

**HISTORY OF**  
**NORTH BEACH SUB-BRANCH**  
**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**  
**1945 to 1991**



This Edition of **The History of the North Beach Sub-Branch of RSLWA 1945 to 1991** has not altered, or added to, that originally published. No attempt has been made to edit the content, as it reflects original input and recollections of the members of the Sub-Branch. It has however been reformatted to provide the Sub-Branch with a digital copy in a form that can be distributed to members or added to should the Sub-Branch choose.

Brian Jennings  
Member  
North Beach Sub-Branch RSLWA

July 2020

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## PREFACE



This history makes no pretence of being founded on actual records until early 1962, as all minutes of meetings from the foundation date were burnt in a fire that destroyed the then Secretary's shed. It has been compiled up to that time from the memory of early members. In most cases over 45 years have elapsed since the members joined the Sub-Branch and many are 75 years old and over. You will therefore appreciate their difficulty in recalling names and dates accurately.

Over the last five years I have been urged by the long -term members to put together this History but have lacked the facilities and the know how to complete the task.

When **Joe Harris** joined the Sub-Branch and later published a book to enlighten his family on his service in the Army, I approached him to assist the Sub-Branch with the use of his computer, to produce this History. He has done a very good job of it and it would not have been possible without his help. I thank all the other members for their help and contributions – not forgetting the ladies of the past Auxiliary.

**M.C. Ha11** 1993

It has been a privilege and informative task to take a small part in helping editor Joe in producing this history of the North Beach RSL Sub-Branch.

The stalwarts, who worked so hard to establish and retain the Sub Branch and see its present status, have every reason to be proud of their efforts. ☑

**John Tindale** 1993

## RESUME

I have been shanghaied into doing this brief history of the North Beach Sub-Branch of the RSL by Merv C. Hall. He, like Frank Kent, Charles D'Avard and Laurie Movley have been motivators of the local returned men for many years. It is true that in the latter years there have been others who have ably contributed to the success of the organisation. That is probably why the North Beach Sub-Branch, a new Sub-Branch in a new area (1946), really has become over the years, very successful and continuing in 1991, to thrive and grow.

It is indeed a challenge to perform the allotted task. The early records were destroyed in a fire that commenced in a bachelor's residence in Sorrento Street back in 1961. It burnt out his neighbour's office which contained the minutes. Hence some of the information obtained is by the grapevine, by listening to various conversations of some old residents of the district and a little research at the Battye library. Bear in mind that time passes by, and some of the stalwarts, like Frank Vicary, have passed out of this turbulent world. As we that are left grow old our attitudes change. God made us like that. We see things in a different light.

In the early days of North Beach did the members want company, entertainment in a remote area - indeed it was a remote area in the metropolis of Perth, or to obtain some security as a Returned Man who was about to be rehabilitated into the civilian community? Young men, coming home to their wives and sweethearts, with homes to find before they could marry, land to purchase, cash to find, were some of the problems. Many of their problems were not brought up at Sub-Branch meetings, or if so, were not recorded in the minutes. One can be assured that many of their problems were solved by talking to a fellow member at a meeting, by talking to a fellow member who had a similar problem. Whilst in the Services there were friends close by, morning, noon and night. My experience was that on discharge I had lost many of my friends, for they had married, or had been transferred. Some had been killed during the War. This is not the story about me it is the story of the majority of Service personnel. If we read the file about our most senior member, Jack Sheriffs, we will find how he liked the Army, he had fun, he struggled and he survived.

My background as a Returned Soldier and my association with Return Soldiers goes back many years, probably all my life. My father was wounded in France and became an RSL member about 1919, but not forever. As kids we knew that war was dangerous for the man on the next farm, a friend of our father, Arthur McGrath, had been shot and killed (France 28th Battalion). Someone else took over his land. Our neighbours were Returned men and they called at home, telling horrid stories of their lives in the trenches, how one popped into a shell hole when under attack, for no two shells fall in the same place. Bombs are probably like that too. Laurie Movley and Jack Sherriffs knew that also, that is why they survived.

Economic times affected membership of the RSL back in those days, particularly at the end of the Great World Depression. In 1935 and 1936 the State Executive attempted to stimulate membership by getting the sons and daughters of Returned Men to join a Junior Organisation, as the continuity of the League, without Wars, had a limited future. In the 1950's and 1960's of this State the economy was just the reverse for it was strong, and membership declined. There were other things to do as well, and membership dropped. In the Eastern States the RSL Clubs developed as strong individual organisations. Back in Western Australia, with a more scattered population, various Clubs developed on a general community basis and therefore RSL

membership was deployed. In the era which is researched it is found that the Constitution of the League regarding membership has radically changed. The League recognises that any service people, irrespective of where they have served, provided that they have served for minimum period of six months, may join the RSL.

North Beach was a new Sub-Branch. It did not have a background nor buildings like old established localities such as Northam, Midland Junction and Osborne Park. It had a few housing problems for Returned Service personnel, but it didn't have a Farm Settlement Scheme like Miling, a very small town, or Jerramungup, to stimulate the necessity for unity. There were a large number of Returned people in those places where the success of the Settlement Scheme was yet to be determined. The settlers at Miling discussed their problems amongst themselves, whilst having a quiet beer and cigarette after the meeting. North Beach members probably discussed their housing problems in a similar way, whilst socialising at the same time.

Wubin-Dalwallinu involved the young people in Anzac Day and such like services. These young people will be our leaders in due course. Similarly, the North Beach RSL Sub-Branch went out into the community, involving the younger population, the Scarborough Cadets, School Anzac Day Services and providing some Scholarships within its means. Likewise, it is assisting the Aged Housing project of the League on a most substantial basis but does not forget its local welfare and social responsibilities.

With this brief epistle, may it stimulate others to bring forth some of the unrecorded History of the North Beach Sub-Branch of the Returned and Services League W. A. Branch (Incorporated) whilst there is still yet time, and while we still remember.

The Sub-Committee appointed by the Sub-Branch was Merv Hall, Laurie Movley, Frank Kent and Bill Boyle. These members have dexterously performed their task. Len Snell was a pillar in furnishing information concerning the Scholarships and the activities of the Committee. Len has also provided a wealth of information and details of the Dawn Anzac Services and the format of conducting the Social functions afterwards.

Lola Hall and Wally Somers, pioneers of the district, have made worthwhile contributions. Joe Oversby, the retiring Secretary in 1992, has checked the technical details, whilst John Tindale has had the formidable task of checking my grammar and spelling.

Ron Tomlinson has readily volunteered to undertake the mundane task of preparing this HISTORY for documentation and publication. His expertise has indeed been a relief in the completion of this record.

Merv Hall made the final review and in a supreme effort to ensure that the facts as recorded are true and correct as far as is possible.

To all the people, on your behalf, I record our sincere appreciation. It has been a privilege to have been shanghaied, for I now know much more about the locality in which I reside. I trust that I have done justice to the task.

Joe W. Harris. Dip LG.

RSL North Beach Sub-Branch

## A BRIEF HISTORY

Ornithological specimens of identical plumage invariably congregate in proximity is an old axiom. So, it seems to be with the original members of the North Beach Sub-Branch of the Returned and Services League. They were normal servicemen, some still in the force, some were married but missed the occasional company of their fellow servicemen. It was 1945 and the War was still on. These men had a few years of close association with other fellows in the various units and services that formed to, firstly support the issue for freedom of the world, and secondly to defend Australia. There is a strong element of mateship between those who have served in the forces, whether it be Navy, Army or Airforce.

At that time, North Beach was a remote area of Perth. Transport services to this area were poor indeed. It was a very undeveloped area, a few houses among the banksia trees, sandy roads, limited reticulation of water and no sewerage. Few people lived in the area. When young Patricia of Chrysostom Street attended the Embassy ballroom in William Street in Perth and a potential beau asked her where she resided, she knew that to mention North Beach was the end of that romance. Fellows did not take girls out into the wilderness, for the transport did not exist for them to return to Perth from the sand dunes and bush of North Beach.

As the fellows returned from theatres of war, either on leave, or discharge, they invariably call at the headquarters of the RSL in Perth. An official would inspect their pay books to determine that they had served in a combat zone and were eligible to join the League. It was not only for companionship that they joined the RSL. When many had joined the services, in the initial stages by voluntary action, and later by conscription, there was no legislation existence stating that one had to get their job back on discharge. Many service personnel thought that the people who had stayed at home and were not in the services would have the cream of the civil jobs, and the mundane tasks would be offered to the ex-servicemen and women at the end of hostilities. Indeed, many people remained in the services when peace was declared. Security of one's station in life is an important item. There was an old saying that the bird on the job got the worm, and this also applied to some of their girlfriends. Many knew that after the first World War there had been a Soldiers Settlement Scheme. Where the Scheme had been associated with the dairying industry, and some unsuited agricultural areas, there had been extreme hardships and excessive poverty. Frank Kent, one of the early and dedicated members had first-hand knowledge of those difficult pre-war years with the farmers.

The nomads of North-Beach who had joined the RSL wandered along to the Yokine Sub-Branch. There they were to find that the Sub-Branch had its own building situated near Dog Swamp. It had been established after the First World War. Alas, after the meeting there was not much time to have a friendly chin wag and a glass of the doings. They had to catch the "James Bus Service" or somehow get home to North Beach. There were few cars around at that time, and even if a person had a vehicle, petrol was rationed and in short supply. According to the Daily News of 27th Aug 1947 petrol was further rationed at that time to some consumers.

Hence to join and participate in the Returned and Services League (the name has been changed more than once from that of the original, but retaining the letters RSL) was regarded as joining a union where the interests of Ex-Servicemen and women could be protected and enhanced. Indeed, there was a strong advocacy throughout Australia during 1946 and 1947 for all ex-servicemen and women, irrespective of where they had served, to be eligible to join the RSL. Western Australia, by plebiscite of its RSL members, voted to this effect. One of the strong reasons put forward by Western Australia at that time was that Governments did not like any organisation getting too strong. It was easier to handle fractured groups of people. If service personnel could be split into groups and had to join other organisations, such as the Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women, the Airforce Association and similar groups, their power was reduced.

According to the Daily News of 15 Oct 1947, this was the membership of the various Australian States.

Western Australia	34,332
New South Wales	127,445
Victoria	106,266
South Australia	46,745
Queensland	44,539
Tasmania	12,935
ACT	897
Northern Territory	226
<b>Total</b>	<b>373,385</b>

Federal Congress had resolved some time before 1947, that anyone who had been in any of the services for a period of six months could join the RSL. This decision caused a lot of controversy, especially in the Eastern States. The subject was debated at many RSL special meetings in Western Australia also. Finally, it was resolved to hold a plebiscite at each of the Sub-Branches throughout Australia during 1947, permitting anyone with six months service to be eligible for membership. The Daily News published the results on the 13 June 1947, 90% of Sub-Branches responding.

	NO	YES
Western Australia	68	103
New South Wales	178	310
Victoria	325	61
South Australia	170	34
Queensland	83	178
Tasmania	37	12
ACT	4	1
Northern Territory		
Papua	1	
	<b>866</b>	<b>699</b>

The newspapers at that time stated that members of the 44th AMF Battalion (retained as a defensive force between Jurien and the South West) and the Armoured Corps (mainly NSW personnel) would be the most affected by the adverse Australasian decision. Lt Col Garner, Commanding Officer of the 44th Battalion, resigned from the RSL in protest.

Many letters were written to the Daily News. One letter stated that conscripts from overseas were permitted to join the RSL as far back as twenty-five years ago, yet volunteers from Australia, who had no opportunity to go overseas, were deprived of the privilege of joining the RSL. The newspapers further observed that City Sub-Branches in most States were more averse to open membership than their country counterparts.

The various Sub-Branches in the Eastern States remained adamant that only servicemen and women who had served in recognised theatres of war were to be the only ones eligible to join RSL. It was many years before the wise men of the East saw the light. Today the members of the RSL in Australia realise that unity is strength. Many troops during the war used to say that their motto should be like Mae West's brassieres - United we stand and divided we fall.

Housing was a problem. Some of the conditions were tough. Many people got Albert Richards to build a large shed. One could obtain a permit or building licence from the local authority to erect a shed, but not a room. The shed containing a bath and a shower was became first home of many couples. Phyl Somers says it was the best home that she had in North Beach, for there was only one room to clean. By 10 am. there was nothing to do so she spent the rest of the day down at the beach with her infant.

A perusal of the Daily News during 1947 will corroborate these facts. A one room bedroom with a shared use of the kitchen was a fact of life for newlyweds. Petrol was still rationed, in fact, during August 1947 some people, such as lawn mowing contractors, had their ration reduced (Daily News 27-8-47). Topic of the time was that Hirohito should go to trial. Such was the environment in which those stalwarts had formed the North Beach Sub-Branch of the RSL.

The Daily News of 27th June 1947 reported that the people who lived in caravans and cubicles in the Scarborough area were about to be evicted by the Local Authority. The writer recalls the appalling conditions in which the young returned newlyweds were trying to rear a family in the Mosman Park area. The RSL could only give advice as to the methods of establishing some priority for securing more adequate accommodation.

The bus to North Beach did not have a late run. A fact that Patricia had already found out, for she had acquired a car. The Returned Servicemen soon realised that there were quite a few of their fellows in the North Beach area, and although there would be some problems and teething troubles in the initial stages, the time was ripe, and very necessary, to form a Sub-Branch.

Initially the attendances at meetings were small, six or seven members appeared to be an average. As the Sub-Branch developed, the membership gradually grew, and attendances at meetings rose to be over ten, and sometimes reached twenty. Towards the middle of the 1950's two alien factors began to affect the interests of members and attendances at meetings declined. These two factors were the introduction of TV and the development of Bowling Clubs throughout Western Australia.

## HISTORIANS

Here are copies of letters from Charles David A'Vard, Mervyn Charles Hall and Frank A. Kent, they being some of the original or early members. It is indeed necessary to refer to the memories of these old members for this history, as the records of the Sub-Branch were destroyed by a fire that started on a property, escaped through the fence and burnt some of the neighbouring buildings where the records were kept. The mishap occurred in Sorrento Street on 5th April 1961.

These dedicated members, together with Laurie Movley and others as the research proceeded, have contributed to this record. Their reports will now be recorded, as these valuable letters can furnish us with some of the history of the RSL that was lost in the fire.

**CHARLIE D A'VARD** writes

2 Trenton Street,  
Wagin, 6315.  
17th Nov 1990.

Dear Merv, (Hall),

Following are my recollections of the early North Beach Sub-Branch for you to read. I don't really know if Lola (Hall) was President or Secretary of the Auxiliary (Secretary. Ed)

Early in 1945 a few ex-servicemen from North Beach travelled to Yokine Sub-Branch of the RSL. This Sub-Branch had its own hall situated near the lake known as Dog Swamp. James' Bus Service went past Dog Swamp so transport to and from there was OK, but the time-table did not really suit especially as the last bus home did not allow us time to have a few convivial drinks after a meeting.

With those handicaps in mind we decided to try and form our own Sub-Branch at North Beach and as I worked in the Supreme Court that was not far from Anzac House, I was to make enquires on the procedure to form a Sub-Branch.

I cannot recall the State Secretary's name, but it could have been a Mr Benson (It was. Ed) but whoever it was passed me over to a Mr Fred Bates, who gave me every assistance possible and guided me through the ropes. We had nine men eligible at that stage.

Our first meeting was held at Tom Greenshields Lido Shop known as The Jetty Tea Rooms. This was situated on the southern corner of Malcolm St and West Coast Highway (now Drive). We had about three meetings before we could satisfy all the requirements of Head Office.

Our biggest difficulty was finding ten members to start off with. John Henderson nominated his brother-in-law, John Turner, who was a Major still serving and that overcame that hurdle, and we finally got our charter in, I believe, September 1945. (Actually 14th June 1945. Ed.).

Our first official meeting place was in the Star Hall that was North Beach's Dance Hall, Concert Hall and Picture Theatre at that time. The Hall was situated opposite Henderson's Store that I understand later became known as Brennan's. (NW Cnr of North Beach Road and Odo Street. Ed). Later on, the unofficial Post Office that was in Henderson's Store was replaced by the Post Office built next door in North Beach Road.

Tom Greenshields was our inaugural President and I think Arnold Hodder was Treasurer and myself Secretary. I cannot recall the names of all ten foundation members apart from Tom Greenshields, John Henderson, Dick Bentley, Arnold Hodder, John Turner and myself but the other four could have come from early members including Trigger Tregonning, Jack Richards, Gordon Cameron, Harry Gordon, Ted Parkes, Dave Spencer, Frank Parker (see later story Ed) and Eric

Wilkes. I apologise if I have failed to recall the names of the other four members at our first meeting but that was forty-five years ago, and a lot of water has flowed under the bridge since then.

With the war over and men returning home it became obvious that we needed larger premises and we negotiated the use of the Surf Club Hall for that purpose.

At the Star Hall, where we used the beach room, we ran crown and anchor to raise funds. Beer was terribly short, we got one bottle a week from Sam Robb who was licensee of the Castle Hotel. This was annoying, as taxis from Perth called at that Hotel late at night and I don't think the rattles we heard were from lemonade bottles purchased by American troops. However, John Henderson had connections that enabled him to secure a 5 gallon keg of Red Castle beer for our meetings. It tasted a bit rough (That is mild language - it tasted awful. Ed) but was never knocked back.

Some early happenings that may not have been recorded and preserved and which I recall are as follows.

Tom Greenshields died after only a couple of meetings and John Henderson was made acting President and he continued in that role till the end of 1949. We conducted Melbourne Cup Sweeps. The first was won by Dick Thompson (A North Beach bowler. Ed) who ran a wood yard behind Tyson's Bakery (Now Ampol Garage) in North Beach Road. The first prize was \$160 or \$200. Ted Woodward was appointed Secretary in 1947/48. Ted now lives at 7 Urch Road, Kalamunda. In 1949 I accepted a position in the country and before leaving I was presented with your Sub-Branch's first Certificate of Service. On my return from the country in 1950 I was voted President as John Henderson wished to retire.

Lola Hall was our first Women's Auxiliary President (Lola says Secretary. Ed) and on our first 'Poppy Day' we were allocated all Bus Stops outside Supreme Court Gardens in St George's Terrace. They sold an enormous number of poppies that earned them front page cover in the Daily News of that day.

Around 1950/51 Dick Bentley suggested we purchase a block of land on the (Nor-west) corner of Elvire Street and Flora Terrace. At that time the Government 'Fixed Prices' on all land and house sales. The 'Fixed Price' for this block was, I believe, \$160 but to get it we had to pay a little more, \$100 or so. How this was done must remain a secret (Shades of Australian politics of the 20th Century. Ed) but I understand that the wisdom of that purchase paved the way for the financial success for the Sub-Branch.

The RSL conducted an ARMS competition, being the Archbishop Riley Memorial Shield. In our isolation, bearing in mind that it took almost an hour by bus to Perth and the difficulty with Public Transport, we conducted our own ARMS competition, named after our sponsor Albert Richards, who was a builder and Land Agent. He lived in North Beach Road prior to shifting to Armadale. We had good teams led by Merv Hall in table tennis, Ted Woodward with quoits, while Frank Parker and a few others wielded very handy darts.

I trust these few recollections will help fill in some gaps in records. Should any member care to question me it may help to refresh my memory on other events.

Charlie.

(Charles David A'Vard).

**MERV HALL** writes.

I joined the RSL in 1945 but did not attend meetings at North Beach Sub-Branch until 1946 at the Surf Club Hall. (The Surf Club was situated on the Western Side of West Coast Drive opposite Malcolm Street). After my discharge on 4/7/47 an RSL tennis club was formed, and we played on the Castle Hotel tennis courts each Sunday afternoon. At the same time Arnold Hodder and I formed an RSL Badminton Club, which played in the Surf Club one evening each week. The members of the Club comprised of RSL members, wives, sons, daughters plus friends. All expenses were met by the members. The RSL Tennis Club disbanded when the Hotel sold to the Hambly family who made the courts into a car park. Badminton also ceased when the Surf Club hall ceiling fell in.

### **Wheelbarrow Derby.**

From 1948 to 1952 a wheelbarrow derby was held. The field was open to all comers and the prize money was sponsored by Ray Toby, licensee of the Castle Hotel. The course started at the Hotel and was along Flora Terrace, Beach Road, West Coast Highway, Malcolm Street and Flora Terrace to finish at the Hotel. This was always won by young market gardeners who were required to alternately push their partner over nominated stages and ride in the barrow for the others. The publican did more business on the afternoon of the event than he would for the rest of the week. The SP bookies were also in attendance. The Sub-Branch made money from stalls set up outside the Hotel to sell cakes, sweets and garden produce.

In 1952 a Digger's Sprint was held in conjunction with the Derby. The course was from the Hotel to Malcolm Street and return. Merv Hall pushed Wally Somers downhill to Malcolm Street, changed over and Wally sprinted the barrow back to victory. The prize was a water set each.

