

Registered  
Publication  
PP60269/0033



Issue 457  
October 2006

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

## President's Report

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### OBITUARIES

It is the policy of this sub-branch that we will have published a notice in the Western Australian on the passing of a Highgate member.

Therefore, it is essential that either a relative, or friend, of the deceased advise the Secretary, Ron Adams, as soon as possible so that an obituary notice can be lodged.

### LADIES LUNCHEON

You should have received your invitation in the last issue of our newsletter and as we can only accommodate 100 persons it is imperative you fill in your form and post it to the Treasurer together with a cheque.

### BOOKMARK

Our esteemed member, Dr Alan King, handed me a book the other day and on looking at it later discovered it was his biography as told to Western Australian writer Cyril Ayris.

Alan had one burning ambition as a boy – to become a surgeon. When offered a position as a Flying Doctor in Wyndham he grabbed it, knowing it would enable him to save enough money to finance his studies in Edinburgh. The war interrupted his plans and as a medical officer in the 2/7 Field Ambulance he was captured on Crete and spent the next four years in a German POW camp. It was during this time that he learnt to control tuberculosis and on his return to Australia after the War it was a factor that would dominate his medical career. Through his efforts the dreaded disease was finally eradicated from Australia.

"A QUESTION OF DUTY" published by Alan King is available by ringing/faxing him on 61 08 9367 4842 or contacting him personally at our next luncheon.

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There have been several books published dealing with the campaign along the Kokoda Track, but in my opinion none so graphic and heart stirring than KOKODA, written by Peter Fitzsimons and published by Hodder Headline Australia Pty Ltd.

He has written a masterful account of this iconic campaign as he takes the reader up that tortuous track and into battle with the young Australians who fought there so courageously. You will feel great pride in being an Australian when you finally put this book down. I highly recommend this book to our members.

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

I have just finished a book I obtained from the Joondalup Library entitled THE CAGE by Tom Abraham published by Random House Australia Pty Ltd.

Here is a Vietnam biography with a difference as Englishman Abraham and his parents immigrate to the United States where nineteen-year-old Tom joins the US Army, goes through OCS, graduates as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. and is packed off to Vietnam with 1 Cav Div.

His tour of duty sees him fighting in all those familiar places as well as having to fight the US Army, no-one, from the brass to the men in his platoon want to work with a Limey. Treated as an alien, Tom has to prove his worth and so he takes on a lot of hazardous duties, such as point scout, before finally being accepted by his men. An interesting chapter is when he is captured by the VC during the Tet Offensive and is led off into the jungle where he finally escapes only to be brought down to the level of a primitive beast in his struggle to survive.

His subsequent battle with PTSD on his return home is a terrifying yet inspiring journey.

My best wishes and good health to you.

*Norman Manners*



## Poppy Day - Friday 10 November 2006

The annual Poppy Day Appeal is held throughout Western Australia. Collectors are needed at both the Bus Port Mount Bay Road and the Bus Station in Wellington Street.

**HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP**

### Highgate requires more Collectors on Friday, 10 November 2006.

The crucial hours are 8 am to 11 am. If you are unable to assist do you have Children or Grand Children who can assist. Medals are worn and relatives helping are able to wear your Medals on the right breast.

The help provided by our collectors enables the League to ensure adequate Welfare assistance to many ex-servicemen and women and provides financial aid to the widows of ex-servicemen and their children.

To add your name to the list ring either:

**Ian Mulholland (9572 2632) or Don Blair (9474 1741 or 0417 961 874)**

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### SIR CHARLES REPLIES

My Dear President

It was a tremendous surprise and a very exhilarating experience to receive issue 456, September 2006 "Highgate News" of the Highgate (WA) Sub-Branch of the Returned and services League of Australia.

I cannot remember ever having experienced the wonderful feeling I did when I read your "An Open Letter to Sir Charles Court"

As you know, I have a very deep and abiding affection for the Highgate Sub-Branch. I was involved with Gordon Hack and others in the formation and I felt at the time it was going to bring a new force into the RSL - a movement with which I have been closely associated since boyhood.

My feelings and predictions about Highgate Sub-Branch have been more than fulfilled. I believe Highgate is one of the most active and effective sub-branches Australia wide of the League. Highgate has maintained its standards and its efforts in the interests of the sub-branch, the league and ex-servicemen and women throughout the whole of its existence.

Coming to the letter, I must say you have said everything so generously and so nicely that it will be a source of great pride and satisfaction not only to me, but to the whole of my rather large family long after my 95th birthday.

I extend my appreciation and heartfelt thanks to you and the Sub-Branch, not only on my own behalf, but also on behalf of my wife and family.

