

THE HIGHGATE R.S.L. NEWS

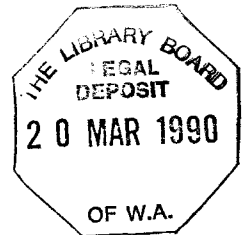


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MONTHLY LUNCHEON MONDAY 19 MARCH 1990

VENUE: Gallipoli Room, Anzac House, Perth

TIME: Fellowship 1200 hours
Luncheon 1250 hours

SPEAKER: Mr E.L. (Ted) Thomas

SUBJECT: "Our Remarkable English Language"

This month's speaker, Ted Thomas, is a member of our own Sub Branch. Ted was born in Subiaco in 1917, when his father was Headmaster of Subiaco State School. Secondary education was gained at Perth Modern School (1930-34) and with a talent for English Language Studies he felt drawn to a career in Journalism. His father however had other ideas and considered medicine a far safer path to follow, and, as is so often the case, Ted accepted his father's advice and entered the science "stream" to seek the necessary educational qualifications to enable him to enter medical school. Sadly, during Ted's last year at school, his father died, and though he went on to gain his matriculation in the science faculty, Ted realised that a career requiring tertiary education of any kind was out of the question - especially during those depressed 30's. A job as a bread winner became a matter of priority, and he joined the staff of the Commonwealth Bank in 1935.

In 1940 Ted joined the Royal Navy under the "Vachtsmen's Scheme" and saw service in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, Indian and Pacific waters, and was discharged in 1946 as a Lieutenant. A literary interest, together with a hankering for Journalism was still there, but commonsense prevailed, and Ted returned to the Commonwealth Bank. In 1954 he decided to resign to go into business for himself. That business, Jacka-Wortley Fabrics, grew to become, and remains the State's leading importer and distributor of upholstery fabrics. In 1985 Ted retired in favour of his son Geoff, who was our guest speaker last November.

Although diverted from a journalistic career Ted has throughout his adult life remained a "frustrated" academic journalist, maintaining a consummate interest in the study and use of the English language, the vagaries of which will be the subject of his talk.

LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER

Towards the end of last year many Highgate members were keen to learn more of Exercise KANGAROO 89 than the media conveyed to the general public. To this end we are grateful to Bob Mercer for the initial contact with Brigadier Alex Bartsch the Commander of 13 Independent Brigade and our first speaker in 1990. The Exercise was intended to test our overall defence capability from an invading enemy employing conventional forces and 13 Brigade's role in the north of WA was the particular focus of the Brigadier's address.

It is impossible to summarise here a descriptive talk that engendered many questions from an audience already experienced in defending their homeland. Some of the lessons emerging from this very necessary test however tend to have a familiar ring ie that time, space and vigilance are important factors when endeavouring to cover an area the size of a small European country with only one brigade. The thin khaki line needs to have its limited human eyes, ears and mobility augmented by the most modern technology. It was nice to hear young people praised for their dedication and their skills by their Commander, and it is to be hoped that the financial "big bickies" required to further their task are forthcoming from a climate of political disinterest. We are more than grateful to Brigadier Bartsch for keeping us informed.

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At the last luncheon Deputy Warden Ron Stone requested as many members as possible to attend as Sub Wardens at the State War Memorial for the Tri-Service Wreath Laying ceremony for the veterans attending the 75th anniversary reunion at Gallipoli. Original details were 11.00 am 14 March 1990. An amendment has just been received from the Powers That Be altering the timing only to 9.30 am, fall in 9.15 am. This Newsletter is therefore being despatched in a hurry in the hope it arrives on your doorstep in time for those concerned to shower & shave, polish their boots and medals 1½ hours earlier.

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VALE:

CAMERON E. REDENBACH: Esteemed member and past President Cam passed away on the 1st March. His funeral is due to be held on Tuesday, 6th March. As this Newsletter will be with the Publishers by then, further details will be in the next Newsletter. The sympathy of all of us is extended to Mrs Redenbach and family on their sad loss.

LEST WE FORGET

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WELCOME: To new members Dosoo Gimi, Eric Silbert and Philip Todd. Dosoo served with 8 Gurka Rifles, Eric with the RAAF, and Philip with REME.

ANZAC DAY BREAKFAST: There are some alterations to the preliminary details given last month. The venue, W.A. Club, remains the same but the time is now 7.30 am and the cost is \$15.00 (pay on arrival). Parking until after the Parade is available. Most importantly, would you please let me know in good time if you are attending, and your guests (if any). You can do so either by means of the tear-off slip at the end of the Newsletter, verbally, telephone, carrier pidgeon, or fast runner, so that I can give the organisers an accurate return. Accuracy in submitting ration returns is important, as any "Q" bloke knows. The quartermaster of a unit I served with (he was ex-Irish Guards, so no further comment), on receipt of a message, sent the rations for an advance party of 400 1200 miles in the wrong direction. On finding out his mistake he cooked a meal for 400 and sent it to the correct destination, only to find the advance party wasn't 400 but 40.

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No more news of John Chappell, except it is understood he is out of hospital and being cared for by son Bruce.

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REUNION: The following is an extract from a letter sent to local newspapers, which may be of interest to some members:

BATTLE OF BRITAIN REUNION - Ex-airmen and airwomen from the Commonwealth and Allied Air Forces are invited to attend a Reunion to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain to be held on Bribie Island, 68 kms north of Brisbane, over the weekend 14th-16th September, 1990.

If you are eligible, or know of anyone who would be eligible to attend this Reunion, please contact Mrs C.M. Ordish, Reunion Organiser, 22 Allamanda Drive, Bribie Island, QLD 4507 - Ph: (075) 48 1351.

PLEASE INCLUDE LONG SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR RETURN INFORMATION

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To: The Secretary, Mr J.F. Hately,

Ph: 279 8626

I will be attending the Anzac Day Breakfast
Total number attending including my guests

Signed

Name (Block Capitals)

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