During the period 1947-50 children's picnics were held during their Christmas breaks from school. The children were assembled in Flora Terrace and hiked to Beach Road, Waterman and then along bush tracks to Mullaloo Beach where running and swimming races were held. They were refreshed with watermelon, ginger beer (donated by the Swan Brewery) and ice cream (donated by Peters). These goodies were transported, together with tents that acted as refreshment rooms, first aid post, etc, in Albert Richard's 1926 model Dodge Four utility. It could negotiate any track or sand dune with ease. The lame and the lazy returned by this truck running a ferry service.

### **Fund Raising and Pleasure.**

One incident. Barbara Kent, an expert seamstress, made a beautiful dress for a child during the 1950 s for a stall. I was offered \$1.50 for it and grabbed it as we would have got 99 cents or may be \$1.05 cents for it. Forty cents was a big deal then. The purchaser wanted to send it to Germany as the child's Dad was a USA serviceman.

Various Meeting Places	Presidents
Jetty Tea Rooms, 1945 (Formation	Tom Greenshields
star Hall (Lesser Hall) 1945-46	John Henderson 46-49
surf Club 1946-52	Charlie A'Vard 50
Castle Hotel 1953 (Three months only)	M. Hall 51-52
Surf Club 1953	F. Parker (Part year) M.Hall 53-57
Harry Gordon's Garden Shed	H.Gordon 58-59 N.Clarke 60-62
North Beach Road RSL Hall	F. Kent 63-67
North Beach Sportsmen's Club	N. Clarke 1968 F.Kent 69-76 M.Hall 77-82. 85-90 R.G.Hancock 83-84

## Block of Land

### North West Corner of Elvire ST & Flora Tce

This was purchased with a view to building our own hall but building costs, requirements and lack of materials at the time, and of course finance, prevented that happening. To help pay the rates and taxes and to show a return it was fenced, water laid on and with the help and guidance of Harry Gordon, whose family had a market garden in North Beach Road, Balcatta Busy bees were held to plant crops of peas, etc. The produce was taken to market with the Gordon's own produce and the Sub-Branch received the proceeds. It was the sale of this block that provided most of the finance required to buy the block of land owned by A. Richards in North Beach road, on which there was a large workshop come storage shed and a tennis court (about 1954).

The first Anzac Day service that I attended was in 1946. We marched from Henderson's shop, cnr Odo St and North Beach Road to the Surf Club. The service was conducted by a Mr. Frederick Pitcher, a lay preacher, followed by tea and scones provided by the ladies. After the Preacher, ladies and visitors retired, the members opened the 5-gallon keg. Soon the two up and crown and anchor were in progress. Mr Pitcher conducted the Anzac Services for several years until he was ordained and transferred to the country as a parish Priest. Mrs Thelma Washing always played the piano in those days. After Mr Pitcher left, Merv Hall conducted the services.

Alec Gunn bought the house next door from Albert Richards when he went to Armadale in about 1955. Alec became Warden of the NB RSL building. Tolmie (a chemist), bought the ammunition for the rifle. Frank Taylor gave the steel plates for the bunker for rifle shooting on the veranda of the Surf Club.

**The Big Four**  
**The Albert RICHARDS Memorial Shield.**  
**A.R.M.S.**

This was the brainchild of two members, Mr Fred Tredrae and Bert Dullard of the Yokine RSL Sub-Branch. They had a meeting with Merv Hall at the North Beach garage, cnr Flora Terrace and Malcolm Street, one afternoon. They then attended Sub-Branch meetings at Yokine, Scarborough and Osborne Park during the next month. The idea was welcomed. Games of table tennis, quoits, and darts only to be played among all four Sub-Branches once a month, each venue in turn. Points awarded to winners of all games to be credited to their Sub-Branch over twelve months for a Shield to be presented at Wind Up. The donor of the Shield was Mr A. G. Richards, Master Builder and Estate Agent of North Beach.

This competition was responsible for the formation and cementing strong friendships between these small (in those days) and poor Sub-Branches. Even today the competition is still talked about by the older members although it disbanded on the sale of the Yokine, Scarborough and then North Beach Halls. Osborne Park Sub-Branch hold the trophy for safe keeping as they are the only Sub-Branch of the Big 4 with their own premises.

Mr Richards also donated a Cup for a competition in similar games by ladies of the Big 4. 1959 saw the abandonment of this competition for the same reason.

During the early 1950's a variety concert was staged by the Sub-Branch in the Open-Air Picture gardens at the Castle Hotel. It was a packed house raising considerable funds for the Sub-Branch. There were items by Frank Parker's delightful young daughter, a male choir, a ladies' choir, an exhibition dance by Miss Labourne and M. Hall and a presentation of Mendelsohn's Spring Song Ballet by male members, dressed as fairies (flowers). Ted Park, a 191cm tall man, weighing 102 kg's, dressed in a fairy costume, and wearing army boots, was the principal ballerina. Other items cannot be recalled.

A skit at one social evening saw the ladies march to the tune of "Bless Em All". Littlest lady, Barbara Kent on end of the line, turned up with an L Plate.

Members remembered during 1947-50 were:- Tom Greenshields, Arnold Hodder, Charlie A'Vard, John Henderson, Dick Bentley, John Turner, Wallie Wright, Fred Troughton, Trigger Tregonning, Jack Rickard, Gordon Cameron, Harry Gordon, Frank Parker, Ted Park, Dave Spence, Eric Wilks, Les Picknoll, Ross Trudgian, Jack Sherriffs, Norman Clarke, Reg and Bert Hayes, (twins), Clarie Betteridge, Ted Woodward, Ted Barbera, Bernie Long, Dick Gordon and Stan McKenna.

## **FRANK KENT**

Mention has been made of the RSL building in North Beach Road. Here is a little bit more on it.

In late 1960 discussion at meetings was on the possibility of us getting our own premises. We had a block of land in Flora Terrace but no extra money and no way of getting any.

Albert Richards, a good supporter of the RSL, had a big block of land in North Beach Road with a large shed built on it. It was suggested by Frank Taylor, who was a social member and good supporter, but not a returned soldier, that we sell our land and purchase Albert's block. After a lot of discussion for and against, and there were a lot against, it was decided to act on Frank's suggestion. It was a large block. On it was a bitumen tennis court (Dot Wright, nee Russell, regularly played on it. Ed.) and a shed. The shed was divided into three parts, unlined and pretty

grubby. There were no toilets, so before we could let the tennis court, we had to something about it.

During the next few months 500 hours were put in by voluntary workers (members) in building toilets and making the shed habitable. We had a wooden floor put in this main room, also an open fireplace. It was hard work, but a lot of fun. A lot of thanks must go to those early members who kept the fires burning and laid the foundations of the present success of the Sub Branch. Many have passed on. Of those workers only three remain.

The present North Beach Tennis Club originated at the block in North Beach Road, using the court. (Ed: -The first recorded championships of the NBTC were in 1972. )

A mention must be made of the Women's Auxiliary. They were a great bunch of workers. Cake, vegetable and pot plant stalls raised much cash. We all had many great evenings at the old shed, enjoying the Big 4 sports nights and the odd dance or two.

The odd trauma occurred from time to time. That was when the Bank asked for a reduction of our overdraft. I don't think that we were in the position to reduce it. I do remember that on one occasion Laurie Movley and I had to front up to the Bank in the City about the overdraft. The Manager asked if we had come to pay off some of the debt. We replied that we had come for some more money. He laughed, then said, "How much?" It was quite a relief when we sold it and had no more worries.

Plan of the Shed at North Beach Road.



1. Main Part.
2. Much smaller room, was about 60 cm's higher in floor height
3. Had been a car service pit & machine workshop. The RSL made it into a kitchen.

The following who I can remember assisted at the hall.

Ted Barbera	Norm Clarke	Harry Gordon
Basil Gorman	E. Gun	Merv Hall
Frank Kent	Bernie Long	Reg Miller
Laurie Movley	Frank Parker	Jack Sherriffs



**Harry Gordon**

## **AWARDS FOR SERVICE TO THE RSL**

### **Two Year Certificate of Service** (For 2 years or more service in office)

1949 A'VARD, Charles D.

1953 HALL, Mervyn C.

### **Certificate of Service** (For ten years in office and continuous membership)

1958 GORDON, H.J.

1972 MOVLEY, Laurie P 197

1975 KENT, Frank A.

1983 HALL, Mervyn C.

1985 VICARY, Francis AC. (Posthumous Died 19-4-85)

### **Meritorious Medal** (For twenty-five years outstanding service to the league)

1990 HALL, Mervyn C.

### **50 Year Membership Award**

1979 FITZSIMONS, William T.

From time to time in the minutes it is noted that Bill reported as a visitor of the sick and ailing hospitals. The presentation of the Certificate was to be fully supported.

### **Anzac of the Year Award**

1987 KENT, Arthur George Stanislaus (Stan). Order of Australia Medal, Military Service and Campaign Medals, The Memorial Medal of Greece. Born 12-11-1920, Died 3-2-1992.

### **Life Membership**

1983 Hall Mervyn C

1983 MOVLEY, Laurie P.

1989 KENT, Frank A.

### **In Appreciation**

1965 Mrs GORDON (Dot) H.J.

### **City of Stirling Five Year Silver Award.**

1991 NICHOLS, Malcolm.

An Ex-serviceman, not a member of the RSL but nominated by the Sub-Branch. Malcolm, a 2/2nd Commando, was blown up during training at Wilson's Promontory in Victoria.

### **City of Stirling Ten Year Gold Service Award.**

1990 HALL, Mervyn Charles

## PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer
1945	Tom Greenshields	Charlie A'Vard	Arnold Hodder
1946	Tom Greenshields	Arnold Hodder	
1947	John Henderson	Ted Woodward	
1948	John Henderson	Ted Woodward	
1949	John Henderson		
1950	Charles A'Vard	J. Rickard	Laurie Movley
1951	Merv Hall	J. Rickard	Laurie Movley
1952	F Parker, M Hall	Pete Smith (TWL)	Laurie Movley
1953-1957	M Hall		Laurie Movley
1958	Harry Gordon	Reg Miller	Laurie Movley
1959	Harry Gordon		Laurie Movley
1960	Norm Clarke	P Scott	Laurie Movley
1961	Norm Clarke	R Griffith	Laurie Movley
1962	Norm Clarke	P Scott	Laurie Movley
1963	Frank Kent	R Griffith	Laurie Movley
1964	Frank Kent		Laurie Movley
1965	Frank Kent		Laurie Movley
1966	Norm Clarke	R Trudgian	Laurie Movley
1967	Frank Kent	W H Howard	Laurie Movley
1968	Norm Clarke	R Trudgian	Laurie Movley
1969	Frank Kent	W H Howard	Laurie Movley
1970	Frank Kent	Merv Hall	Laurie Movley
1971-1975	Frank Kent	Merv Hall	Laurie Movley
1976	Merv Hall	Frank Kent	Laurie Movley
1977	Merv Hal	Frank Vicary	Laurie Movley
1978	Merv Hall	Frank Kent	Laurie Movley
1979-1982	Merv Hall	Frank Vicary	Laurie Movley
1983	Ralph Hancock	Frank Vicary	Laurie Movley
1984	Ralph Hancock	Frank Vicary	Laurie Movley
1985-1986	Merv Hall	Frank Vicary	Laurie Movley
1987	Merv Hall	Joe Overtsby	Laurie Movley
1988	Merv Hall	Joe Oversby	Laurie Movley
1989	Merv Hall	Joe Oversby	Frank Heath
1990	Merv Hall	Joe Oversby	Frank Heath
1991	Lindsay Bennett	Joe Oversby	Frank Heath
1992	Lindsay Bennett	Joe Oversby	Frank Heath

## Other Officers

Here are the names of other members who have served faithfully on the various committees of the Sub-Branch over many years. In the earlier years of the Sub-Branch the Executive Officers performed such duties as Welfare, Entertainment, Anzac Day arrangements etc. As the Sub-Branch grew, separate Committees emerged. Ad-hoc committees were formed during some years, but their purpose for a limited time only has not been recorded.

A fire destroyed the minutes prior to 1961. The minutes of 1964 to 1966 are not to hand, hence it is unfortunate that the names of some diligent members will not be recorded.

Adams T	Auditor 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987
Barbera Ted	Sports Captain 1962, 1963
Barnett ?	Steward 1962
Bennett L	Vice President 1988, 1989 Scholarship Committee 1988, 1989, 1990
Betteridge C	Auditor 1962
Boyle Bill	Auditor 1979, 1980
Brennan Dinnie	Anzac Day 1992
Chunell Mr	Auditor 1962
Clark F	Steward 1976
Clarke N	Auditor 1963
Clubb M	Steward 1973, 1974
Dyas Ted	Steward 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992 Scholarship Committee 1990, 1991, 1992 Anzac Day, 1991, 1992.
Dyer Jack	Auditor 1978, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88 Trustee 1989, 1990, 1991 Dinner Committee 1989, 1990, 1991
Evans Duncan	Steward 1972, 1973, 1974
Evans Shirley	Scrutineer 1981
Gordon Harry	Appears to have been a stalwart member in the formative years. Vice President 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1980 Steward 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979
Gunn M	Warden 1962, 1963
Hailstone T	Steward 1968, 1970, 1971
Hall MC	Vice President 1983, 1984, 1991, 1992 Auditor 1968, 1970, 1971, 1972
Hamilton Frank	Scholarship Committee 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992 Welfare 1990, 1991, 1992
Hancock Ralph	Vice President 1980, 1981, 1982, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1990 Anzac Day Committee 1990, 1991 Welfare 1991, 1992
Heath Frank	Auditor 1988
Hinkley N	Steward 1977
Humphries Don	Auditor 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992
Jones A	Steward 1976, 1978, 1979
Kent Frank	Vice President 1962, 1968, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985 Chief Steward 1962 Steward 1968, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992 Welfare 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991 Trustee 1979 to 1992 inclusive Scholarship Committee 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992 Anzac Day Committee 1990
Ladd George	Steward 1984

Latham Bert	Steward 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987 Lethlean J  Auditor 1973,1974, 1975, 1976 Vice President 1977, 1978, 1979
Loader G	Steward 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984
Long B	Steward 1963, 1978 to 1987 Welfare 1987, 1988 Trustee 1988
Middleton Jim	Steward 1992
Moviey L	Auditor 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992
Munro Ian	Assistant Secretary 1990 Steward 1990, 1992
Panton Doug	Auditor 1975, 1976, 1977
Parker Frank	Auditor 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974
Picknoll Les	Steward 1971, 1974, 1975
Poake Doug	Steward 1985, 1986, 1987 Scholarship Committee Chairman 1988, 1989
Price Alf	Trustee 1992 Anzac Day Committee 1992
Rangott Nita	First lady member June 1981 Scrutineer 1981
Rice Bert	Steward 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1991 Auditor 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990 Anzac Day Committee 1990, 1991, 1992
Robins F	Steward 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980
Shaw J	Steward 1991
Schulze Tom	Steward 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988
Sherriffs Jack	Anzac Day Committee 1990 Scholarship Committee 1988, 1989 Chairman Scholarship 1990, 1991, 1992
Somers Wally	Steward 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992
Sullivan Jim	Steward 1989 Assistant Secretary 1991, 1992 1988 Steward 1990
Summers B	Steward  1989, 1990
Tomlinson Ron	Steward 1985, 1986,1987, 1988
Treen Ray	Annual Dinner 1991, 1992
Troughton F	Junior President 1968, 1970 Steward 1962, 1963, 1968, 1970
Trudgian R	Junior President. 1962, 1963 Auditor 1970 Steward 1976
Vicary Frank	Auditor 1977, 1978
Warrek Bud	Steward 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988 Scholarship Committee 1991, 1992 Scribe to Listening Post 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991
Wayman Ray	Steward 1992
Wilkins L	Steward 1974, 1975
Wright Don	Anzac Day Service Committee 1992
Youngman G	Steward 1981, 1982

## MEMBERS

The 11 Original or Foundation Members.

The following list comprises the members who originally formed the North Beach Sub-Branch in 1945.

President: Tom Greenshields

Secretary: Charles D A'Vard

Treasurer: Arnold Hodder

Also, Dick Bennett, John Henderson, Dick Bentley, John Turner and four others. (A fire destroyed the records in 1961.)

53 Financial Members in 1956.

EL Barbera	BC Barry	JB Barry	RH Bentley
J Bryon	G Cameron	EJ Caplin	WL Cargeet
NWN Clarke	RK Delvin	L Edmett	PF Emery
H Fowler	W Gladstone	D Gordon	H Gordon
B Gorman	MH Guhl	EA Gunn	M Hall
J Hartley	R Hayes	W Hayes	L Hodson
JW Hummel	F Kent	B Long	D Long
R Miller	D Mitchell	L Moviey	S McKenna
PA Nicholls	W North	CA Nunn	E Parks
R Parks	F Parker	HS Penny	D Phillips
L Picknoll	AJ Rees	LD Reed	E Riley
JJ Sherriffs	DD Smyth	D Spence	A Till
R Toby	F Troughton	EJP Vegter	CL Wall
M Wilkinson			

In the April 1961 minutes, the first minutes that exist after that record destroying fire, we note that N.Clarke presided, others present being Reg Miller, Frank Kent, Barbera, McKenna, Picknoll, Troughton, Alec Gunn, V. Durkan, Trudgian and Flick. There were apologies from Gordon, Long, Hays, Bennett and McEvoy.

It is quite obvious that the dire financial position of the Sub-Branch, the advent of TV and the introduction of Lawn Bowls had an adverse effect on Membership. By June 1972 there were now only 25 financial members. During July 1972 the President sought permission to dispose of the premises as they were considered to be unsuitable for a current meeting place and the Sub-Branch could not afford the cost of upkeep. He emphasised that the Sub-Branch would continue to

function, nevertheless. Some monthly meetings during the next few years were held in the Surf Club building, later in the Rugby Club House, down near the North Beach Jetty, whilst other meetings were held at the Castle Hotel. Attendances ranged from 5 to 21, but mostly about 12. Lethargy still appeared to be the enemy, for in 1976 it was resolved not to hold an Anzac Day Service. A Membership drive on a State basis was to be supported.

The Sub-Branch was occasionally holding a social. The July 1974 meeting recorded that the success of the social at the now Bowling Club should bring in more members. The last meeting held at the Castle Hotel was in April 1975 and the June meeting resolved to hold all future meetings at the North Beach Sportsman Club, which is now the North Beach Bowling Club. Bowls were starting to interest the members, for Jack Sherriffs was urging them to join the RSL Bowls section. (See RSL Bowls in Recreation etc.)

The June 1975 decision to move to the now Bowling Club for all meetings appears to have been beneficial to the membership drive. It was not the only reason for the increase in membership. Finance was not a problem because the land in North Beach road was sold in 1973. There must have been a State decline in membership as in 1976 the Headquarters of the RSL was conducting a State drive.

Let us not forget that at this time, over quite a number of years, there was an adverse Public Opinion building up of the Nation's involvement in the Vietnamese War. It was not until the early nineties that Australia and America began to recognise that our Armed Forces in Vietnam should have been recognised years ago. The men and women had performed their tasks loyally, bravely and efficiently. It was not until 3 October 1992 that a National Memorial in Canberra was officially dedicated. America was planning to have a ceremony during 1993 to recognise the great services of their women in Vietnam thirty years before. As far as North Beach was concerned the membership drive was successful.

At the December 1976 Sub-Branch meeting the Secretary, Merv Hall, was thanked for his efforts that had earned the Sub-Branch another pennant for the membership drive. By December 1977 the total had grown to 78 and to 85 the following December. At the March 1979 monthly meeting 39 members attended, although the average of that time attending would be about 18.

In May 1978 Frank Vicary who had attended fairly regularly took over as acting secretary from Frank Kent. Frank apologised for his absence during the next five months. Although this epistle is a history, it is only intended to give a sample of office bearers appointed from time to time. It is not intended to produce a mundane, boring document.

Here is the result of the election of officers held in December 1978.

President	M. Hall
Senior Vice President	H Gordon
Junior Vice President	B Lethlean
Secretary	F Vicary
Treasurer	L Movley
Auditors	B Boyle and J Dyer
Steward	P Robins, B Long and S Jones

As the membership grew it was found that not all members knew each other, so it was decided to buy thirty name badges as an experiment. It must have been successful for a few months later, May 1978, it was resolved to acquire more badges. The practice of wearing name badges was short

lived, as by 1980 not many, if any, wore their badge, and the newcomer floundered for quite a few meetings to learn the identity of the different members.

