

THE HIGHGATE R.S.L. NEWS

No. 249

APRIL 1989

THE AUSTRALIAN
POST
DEPOSIT
46 APR 1989 Page 1

PRESIDENT

Mr S.W. Dallywater O.B.E.

VICE PRESIDENTS

Senior Mr T.T. Ferrero

Junior Mr W. Musson G.M.

SECRETARY

Mr L.D. Lee T.D.,

TREASURER

Mr A.A. Lloyd

Registered by Australia Post

Publication No. WAR 1428

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

MONDAY 17th APRIL, 1989

VENUE: Gallipoli Room, Anzac House, Perth

TIME: Fellowship 1200 hours
Luncheon 1250 hours

SPEAKER: Mr Christopher Briggs MBE

SUBJECT: "Further to life in the Chinese Customs Service"

** **

THE SPEAKER

The Guest Speaker this month returns by popular request as he left many members asking for more when he last spoke to us in August of last year. He is an Associate Member of this Sub-Branch. He obtained his Masters Certificate in London in 1931 and joined the Marine Department of the Chinese Maritime Customs in 1932, from which he resigned in 1939 to join the Royal Navy as a Lieutenant RNR. He was awarded the MBE in 1945 and demobbed in 1946 with the War Service rank of Commander RNR. In January 1949 he arrived in Australia. He served on the State Executive of the RSL 1967-77 and was co-opted again in 1978-79. He was State Junior Vice President 1975-77 and was awarded Life Membership in 1977.

** ** **

SPEAKER - MARCH

Mr John A. Resor, Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty, gave a very interesting talk (with colour slides) on the activities of his Company, of which he is Information Officer. The figures quoted, both of costs and production, were really staggering. Thank you John.

** ** **

ANZAC DAY

Ron Stone is looking for a large attendance of members at the State War Memorial for the Dawn Service, and after at Breakfast in the W.A. Club. The State Warden - Mrs Vivian Statham - will be our guest at the Breakfast. Further details of all ceremonies at the April Luncheon.

** ** **

SICK LIST

Regret to state that our Committee Member Don Laurence is still on the sick list. We hope that he will soon be back on 'active service'.

** ** **

THE GENTLEMAN'S WAR.
AN INCIDENT OF THE MAGINOT LINE.

From the wording of the official communiques "Local patrol and artillery activities" we, who were digging holes on the Belgian frontier, thought we could form a pretty good picture of what was going on but it was not until February 1940 that we had the chance to modify this impression by first hand experience on being transferred to the Saar Front training and liaising with the French Forces.

Then we observed and were told the Rules of War, or rather the Local Rules that applied here. It was Strictly Forbidden for villages in the area of the front to be shelled, as it was very cold and everyone was indoors. It was Strictly Forbidden to fire on enemy working parties with an automatic weapon during the hours of daylight - might kill too many people at once and cause 'Questions to be asked'. To give a little zest to the proceedings, roads which were in view could be shelled, but otherwise not, because at all costs the fighting sikdues must have their Hot Meal.

A Regular French Officer from the Maginot Line finished the picture for us with his account of an 'Atrocity' and the 'Reprisal'. Further down the line were two villages, one in French hands, one in the enemy; electricity, water and telephone still joined them together. They were not on speaking terms of course, but the electricity in the French village was by courtesy of the O.K.W. Everyone was very happy, until one night the Germans were bad mannered enough to cut the current. The French took a very poor view of this breach of etiquette indeed and, invoking their Deity and heavy guns, proceeded to hurl a considerable amount of metal, explosive and abuse at the heads of the Perpetrators of this outrage. So much so, in fact, that after about half-an-hour the lights were turned on and stayed on.

As a sequel: A week or so later the lights once more were extinguished - almost simultaneously the 'phone bell rang and in bad and very excited French came a voice - "Don't shoot please, we are mending the fuse as quickly as possible."

** ** **

Ed. Sorry - there was a very large, empty space!!

** ** **

**FOR ALL REAL ESTATE NEEDS LET
PEET & CO LTD PERTH'S OLDEST ESTABLISHED
REAL ESTATE GROUP ASSIST YOU.**

- ★ Comprehensive Metropolitan Wide Network.
- ★ Commercial and Industrial Sales and Leasing.
- ★ Project Development Consultancy and Financial Advice.
- ★ Commercial and Residential Property Management.
- ★ Residential Sales.
- ★ Auctioning of all types property.
- ★ Valuations of all property using modern methods with access to computerized information.
- ★ Business and Licensed Premises Broking.
- ★ Property Settlements.



DIRECTORS:
GEOFF RUSSELL
TONY LENNON
WARWICK HEMSLEY
GRAHAM SAUVAGE
IAN PALMER
TERRY TAYLOR
DAVID VICARY

HEAD OFFICE 7TH FLOOR, 200 ST GEORGE'S TERRACE, PERTH 322 3322

Wallace's Jewellers

GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

RON STONE MANAGING DIRECTOR

38-40 Piccadilly Arcade, Murray Street, Perth 6000

Phone 321 4421 Box J636 GPO Perth 6001