



THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE of AUSTRALIA FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH

NEWSLETTER for SEPTEMBER 2016

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another month has passed and your committee continues to run the business of the sub-Branch, whilst the President cruised Alaska. There is one thing I have learnt in life, and that is, no one is indispensable. Vice Presidents John Scifleet and Robin Tapp together with the committee know what is required and continue to do a sterling job.

At the August General Meeting Bob Lunnon was appointed as a member of the committee, filling a vacancy left by the passing of Mike Falconer-Flint. Bob is well credentialed as a former director, Global Leisure and Sales Asia Pacific for the Starwood Hotel Group (Sheraton, Westin etc). We welcome Bob to the committee.

During August the VP Day luncheon was held at the club and well attended by members and partners. Members of the committee represented the sub-Branch at the Vietnam Veterans Commemorations at Palm Beach, and finally on the 18th August service at Manly. There was considerable publicity this year with the problems experienced by Vietnam Vets attending the service at Long Tan. I think the numbers wishing to attend the service overwhelmed the Vietnamese Government.

In May 2017 the Congressional Elections (every three years) will be held. State Branch have already forwarded circulars calling for nominations for all positions on State Council. Nominations close at the end of January 2017. If anyone is interested please contact Tony Mooney for details. The sub-Branch will also be calling for nominations to fill committee positions at the beginning of December, and closing at the end of January. I encourage interested members to contact myself, so that we can arrange for familiarization sessions on the duties of sub-Branch committee members.

Nominations to fill the position of State President for the remainder of 2014-2017 Congressional Term have closed, with five nominees standing. Ballot papers must reach the Returning Officer by 28th September. The former State President was appointed National President, which created the vacancy. The Constitution provides for elections to be held despite the relatively short period to the Congressional Elections in May 2017.

We are now entering into spring, a wonderful period in Sydney, enjoy. Check for coming events in this newsletter, and on the new sub-Branch website www.forestvillersl.org.au

Bill Hardman...President

KRAIT and OPERATION JAYWICK



HMAS Krait in 1944

'Operation Jaywick was a special operation undertaken in World War II. In September 1943, 14 commandos and sailors from the Allied Z Special Unit raided Japanese shipping in Singapore Harbour, sinking seven ships.'

On 2 September 1943, a captured Japanese motor sampan set out from Exmouth in Western Australia bound for Singapore, well inside Japanese controlled waters. By the time they returned nearly seven weeks later, the crew of 14 had carried out one of the most successful clandestine raids in Australian history.

The 68 ton *Kofuku Maru* had been seized by British authorities in Singapore following Japan's entry into the war. In 1943 she was re-named *Krait* and assigned to the Services Reconnaissance Department, the parent organisation of the famed Z Special Unit, which was responsible for covert operations in enemy territory. The objective of Operation *JAYWICK* was for a group of Australian and British Z Special Unit members to attack Japanese shipping in Singapore using time-delayed limpet mines. The operatives and crew included 10 sailors and four soldiers.

The expedition was led by Major Ivan Lyon of the Gordon Highlanders who, along with Major Jock Campbell of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, had devised the plan in 1942 after they had escaped the Japanese invasion of Singapore. Essential to the plan was a vessel that could pose as a local fishing boat or trader. *Krait* was identified as suitable for the task, however, persistent engine problems with the sampan meant that the operation was abandoned early in 1943. The plan was resurrected later in the year when *Krait* had been made seaworthy.

In Exmouth in August 1943, *Krait* was loaded with her supplies and equipment, including three two-man canoes in which the Z Special Unit members would enter the selected harbours and attack the Japanese ships. She departed Exmouth on the evening of 1 September and promptly broke a propeller extension shaft. USS *Chanticleer* assisted with the repairs and *Krait* departed again the following afternoon,

Her route taking her through Lombok Strait, across the Java Sea, along the south-west and west coasts of Borneo and then west to Lingga Archipelago and the islands south of Singapore.

The crew hoisted the Japanese ensign on 6 September and *Krait* approached Lombok Strait, the first 'danger area' of her voyage, just after noon on 8 September. The *Eastern Archipelago Pilot* promised 'very hazy' conditions in the area at that time of year, but *Krait* approached the southern entrance to the strait in conditions of perfect visibility. The decision was made however,

to ignore the threat of enemy aerial reconnaissance, and a course was set for Lombok Strait.