Nita Rangott became the first lady member to join the Sub-Branch, the auspicious occasion being 2 June 1981. Considerable discussion had taken place at the previous meeting to meet a little earlier, and members to bring their wives in order to make it a special night. However, it was finally resolved to keep things on an even keel and conduct the meeting as normal. Merv Hall, the President, welcomed her and presented Nita with her RSL badge. Shirley Evans must have joined about the same time, for both ladies were scrutineers at the following Annual Elections. Shirley later joined a City Sub-Branch that is an Ex-Servicewomen's Sub-Branch.

At the June 1981 meeting Bud Warrek attended. He was the first ex USA Navy member to join the Sub-Branch. To mark the occasion, he was presented with his RSL badge by Frank Vicary.

By December 1981 membership had grown to 171 but decreased to 164 the following year. This decrease is a little puzzling, as during the year, October 1982, the Constitution was changed thus making any service or ex-service personnel, with six month's service in any of the three branches of the Services, eligible to join the RSL. By the end of 1984, the numbers had dropped to 158. 170 Members as at 31st December 1991.

Anderson J	Armstrong E.R	Avery D	Barnet P.R
Barnett L.A	Batten F.C	Beaton R.M	Bennett L.W
Billing F.A	Boardman W	Borshoff D.J	Boyle J.A.H
Bray P.W	Brennan D	Brining R	Brown W.J
Burgess E.C	Burgess G.A	Burton R.T	Calder F.J
Cameron B.M	Campbell C.T	Carter G.S.C	Carwardine K.B
Cass F.W	Cassidy D	Catt N.C	Chambers A.K
Chapman A.C	Clarke T.c	Clutterbuck A.H	Cooper E.C
Coughlan R.W	Cragg S	Cunningham A.M	Dare G
Dargie P.L	Dickinson J	Douglas G.J	Duncan A.K
Dyas E.G	Dyer J.M	Etheridge C.J	Eurell S.F
Evans NC	Falconer C	Few J.B	Floyd K.R
Forkin J.P	Forlonge C.W	Frankland J	Gawthorpe D
Gilchrist B.W	Gilchlist W.E	Greensmith T.M	Grose A.J
Haley K.L.F	Hall M.C	Hamilton F.L	Hancock R.
Harris J.W	Hastings R.W	Heath F.B.	Heathcote B.E
Hemsley R.J	Hepton W.J.	Hill J.B	Holley .P.J
Hollywell F.R.	Hopkins D.R	Huller C	Hume F.A.
Humphries D.C	Imms W.E	Jenkins A.	Jewell M.A.J
Johnston. E	Jones A.M.	Joyce K.P	Kenny B.J
Kent A.G.S	Kent F.A	Koch W.F	Langdon R.J.

Langdon R.E	Langridge I.J	Lawrence A.J.	Lea G.T
Leed G.B	Lively M.W.	Loader G.R	Long P.J
Lynch C.V.	Manners C.R	Mansell W.T	Massey M.
Mell AW	Middleton D.J	Moncrief S.T.	Morien J.C
Morris K.H	Movley L.P	Moyle D.R	Munro I.J
Mun•ay D.E.R.	Nash P.H.W	Needham R	Nevin P.R.
O'Cain AG	Oversby J	Panton D.H.	Paton R
Perrian D.G	Pitt W.J.	Poake D.F	Porritt A.E
Price A.H.	Price M.H	Prosser A.J	Pursell F.
Rangott N.E	Reid E.B	Rice A.E.	Richardson P
Riley R.H	Rock G.	Rogers S.G	Rutherford G.C
Ryan E.C.	Sands J.E	Schulze T.C	Shaw J.B.
Sherburn J.W	Sherriffs J.J	Skinner W.H.	Slater H.J
Smith W	Smith K.C.	Smith V.W	Snell LT
Snook G.G.	Somers W.J	Stevens F.G	Stewart NA
Storey C.J	Sullivan J.B	Summers B.W.	Thame R.E
Tindale J.J	Tomlinson R.E.	Toy s.l	Treen R
Van Rooyen T.	Vaughan G.E	Wall G.A	Waller D.R
Warrek R.A	Waters H.T	Wayman A.E.	Webster E.J
Weigand E.V	Weir W.M.	Wells D.G	Whedon G
Wilkinson L.	Willock T.E	Wiseman G.G	Wood R.S.
Wootton R.E	Wright D.W.H.		

## **THE WOMENS AUXILIARY**

The inaugural Officers of the Women's Auxiliary, which was formed about 1946 were

President: Mrs Bentley

Secretary: Lola: Hall

Treasurer: Ivy Burrows

Here is a list of names of some of the other ladies who were members of the Women's Auxiliary or who assisted during the early formative days, viz 1952-54, of the North Beach Sub-Branch of the RSL. In that era the ladies were not known by their Christian names, but invariably addressed as Miss or Mrs Brown etc. Regrettably, in some cases their Christian names can't be recalled. Unless otherwise stated, their names will be prefixed by Mrs.



### **Lola & Merv HALL**

Lola, the Foundation Secretary of the Women's Auxiliary, has been a constant worker in the North Beach District for the RSL, Women's Auxiliary and the North Beach Bowling Club. Her charitable work extended to the Little Sisters of the poor in Glendalough.

Mrs Bentley's sister, Mesdames Arnold (Ron Arnold's mother), Bell, Edna Bettridge, Birch, Brodie, Brown, Browning, Myrna Cameron, Chapman, Clark, Elsie Clarke, Connell, Joan Darch, Maisie D'Avard, Trudy Duffy, Joan Fitzgerald, Gardner, Dot Gordon, Ethel Gorman, Win Greenshields, Neta Hall, Snr, Hawthorn, Header, Mavis Henderson, Higgins, Mrs Hodder, Murial Hoffman, Hutchings, Hyde, Doreen Jeffs, Barbara Kent, Dot Killeen, Laybourne, Leithhead, Daisy Miland, Miller, Mitchell, Aileen Movley, Beryl McEvoy, Joan McEvoy, Betty McKinney, McLennan,(2), Jane Okely, Palmer, Park, Lena Richards, Phyl Somers, Pat Scott, Glad Taylor, Joan Thomas, Charlotte Tolmie, Troughton, Nell Trudgian, Gwen Vicary, Thelma Washing, Woods, Myra Wright.

These willing ladies paid a 40 cent fee to register as members of the Auxiliary. A major program during 1952 was to provide Christmas parcels for the members of the services serving in the Korean conflict. Perhaps it is another saga of our loyalty to those who defend us does not manifest itself until many years later. Yet it is never too late to honour the men. Perhaps the Memorial on the Charles Riley Memorial Reserve can be suitably plaqued.

Dot Gordon was the original Green Fingers. Many varieties of garden plants were struck in her green house at her home. At all the fetes and stalls Dot's garden plants were in keen demand. She raised a lot of money for the RSL and Women's' Auxiliary. Once a month two representatives of the Auxiliary visited the Little Sisters of the Poor in Glendalough with gifts and sundry items. On one occasion smoking pipes were requested and supplied. Today that would be frowned upon.

It is noted that at a card party Mrs A. Richards raised \$5, a substantial amount in 1953. Other methods of raising money were by fetes, sale of garden produce, home-made jams, home-made clothes, raffles, a chocolate wheel (Police licensed) and you know what. The Women's Auxiliary wound up its affairs up about 1959 as there appeared to be a lack of interest and the difficulty of getting people to become office bearers.

## FINANCE

The Sub-Branch lacked finance for many years. Various methods were used to raise money to pay the rates, taxes and upkeep of the blocks of land. The Women's Auxiliary contributed greatly and raised a large amount of money. As time went on the rate bill increased, the upkeep of the building increased and that meant that the overdraft increased.

In April 1961, the overdraft was \$376, with \$42 capitation fees being owed to Headquarters. A profit of \$144 was made on a fete, the local market gardeners having substantially supported the project. Building alterations and improvements were necessary. A tender of \$309 by E. Bennett for installing wooden floors was accepted. In June, the price of a glass of beer was raised to nine cents.

Now that the shed had a wooden floor a dance was held. Fifty cents admission for a non-drinker and \$1-50 for the others was the accepted charge. Frank Kent lent his piano for the occasion and was thanked for the use of it at the July meeting.

At the November 1961 meeting the State President, Percy Pearson attended. He commented that there was no RSL sign on the hall. At this stage the Sub-Branch was making application to sell poppies in the North Beach area. One wonders if North Beach was about to intrude into Percy's monopolised area as the boundaries for the sale of poppies has been hotly debated from time to time.

The overdraft continued to grow, it being \$502 by December 1961, \$600 by June 1962, \$797 by June 1970. When the overdraft reached \$837 in July 1970 the Bank wrote to advise that the Sub-Branch was over its limit. Some casual tenants must have given concern about their overdue rent. Mention was also made in the minutes that the premises had been left in a dirty condition by one party. As the overdraft was getting too big, three organisations were requested to pay their rent bills, totalling \$125. During September 1968, a piano costing \$100 was purchased.

At this phase of time there must have been some contemplation of selling the land, as there is a mention that negotiations were well under way to sell. The tennis courts were in need of maintenance at a considerable cost, and the Sub-Branch was in no position to carry out the work. At the December 1969 meeting it was stated that the time was now ripe for selling the land. It must be recalled that the North Beach Tennis Club (First championships held were during 1972) was now in existence, and that the North Beach Bowling Club was functioning. (Bowls Championship Fours were held in 1959/60 but the Bowling Clubhouse was not opened until 1974.). Attendances at meetings had dropped to 8, 10 or 12. The Scouts had abandoned the hire of the building without notice, but by the grapevine the committee knew that the lads had found alternative accommodation.

On seeking permission to dispose of the land, the Sub-Branch had to assure Headquarters that there was an alternative meeting site and that the Sub-Branch was not folding up. During all this period of land ownership Frank Kent, L. Movley and Merv Hall appear to have been the main stalwarts of the organisation at North Beach. There were enquires to the Local Authority as to the zoning of the land from commercial to residential etc.

The land had not been sold by October 1971, the overdraft was now \$925, and the Christmas Party was abandoned through lack of interest. Had TV and Bowls taken over the members recreational time? Jack Sheniffs had been urging members to join the Bowls section of the RSL. A rates bill for \$129 had come to hand!

In December 1972 a special meeting was convened, and it was resolved to sell the block in North Beach Road for \$20,000. During May 1973 the land was sold for \$20,000 less commissions and demolition costs of \$350. At this time, there were 25 financial members, but only 7 to 10 attending meetings. At the August 1973 meeting seven members attended and resolved to invest \$18,000 in a registered Trust, administered by F.A. Kent, H.J. Gordon, M.C. Hall and L.P. Movley. All income derived from the Fund was to be placed in an interest bearing account for the use of the Sub-Branch.

The Sub-Branch appears to have covered the cost of the evening's entertainment, as it was regarded at that time, August 1973, a LANDMARK in the History of the Club.

This was the balance sheet that the Sub-Branch had for many years, waited for. It was a proud day.

STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS 1973.

<b>Receipts</b>		
Subscriptions: 26 x \$4	104-00	
17 subs x HQ.	16-50	120-50
(Credit at HQ. \$6-50).		
<b>Hall Rentals</b>		
Hamersley Play Group	8-00	
Assembly of God	60-00	68-00
Hamersley Play Group (to remove concrete pipes).		25-00
Refund from S.E.C.		61
Sale of Hall, North Beach Road.		20,000-00
<b>TOTAL</b>		\$ 20,214-11
<b>Payments.</b>		
Capitation		61-45
Solicitor's Fees.		45-00
Father's Day		10-00
General Meeting Expenses.		25-10
S.E.C.		5-88
Land Tax		24-74
National Bank. Repaid Overdraft		552-62
Property Handling	30-60	
Interest	28-20	
Stamp Duty & Fees	9-00	67-80
Cape Demolition		350-00
Conti Estate Agency Commission and Costs.		755-99
Petty Cash		5-20
Balance of Receipts over Payments Th Dec. 1973		18,310-33
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$20,214-11</b>

<b>Balance Sheet.</b>			
<b>Liabilities.</b>		<b>Assets</b>	
Liabilities	nil	Perth Building Society	18,000-00
Assets in excess of Cash at Hand	18,310-83	Cnr Balance National Bank	306-83
Cash in Hand		Bank	
		Cash in hand	4-00
	<b>\$18,310-83</b>		<b>\$18,310-83</b>

The members throughout the eighties have regarded it as a Great Landmark as many of the Christmas parties were totally paid for by the substantial amounts of interest earned. Indeed, all members in 1992 are very appreciative of the great efforts made by those very few members, together with the Women's Auxiliary. The Women's Auxiliary played a greater part in the important foundations of the Sub-Branch than the minutes show, for there is an underlying intonation that their organisation was the main fund raiser of the RSL in the early days of dire financial stress. Membership was fostered and the monthly meetings were subsidised by the Fund.

It wasn't long before the vultures arrived. In August 1975 the Sub-Branch delegate, Mr Howard, reported that the State Congress urged that Sub-Branches should contribute more to Welfare and Repatriation Funds. There was a representative of Headquarters in attendance who supported the observations of the delegate. He then went on to say that this Sub-Branch should lend its Fixed Deposit, \$18,000. to Headquarters for their use. The astute President, Mr. F.A. Kent, stated that he was appreciative of Headquarters problems, but this Sub-Branch was in no hurry to part with its assets.

Now that there was money in the bin the members decided to spend a few bob on themselves. In November 1978 they resolved to have some cheese and biscuits at their meetings and it is noted that this luxury cost about \$1-50 and reached \$1-79 in February. money had been hard to get and they were it!

By August 1977, although some substantial donations were made to worthy causes, (see under Donations) the Fund held \$20,000 with \$1500 in a Building Society and \$628 in the cheque account. The current Treasurer, Mr Frank Heath, in 1992, does not have a financial problem like his forbears, but he exhorts all the members to exercise keeping caution, in order that the Sub-Branch remains in a strong viable financial position. With the membership list now approaching 200 his task requires constant vigil and dexterity and it consumes a lot of his time.

In October 1982, the Sub-Branch resolved to loan \$2,000, on an interest bearing basis, to the North Beach Sportsman's Club for the modification of the Clubhouse. By December 1983 the balance showed the cash assets at \$28,211. It was resolved to give the secretary an honorarium of \$200. By February 1991 total cash held amounted to \$41,013. Frank Kent, Merv Hall and Laurie Movley are entitled to sit back and look smug. They, like the rest of us, must pay tribute to their wives and the women's auxiliary for the devoted and invaluable support during those difficult financial Times in the formative years.

In the meanwhile, the members were conscious of the growing cash credit balance. They realised that time marches on. Some felt that they should spend the money while they were yet alive, whilst others, especially the hard core members, the ones who had been there in the dark, difficult formative days, knew just how hard that it had been, together with their wives, to get free of debt.

An attempt had been made some years earlier to have a subsidy, the suggestion was \$200, paid to the next of kin of deceased members. This was rejected as it savoured of personal gain. It was decided to distribute some of the capital to the community in the form of scholarships to able students with limited financial means. The chapter on the scholarships deals with this matter.

During 1991 the State Branch of the RSL resolved to upgrade some of the existing buildings comprising the Mt Lawley Veterans Homes. The North Beach Sub-Branch made a donation of \$5,000 to this appeal. It gained the Sub-Branch the honour of being awarded a meritorious mention in its despatches.

In February 1982 the committee was questioned why the Sub-Branch did not invest in mortgage investments. The Treasurer, Mr Movley, gave the reason why that avenue was not used. His remarks were supported by Frank Kent and Ralph Hancock. How wise they were in 1982, for there would be many organisations in 1992 who wished that they had a balance sheet similar to that of the north Beach Sub-Branch of the Returned and Services League.

## DONATIONS AND GRANTS

Donations have been made to various deserving causes from time to time. Here are listed some of the more substantial payments.

Apr 1975	Darwin Appeal, Cyclone Tracy	\$100
Sept 1976	Beagle Bay Mission, North of Broome (To bring children down on holiday)	\$100
Dec 1978	Sister Gennann's Appeal	\$100
May 1979	Scarborough High School Cadets	\$200
June 1979	War Memorial Restoration Fund	\$20
Dec 1979	North Beach Sportsmen's Club (urn)	\$75
Dec 1979	Legacy (Support of 2 children (Wards)	\$100
June 1980	Scarborough High School Cadets	\$200
sept 1980	Golden Quest(Headquarters supported Appeal)	\$100
Oct 1980	Sister Germann's Appeal	\$100
Mar 1981	Scarborough Cadets	\$200
Dec 1981	Cameron Cooper Eye Treatment in America	\$100
Feb 1982	Legacy for Support of Three Wards	\$150
May 1982	Scarborough Cadets (Assist new Camp)	\$400
Mar 1983	Legacy for Support of three Wards	\$150
Mar 1983	Bush Fire Appeal	\$50
Apr 1983	War Veterans Homes (Assist to purchase a food conveyor)	\$100
June 1983	Scarborough Cadets (Half for radios)	\$400
Oct 1983	Headquarters for appeal for State War Memorial repairs	\$50
Mar 1984	Legacy for support of three wards	\$150
Sep 1984	Scarborough Cadets Assist Annual Camp	\$400
Jul 1985	Legacy Support three wardst	\$150
Jul 1985	Scarborough cadets	\$200
Nov 1985	North Beach Bowling Club Heavy Seat	\$45
May 1986	Scarborough Cadets/North Beach Primary School	\$45
Jul 1986	Legacy Supporting three wards	\$150
Jul 1987	Legacy for Support of Three Wards	\$150
Jul 1988	Legacy for Support of Three Wards	\$150
Nov 1988	Memorial Plaques at North Beach Bowling Club Garden	\$175
July 1989	Legacy supporting four Wards	\$200
July 1990	Legacy supporting four Wards	\$200
Feb 1990	Newcastle Earthquake	\$50
Sept 1990	Legacy supporting four Wards	\$200
June 1991	Mt Lawley Veteran Homes	\$5 000
Aug 1991	Legacy supporting four Wards	\$200

## **SALE OF POPPIES**

Proceeds of the sale of poppies are split two ways - half to the local Amelioration Fund and half to the Headquarters Amelioration Fund. The Sub-Branches in the Metropolitan area interested selling poppies in the city apply to RSL Head Office. A draw is then made for the allocation an area. The City is then divided into areas by H.O. It is the luck of the draw what area is allocated to the Sub-Branch. In 1961 the RSL decided to approach the MTT for permission to sell Poppies at the bus stops in St George's Terrace and the North Beach Sub-Branch was allocated that area. It is believed that the effort was so successful that it attracted a write up in the Daily News, a popular evening paper of that era.

In 1967 it was resolved to have poppy stalls at each of the shopping centres. Over the years the public has been generous to this appeal and many valuable dollars have been contributed to the RSL. No doubt the residences of the Mt Lawley RSL homes have benefited from time to time, as well as any local member who has come before the Committee for financial consideration and assistance.

Since 1985 activity in Sub-Branch Poppy Sales has been improved. Pre-selling to chemists and small businesses has been successful. In addition, active selling by Sub-Branch members on Poppy Day proved successful in 1991, net income to Sub-Branch funds being \$418, with an equal amount being remitted to Anzac House for credit of WA Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Relief Fund.

## MEMORIAL SERVICES

### ANZAC DAY SERVICE.

The first Anzac Day service in the North Beach locality that Merv Hall recalls was in 1946. The parade marched from Henderson's shop, on the corner of Odo St and North Beach Road, to the Surf Club. The services, in the first few years, before he was transferred to the country as a Parish Priest, were conducted by Mr. Frederick Pitcher, a lay preacher. During Bill Lonnie's term as State President 1955-65 the regulation stating that Anzac Services had to be conducted by a Minister of Religion was abandoned. The Sub-Branch Presidents, Frank Kent and Merv Hall, during their terms of office, conducted the services, which for many years continued to be held in the Surf Club Hall. The music was always provided in those days by Mrs Thelma Washing at the piano.

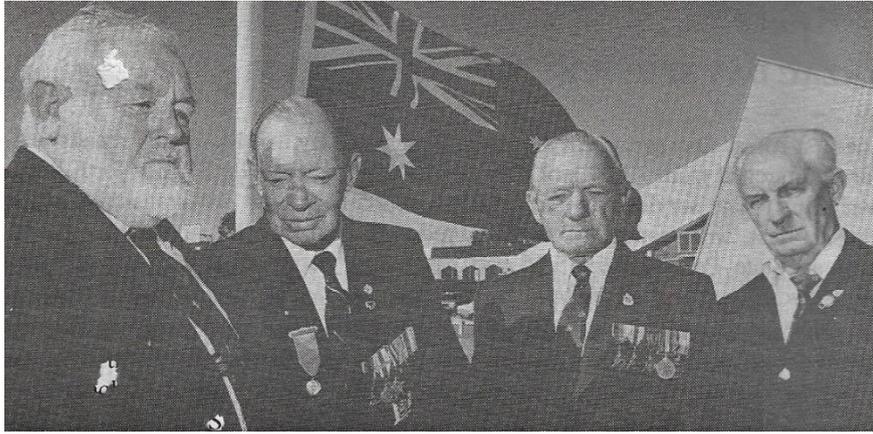


**Frank Hamilton, Laurie Movley, Frank Kent  
Remembering Departed Friends**

Anzac Day services were conducted each year in the early years of the North Beach Sub-Branch, until 1969. At the September meeting it was discussed whether a service would be held the following April. Lack of interest and a decline in membership was the problem, but the Sub-Branch rallied, and a service was held. However, no service held in the years 1971 and 1972. Membership had declined from 53 in 1958 to only 25 in June 1972.