Every good wish both for now and for the future of our wonderful Highgate.

Yours sincerely

*Charles Court*



## Yesterday & Tomorrow

(Senior Vice President's Page)

### HISTORY AND COMING EVENTS

**This Months Luncheon:** Monday 16 October 2006

**Venue:** Gallipoli Room

**Time:** 11.30 hrs Fellowship, 12.30 Luncheon

**Speaker:** David Parker, Director of the Chamber of Minerals and Energy. **Topic:** A day in the life of the W.A. Resources Industry. *(David will, in particular, give us an insight into the involvement of the Australian Military Forces in the defence of strategic assets)*

**Committee:** 3 November 2006

**Ladies Luncheon:** 6 November 2006

**Luncheon:** 20 November 2006

**Lunch is now \$30.00 and the correct sum is appreciated.**

### Sub Wardens Duties

**Wreath Laying Ceremonies currently scheduled at the State War Memorial Kings Park**

Sunday 28 October 2006—Greek Consul—Date and Time to be Confirmed

Saturday 11 November 2006—10 15 hrs for 11.00 hrs—Remembrance Day (Please note early arrival)



### Extracted from "Second World War" by Martin Gilbert—Published 1955

(Continued from September Newsletter)

#### 1941

##### May

- 5 British & NZ troops under command of NZ General Freyberg move to defend Crete. Haile Selassie re-enters Addis Adaba taking the city from the Italians.
- 6 "Operation Tiger" 13 British merchant ships leave UK, 8 reach Malta and a further 4 ships with tanks and aircraft reach Egypt.
- 8 German raider "Penguin" sunk in the Pacific by HMS Cornwell.
- 14 Germany begins air bombardment on Malta as a diversion for the attack on Crete.
- 15 "Operation Brevity" forced German withdrawal from Halfaya Pass. Germans begin aerial bombardment of Crete in preparation for invasion.
- 20 Germany attacks Crete.
- 27 German battleship Bismark attacked and eventually scuttled.
- 28 Evacuation of Crete begins, 17000 troops evacuated.

#### 1942

##### May

- 2 Battle of Coral Sea commences. US lose aircraft carrier Lexington.
- 5 Japanese land on Corregidor in Philippines.
- 6 US General Wainwright surrenders.
- 9 "Operation Bowery" successful transport of 62 fighter aircraft to Malta.
- 10 "Doolittle Raids" begin on Tokyo.
- 14 German torpedo bombers sink cruiser "Trinidad" west of Bear Island on the summer route from Iceland to Archangel.
- 31 Japanese midget submarines raid Sydney Harbour and sink the depot ship "Kuttabul" with the loss of 20 sailors.



## REDEVELOPMENT

(With Thanks to Ashley Hatcher—Hollywood Private Hospital)



**H**ollywood Private Hospital is set to embark on a major \$128.5 million redevelopment of its facilities that will see it emerge as one of Western Australia's most modern private hospital facilities.

Australia's largest private hospital owner Ramsay Health Care recently announced that it would inject the \$128.5M into expanding the current facilities at Hollywood.

This will increase the hospital's capacity to accommodate 500 inpatient beds. The development also includes an additional four operating theatres, a second medical specialist centre to accommodate the growing number of medical specialists consulting at Hollywood and a multi-storey car park.

**Upon completion of the redevelopment, Hollywood Private Hospital will offer Western Australian patients the only purpose built private rehabilitation facility in the state.**

Hollywood Private Hospital was privatised in February 1994 when it was purchased by Ramsay Health Care and, since this time, has undergone approximately \$100 million of development.

By May 2009, Hollywood will offer the latest in medical facilities including: 10 operating theatres, a 30-place day chemotherapy unit, and a 50-place Day of Surgery Admissions (DOSA) ward and Day Procedure Unit (DPU).

The Hollywood Private Hospital redevelopment project will be rolled out in stages, with a scheduled commencement date of November 2006. Completion is anticipated by the end of May 2009.

The architect firm appointed to the redevelopment project is Silver Thomas Hanley and the project builder is still to be confirmed.

Hollywood Private Hospital executive director Kevin Cass-Ryall welcomed news of the redevelopment project.

"The \$128.5M investment by Ramsay Health Care demonstrates an unrivalled commitment to Hollywood Private Hospital and to the West Australian health system," he said.

"This commitment signals - without question - the most important phase in the long evolution of Hollywood Private Hospital.

"I'm very excited about the next few years of growth for Hollywood but the real winners of this redevelopment are our patients and doctors.

"The result will be a private hospital that will offer the very best care, accommodation and most modern medical facilities Western Australia has to offer," Mr Cass-Ryall said.