadness, pride, appreciation and joy. One that shall never be forgotten," Janine said.

"I gained a real understanding of the courage and ingenuity shown by the allied prisoners, particularly our Australians, while working on the railway line."

For the first time, a group of 25 children from regional Western Australia took part in the annual pilgrimage.

Zarina said the children learnt a lot from the tour and gained a deeper appreciation of the life they enjoy because of the sacrifice of those before them.

"I think the trip really highlighted to the children how lucky they are," Zarina said.

"They realised how tough it would have been for the POWs in the extreme temperatures, with limited water and a bowl of rice to last them the day."

The Quiet Lion Tour was named so in memory of Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop who was a Prisoner of War (POW) and camp surgeon on the Burma-Thailand Railway. He was also known as the 'Quiet Lion' because of his great heart, spirit and quiet nature.

Photo caption: Hollywood Private Hospital nurse Zarina Ismail (on left) was delighted to accompany ex-POW Ernie Redman on the historic Quiet Lion Tour.



Significant Highgate events for your diary

Mon 16 August – Governor's Visit and talk

Friday 26 Nov – Ladies Dining Night

Mon 20 Dec – Christmas Luncheon

Mon 21 Feb 2005 – AGM