Over the years the Anzac Day Services have been conducted at various venues, such as the Sun Club Hall and then in the RSL Hall once it was up graded. Some members that lived north of the Charles Riley Memorial Reserve have regularly attended the Autumn Centre in Flora Terrace. Ralph Hancock gave the 1987 Anzac address at the Duncraig Primary School. In later years, 1989 onwards, a Dawn Service has been held at the War Memorial on the nor-west side of the Riley Reserve.

At a meeting after the Anzac Day Service in 1978 Bill Boyle suggested that following the Annual Anzac Service there should be a Sub-Branch get together. A resume was given of the nature of the program in past years. It was decided that a social gathering would be held at the Sports Club at 1.30 pm. on Anzac Day. A mixed bowls match with the North Beach Bowling Club ensued and has continued on Anzac Day ever since.



**Wally Somers, Merv Hall, Ted Dyas, Len Snell  
Remembering Departed Friends**

At the May 1981 meeting a vote of thanks was recorded to Stan Kent for painting the Remembrance Stone at the Convent. The Sub-Branch had been approached to give an address and conduct an Anzac Service in School hours at Our Lady of Grace Convent situated in Kitchener Street, North Beach. There were a couple of flag poles in the school grounds and to create a suitable atmosphere to the ceremony it was necessary to have a place to lay wreaths during the ceremony. A neat half top of a round septic tank was obtained. It was suitably painted, and the Words "LEST WE FORGET" sign was embossed on it.

The address was given by Mervyn Hall in both 1981 and 1982. During the Services, which were held in the Church, a cadet from the Scarborough Cadet Unit was posted at each flag pole. A third cadet was posted at the door and gave signals to the bugler and the other two to raise and lower the flags.

At the September 1981 meeting it was resolved to purchase a wreath for the next Anzac Day service and that enquires would be made regarding the Anzac Day Awards.

## **WAR MEMORIAL**

### **CHARLES RILEY MEMORIAL RESERVE, NORTH BEACH.**

The place where the Memorial was to be erected was brought to the Sub-Branch's notice by the Deputy Mayor of the City of Stirling, Mr John Bombak, at the meeting of April 1989. The Sub-Branch recommended to Mr Bombak that the Memorial be not placed at the Autumn Centre in Castle St, as proposed by that body, but near a main road central to schools in the district. The Memorial obelisk was erected at the north west corner of the Charles Riley Memorial Reserve by the City of Stirling before the following RSL meeting in May. The City of Stirling erected a flag pole at the Autumn Centre and the Pensioners' League of WA. North Beach Sub-Branch provided a plaque there.

The inscription on the obelisk at Charles Riley Memorial Reserve reads:

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ARMED AND  
ANCILLARY SERVICES WHO PAID THE SUPREME SACRIFICE IN THE SERVICE OF  
THEIR COUNTRY.

No date or other information appears on it. In the editor's opinion it is a pity that not more history appears on this memorial, for people who are not directly connected with the various services are able to learn about our history. We who know, move on, but the land remains forever. The City of Stirling erected two flagpoles on each side of the Memorial, for which they received a letter of thanks from the Sub-Branch.

In early 1992 the Memorial was enhanced by the laying of brick paving around it and the flagpoles. It gave better standing for groups holding services there. The City of Stirling staff prepared the site, the Midland Brick Company provided the bricks and Brick Paving installed the paving, the overall cost being \$1,800.

The erection of the Memorial has created additional interest, not only to the members of the RSL, but to the community. Every year since its erection a Dawn Service has been held, with an increasing number of people attending that service. This additional interest has been created by a sub-committee being appointed to deal with the different facets of the service. The Sub-Branch has recorded in its minutes its gratitude to the Stirling Times for the coverage that it has given to promote the Anzac Day dawn service. Letters of thanks and appreciation were sent to the paper by both the Chairman, Len Snell, of the Anzac Day Sub-Committee, as well as the RSL Sub Branch Secretary Joe Oversby. The paper has also photographed a number of members to attract attention to the Service. Records show that 53 members of the Sub-Branch attended in the April 1990 Service. The 1992 service attracted about one hundred souls.

Buglers are hard to come by, so a tape recorder has been purchased. It plays the Last Post, Reveille and any other necessary ceremonial odes. An example of the detail required to make the dawn services a success is shown in the duty roster for 1992.

Len Snell was appointed to be the Director, ie. to take the blame for anything that wasn't organised, Alf Price the Marshall, Flag Marshalls to be Don Wright and Ted Dyas, Light Marshall was Wallie Somers, Wreath Laying by Frank Kent, the assembly to be at 5.45 am., the march off to be at 6 am. At the May meeting a vote of thanks was recorded to Lindsay Bennett and his wife for organising the refreshments at the North Beach Bowling Club after the service.

Len Snell's work had not finished. It had just started. For the evening barbecue after the Bowls match with the Bowling Club, he had in the kitchen the stewards Ray Wayman, Jim Middleton, Ray Treen and Ted Dyas. Frank Kent, Don Wright and Clyde Evans were the cooks. Jack Shaw was to collect the fee of four dollars for the meal, which was to be a piece of steak and two sausages, with a potato salad. Bread, sauce and margarine were to be available.

In the meantime, Len had teamed up with Charlie Chapman to arrange the Bowls match to finish about 4.45 pm. in order that the evening meal was completed by about 6 pm. Entertainment was to be given by Ray Wayman, Merv Hall and Jack Dickinson. The choir, Alf Price, Len Snell, Ted Dyas and Joe Frankland, rendered songs like Bowlers Lament, Bowlers Dreams and Clown Shots. A good day was had by all. Oh no!!! - the Old Tin Hat Bowling Shield was lost to the Bowling Club!

The additional expenses of the day were subsidised by \$239 from a day raffle organised by the RSL Sub-Branch. Councillor Murray Carter, of the City of Stirling, donated one of the prizes. Hence the people who are born in the next century or two may realise that there was still life in Western Australia, and that, despite what they may read in the archives, there were far more good times had by the public than bad times. Twelve per cent of the people were unemployed but 88% had good incomes.

## **OTHER MEMORIAL SERVICES**

At the April 1983 meeting Stan Kent and member Hurley reported on attending the Anzac Service at the Stirling City Council grounds. The Sub-Branch resolved to thank the City of Stirling and the newly elected Mr. Graham Edwards for the two War Memorials erected there.

The Anzac Memorial Services held at the Mt Lawley War Veterans Homes in Alexander Drive, Menora, have always been supported, generally by at least two representatives of this Sub-Branch and their wives. Some members, in respect for their fallen comrades, go to the dawn service at the State War Memorial in King's Park, whilst others attend the Anzac Parade in the City of Perth. In all cases there is a sad reflection of memories for fallen friends, a spirit of National pride and a renewal of friendships with those who have survived. Above all, it is an attempt to show their heirs and additaments, their friends and the general community that they do have a great country, where free speech and freedom of worship, a democracy that other nations yearn about, still exists, and is worth fighting for.

## **KOREA AND VIETNAM MEMORIAL SERVICES**

The North Beach Sub-Branch members were lethargic, much like the rest of Australia, in recognising the fallen during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The Whitlam Government, shortly after being elected, curtailed the activity in Vietnam and quickly recalled the Australian Forces back to Australia. It made the people feel that this was an unnecessary War. The most unfortunate and disappointing thing that transpired was that the Australian people failed to give honour and recognition to those loyal soldiers, sailors, nurses and airmen who had participated in the conflict. Yet they were service people who had been ordered there, under the National Defence Act, by the Australian Government, to defend their country. They had performed their task with diligence, loyalty and valour, emulating their ancestors in other conflicts. It took many, many years before even a glimmer of recognition began in Australia.

With the election of Mr. Graham Edwards, a man who had lost both of his legs by the explosion of a land mine in Vietnam, to the Western Australian Legislative Assembly, some recognition to the loyal citizens began. He had previously been a City of Stirling Councillor. He visited the

Sportsmen's Club on Saturday, 13th April 1985 to present a National Flag and a portrait of the Queen. It was not long after his visit that there was a glimmer of interest in the Vietnam Veterans.

Mr Stan Kent reported to the next meeting that on the 16th August 1986 he had attended a service at the City of Stirling, which was held to honour the Vietnam Veterans. He had stated that it was a most successful Service.

At the July 1987 meeting it was resolved that Veterans of the Vietnam War be invited to attend the next meeting of the Sub-Branch in order to hear their views and participate in some companionship. At the Annual State Congress mention had been made that at both the Bunbury and Geraldton Sub-Branches the Vietnam Veterans were actively participating in Sub-Branch affairs. These "Vietnam Veterans" were the younger men in our society, probably around twenty to twenty five years younger than most Sub-Branch members. Action was taken at North Beach to make known to these potential members that they would be made most welcome to join the Sub-Branch.

The following year Mr Stan Kent again reported that he had attended the August Memorial Service at the City of Stirling. About two hundred had marched and it was a most memorable Service. He hoped and urged that more Sub-Branch members would participate in the ceremony. The following year it was reported that Stan was not well. There does not appear to be any more reports about the service, but undoubtedly there would have been some representation.

Lindsay Bennett, a Vietnam veteran and subsequent SAS man, reported to the October meeting that he had attended King's Park on the first of October 1989. There had been a Dedication Service in Memory of the WA. members of the Services who had died because of the Vietnam War.

Recognition of the Vietnam Military Forces culminated in a National Memorial being dedicated in Canberra during 1992. Many people from all States of Australia attended the ceremony and a limited number of Veterans from each State were flown there and back by the Australian Government. Of local interest, a Vietnam Veteran, Mr Fountain, the father of the North Beach Bowling Club's junior greenkeeper, attended the Service.

Retarded interest and recognition of the American Veterans in their country appears to have been much in parallel to that of Australia. It has been publicised that during 1993 the American ex Service women, mostly nurses, will be dedicating a Memorial to their Veteran Womenfolk. That will be about thirty years after the War commenced.



**Bill Ellis with his Aussie, Yank and Kiwi mates on leave, Kookaburra Club**

## THE FLAG

The retention of the flag with the Union Jack in the corner and carrying a star to represent each of the six States of Australia, has always been strongly supported by the various RSL Branches in Australia.

In March 1972 the meeting resolved, after reading correspondence concerning the changing of the National Flag, to write to the member in Parliament, Mr Webb, that this Sub-Branch strongly supported the Federal Executive in agreeing that the present flag be retained as the symbol of Australian solidarity.

It is noted that in September 1979 the Federal Member, Mr Viner, a Liberal, donated a Flag to the Sub-Branch. It was subsequently presented to the North Beach Sportsmen's Club President, Mal Dempsey, during April 1980. At the following June meeting Mr Peter Wells addressed the meeting and presented another Australian Flag of similar design as described above.

In September 1983 there were negotiations to erect a flag pole at the Sports Club. At the same meeting it was decided to purchase 150 flag stickers. At the November 1983 meeting Mr Jenkins suggested that all members of the RSL fly the current Australian Flag in their front yards to show RSL strength. The matter of the flag was to be discussed at the next State congress. The matter of the flag appears to have been provoked by correspondence stating that the Federal Government had terminated financial assistance to School Cadets.

In September 1984 there was further correspondence regarding a petition concerning the Australian Flag. During 1984 two radio stations in Western Australia, 6 PR and 6 KG, permitted two of their announcers to conduct talk back sessions with members of the public, the remarks being considered by members to be derogatory to the retention of the Flag. A new Flag representing Australia as an independent nation was advocated. The members strongly protested as recorded in the section "Resolutions".

Alf Price, a member, announced that Mr. Ron Edwards, a Federal Member of Parliament, would be at the Sports Club at 1.15 pm on Saturday 13th April 1985. He would present the National Flag, a tape of the National Anthem and an up dated photo of the Queen to the Sportsmen's Club. All members of the Sub-Branch were urged to attend.

It does appear that a substantial element in the Labor Party wants to change the Flag, containing the Union Jack in the corner, to a new design and called 'The Australian Flag' as a first step to making Australia a Republic. One wonders if Long Service Leave, and such other privileges that do not exist in other republics will disappear too.

## **SCARBOROUGH SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CADETS**

The Army Cadet unit established at the Scarborough Senior High School was supported by the North Beach Sub-Branch over many years. Undoubtedly the National RSL policy of support for the Armed Forces stimulated local support.

Once regarded as one of the best Units in Western Australia, the unit faced disbandment at the end of 1978 through lethargy. During that year the North Beach Sub-Branch became aware of the financial dilemma which faced the Unit. The school had set about the task of re-establishing the Unit at the beginning of that year. At the end of four months, the Army had again labelled it as one of the most progressive Units in the State and no longer considered disbanding it at the end of the year. Furthermore, the Army advised that the Unit would receive Individual Unit Status in 1979. The Unit was currently combined with Churchlands Senior High School Cadet Unit in name only and received no financial assistance. It comprised 4 officers, 12 N.C.O.s and 58 cadets.



**Ralph Hancock with Scarborough Cadets**

The Aim of the Unit was to provide a youth organisation that would contribute to the local Community. It was not to be expected to provide military training for students, nor was it expected that students would move on to become members of The Australian Regular Army or Army Reserve. The training program was designed to provide subjects that would interest the cadets and serve them later in life. Community involvement was an area where it intended to become heavily committed. The uniform which the cadets wore, and the discipline were merely aids to provide an efficient youth organisation.

At that time, 1978, the Army only gave minimum assistance. It provided uniforms for all, with one seven day camp each year. For a Unit of its size the Army remunerated the members, aggregating between \$600 and \$670 for the whole Unit. The payment was to offset the expenses incurred by the Unit such as administration, training, individual expenses covering use of vehicles, food and stores that were not provided by the Army. Some administration assistance was offered by the Army and stores were sometimes available on loan.



**Ralph Hancock with Scarborough Cadets**



At that time, the unit had 2 superseded Prismatic compasses, 3 Hand Held Citizen Band Radios deemed unsatisfactory by the Army, 250 Army Survey Maps, 75 library Service Pamphlets in the Library, 10 Service protractors and a limited amount of training aids. The training program subjects were Communication, Medical, Quartermaster, Engineers and Rescue.

In December 1979 Frank reported on having attended the Unit Parade. At the May 1980 Sub-Branch meeting Lt Geoff Murray apologised for the absence of Mr Teasdale, the Scarborough Senior High School principal and Commanding Officer of the cadets. He produced photos of cadet training. The President, Merv Hall, thanked him for the report and accepted the invitation to attend the Headmaster's Parade in June. At the March 1981 meeting Captain Teasdale showed a very interesting film and gave a talk on cadet activities.

At the October 1981 meeting the President, Ralph Hancock, reported that, in company with Frank and Stan Kent, he had attended the Cadet passing out parade. They were most impressed with the standard set by the lads. The unit had won the Shield three out of the four times that they had competed, gaining second place on the other occasion. The School acknowledged the help that the Sub-Branch had given them. An open invitation was extended to members and their wives to attend the November passing out parade. At the April 1982 meeting Captain Ian Teasdale presented the Sub-Branch with photos of the Cadet Parade at the recent camp at Gidgegannup and other activities. He thanked the members for their support.

The Sub-Branch had been financially supporting the Cadets for many years, (see Donations Section). It was customary for the unit to specify the items in which they were in need. At the October 1983 meeting Mr Howard Cutler displayed the radio units, bearing a NB RSL plaque. He also displayed a shield, once again won by the Unit at the annual camp at Northam. He stated that

there was a need for volunteer bus drivers. An invitation was extended to all members to attend the annual passing out parade in November. Our RSL Member I. Davies volunteered as a driver when required.

During 1983 and 1984 member Stan Kent had been conducting First Aid classes and a vote of thanks for his efforts was recorded in the August minutes. Stan was later invested with the Order of Australia Medal (see Section Awards elsewhere). Stan was a constant visitor to the ill, particularly those in the War Veterans Home at Mt Lawley. Stan again reported in February 1988 that the Unit had won the Northam Camp Shoot. The CO. was John Rolfe.

The recently elected Labor Government (1983) had dramatically altered the Australian Defence Policy. It had decided to abandon financial support for Cadet and similar units. At the November 1983 meeting the Sub-Branch moved a motion that the Australian State Branches should register a strong protest regarding the Federal Government's lack of financial support. At the June 1984 meeting Lts Dick Jones, Mick Taylor and John Rolfe of the Scarborough unit, attended the monthly meeting. Lt Jones spoke about the loss of Army funding to Cadet Units and the need for continued support.

Mr Vince Davies, of the Cadet Unit addressed the July 1985 meeting on the format of the new plan for the cadet unit and the need for the delegates of the various organisations to support the unit. All efforts failed and the Unit was wound up. The Sub-Branch forwarded the School a copy of the book "LEST WE FORGET"

## SCHOLARSHIP

In June 1987, a Scholarship Committee was formed to enquire into the feasibility of granting scholarships for Tertiary and Advanced Education. It was resolved that the inaugural committee be Doug Poake, Chairman, with Frank Kent, Alf Price and Len Snell. Lindsay Bennett was subsequently added to the committee.

The Committee set about their task diligently. Members have since commended Doug Poake for the foundation that his committee formulated. It held quite a few meetings to determine format, qualifications and conditions that would be applicable. Suitable advertisements were placed in newspapers circulating in the Northern suburbs. The Stirling Times, the paper covering the North Beach area, gave an excellent coverage, firstly in the promotion and drawing the matter to potential applicants, thence giving publicity by announcing the successful students.

Here is a typical letter that was sent earl to Principals of Schools in the applicable areas:-

Dear Principal,

SCHOLARSHIP.

North Beach Sub-Branch Returned and Services League.

The members of North Beach RSL Sub-Branch request your help in circulating details of this scholarship to suitable senior students in your school.

Inaugurated in 1988 the scholarship is designed for 16 to 19 year old residents in the northern suburbs.

Academic brilliance is not the sole aim of this scholarship. It seeks to identify the dedicated student who is determined to succeed and who has a well-developed sense of community spirit combined with a well-defined need for financial support to achieve future goals.

Tenable on a yearly basis, the award begins in January 1991. Intending candidates should make application on the prescribed form by JANUARY 31st, 1991. Completed application forms and requests for additional entry forms should be addressed to:

The Secretary Scholarship Committee,  
North Beach (Sub-Branch) RSL,  
7 Kitchener Street  
North Beach WA 6020.

Telephone:  
Mr Lindsay Bennett 447 3371  
Mr Ted Dyas 447 6823

Sincerely, L. Snell,  
Chairman of Committee.

Three boys and five girls made application the first year,(1988). All were of a high calibre. It was originally intended to announce the successful applicant at the Annual RSL Dinner, but school examination results were not to hand, and the matter was held over.

The initial scholarship was \$1,000, to be made in two moieties of \$500 remitted half yearly. ■

The successful applicant was:- Miss Coreen Hastie, of Balga, who was pursuing a course in pre-primary education or as a kindergarten teacher. Her photo appeared in the Listening Post. Her portrait, when receiving the grant from the President, Merv Hall, graces the display cabinet in the Clubrooms. .

The Committee members, elected in December 1988, for 1989/90

Doug Poake (Chairman), Lindsay Bennett, Frank Hamilton, Frank Kent and Len Snell.

There were 21 applicants for the year 1989. Two scholarships of \$500 each were awarded. The successful applicants were :- Cathleen Jeffcoat, who intended studying for the Bachelor of Music at the Conservatorium and Sascha Michelle Kennaugh, who intended taking a degree course in Media Studies at Curtin University.

The Committee members elected in December 1989 for 1990/91.

Len Snell            Chairman

Lindsay Bennett

Ted Dyas

Frank Hamilton and Frank Kent.

There were 23 applicants for the year 1990. Three scholarships of \$500 each were awarded. The successful applicants were . Julie Ann Howard, who intended taking a course in occupational therapy at Curtin University. Cherie Louise Munckton, who intended taking a Combined Degree in the Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of faculties at the University of Western Australia and Shane Michael Wilkes, who intended taking a course in Geophysics at Curtin University.

The Committee members, elected in December 1990, for 1991/92.

Len Snell (Chairman), Ted Dyas, Frank Hamilton, Frank Kent and Bud Warrek.

There were 25 applicants for the year 1992. Three scholarships of \$500 each were awarded. The successful applicants were :- Michelle Joy Cotterell, who intended studying for a Bachelor of Secondary Education, (Arts), at the Edith Cowan University. Monica Marie Therese Veder, who intended taking course in Psychology at Curtin University and Mark James Wilkes, who intended studying for Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) at the Curtin University.

Progress of some Successful Recipients.

Contact has not been made with all the successful recipients of the scholarships. When the Sub-Branch receives reports such as the following the Committee and all the members get much satisfaction and joy to learn of the progress made by these young people.

Cathleen .Jeffcoat - Cathleen started violin studies at the age of four in Queensland. She completed her AMEB grades and received prizes in all major Queensland eisteddfods. In 1984 Cathleen . commenced piano/theory lessons under Miss F. Warren.



After moving to Western Australia in 1986 she graduated at Servite College and was the first recipient of the prestigious P & F Encouragement Scholarship. In 1989 she received the RSL (North Beach) Scholarship and the Masonic Scholarships in 1991 and 1992.

Cathleen continued violin studies (1987) under Mr V. Hanly, MBE, and piano (1987) under Miss K. Zhukov. She has furthered her piano studies under Mrs J. Kovar and Mrs P. Belviso.

Presently, she is studying violin with Mr. P. Eder (1989-92). Cathleen has been involved as a reserve for AYO and a member of WAYO. She has participated in master classes of Geoffrey Michaels (1989) and Ida Bieler (1992).

Next year Cathleen wishes to further chamber music and violin studies at Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest, Hungary. She has been appointed a member (violinist) with the WA Symphony Orchestra 1993. Congratulations Cathy.

Shane Michael Wilkes - Shane was a recipient in the 1990 Scholarship Award and has been successful in obtaining employment in his field, namely Geophysicist. The Award was very helpful in the costs towards his University studies. He is now employed by Air Blast Technology Pty Ltd.

## ENTERTAINMENT SPORTS & RECREATION

During the 1939-45 World War the North Beach Community supported its fighting forces in the various services. There was a local committee that urged the girls in the area to write to the various boys who had enlisted from the district. One lass remarked that there was a particularly rough kind of a kid who had joined the Navy. It was recommended that he be placed on her list. She inwardly felt that she detested the bloke. His parents owned the shop in which she was employed, and she felt that he was an abhorrent fellow. But the Nation was at war, and the news was bad. She set about her allotted task in a dedicated manner. Today this pair have a mature family and are a very happy couple. Some goodness does emanate from warfare! (This is supposed to be a History Book, not a Mystery. Ed).

Frank and Barbara Kent, Frank Parker, our cuddly couple above, and other members of the RSL of North Beach were bringing up their families. They did not forget the children, for we can observe that picnics were held at various places to produce this community of spirit that pervades the district today. That this spirit existed may not be observed by the pioneers of North Beach, but the itinerant is well aware of the foundations laid by the early members of the RSL of North Beach.

This caring for their offspring in the community involved Rugby and the various sports conducted on the Charles Riley Memorial Reserve, North Beach.

*The Reserve, named after Charles Riley, who at the age of 32, was drowned when going to the aid of three girls being caught in an undertow, and one going to the rescue in a dingy, at Waterman during 1954. He was a member of the 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Commando Unit in World War 2, a taxi truck operator and lived with his wife and two children in West Coast Highway, Waterman.*

*His father, Archbishop Riley, dedicated the Reserve on 23 September 1958. The North Beach Sub Branch had considerable correspondence with the Perth Roads Board (now the Stirling Council) in recommending the dedication to the memory of Charles Riley, a popular citizen of the North Beach locality.*

We find that the Rugby and the RSL had some close ties, for the Rugby Clubhouse was utilised by the RSL at times for meetings. The use of it was rent free because RSL chairs and tables were left in the building for the use of the Rugby Club. Merv Hall formed an RSL Badminton Club which used the Surf Clubrooms, (later the Rugby Clubhouse) until the ceiling fell in. The Badminton Club folded as their own hall cum shed in North Beach Road was unsuitable. The Surf Club moved to Sorrento and Trigg and the Rugby Club took over the North Beach Surf Club rooms.

Other RSL Sub-Branches were being formed within the metropolis of Perth. To fill in the idle hour's competitions were held between the various Sub-Branches. Belmont had a very strong tennis sector. These other Sub-Branches, with the comparably infrequent bus services to the area, and the remoteness of North Beach, made it impractical to compete in the major competitions. Here is a copy of a homemade fixture card issued to the members.

<b>NORTH BEACH SUB-BRANCH. RSL</b>	
<b>FIXTURES FOR 1958</b>	
This Year's Motto	
<b>BRING A MATE FOR '58.</b>	
<b>General</b>	<b>Social</b>
Jan 15	Jan 29
Feb 12	Feb 26
Mar 12	Mar 26
Apr 9	Ap 23
May 7	May 21
Jun 4	Jun18
Jul 2	Aug 13
Aug 27	Sep 10
Sep 24	Oct 8
Oct 22	Nov 5
Nov 19	Dec 3

Social functions were arranged, invitation cards were printed, one sample being placed in our archives.



Such was the initiative of those early members to raise the necessary Funds. No doubt a member of the Women's Auxiliary prepared the respective cards.

## **A.R.M.S. (Archbishop Riley Memorial Shield).**

### **The Big 4 Shield.**

In the September 1961 minutes, (remember that minutes prior to April had been destroyed by fire) we find that the four members of the local BIG Four, being North Beach, Osborne Park, Scarborough and Yokine, were having a meeting to amend the state ARMS Rules for the local BIG 4 competition. That was a very good name for fighting forces to adopt, for no one can fight without arms, whether it be limbs or lances. The letters A.R.M.S. stood for the name of the Shield that all the metropolitan Sub-Branches could compete for. The North Beach sponsor, Albert Richards, donated a local Shield which the Big Four appropriately called it the ARMS Shield, or the Albert Richards Memorial Shield.

The Big Four, the only nations left with arms (ARMS) of any significance, was a name that appeared many times as headlines in the prominent newspapers circulating in the 1947 era. Great Britain, France, the United States of America and the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republic were the Big Four that were reconstructing the defeated nations throughout the world.

Apparently North Beach had shown some interest in the original larger metropolitan competition, for it is recorded that other BIG 4 Sub-Branch secretaries in 1955 were:- for Yokine, J. Lell of Joondanna, Osborne Park, F.E. Stephens and Scarborough, E.L. Morton of Scarborough.

In the local Big 4 competition there were three competitive elements which could earn points for each Sub-Branch, namely darts, where Frank Parker appears to have been an Ace, Merv Hall in table tennis (he was more agile then) and Ted Woodward at quoits. Similarly, the ladies also competed. The Big 4 had the annual wind up at the end of each summer.

Towards the end of the sixties the game of Lawn bowls began to attract members away from the RSL ARMS and Big 4 competitions. We find that Bill Boyle and G. Batt were the Bowls Pairs champions in the 1960/61 season. Likewise, the demand for the hire of the tennis courts may have been dropping. The North Beach Tennis Club was coming into being as a separate Club, its first singles Championship being conducted in 1972. The Big 4 competition was drawing to a close. But it lingered on until it was decided in August 1975 to offer the Shield to Scarborough Sub-Branch to hang in their hall. Apparently, Scarborough rejected the Shield for in September it was handed to Osborne Park Sub-Branch for safe keeping. A site was to be found to display the Rifle Memorial.

Activities within the group comprising the BIG 4 continued that year (1975) with a social at Scarborough. Again, in September 1976 a Big 4 night was held at Scarborough. But bowls had taken over, for a combined Big 4 Bowling night was arranged to be held in March 1979.

### **Gymkhanas and Fetes.**

Many fetes were held to raise money. The Women's Auxiliary, whether acting as a separate body, or the individuals belonging to the Auxiliary, were the backbone of those groups that put so much into those efforts. Lola Hall, Dot Gordon, Aileen Movley, Mrs Okely, Mrs Hall, Snr, Thelma Washing, Nell Trudgian and Barbara Kent were some of those ladies. Fund raising for Clubs must have been bred into Lola's system, for she is still making jams and pickles to raise money for her Bowling Club. At the fete in early 1961 a profit of \$144-31 was earned. That was a lot of money, for a mature Bank Johnny would have been earning about \$45 a week at that time. The market gardeners contributed substantially to the fete, for the Secretary had forty letters to write to thank everyone for the support given.

The fete the following year was to be held later in the year; March being selected. It was quite successful, for it was decided that the 1963 fete would be on a larger scale. It proved to be successful because \$206 was raised and again the market gardeners had given generous support.

Other means to raise money, such as poppy sales, (see elsewhere) were investigated. The Sports Club was consulted during 1961 about running a joint gymkhana.

### **RSL Bowls.**

Jack Sherriffs had become quite active in the Sub-Branch. He was a vice President and promoted bowls. During 1975 he was urging members to join the Bowls section of the RSL. Jack attended the RSL Bowls Carnival in South Australia in early 1977. In that carnival WA. was successful for the first time in winning the Jack Hamilton V.C. Memorial Shield. He was the man for the job, and in May of that year was delegated to handle the Morrie Crewe Trophy events.

In March 1974 Merv Hall was selected in the State RSL Bowls team. He held his position in the team for many years, winning the Jack Hamilton V.C. Memorial Shield at the South Australian Carnival in 1977. Jack Sherriffs played that year in the State Executive team for the Dr Sydney Krantz Memorial Trophy.

The State Bowls section of the RSL has championship shields for the Singles, Triples, Pairs and Fours. In the Triples.

North Beach has been successful as follows.

### **Social Bowls.**

A mixed bowls night was organised during February 1979. Annually for many years after that an evening game was held during the hot February nights. There were a few years in the latter eighties when it was not convenient for the bowling club, due to problems with the greens, to hold this social event.

The bowls social match with the North Beach Bowling Club during the afternoon of Anzac Day has been a very popular event. The RSL invariably won the Shield in the earlier days, but not so often now as the members are getting a little older. Youth must rule the day. The Shield is a tin hat suitably mounted on a piece of jarrah shaped like a shield. A high tea has usually followed, after which, dancing and musical items take place. A recitation by Merv Hall about a dumb rural youth joining the Army, probably Uncle Sam's, always made one reflect that there were quite a few of this type who did, in fact, join the ranks. Well told, the recitation always received much applause. On most occasions in recent years Mal Dempsey has supplied the music and rendered bright entertaining songs by way of his modern electrical music outfit.

### **Other Amusement and Entertainment**

Enquires were made in 1962 about the price of materials to construct a rifle tunnel, but the project was dropped because of the cost and limited interest. A new member, Frank Taylor, was interested in that project. (A range was eventually built on the western side of the Rugby Club as Merv Hall recalls in his memoirs.)

In April 1979 it was suggested to have a family bus trip to country district, but the proposal was rejected because of the expense. That has been the fate of many proposed bus trips over the years, because insufficient number of members have been prepared to meet the cost.

A dance was held during March 1980 when \$132 was collected at the door. The orchestra charged \$126 which left \$6 to be spent on novelty prizes. Some deeper consideration was given henceforth as to the price of music. Volunteers were appreciated. However, the dance arranged during June was poorly attended. After this Colin Lynch, a local member, has supplied his Band for some dances and the Annual Christmas dinners at a very nominal fee.

A trip to the brewery during May 1980, which was considered, did not eventuate but in August of that year an excursion was made to the Mills and Wares factory. An organised Combined Sports night held in August was poorly attended, only 26 attending. Was it because the nights were cold, or TV. had alienated the members, and was age catching up? The members were becoming veterans.

## ANNUAL DINNERS

In the initial years, that is, the period before bowls and TV. dominated the domestic lives of the community, the social entertainment appears to be such that the pre-Christmas Dinners were not contemplated. There were many local social occasions during the year as previously recorded. However, towards the end of the 1970's there was an attempt, with minor success, to have a Dinner. After a couple of years lethargy caused them to be temporarily abandoned.

With the high interest rates given out by the financial institutions during the mid-seventies and most of the eighties, the investment fund earned a lot of money. It was decided to utilise some of the proceeds to subsidise the monthly meetings and dinners. Indeed, some of the Annual Dinners were totally subsidised. This action attracted new members, and an increase in attendance to the ordinary meetings.

With lower ruling interest rates (1992) it appears that subsidies will be somewhat curtailed. Nevertheless, the social value of the occasions should ensure continued substantial support.

During the late eighties and early nineties, the average attendance has been about one hundred, being members and their partners, with a few guests. It is noted that in recent years local Municipal Councillors



## **LIBRARY**

During March 1978 a book containing pictures of Australian Men and Women in Action during both world wars was given by a recent widow to the Senior Vice President Harry Gordon. As there were no facilities to store the book it was resolved to donate it to Head-Quarters or the recently established Army Museum. More books were donated the following May. It was resolved that members be permitted to peruse them before handing over to Headquarters.

Nothing was done about establishing a Library or facilities until the mid-eighties when the Sub-Branch had made the North Beach Bowling Clubhouse their home. Alf Price, a strong and loyal member of the RSL, had been made Secretary of the North Beach Sportsmen's Club Inc, later to become the North Beach Bowling Club, Inc. He gave the Sub-Branch a few books. Others soon followed by making donations of an odd book or two. At the September 1984 meeting Alf displayed a show case of Regalia of the Household Brigade of (Welsh) Guards Regiment. It was of great interest to members. It may have been this display which stimulated members to have an area set aside to preserve and show various pieces of Service memorabilia that is handed to the Sub-Branch from time to time.



**Alf Price in front of the fine Memorabilia Display Corner in the North Beach Bowling Club July 1993.**

## Historical Items and Trophies

Various items of interest required a suitable place for display. In August 1986 the Sub-Branch set about establishing, with the co-operation of the Bowling Club, the fine facilities as recorded hereunder.

On the eastern end of the Bowling Clubhouse an attractive miniature Memorial Shrine, which is illuminated at the opening of all RSL meeting, stands high on the wall. Nearby is the Warrant of the Sub-Branch, overlooked by a portrait, about 60 x 40 cm, of Her Majesty the Queen. A display cabinet shows various medals, certificates and military items of interest. A place exists on the wall for the Mounted Tin Hat Shield, the bowling trophy held by the winner of the match between the Bowling Club and RSL held on the afternoon of each Anzac Day.



**President Lindsay Bennett with a copy of “The Ode” which had Been received from Frank Hamilton – July 1993**

(Note model of ‘The memorial’ which is illuminated each time ‘The Ode’ is recited at each meeting)

## The Merv Williams Trophy

Nearby rests the Merv Williams Trophy won, in 1992, by the Sub-Branch and to be held for at least twelve months. The handsome trophy is an "Incentive Award to the Sub-Branch raising the largest amount in aid of WA Veterans' House in relationship to Membership". By an obvious oversight the trophy does not bear such an inscription. It came into existence for the fiscal year 1961-62 and carries an emblem of the Torch of Life.

Merv Williams is a successful farmer who holds land between Coorow and Latham and other places. He made the RSL in the districts, adjacent to that area (the Midlands), his chief interest, culminating in being a long serving member on the State Executive. Plaques show that Sub-Branch winners have been:-

Bayswater	73-74, 74-75, 75-76	Bellevue	61-62, 71-72.
Belmont	1986	Cunderdin	63-64, 65-66.
Geraldton	77-78	Gutha	62-63.
Harvey	80-81	Highgate	67-68, 70-71
Needilup	64-65	Northam	81-82.
Northampton	72-73	North Beach	91-92.
Wanneroo	88, 90-91.		

## **RSL Bowling Trophy**

A fine silver bowl now graces one of the display shelves. It is the Western Australian RSL Bowls Championship Triples Trophy. It sits majestically on that ledge for twelve months, unless of course it is again won by a North Beach RSL team. John Burgess (skipper), Lindsay Bennett (Sub-Branch President) and Alf Price (leader) are the current (1992) Triples Champions and are the last to have their names inscribed on it.

## **Other Features of Note.**

Suitable notice boards are in that section of the Clubhouse, with a locked cupboard for the Library Books and records of the Sub-Branch. Various responsible Committee members have keys to enable access to books by the members.

At the October 1992 meeting Len Snell presented a model of a 1914-18 Bristol Bulldog War Plane. It was made by his father whilst serving in the trenches in France. The delicately made model was constructed from French 75 mm rimless bullets and shells, the alloy being of silvery appearance and very well preserved.

Interest in the individual activities of the members in the defence forces is growing. The writer knows that the offspring of the Veterans of the 1914-18 Great War and of the 1939-45 World War are beginning to enquire of where their fore fathers served, of the conditions and any other facts of those times. It will not be long before enquiries will be made about the members of the Korean war, the Vietnamese war, the Gulf War and the History of our RSL. (EDS Note: Already some enquiries have been received and therefore some experiences of both conflicts are recorded elsewhere in this document).

The \$1,000 allocated for the upgrading of the corner in the years of 1990 and 1991 have considerably enhanced that corner of the North Beach Bowling Club. Mutual co-operation between the Bowling Club and the RSL has been beneficial to both organisations. Many RSL members have joined the North Beach Bowling Club because of the common interest and the fine facilities available.

The co-operation does not end in the Clubhouse. On the southern side of the 'A' Bowling green, called the Jim Slater Green, is the Stan Anderton Memorial Garden. In this fine rose garden are three separate brass plates dedicated to deceased bowlers, deceased lady bowlers and deceased members of the North Beach Sub-Branch. In 1988 the Sub-Branch contributed \$175 towards the plaques and ten rose bushes.

## RESOLUTIONS

It is intended not to record in this epistle the motions passed in the day to day administration of the Sub-Branch. Any member attending the local meetings has always had the right to make his point. Later, when membership grew to over 100, Sub-committees were formed to dexterously handle such facets as the annual dinner and the various scholarships. However, the major decisions made by the Sub-Committees were referred back to members for ratification.

In the early years, the minutes do not always reveal who was delegated for the various tasks. It appears that the elected Officers deemed it their bounded duty to attend to the sick, bereaved, the destitute and other day to day activities. Obviously, some members had knowledge of an ailing member and made a voluntary report. In 1979 we find Frank Kent reporting on the sick in hospital. The Sub-Branch had resolved at about this time that any hospitalised member should get a gift of about two dollars when visited. Keith Braidwood was reporting on the aged in the Mt Lawley War Service Homes. Frank Vicary was reporting Congress matters and Merv Hall on the Cadets at Scarborough. The Cadets were not financed by the Defence Authorities, but by Public subscription.

Mar 1962	The matter of the current troubles in Indonesia and New Guinea was considered to be political and the subject was dismissed.
Dec 1962	Readers are again reminded that the records prior to April 1961 were destroyed by fire. The President, Mr N. Clarke, reported that some RSL documents at his premises had been destroyed by a fire. This may have been a belated confirmative report of the fire that had occurred the previous year.
Nov 1962	Because the \$600 overdraft no more capital works were to be undertaken, dances were to be held every 5 to 8 weeks, and the next fete to be held earlier.
Nov 1963	It was decided to purchase 12 chairs and to renovate the ladies' powder room. A piano costing \$100 was purchased in 1963.
1964-1966	Minutes Missing
Dec 1967	There were other organisations operating and holding meetings in the area. To dovetail into the North Beach communities' activities, it was resolved to hold the monthly meetings on the first Tuesday in the month. That resolution has held with one exception. A meeting is not generally held in January.

Matters regarding the Flag appear elsewhere, likewise the building. The dealings with the proceeds of the sale of the block of land in North Beach Road raises its head from time to time, and for that reason, it will be again quoted here.

Aug 1973	Notice having been given, Mr.M. Hall moved and J. Lawrence seconded that \$18,000 of the proceeds of the sale of the Sub-Branch land be invested in a registered trustee security account styled 'North Beach Sub-Branch Memorial Building Fund', That this account be administered by Francis Albert KENT of Lynn Street, Trigg, Henry James GORDON of Beach Road Waterman, Mervyn Charles HALL of Castle street, North Beach and Laurie Pickering MOVLEY of
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	Flora Terrace, North Beach as trustees and that all the income derived from this Fund be withdrawn and placed in an interest bearing account for use of the Sub-Branch. Carried.
Sep 1973	The minutes were confirmed and signed by F.Kent on 4 September 1973
Mar 1975	After considerable discussion it was moved by H.Gordon and seconded by J. Lawrence that this Sub-Branch does not agree with the conditions of service as proposed by The Victorian Branch.
Mar 11975	Moved by M.Hall and seconded by J. Lethlean that all full financial members be charged a half fee and that the Sub-Branch pay the balance of Capitation fees to Head Office. (Rescinded February 1982).
Sep 1977	Item for congress. re Eligibility for a War Service Housing Loan. Query. Position of a person who was not Australian but lived in Australia for a period before the war, returned to England and enlisted in British Forces, then returned to Australia. Apparently, he is able to obtain a loan., but not if he served in British Forces and came to Australia after the war for the first time. Why the difference?
Sep 1978	Bill Boyle reported that for the next Annual Appeal for Legacy more collector tins were necessary. The Legacy Appeals over the years have been substantially supported in this district and certificates were earned by the Sub-Branch. A Star on a Certificate was issued by the Perth Torchbearers for Legacy Committee for each \$50 donated. Certificates that have been located in this research show 1979- 2 stars, 1981-- 2 stars, 1982-- 3 stars, 1983-- 3 stars. The Section on Donations shows that the Sub-Branch has increased its annual support to Torchbearers of Legacy.
Oct 1979	That the Sub-Branch take no action re the Dinner celebrating the 150th Year of the settlement in Western Australia
Oct 1979	That the Mountbatten Memorial Fund be left in abeyance
Oct 1979	That discussion re the Scouts billets be reviewed in November.
Dec 1979	That the Sub-Branch adopt two wards of Legacy at a cost of \$50 each
Apr 1980	The resolution that beer be supplied to the Anzac Band at the dance was lost, but prizes for dances could be issued at the discretion of the committee.

<p>May 1981</p>	<p>The following subjects were submitted for congress</p> <p>(a) hat preference be given to ex-service personnel in all Commonwealth and State Departments.</p> <p>(b) hat a guard be placed on the State War Memorial at least four days before Anzac Day.</p> <p>(c) hat all ex-service men and women on reaching the age of 60 years be entitled to the full pension and Medical Benefits with no means test.</p> <p>(d) hat Widows, whose husbands died after the age of 60 years, be paid War Widow pensions with full benefits.</p>
<p>Sep 1981</p>	<p>That a Wreath costing \$50 be purchased for the next Anzac Day.</p>
<p>Feb 1982</p>	<p>The motion passed on the 4th April 1975 that full pensioner members be charged half fees was rescinded.</p>
<p>Oct 1982</p>	<p>It was resolved to advertise in the local paper that all ex-service personnel were now eligible to join the RSL.</p>
<p>Nov 1982</p>	<p>After considerable debate it was resolved that members attending meetings be levied \$1 for refreshments.</p>
<p>Jul 1983</p>	<p>It was moved that the system where Repatriation personnel at Hollywood Hospital were supplied on loan with pyjamas and dressing gowns, and the laundering of them, be reintroduced.</p>
<p>Dec 1983</p>	<p>The Sub-Branch requests that a strong protest be made by all State and Federal Branches to the Federal Government objecting to its decision to cease assistance to School Cadets. Also, the Federal President of the RSL to seek an interview with Mr Hawke, the Prime Minister, on this issue.</p>
<p>Dec 1983</p>	<p>That the Federal Member, Mr Ron Edwards, be invited to the February meeting to speak on the Assets Test, and to discuss Federal Members views.</p>
<p>Dec 1983</p>	<p>That an application be made to Head Office for Life Membership to be granted to Frank Vicary.</p>

Feb 1984	That this Sub-Branch fully endorses the views expressed by the National Executive as set out in the report of the 18th Annual National Congress as being highly critical at the proposed Income and Assets Test and that the proposed legislation (of the Federal Government) in so far as it affects War Veterans should be amended to conform with the affirmed policy of the Returned Services League of Australia, as determined by the National Executive, or failing this should otherwise be repealed so far as War Veterans are concerned.
Mar 1984	Moved that the Notice of Motion submitted on 7-2-84 be rescinded. 'What Was the Notice'
Apr 1984	That this Sub-Branch deplores the derogatory nature of remarks recently expressed on frequent occasions during "talk back" radio broadcasting which have been directed towards the Returned Services League of Australia in general and its policies including such matters as the National Flag, National Anthem, Immigration Policy and the Anzac Day Ceremony. The remarks in question have emanated from Radio Stations 6 PR and 6 KY during morning 'talk back' sessions conducted by Messrs Maumill and Sattler respectively. It is recommended that State Executive approach management of the two radio stations concerned with a view to eliminating offensive innuendo being directed towards this organisation and its aspirations and to keeping broadcast material within the scope of decent and acceptable comment whilst still upholding the sacred right of free speech
Aug 1984	A vote of thanks was passed, recording the good work done by Stan Kent with the Scarborough Senior High School Cadet First Aid classes. Standing orders were suspended to allow a Department of Veteran Affairs representative to address the meeting regarding the proposed Assets Test legislation
Jun 1985	That the request for assistance to the training ship Mamion be reviewed in two months' time.
Feb 1986	That a letter be written to the State Secretary and the Local Parliamentary Member requesting action to be taken with appropriate authorities to have the special parking bays for the Disabled and Physically Handicapped people, allocated at Public Car Parks, to ensure that they are correctly used for the purpose that they are provided.
Dec 1986	That a levy of \$2 be placed on members at future meetings.
Jun 1987	That a Scholarship Sub-Committee, consisting of Doug Poake, Chairman, F.Kent, A. Price, L. Snell, plus a current secondary school teacher, be formed to formulate guidelines and procedures for the granting of a scholarship or scholarships by the Sub-Branch
Jul 1987	That a letter of protest be forwarded to the Minister for Fisheries concerning the proposed fee for the registration of anglers, particularly applicable to children and pensioners.

Sep 1990	<p>That a letter be written to the City of Nedlands requesting more Disabled Parking facilities be made available at the Outpatients section of Hollywood Repatriation Hospital. (1) Make two Parking Bays available on the street in front of the entrance. At present it is two hour Parking limit. (2) Make two additional "Disabled Bays" available in Visitor Parking area where only one is available at present.</p> <p>That future meetings commence at 7.30 pm. (This resolution was rescinded the following December. Ed.)</p>
Oct 1990	<p>That a letter of appreciation be forwarded to Councillor John Bombak for hospitality recently extended in the form of a lunch at the City of Stirling to members of the Sub-Branch committee.</p>
Nov 1990	<p>That a suitable wooden cross with an inscription identifying North Beach RSL be purchased for using in the ceremonies at the Mt Lawley Veteran Homes.</p>
Dec 1990	<p>That the meeting time revert to an 8 pm. start.</p>
Feb 1991	<p>The Australian War Memorial Entry Fee. That letters of objection concerning the fee be forwarded to the Federal Leader of the Opposition, Dr Hewson, the National Party Leader, Tim Fischer and the Democrat Representative, Senator Paul MacLean.</p>

## INTERESTING INDIVIDUALS

Here are some of the members recollections of interesting parts of their lives. You too should make a contribution to posterity whilst there is yet time. Many of your heirs and siblings will be interested in the colourful, mundane and humorous parts of your life.

### **TED BARTON.**

Ted, a member of the Merchant Navy, joined the MV Duke of Athens as a 16 year old galley boy at Fremantle on the 27th May 1942. The ship picked up a load of wheat at Geraldton and set sail for Europe via the Capetown. The ship joined a convoy which assembled at Freetown, Sierra Leone.

In crossing the Indian Ocean, the ship went south-west-wards to sail into the Roaring Forties. Galley boy Ted had to go outside the galley into the frequent storms in order to pump water into the urn. Woe betide him if he didn't keep that urn full! It wasn't only the cook, but the other hands as well who made tea and coffee at all hours of the night and day. Ted became accustomed to the big waves that frequently broke on the side of the ship. One day was particularly rough and the ship was rolling badly. As Ted pumped away a colossal wave suddenly broke over the ship. The parapet was more than ten feet above him, and the wave was higher than that. He wore no safety belt; it is doubtful if the ship had one. Ted hung on to the pump handle, facing a grim death. Although the galley was closed, water flooded it. Ted clung to the pump handle and watched the water flood down the scuppers, a gaping hole a metre by two metres wide. Later Ted mentioned to a sailor mate that he wondered if the ship would have been able to turn around and recover him should he have washed away. He was informed that it would be futile to make the attempt as the propeller would have made mince of him as he flowed by!

About a fortnight out of Freetown, Ted's ship was on the port side of the convoy and the third in the line. The leading ship exploded without warning and sank in a few minutes. It was very bewildering to a lad of 16 to observe how a ship could be there one minute and then disappear forever. Later that night, star shells were fired from an escort, which illuminated the sky. The next day saw two more ships sunk and the armed Merchant escorting cruiser was hit in the bows. Most of the day the crew were at action stations. As ships were sunk the ships moved up the line. Ted's ship was shortly the leader, which was now considered to be an unlucky location.

Nearing the Irish Channel more escorts joined the convoy. A submarine was sighted, the escorts dropped depth charges, but fortunately Glasgow was reached. Ted went to London to visit relatives, and there he heard the wailing Air Raid Sirens. He joined the SS Fort McLeod, anchored at the mouth of the Thames and again experienced the Air Raid Warnings continuously. Leaving London on the 10th October 1942, down through "Bomb Alley" and "U-Boat Alley" for Glasgow, which took fourteen days. They had called at several ports, and by the cargo that had been stowed, the crew assessed that a second front was being established.

They assembled to form a convoy at Gourouch. The crew did not sleep too well that night. The crew gained the information of their destination because the radio operator, had gleaned the information from the poor BBC broadcast reception. It was to be North Africa, through the Mediterranean Sea. The 20th November saw three ships of the convoy sunk, the attacks coming earlier than expected. There was another ship in the convoy that was on fire and beginning to lag. At the same time a plane was seen skirting the convoy which Ted assumed to be friendly. When it neared the convoy a warning shot was fired across its bows for it to establish its identity. It did not respond to the challenge and many ships engaged it. It successfully passed the escorts and then it was every ship for itself. It was a float plane flying directly at their ship. Ted thought that the gunner had waited too long before he opened fire on it. But the man was very accurate and

immediately hit the plane with a number of shots. Ted feared that the plane, now on fire, would crash on the deck, but at the last moment it veered and fell into the seas some fifty metres to the side. Ted returned to the other side of the ship to notice that the burning ship was about to sink. The convoy continued and frequent alarms occurred day and night until Algiers was reached on the 25th November 1942.

Some years later Ted was discussing the incident with a Royal Navy man who also had been in the same convoy taking supplies for the North African campaign when they thought that they were being attacked by a Catalina type plane with a German crew. The man made the remark that it was strange that Ted should mention the incident, for a Sunderland had skirted the convoy, dropped the wrong identification signal and was shot down. The BBC news that evening had stated that the Duke of Kent had failed to return to base.

Returning to Wales from North Africa the empty ship struck a severe storm in the Atlantic. A lifeboat become insecure and nearly caused extreme damage to the ammunition locker. With considerable difficulty between squalls and the extreme rolling the crew, aware of an impending explosion, was able to cut it free and let it drop into the sea. A cup of tea was enjoyed.

Ted was sent to Glasgow to join the "SS Orbita" and went back to Algiers, a trouble free trip. They were only in the port at Algiers one day but there was a high altitude air attack causing no damage to his ship. The next few months saw considerable sailing without many alarms and very few scares.

However, when leaving India one of the crew mentioned that "things" were appearing to smell. In fact, things were beginning to stink, for troops had been taken aboard. On reaching Port Said dozens of troopships were lying around at anchor. Barges replaced lifeboats. Once through the Suez Canal Ted's ship was tucked away in Alexandria, empty, for the troops had been landed. The crew pondered what it was all about. The troops returned a few days later with books on Sicily. Later the skipper called the crew onto the top deck to inform them that they were to be part of the invasion of Sicily. As if they didn't already know!

Arriving at Saracusa they saw many crashed gliders on shore. There were ships that had been hit in the harbour and only partly sunk and guns firing like hell on shore all day. It seemed as though somebody was getting a hiding and they hoped that things were going their way for a change. Alerts occurred all day. A plane fell in flames from the sky, on whose side Ted did not know. They left the same evening, only just in time, for a very heavy attack commenced astern. The Jerry artillery was fiercely hitting back good and hard. Suddenly there was a blinding flash, followed by a loud explosion. The crew rushed to the side of the battleship to ascertain what had happened, some saying that it was a flying bomb or rocket, others being uncertain.

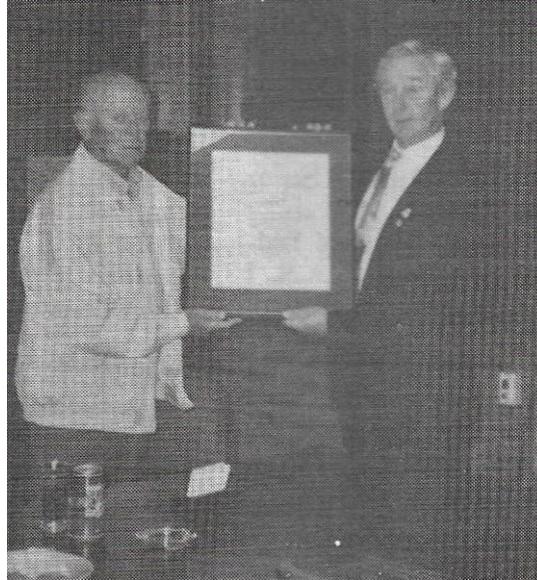
Later in the Mediterranean, homeward bound, some of the crew were on deck relaxing, talking of the things that they would like to do on being discharged. Without warning there were the sounds of loud explosions. Ted thought that it must be an air raid on shore, but he was told that there was no land around. explosions followed and again more a few minutes later. Some gun fire rang out. Next morning, they discovered that a U Boat had been sunk.

Returning to Alexandria via Malta several months passed without incident. Then to London to spend his leave where he found that there were air raids every night, some bombs falling nearby. At various times Ted experienced flying bombs and rockets. He found it much better to be back on board making for Algiers with fresh troops. Being on night duty Ted was asleep in his bunk one afternoon. He heard someone in the alley-way say, "She has hit us". He went to wake his mate and said, "We have been torpedoed". "Ya're balmy, mate", he replied, "the Duchess of Bedford' has rammed us". They returned to Gibraltar for repairs.

After being hospitalised in London with a throat infection, catalysed by being run down through the harsh naval conditions, he returned safely to Sydney for discharge.

## **LINDSAY BENNETT**

President 1991 to 1993



**Lindsay receiving 'The Ode' from Frank Hamilton**

Initially Lindsay was called up during 1968 for National Service for a period of two years. He served with the 4th Royal Australian Regiment in South Vietnam during 1968-69. Lindsay was in a Rifle Company, generally conducting patrols and stints at Company strength, some lasting up to six weeks.

On completion of National Service, he signed on for a period of three years, as a regular, ending in 1974. During 1971 he returned to South Vietnam with 2 Squadron, Special Air Service Regiment. The principal role of the Squadron, operating in five man patrols, was reconnaissance, and ambushing to gain information for the task force intelligence section. That section, on gaining the information, was able to manoeuvre the infantry battalions. All members of the five man patrols were cross trained in many specialised skills, such as signalling (morse code), demolition, medics, free fall parachuting, diving, etc. Lindsay's particular facet in his patrol was forward scouting.

The wet season in South Vietnam was quite extra-ordinary, for there was a huge amount of rain falling each afternoon and evening. For an infantryman in particular it meant NOT having to be burdened with water, for only enough was necessary to be carried for a day or two, whereas in the dry season, sufficient water had to be carried for a seven day patrol, and that was a big burden.

Although there are many rivers in South Vietnam, to have to go near them during the dry season meant possibly compromising the patrol, especially a reconnaissance patrol. Naturally during the wet season there were plenty of mosquitoes, leeches and mud, the patrolmen being constantly wet through by the rain and humidity. Monkeys, being inquisitive and noisy, at times made the patrols feel insecure. On one occasion, particularly during the night, elephants were most disturbing. While the patrol huddled under a bush, not more than a hundred metres away, the animals were heard to be stamping and pushing over everything in their way. Previously bombed areas were also a hazard, as the craters left from 500 pound bombs, are quite large and inhibited movement.

Napalmed areas, which killed the vegetation, made movement noisy through the crackling of the dead timber and sticks. Patrolling in the wet weather meant that you slept wet.

Back in camp at Nui Dat, the task force base location, accommodation was quite good, there being proper beds. There were only two or three men allocated to a large tent, with flooring and sand bags around the edges. There was a wet mess with a limited amount of beer available. Mail was received on a regular basis. Some troops received parcels supplied by various RSL Sub-Branched and the Women's Auxiliaries. Morale generally was not a problem. The malaria carrying mosquito was ever present. Although troops were supplied daily with paludrine and dapson, which suppressed the problem, many troops contracted the disease. Heat rashes, tinea and bronchial infections were some of the more prevalent ailments suffered.

It is common knowledge now that the reception of troops on their return from Vietnam to Australia was markedly different to that experienced by personnel returning from other theatres of previous wars. Public attitude, which was against this war, eventually convinced the Americans to pull out of South Vietnam. At times, unfortunately, the home coming troops were treated with hostility. Everyone having a different personal, physical and mental make-up some troops were very adversely affected.

### **E. G. (Ted) DYAS.**

At the age of twenty Ted joined the Navy on the 14th October 1940 at Hobart, Tasmania, at the depot called "H.M.A.S, HUON". After some training there and at Flinders Naval depot in Melbourne he was drafted to "HMAS Kuttabull", an old Sydney Harbour ferry, commandeered for accommodation at Garden Island. That was the vessel that the Japanese midget submarines torpedoed and killed 19 ratings when Sydney was attacked.

On 5th June 1941, Ted, now an Able Seaman, was stationed as a loading number on a four inch twin barrel anti-aircraft gun on "HMAS Hobart". Further training saw him a range taker and stationed near the bridge in the 4" Director Control tower, later being promoted to the 6" D C Tower, general duties being his lot whilst the ship was in Port.

Ted soon became the Commander's coxswain, utilising a 14 foot boat for conveying confidential messages to other ships and ashore. In Naval terms the Commander's boat is always called 'The Jolly boat' and was, when in port, always secured under the pole extending at the bow. Ted was therefore similar to the 'Don R' in an Army establishment - always ready on the dot for messages or conveying super cargo.

"HMAS Hobart was involved in many actions during his four and a half years with the ship, and it became known as the "lucky ship". Ted recalls that when in the middle of the Indian Ocean an exhausted Albatross landed on the fore-deck. The crew gave it food and drink and it flew away. There is an old sea faring proverb with sailors that if ever an Albatross lands on a ship at sea and survives, then that ship will never sink. And so it was with the "HMAS Hobart".

During the night of 20th June 1941, at 2200 hours, the Hobart slipped out of Sydney Harbour for the Mediterranean. She entered the Suez Canal, but was forced to reverse out of the narrow channel because mines had been dropped ahead by enemy planes. History recalls the intensive bombing by German aircraft on the Suez Canal and to shipping at Port Tewfik, the entrance to the Canal. Ted's initiation to bombing there was intense, for the Germans persisted for four and a half hours that first evening. During the night "HMAS Hobart" moved its anchorage twice. That albatross knew what was going on, for each time the spot where the Hobart had just left was bombed.

Nearby, only 300 metres away, the crowded troopship "Georgic" was hit by a stick of bombs and caught fire. The "Hobart" lowered its boats, set up a medical post ashore, and ferried troops to safety. Meanwhile in attempting to beach the "Georgic" it collided and interlocked with another ship, the "Glennearn" which also caught on fire. In the dark of night, the Hobart was so close that the steel plates could be seen to be red hot and buckling, with intermittent explosions.

During these crucial periods when all hands were 'Up', that is at Action Stations and every man having a specific place on the ship for a considerable period, food was still required. Each section would send a man to the galley to get some 'Tiddy Oggies'. Tiddy Oggies were pasties made from M & V, tinned dog or whatever ingredient the cook found expedient to feed the massive crew.

Dawn revealed a sorry sight. Two big ships, on fire, locked together and beached. Later that day the Hobart towed the "Glennearn" free. The "Georgic", despite being completely gutted, was later salvaged and in post war years carried Greek migrants to Australia.

The Mediterranean was reached on the 16th June, and Alexandria Harbour the following day. There the "HMAS Perth" was waiting to return to Australia, leaving next morning. She had been severely damaged during the evacuation of Crete. The naval historians have recorded how the "Hobart" valiantly operated in the Mediterranean until the Japanese entered the War. Two days later, on 9th December, she set sail for Fremantle, and by 20th January she was in the South China seas. "HMAS Perth" was sunk on 27th February 1942 in the Java Seas Battle. "Hobart" was some 300 tons short of fuel which prevented her from rushing to the aid of its stricken mate.

By 14th April 1942 "Hobart" was back in Sydney for a clean-up. On the 1st May "Hobart" and "Australia" steered north and participated in the "Battle of the Coral Sea". That battle prevented the Japanese from landing on Australian soil and turned the tide of the invading forces. The outstanding cruiser Captain Harry Howden left the ship after the battle. Ted recalls how the skipper watched the bomb bays of the high level bombers being opened. He then would slew the ship around by reversing two motors, dodging the falling bombs. The ship creaked and shuddered but survived.

To the "Solomon Islands Landing Campaign" on 7th August 1942 with a new Captain, H.A. Showers, was the next mission. Although it was a successful campaign there were severe losses, for three American cruisers and "HMAS Canberra" were sunk. After patrolling in the Coral sea for some months "Hobart" joined Admiral Halsey's Task Force No 74 which was based at Espiritu, Santo (north of the New Hebrides) on 16th July 1943. Whilst on patrol duty with "HMAS Australia" 300 miles West of the New Hebrides on the 20th July 1943 Hobart was hit by a single torpedo. It did considerable damage to the port quarter. 13 men were killed and 7 were wounded. Ted was lucky, for he was on the bridge at that moment. Less than five minutes later he would have been at the fatal spot. A bird lover, he remembered the albatross! Repairs were effected at Espiritu, the ship then returning to the dock in Sydney for major repairs.

Ted was returned to "HMAS Huon" during the overhaul, returning to the great ship when it sailed to the Philippines, New Guinea and Borneo, and finally to Tokyo. There on Sunday, 2nd September 1945, aboard the "US Missouri" the signing of the surrender was effected. Nine days later the famous "HMAS Hobart" returned to Sydney, eventually to be stripped and sold to the Japanese as scrap. But the ship showed reluctance to go, and caused considerable trouble to the purchasers, breaking away from the contractor's tugs in the Great Barrier Reef. It was towed back to Brisbane for some modifications before it was subdued. Ted was discharged fit and well on the 22nd November 1945 after serving five years in the Royal Australian Navy.

Fifty years after the day that the torpedo struck, Ted, on 20th July 1993, celebrated at Anzac House, Perth, with a few of his surviving jack tars. A tape recording of that celebration would be an interesting piece of history.

**From the decks of H.M.A.S. Hobart, Ted Dyas and Joe Anderson watched more than a thousand aircraft fly over USS Mississippi in Tokyo Bay. Japan surrendered on 14th August 1945.**



### **JOHN (Jack ) DYER.**

On leaving school John became a clerk in a local government office. At the age of 19 he joined the Bristol City Police, registering during May 1939, in the Militia as a reserve Naval rating. On the outbreak of War, four months later ( September 1939), being a policeman, he was considered to be in a reserve occupation. Bristol, in the Bristol Channel, is on the West Coast of England, the same latitude as London. Like other cities of England, it was very heavily bombed during the early years of the War. John's wife recalls that her sister had two miscarriages because of the bombing, and that her Aunty lost three sons due to the war.

When the Germans decided to change the air raid s to other targets the younger men of the Police Force were released for the Armed Forces. John joined the navy and was drafted the Devonport (Plymouth). After initial training he was drafted to I-WIS Norfolk, a cruiser. During the winter of 1943 the ship in company with two other cruisers, HMS Cumberland and HMS Belfast, were engaged in convoy escort duties to Murmansk, in Russia. One cruiser was fitted with Asdic, the

another had the new device of Radar. The Cruiser constantly circled the convoy to guard against attacks by sea and air. T

he Russians eventually recognised all the servicemen and merchant sailors who were engaged on the convoys. Although the medal was struck on the 27th September 1985, mention is made of John receiving it in the minutes of the Sub-Branch of November 1989. The medal bears the words <sup>N</sup> Yyacthhky Bohhbi?<sup>l</sup> and inter alia, on the obverse side, <sup>s</sup> 1941-1945' and literally the interpretation means <sup>x</sup>Forty Years of Victory in the Great Patriotic War 1943-1945'.

Later John undertook a course and passed through the ranks as a Sub-Lieutenant and eventually Lieutenant RNVR. On "D" day, 6th June 1944 John was in action as a 1st Lieutenant on a British Tank Landing Craft in Combined Operations. It was one of twelve in the only flotilla attached to the Americans, in the assault landing, at Omaha at the base of the Cherbourg peninsula, at the precise time of "H" plus 20 minutes. He recalls how on leaving the anchorage in the river Tamar, Plymouth, the home port, on 4th June the weather was so bad that the flotilla was ordered to return to Cawsands Bay, Plymouth. Hardly had his craft dropped anchor when a senior officer called on board to resume the assault. Note that there were no excessive radio signals! Although History records that the bad weather assisted the Allied attack, it also caused many casualties. Having completed eleven successful crossings of the English Channel the landing craft, because of further bad weather, sank 36 miles south of St Catherine's light on the Isle of Wight.

After a few varied appointments John became officer in charge of a tank landing craft at Falmouth and sailed to the Far East for the war against the Japanese. It was a long journey, first to Gibraltar because the little craft had to sail a long way west into the Atlantic Ocean to avoid enemy forces based at Brest. The journey to Cochin, India, took about six weeks, via Malta, Port Said and Aden. Thankfully the Japanese surrendered before the craft arrived, so it was used for ferrying supplies from ships to such places as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands groups in the Malay Archipelago.

John eventually arrived in Singapore and was given a travel warrant in order to reach England for discharge. It was an interesting journey, for he had to hitch a ride to Madras, thence proceed by train to Bombay. There he boarded an old ship, the City of London, which was returning to Scotland to be broken up, this carried him to Glasgow. After being demobilised on the 31st March 1946 he returned to the Police Force, but things were not quite the same, so he migrated to Australia, with his wife, in June 1964.

When he purchased an outlying block on a street near the coast at Sorrento, for a nominal amount, his brother in law, Fred Moore, rubbished him for buying a block in the wilderness and accused him of wasting his money. The quiet street became West Coast Highway, now West Coast Drive. The wind caused them to leave, with some profit, for a quieter and clean street in North Beach. John has been a regular and loyal member of this Sub-Branch, serving as an Auditor for over ten years, later a Trustee and on the successful Dinner Committees.

**LANCE CORPORAL W. J. (Bill) ELLIS.**

**KILLED ACTION 19-12-1952.**



**Bill and his Wife Daphne 1950**

Bill Ellis had all the qualifications to be a member of the Returned and Services League, but he never had the opportunity to join the Sub-Branch, for he was killed in action in Korea. Bill's is a typical story of popular and dynamic young fellows meeting their death, not always because of loyalty to the Nation, but because of economic times, responsibility to the family and the will to succeed. Whenever the chips came down these fellows were loyal to the cause, the Nation, their fellow servicemen, no matter whether in Darwin, New Guinea, Korea or anywhere. It touches on the responsibility, too, that the Army accepted for the sustenance of his widow and daughter, and that Legacy contributed in a small way, to the education of his daughter. More dramatically it touches on the catastrophic effect of his daughter's deep suspicion for nigh on forty years that her father in some way had abandoned both her mother and her, by volunteering for service in a War Zone.

Bill's father Charles, a WW1 veteran of the ANZACS in Gallipoli. He migrated to Western Australia, left the South West Group Settlement Scheme and took his wife Ruby and family to Harvey, where Bill was born. A neighbour, Kitty Smith, then an eight year old girl, had a real doll to nurse. That is how, over the years, a strong friendship with Kitty, later Mrs Ted King, prospered. We find Charles a loyal member of the Harvey RSL Sub-Branch, attending all Anzac Services. At the age of fourteen years, Bill, a well-developed and handsome lad, with a keen sense of humour, was a very capable boxer. Some local Harvey people organised a boxing bout with a visiting 21 year old English sailor, and Bill ably quitted himself. A few years later Bill's family came to North Beach.

Bill married a North Beach girl, Daphne Sabine, who lived in Ada Street. During 1950 his daughter Caryl was born. With some members of his family he participated in a carrying business. The Metal Trades strike of that era had a profound impact on their business. Money was short, and it appears that Bill was very conscious of his obligation to wife and daughter. He had to get a job and the Army had vacancies. Bill enlisted, but initially not for overseas service.

The History books state that the troops for Korea were mainly selected from the 65th, 66th and 67th Battalions, part of the Occupational Forces in Japan. Out of that body the Royal Australian Regiment, comprising the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, was formed, the honour of 'Royal' being

bestowed on the 22-11-48, the celebrated birth date of the Regiment. Bill was told by an old timers' who had served overseas in World War Two that he would not get very far in the Australian Army unless he experienced overseas service. He therefore volunteered for duties in Korea and joined the 1st Battalion.

Bill posted a parcel to Kitty King's mother, Mrs Smith, of Harvey, on the 9th December 1952, for that is the post mark date on the neatly sewn calico parcel that your editor clearly witnessed. It contained a photo Album, obviously purchased in Korea, as a Christmas present for Mrs Smith. Ten days after mailing the parcel, on the 19th December 1952, whilst on night patrol duties in Korea, acting as Sergeant, leading his section, Bill stepped on a land mine. Apparently, he knew that he had tripped the mechanism of the mine, for he stood still whilst he called a warning to his men, who dived for cover. (The anti-personnel land mines as used at that time were 'armed' by a person standing on them, causing the mechanism to make a 'click' noise. They exploded as soon as the weight was released. Ed).

Bill's death is recorded in the book "Australia in the Korean War" (\* see hereunder). It is recorded that when a patrol commanded by Lt Boyd, who appears to be O/C No 10 platoon, accidentally entered a mine-field at the foot of Hill 227 (Fanny Hill). Bill, the Forward Scout, was killed and that Boyd and Pte Cupitt were wounded. They were eventually rescued by their Sgt Corcoran, (later Premier of S.A.) organising a squad. After forty one years it is difficult to find and interview any of the troops that were with him at that tragic night. That he called a warning to his men and the circumstances of his death was related by a stranger to Kitty and Ted King, of Harvey, at a dance, some years ago. Efforts have been instituted to contact some of his associates on that dangerous mission. (See Can You Help, West Australian 3-7-93). Ron Cross, a close fellow serviceman friend, stated that Bill had a premonition that he would not return, whilst his brother Don felt that Bill had a feeling that nothing would go wrong with him.

The Christmas parcel arrived at the Smith household the day after the news of Bill's death. After opening the parcel Mrs Smith informed her daughter Kitty that the album should be put away and given to Billy's baby daughter as soon as they met her. That meeting did not take place for forty years, by which time Mrs Smith had died. Kitty, long married to Ted King, was an elderly lady herself, but still holding on to the parcel.

When Daphne went along to claim a War Widow's pension at the appropriate office there was some confusion, for apparently there were not many Western Australians with dependents meeting their deaths in the services at that phase of time. Bill had also taken out an insurance policy, the small print showing some confusing words to the effect that death must occur more than twelve months after enlisting or being posted. The family were only able to collect, because more than twelve months had elapsed from the date of Bill's enlistment due to him being unfit to leave Fremantle with his original posting, and not having commenced his tour of duty until the next round of departures from Sydney.

Caryl did not know her father. Over the years she created the belief that Bill had abandoned his wife and her. As she went through her teen-age years, often shorter of money than many of her fellow scholars, and struggling to gain a University Degree, she alternated between feelings of rage at her father and self-pity at having been so hardly done by. Legacy contributed what help it could and the Defence Department, because of her academic progress, extended its support through to Post Graduate Studies.

The economic years in which Caryl was maturing saw much development in Western Australia. The development of the Oil Refinery, followed by the discovery of the massive deposits of iron ore and the great reserves of natural gas, brought much wealth to many people. Young maturing people throughout the affluent sixties and seventies did not realise just what slumps meant to

families and the community. Caryl did not consider the fact that Bill, with possibly some creditors, had seen the Army as an avenue in which he could get financial relief and support for his family. His case was typical of many men of the 1939 era, initially joining the Army for financial relief, but never flinching in the service of the Nation.

Daphne had moved to the country and remarried. Throughout most of those forty years Caryl chose, quite deliberately, to have no contact with Bill's brothers, Don and Gerry, and their families. In 1992, backed by support and caring from members of the Centre for Attitudinal Healing, Caryl came to finally understand that the only person being punished by her anger at Bill's death, and apparent 'abandonment', was herself. She then contacted her Uncle Don, who took her to Harvey to meet the Kings. They put her in touch with people who had known and loved Bill during his childhood and had been close friends of her Grandparents whom she had never known.

The laughter and the stories told by the Kings in 1992, finally convinced Caryl that her father was a man who loved life, his wife and his daughter and who had simply made the best choices that he knew to take care of them all.

It was with a deep sense of love and respect for the man, her father, Lance Corporal W.J.Ellis, 5/1677, that Caryl has approached the North Beach Sub-Branch for some memorial to him.

The two Remembrance Rocks placed at the front of the Elected Members section of the City of Stirling Council Chambers make no reference to the Korean War. Members of the Korea and South East Asia Forces Association refer to the Korean War as 'The Forgotten War'. One caller has advised that there is a Korean War memorial in Melville. Many of Bill and Caryl's relatives live in the North Beach and adjacent areas. May this epistle stimulate some interest in the community so that the troops who served in Korea, ever loyal to this Nation, to their fellow soldiers and service personnel, to their families and the community in general, are suitably recognised.

The Korean War, being a United Nations War, saw the Australian soldiers not a part of an Australian Force acting with the Australian Air Force and Navy, but as individual small components attached to the much larger forces of Britain and the United States. Yet the Australian Army suffered 277 fatalities and 1210 wounded. Combat casualties were also suffered by the Navy (2f 28w) and the Air Force (280, but the total number serving has been difficult to ascertain because of the nature of their operations and allocations. Perhaps this is the reason that not a lot of the general public goodwill has emerged for these fine servicemen.

*\*"Australia in the Korean War 1950-53" by Dr R. O'Neill, Director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London. The volume mentions the difficulty of obtaining the intimate facts, for at that phase of time, inter alia, Australia did not have its own set of War Diaries as the Australian Regiment was under the jurisdiction of the British Commonwealth Brigade and the records are in the British Ministry of Defence.(see p. 751).*

## **FRANK HAMILTON.**

Frank joined the Army initially as a member of the 33rd Anti-tank Regiment, training at Pt Walter, Western Australia. He served as a Bombadier in a battery attached to the 6th Infantry Brigade, which patrolled areas north of Geraldton during 1942.

He transferred to the R.A.A.F. air crew. After rookie training at Victor Harbour, South Australia, Frank continued at Cunderdin, Western Australia, flying Tiger moths. He then went to Calgary, Canada as part of the Empire Air Training Scheme, flying twin engine Cessna Cranes. After obtaining his wings he was posted to England as a Sergeant pilot in April 1944, later rising to Warrant Officer.

After various airfield control duties Frank, along with 20 other pilots, was selected to do a flight engineers course at St Athens in Wales. The object was to supply second pilot-engineers for the proposed "Tiger Force", whose object was to fly out to the Pacific as a ready-made bomber group.

He eventually joined Squadron 467, R.A.A.F. Lancaster Squadron, based at Waddington, Lincolnshire. Following victory in Europe 467 Squadron was transferred to "Tiger Force". Based at Metheringham the squadron continued training for the Pacific theatre. It was spared the Pacific service when Japan capitulated.

Following V.E. day it was decided to use 467 Squadron to fly Italian Prisoners of War home to Italy from a base in Southern England. Accordingly, 20 Red coated Italians were loaded into each Lancaster for the flight to Bari in southern Italy

The Lancasters were very limited for interior space for passengers, and having no interior lining, certain control rods to the rear rudders and elevators were exposed to view, as they continually moved under the pilots' directions.

On one occasion a severe electrical storm was encountered over Italy, with a writhing band of electricity forming about the tips of one propeller. [The writhing band of electricity was similar to that phenomenon familiar to early sailors at St Elmo's Lights. It collected around the mastheads during storms]. The combination of turbulent conditions, writhing bands of electricity and the rapid adjustments of the controls by the pilot caused the Italians to panic. They grabbed the moving control rods inside the fuselage, having the mistaken impression that the aircraft was falling apart. The result was that the aircraft was locked in a shallow dive with the two pilots unable to move the controls. A panic stricken rush by the crew eventually made the Italians release the rods, thus avoiding a rather delicate situation. A very shaken group of P.O.W.s was eventually off loaded at what was left of Bari airport.

Of the 1814 aircrew members that passed through the unit, 590 lost their lives. 117 became prisoners of war and 84 evaded capture and returned to England. The squadron flew 3,395 sorties. (Note that the loss ratio of about 1/3 was par for the airmen of the Empire Air Training Scheme).

Frank was discharged in February 1946. On returning to civilian life he joined the Education Department, firstly as a Primary teacher, then seconded to the National Fitness Council as a field officer and secretary of National Fitness Projects for fifteen years.

## **FRANK KENT.**

WX 4075, 2/16th Battalion

During the pre-war period Frank Kent was a member of the 16th Battalion Cameron Highlanders of W.A.

At the outbreak of War, the Highlanders were mobilised and sent to Rottneest Island for intensive training. During that time the 2nd Eleventh A.I.F. was formed. Frank endeavoured to enlist in that unit but was rejected on medical grounds. He was given the opportunity to join an Infantry Training Battalion to train recruits, at Northam. He remained there as a general instructor until able to join the A.I.F.

As a member of the 2/16th Battalion he sailed on the Acquitania for somewhere overseas during June 1941. Some time was spent training in India, eventually reaching Julius camp, Palestine in November 1940. On 30th December Frank was rushed to hospital with peritonitis. He was very

ill for some time and did not re-join the Battalion until the Syrian campaign was nearly over. He served there until October 1941 when illness again placed him back in hospital and sent back to Australia on the Dutch Hospital ship 'Oranje'.

Whilst in hospital the troops listened in the evenings to Lord Haw, the German counterpart of Tokyo Rose. They did not know when they were leaving, so were quite startled when Haw told them that they would be going the next morning, and he also named the ship on which they would be sailing. Haw stated that the Germans did not recognise the ship as a hospital ship and that it would be sunk whilst still in the Red Sea. He was right in everything that he said, except the sinking.

Frank reached Fremantle on 5th December 1941, the day before Pearl Harbour. Frank was put into Hollywood hospital for a long while and was discharged as unfit during February 1942. (Pearl Harbour is generally recognised as being attacked on the 7th December 1941 if you are on one side of the International date line, and the 6th December if you have crossed the line. Ed).

But the Army was in Frank's blood. At the end of the year he had regained his health and reenlisted, serving in Australia until the end of the War.

## **LAURIE P MOVLEY**

Laurie was born in Stratford, Connecticut, U.S.A. on 17th February 1918. He is American by birth, British by Nationality and Australian by Choice. He is a British National, for his family returned to England when he was three years old. He was, in 1939, a member of the 677 Construction Company, Royal Engineers, and later "B" Field Company. He served in France with the Royal Engineers during 1939-40 and was evacuated off the beach at Bray Dunes north of Dunkirk. On July 18th 1940 his father was advised by letter by the Royal Engineers Record Office Brighton, that " Sapper Movley was reported Missing by his unit".

Missing does not mean that he has been killed, as he may be a prisoner of war or temporarily separated from his regiment. Official records that men are prisoners of war take some time to reach this country, and if he has been captured by the enemy it is probable that unofficial news will reach you first. In that case you are asked to forward any Post Card or letter received at once to this Office, and it will be returned to you as soon as possible.

**WHERE WAS LAURIE?** When the German attack was launched in May 1940, they ignored the famed Maginot Line, a prepared defensive line of fortifications lining the border of France and Germany. The German Forces swept through Belgium on the northern end of the Maginot Line and behind the prepared defences.

At the same time northern France and Belgium were subjected to the full force of the German Air Force (Luftwaffe) comprising bombers, dive bombers and fighters. The chaos brought about by the air attacks caused every road to be completely blocked with refugees going anywhere and nowhere. They were dive bombed and machine gunned mercilessly resulting in civilian carnage of unbelievable magnitude, making the movement of allied troops virtually impossible.

At this point Field Company was formed with explosive specialists. Small sections operated with the retreating infantry who were forming a defensive perimeter based on the evacuation port of Dunkirk. His section consisting of a Staff Sergeant, 2 drivers (of which Laurie was one) and six sappers plus two trucks loaded with demolition equipment operated with the Guards Brigade. Their task was to place demolition charges on the bridges that the Brigade had to cross as they withdrew. As Northern France was serviced by many canals their task was difficult.

They continued with this until arriving at Bray Dunes where they dug in on the beach. It was under constant attack from the air, the artillery and small arms fire. The method of evacuation was to wade out into the seas and wait to be picked up out of the water by a small boat and transferred to a larger ship. He was put on the destroyer H.M.S. Ivanhoe, which was later sunk, and returned to Dover.

### A Letter of Concern.

No. 5/R3/83/M10.  
(If replying, please quote above No.)

Army Form B. 104-83

ROYAL ENGINEERS, Record Office,  
BRIGHTON.

July 18 1940

SIR ~~OR MADAM,~~

I regret to have to inform you that a report has been received from the War Office to the effect that (No.) 1902596 (rank) SAPPER.  
(Name) MOVLEY  
(Regiment) ROYAL ENGINEERS.  
was posted as "missing" on the DATE NOT STATED.  
BY UNIT ONLY.

The report that he is missing does not necessarily mean that he has been killed, as he may be a prisoner of war or temporarily separated from his regiment.

Official reports that men are prisoners of war take some time to reach this country, and if he has been captured by the enemy it is probable that unofficial news will reach you first. In that case I am to ask you to forward any postcard or letter received at once to this Office, and it will be returned to you as soon as possible.

Should any further official information be received it will be at once communicated to you.

I am,

~~SIR OR MADAM,~~

Your obedient Servant,

*J. Hutchings*  
Colonel  
Officer in charge of Records.

RE.

**IMPORTANT.**

Any change of your address should be immediately notified to this Office.

(6546) W.L. 25481/1837 20,000 9/35 A.&R.W.Ltd. Gp. 498 Form B.104-83/8

They were immediately put on a train which when full to overflowing departed, making room for another train. The complement was made up of allied troops of all types. The train stopped at various stations which were full of civilian volunteers. These people handed out food and drink and clothes in which they were in need, as they had not had any organised food for days. and only had the clothes that they stood in.

Eventually they detrained at Winchester and were billeted in the Rifle Brigade Barracks. After a few days, any Royal Engineers were sent to Newark, and again from Newark to Ripon, a Royal Engineers Field Company Depot. Laurie's unit was found at Upper Heyford, an R.A.F. bomber station in Oxfordshire where their task was to repair the runways after bombing raids. He re-joined his unit along with two other members about the 14th July.

With the threat of invasion by the Germans who were massed on the coast of France 22 miles away, reorganisation of the fighting forces was priority One. All this was taking place while all the major centres were under heavy air attack. Civilian and service personnel casualties were horrific.

On reaching England he was Commissioned into the 7th Battalion Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and served in Northern Ireland until 1943.

After returning to England in 1943, he was promoted to the rank of Captain, training in Combined Landing Operations. He commanded a Mortar group of the Northumberland Fusiliers, the Fighting Fifth, which landed on Sword Beach, Normandy the day after Day. In repelling a German counter attack the unit put their barrage down at such a speed that a captured German Artillery Officer asked to be allowed to see the belt-fed field guns, for he did not believe it possible to gain such a speed by hand.

Laurie was wounded in Zettin, outside Arnhem, Holland in 1944 and hospitalised in Ghent, Belgium. He returned to active service in 1945 as second in command of "A" Company, of the 1st Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, an infantry Rifle company.

When Germany capitulated, he was made a Brigade Staff Captain and took control of a ration supply dump in Germany, servicing 93,000 displaced persons and former prisoners of war. He remained there in Germany until he was demobilised on 11th July 1946.

On 16th May 1951 he joined the North Beach Sub-Branch, his address being 78 Flora Terrace, North Beach.

## **FRANK PARKER.**

Frank was a member of the North Beach Bowling Club in the days when the Daily News had a paper published about 4 pm daily. Frank would toddle down to the Club and consume a beer or two whilst he perused the news of the day. He always drank from a pewter pot engraved with what appeared to be a foreign language. From memory the inscription read "Iti son Iyapis spo tan datinone atthat" . During late 1946 or 1947 in the first edition of the Daily News a reader enquired in the "Opinion" column about the inscription on an old mug that he had found. He quoted the above inscription and stated that he was perplexed with the language. Could any reader assist? The second edition had the letter erased, and the current story, by the grape vine, was that the Sub-Editor had been reprimanded for allowing such a rude story to be published. As Frank had an unusual sense of humour it is wondered if he was the author of the letter. Can you interpret the inscription?

## **ALF PRICE.**

### **A PROUD OLD SOLDIER OF THE FAMOUS WELSH GUARDS,**

Alf claims that he was born in the ancient Kingdom of Mercia of good Welsh and Lancastrian stock. He joined the 5th Regiment of Foot Guards (Welsh Guards) in 1944 and trained at the infamous Guards Depot, Caterham and later the Training Battalion in Pirbright. Alf qualified as a Signaller and Wireless Operator, manning the No 18 Back Pack set and No 20 Wireless Communications unit.

In 1945 he was posted to the 3rd Battalion at Spoleto, Italy, the Battalion being linked with the 1st Guards Brigade at Perugia and then to the Adriatic coast. The Battalion moved with the 5th Army to the River PO and on the 24th April crossed that river to secure the bridge across the Biaco Canal between the PO and the Adige. The Battalion left the 1st Guards Brigade at Adige and returned to the U.K. to be disbanded, first to camp at Galashiels, Scotland and later to the Regiment's Home Barracks at Chelsea.

With the cessation of hostilities in Europe the Regiment returned to its normal role of Ceremonial Duties, such famous places as Buckingham Palace, the Bank of England, the Tower Guard, etc, being on their itinerary. Guard duty on No. 1 Post outside the Palace Gates was a double sentry post. Members of the public were always intrigued when watching the two Guardsmen patrol and questioned how they avoided a collision with each other at the centre of the patrol. As they were not permitted to respond the secret remains. (Actually, they had learnt from the Cornish that one always kept to the left, a simple movement forgotten by many in Perth today. Ed).

In 1946 Alfs group kitted out for overseas duty, on that occasion joining the Guards Composite Brigade in Palestine. Disembarking at Port Said transit camp they were moved at night time by Arab Dhows to Haifa Port, and then shifted to Tiberius on the Sea of Galilee. The Battalion maintained patrols on the border with Lebanon and later transferred to Sarafan Camp near Tel Aviv. There it took over duties from the Airborne Regiment controlling illegal immigrant and Jewish 'Terrorist' Group activities. The withdrawal of British troops from Palestine in 1948 saw the Regiment return to perform Home Duties stationed at Chelsea Barracks.

Alf left the Regiment with the rank of Drill Sergeant, being schooled by such eminent Regimental Sergeant-Majors as Bill Britain of the Coldstream Guards and 'Piggy' Reece' of the Welsh Guards. Alf wishes to assure readers that those were experiences that he would not wish on his worst enemy.

When he joined the Shropshire Constabulary in 1950 as a Police Constable Alf renewed many old Regimental acquaintances. He emigrated to Australia in 1963 to continue a Police career with the Australian Federal Police (then known as the Commonwealth Police). After service in Canberra he transferred to Western Australia in 1966, and joined the Scarborough Sub-Branch RSL in 1968, transferring to North Beach during 1979.

## **JACK SHERRIFFS.**

Jack Sheriffs' father was a soldier in the Northumberland Fusiliers, A regiment based near the Scottish border in the north east part of England. Jack was born on the 29th November 1902, placed on the unit's ration list and became known as a child of the regiment, that is, the son of a member of the unit. Like most kids he became familiar with his father's profession and learned the drilling and ceremonial procedure, and very adept with military regulations. At the age of thirteen he was the unit's drummer boy when not at school. On one occasion for a special parade he was brought from school by an officer, much against the wishes of his schoolmaster.

As a youth he was in the King's Royal Rifles cadets. He joined the British Army, the Northumberland Fusiliers, as a drummer boy in 1916. Laurie Movley, a long serving treasurer with the North Beach RSL, was in that Regiment also, serving from 1939 to 1946, in the Second World War, in France and Germany. He received the Dunkirk Medal from the French Government. Laurie landed in Normandy with the Northumberland Fusiliers on Day 2, 7th June 1944 Both men experienced shell fire whilst serving in France, but two wars apart, Jack being at Ypres in 1918.

As his Grandparents had migrated to Australia, Jack's father, early 1914, paid a fare to the P. & O. Shipping Company to migrate also. The outbreak of the Great War with Germany delayed that event until 1920. The family then came to Western Australia on the P. & O. troop ship Indarra.

Not long after arriving in Perth Jack was called up for National training. It embraced training on one week night and each Saturday afternoon. On the first Wednesday night of training, as he had showed some slickness with the handling of the rifle, he was called to the office to explain where he had learned the skill of drilling. On perusing his British discharge certificate his officer informed him that he need not train; he was made a sergeant six weeks later. Not long after this promotion he had his first major confrontation. He learned that Australians did not like being drilled by Poms. Darkie was a big raw boned Australian, a shearer by trade, later to be a taxi fleet owner. Jack gave the training squad an order, in his northern English accent. A voice from the ranks, an Australian drawl, was heard. <sup>A</sup> 'Wha-jid-ya say?' Talking from the ranks in England is a serious crime, but in Australia things are sometimes different. A short time later the voice again said <sup>s</sup> 'Wha-jid-ya say'. Jack realised it was intimidation so invited the fellow to meet him around the back of a hut later in the day. Stripped to his underclothes, Jack, weighing 80 kilograms with his boots on, had the better of the fight. The fellow at last stopped fighting and said 'Yarl do me' for which Jack, misinterpreting the meaning of the words, popped him another one on the jaw. The fellow then explained that he thought that Jack was a suitable fellow to lead and there was to be no more trouble from the ranks. And there wasn't.

In 1926 he joined the 11/44th Battalion as a bandsman in Perth. The hat badge was the emblem of a blackboy (tree). Sir Talbot Hobbs was the General Officer Commanding the 13th Brigade based at Karrakatta. In 1928 their annual camp on the show grounds in Northam got flooded out and they had to move to the race course. The 1929 Annual camp was on Jimmy Mitchell's, (later Sir James Mitchell) farm block near Northam. That land later became the Northam Military camp.

When war broke out on the 3rd September 1939, he was attending the Annual camp at Rockingham. He had a month's respite to wind up his domestic affairs and entered Northam camp as an instructor. On the 3rd January 1940 he left Western Australia as a member of the 2nd/28th Battalion en route to the Middle East.

During the pre-embarkation march through Perth, he was in the centre of the band, being drum major. The man next to him, Charlie Stirling, was playing the trombone. Charlie's eyes were firmly fixed on a nice looking girl in the crowd near the Esplanade Hotel. His trombone got caught in the leg of Jack's Bombay bloomers (a most unattractive style of shorts), thus causing considerable disruption to a precise demonstration.

One day a bandsman who had been trained at the Kneller Hall School of Music in London, was leading the band. The parade was to turn from St George's Terrace into Mill Street on the way to the Esplanade. The fellow obviously did not know much about the streets of Perth for on reaching that point the fellow continued walking westwards, twirling the mace, whilst the rest of the old hands turned and proceeded down the hill. Hearing the roar of the crowd the fellow glanced back, realised his mistake, and made a dash down the hill to again lead the parade. There was one bandsman who always gave a salute to his mother as he passed the Fremantle goal, for she was inside doing time for stealing. On another occasion whilst practicing in the streets of Perth the

leader was twirling the mace, a flexible Malacca cane, displaying his prowess. On passing under some overhead tramline cables he inadvertently tossed the mace into the air in a whirling display. Alas it caught in the electric wires, vibrating for a few seconds before falling back to earth whilst the band marched on.

A moment of tenseness was in the formation of the band. Jack, as drum-major wanted the men in tiers of five so that there would be room for counter marching in the limited space at the saluting base. The bandsman insisted that the band be in tiers of four. Colonel Lloyd, CO. of the 2/28th, was called, whence Jack explained that the bandsman was only in charge of the music, that the drum-major was in charge of the march, and that there was limited space at the saluting base for counter marching during the ceremony. He won the day.

On board the troop ship Aquatania, sailing for Columbo, Jack was called forward by Colonel Lloyd. He was told that as he knew his work well, he could wear his ribbons, the Peace Medal and the General Service medal. Geoff Cox was the 2 IC of the 2/28th. From Colombo their trip to the Middle East was on the Dutch ship New Zealand. It was not long after reaching the Middle East that Jack joined the 1st Australian Guards Regiment when volunteers were called for. It was a force set up to guard Army Headquarters. He was a member of the Guards Regiment in Tobruk. At the end of hostilities, he held eight medals.

Jack joined the Leederville Sub-Branch of the RSL in 1920. He was a member of the North Beach Sub-Branch during the formative years. He has been a vice President and chaired meetings during the absence of the President. A member of North Beach Bowling Club, he affiliated with the RSL Bowls section and promoted RSL bowls. He was in the RSL State Bowls team which played at Canberra in 1974



North Beach Golden Oldies - Dick Simpson, Paddy Conroy, Jack Sherriffs and Ernie Draper

Jack has attended the Anzac Day Service at various schools, including Marmion. In 1991 he attended the Service at the Newborough School in Scarborough, giving the address there in 1992. His address so impressed some of the adults that he was taken by a lady on an excursion in the Hills. On arriving there he was asked to speak at an Art groups meeting. He declined the invitation as he regarded himself not to be a specialist in that field. One query he makes. Why the Ode, "We that are left Grow Old", is not given at Anzac Day School Services. But then it may not be a Returned Soldier's function, but a service for young citizens. His wife, Gladys, was a Serving Sister, being the Superintendent of No 1 Division of the St John Ambulance Association.

## MERV A. SCRIVEN

### A Soldier in the Making

In January 1953 he ambled into the Personnel Depot at Guildford, Western Australia. He was in The Army now. First stop was the Orderly room for documentation. Then the Quartermaster's Store for kitting out. 'What size are you? this size will do'. said the Quarter-Master's assistant. Boots, brown, made in 1942, to be raven oiled black before first parade next day, slouch hat and beret, both too big. The khaki webbing was to be blanco-ed, for it was shabby, the buckles and badges polished too, for it was old war-time tarnished gear. On parade next day he had never seen such a bunch of misfits, the baggy uniforms maximising the oddity. It was back to the Q Store to change most of the gear that did not fit. (Nothing's changed. Ed)

Shortly he was on a Troop train, joining 1st Royal Australian Regiment personnel returning to Enoggera, Queensland. As his destination was Wagga Wagga, NSW, then onwards to Kapooka Silver City, 25 kilometres out of town, he was bundled into trucks by Corporals, they being his future instructors. He was a part of the draft, which by ballot, comprised conscripts from all over Australia.

What a shock to Merv's system when he reached No 1 Training Battalion! The Nissen huts were hot in summer and cold in winter. All huts had to be inspected, blankets folded according to the regulation pattern. They were inspected each morning by a white gloved Junior Officer searching for dust, using the finger test.

Next day commenced with garden duties at 0530 hours (5.30 am), Physical Training at 0600 hours, breakfast at 0700 hours from a Willeys Mobile Cooker and on parade at 0800 hours for inspection. They marched to the Regimental Aid Post for immunisation, checked by the dentist, doctor and their hair cut short, Army style. The normal day began with Field training, rifle drill and then night patrol. Each day was much the same, except that each facet was gradually intensified.

There were the truck trips to the RAAF base at Uranquinty, near Wagga, to learn swimming, wearing a full kit, clothes and all. There followed a forced march of miles and miles, just to tackle an assault course at the end of the day. Then it was over and there were the Salvos with refreshments. GOD BLESS 'EM!-

At Kapooka in summer he fought bush-fires. You can imagine on a hot day, standing for hours on a Commanding Officer's weekly Parade, recruits fainting and left where they fell. In winter it was cold and muddy. That's when he learnt the leopard crawl with real bullets passing overhead. Ouch.

Out in the weather on night guard duties, 2 hours on, 4 hours off, it usually rained and was bitterly cold, the wind whistling through his overcoat. The Orderly Officer challenged at various intervals during the night and morning.

On the walls of the Kapooka Guard Hut one soldier has recorded his feelings with this poem:-

They say this Kapooka is a wonderful place,  
But take it from me it's a blooming disgrace,  
At six in the morning you're kicked out of bed,  
At six in the evening you're fairly near dead.  
There are Sergeants and Corporals, and lance-jacks as well,

Who have b..... all to actually tell.

With hands in their pockets they bellow and shout,

About things that they know nothing about.

Bless 'Em All.

Three and a half months later DISCIPLINED soldier 5/2563 marched out to a unit far from his home State of W.A.

### **LEN SNELL SX 28102.**

#### **DARWIN'S FIRST AIR RAID.**

Len was a despatch rider with the 43rd Battalion stationed at Noonamah, Northern Territory, some 42 kilometres south of Darwin. It was his daily duty to take the Battalion's despatches to Larrakeya Barracks, and letters and telegrams to the Darwin Post Office for despatch to Southern States.

The morning of 19th February 1942 started as a usual day, hot and dry, as he left the Battalion area with a cheerio wave to the guard on duty. He was approaching the suburb of Winnelli opposite the R.A.A.F. Station when he had a call of nature. Before getting back on the faithful B.S.A bike he heard a tremendous droning coming from the east and could just make out a large dark area which looked like a rain cloud, he never giving a thought about Japanese bombers.

Len usually went to the Post Office first, but for some odd reason on this day he went to Larrakeya Barracks first to deliver the despatches. On arriving just inside the gate the bombs began to fall. He left the motor-bike and ran to the cliffs on the harbour and there he sat watching the devastation take place. The bombs blew up the oil tanks, the hospital ship Manunda in the middle of the harbour, whilst the poor beggars on the other ships were jumping into the water. One Wirraway went straight across the harbour with a Zero on its tail, the poor devil never having a chance. Next minute it was a ball of fire.

There appeared to be a lull in the proceedings, so Len ventured out and returned to the Barracks and managed to get some lunch, only because he knew the cook. The next minute the air-raid siren went again so he rushed to the spot where he had been before. This time he had a companion, so it wasn't so scary. After the raid he went to collect the Battalion's despatches but he still had the mail to deliver to the Darwin Post Office. As he arrived, he saw a great hole where a bomb had landed and the remains of the Post Office. What a mess. At the time he did not realise how many had been killed. He had known a few of those people, including the Post-master. He reflected that that was where he could have been if he had not changed his routine that day and had decided to visit the Post office last instead of first. What would have become of him?

The return journey through the streets of Darwin was a sad sight, people walking around not realising what had happened. There were scores of people in the railway yards hoping to get on to the flat top rail wagons to go south. Whilst returning he had trouble with the motor bike so called at the Winnelli L.A.D. workshops. Whilst the mechanic was fixing the trouble, he gazed down the aerodrome and saw all the devastation that had been done. When the bike was repaired, he set out for his home base, his mind fairly turbulent with the events of the day!

On arriving at the gate, the guard said, "Is that you Len? We heard that a despatch rider had been killed in the raids, and we thought the worst." A great cheer went up from a body of troops when they saw him as he passed by. Len said to the Battalion Postmaster "Sorry that the telegrams and letters did not go".

Len has since returned to Darwin and stood on the foreshore. He has reflected on that awful day, February 19th, 1942. He paused and reflected on Adelaide River where some of those who lost their lives found their last resting place.

## **RON TOMLINSON**



**Ron and his Wife Pauline 1981 Detmold Germany**

Ron is from the old dart and did not want to lose the kind of comradery he found in his 22 years with the British RAF and REME, so he sought out an RSL Sub-Branch and came to North Beach in 1983.

Having lost his father in a mining accident in 1942, his mother remarried but died of cancer in 1950. Ron's step father allowed him to join the British RAF as a Boy Entrant in 1957. One and a half years later on the eve of his 18th birthday he was posted to RAF Gaydon in Warwickshire, England. There he pursued sports and joined the unit's Voluntary Brass Band in 1965 he went to Labuan (Borneo) for a year, returning to Gaydon for a further two years before going to Kuwait.

Returning in 1969 he was posted to RAF Leconfield in Yorkshire, England and lived at Beverley. Now a Sergeant his tasks changed and so did his spare time. There being no unit band Ron joined the Beverley Borough Band.

RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus was his next destination in December 1971. Fitting gearboxes to radar, his repairs tasks took him to Malta, Masira, Gan and Salala. With the Akrotiri Brass Band he played before Princess Margaret, Princess Alexandra and the Duke of Kent. The highlight of his tour was to play Hockey for the Near East Air Force. One weekend in June 1974 he took his family camping at Akrotiri beach, The Turkish and Greek Cypriots decided to have a shooting melee in Limasol and the weekend became a week. When the Turks invaded Northern Cyprus several weeks later his family were the first to be evacuated to RAF Finningly, near Doncaster, England. He joined them four months later.

On the twilight of his RAF career Ron transferred to the REME as a vehicle mechanic Retaining his rank of Sergeant after qualification training. On graduation, the chief clerk, with the usual smirch on his face said, "You are posted to 8 Field Workshops in Colchester, East Anglia, England and have 2 weeks to settle your family, then you will join your unit in Belfast, Northern Ireland". Ron did not think much of his first posting.

Back to Colchester in June 1976 he took on more sport, learning golf and tennis. It was 3 Years before he was posted to Minden in Germany with the Cheshire Regiment LAD. Leaving there for Detmold, Germany on promotion to Staff Sergeant in a REME Workshop he refined his golfing prowess and was selected as wicket keeper for REME BAOR to tour England. At Cologne he applied for emigration to Australia, going through the usual red tape he arrived in Perth in September 1982 within weeks of his discharge.

Thanks to the encouragement and initial coaching by his friends at the North Beach Sub-Branch Ron became successful bowler at North beach and now Morley bowling club, the closest club to where he lives.

Ron's participation in sport and the brass band in relatively peaceful times was a way of solving one of the problems our defence commanders have had over the years. Didn't Sir Francis Drake play Bowls to occupy the idle hours?

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