Apart from the dangers posed by Japanese patrols, the strong currents in Lombok Strait posed significant navigational problems for *Krait*. Progress was excruciatingly slow, at one stage the current forcing the sampan backwards for an hour. It was nearly 24 hours later before *Krait* left Lombok Strait behind and entered Java Sea at 1000 on 9 September.

The 'promised' haze descended that morning and assisted in *Krait's* uncontested passage across the Java Sea. The crew applied a dark dye to their bodies enhancing their appearance as local fishermen helping *Krait* safely make her way to the Lingga Archipelago. She anchored off Pulau Pompong on the evening of 16 September. Pompong had been identified as a possible disembarkation point for the operatives but as dawn broke it was decided that the island was unsuitable. The next day was spent zigzagging through the islands in the area searching for an alternative hideout. That evening a great deal of enemy activity in the form of searchlights, floatplanes and transport aircraft made it evident that this 'was not a healthy area for *Krait*'. Eventually, at 0200 on 18 September, she anchored off Pulau Panjang and began disembarking the operatives. Three hours later, *Krait* was making her way back to Borneo with orders to rendezvous with the operatives on the night of 1-2 October at Pompong.

Krait spent the next eleven days busily avoiding enemy contact off the south coast of Borneo, contending with heavy seas and listening to the radio every night for any news about the operation. The six operatives spent the first two days after landing on Panjang observing Japanese movements in the approaches to Singapore and preparing for the attack. At dusk on 20 September, they boarded their canoes, loaded with enough food and water for a week, and proceeded to the extreme north of Rhio Archipelago. For the next three nights the canoes 'island-hopped' their way through the archipelago and, at midnight on the evening of 22 September, reached Pulau Dongas some eight miles south-south east of Singapore Harbour.

On the afternoon of 24 September, a concentration of ships totalling around 65,000 tons had gathered in the Roads nearby Dongas. The tides in the made an attack in the canoes extremely difficult, but the size of the target proved too tempting to resist. The party set out at 1000 but as they approached their respective targets, the tidal currents proved too strong and the attack was abandoned. In light of this unsuccessful attempt, the party shifted from Dongas to a better placed observation post on Pulau Subar, overlooking the Examination Anchorage.

At around 1920 on 26 September, the operatives set out from Subar in their canoes for a second attempt. Canoe 1, carrying Major Lyon and Able Seaman Huston, made for the Examination Anchorage; Canoe 2, carrying Lieutenant Davidson and Able Seaman Falls, headed for the eastern end of Keppel Harbour and the Roads; while Canoe 3, carrying Lieutenant Page and Able Seaman Jones, made for Pulau Bukum and the western end of Keppel Harbour. Canoes 1 and 3 proceeded in company before parting in the vicinity of Pulau Jong. Canoe 1 arrived in the target

Area to find the currents once again working against them and all the shipping blacked out making it almost impossible to see the ships against the background of the hills. After much searching for a suitable target, Lyon and Huston made their attack on a tanker attaching limpet mines to the engine room and propeller shaft. Lyon later recorded: *Half way through the work, Huston drew my attention to a man who was watching us intently from a porthole ten feet above. He continued to gaze until just before we left the ship, when he withdrew his head and lighted his lamp. He*

took no apparent action and we set off for Dongas 12 miles away.

The adverse currents prevented Lyon and Huston from making and other attacks.

Canoe 3 made for its first target area at Pulau Bukum and found currents to be favourable and was able to attach mines to a freighter at the Bukum wharves before drifting with the current towards Keppel Harbour. They attached mines to two more freighters before beginning the journey back to Dongas.

Canoe 2 meanwhile, proceeded independently to its target areas to the east of Keppel Harbour and the Roads.

Davidson and Falls arrived at the harbour and, with no boom vessel in attendance, set about finding a way through the boom and into the harbour itself. While doing so they were nearly run down by a tug which had apparently failed to see them. The tug 'passed approximately 20 paces from us and we could see a few people moving about the deck'.

Having passed through the open boom gate, Davidson and Falls found only small ships within the harbour. They turned back through the boom and into the Roads where they attacked three cargo vessels of around 5000 tons each. With their limpet mines set, Davidson and Falls set out independently for the rendezvous with *Krait* on Pulau Pompong.

Between 0515 and 0550, seven explosions were heard indicating that all the attacks had been successful. Seven Japanese ships had been sunk or severely damaged amounting to between 37,000 and 39,000 tons. *Krait*, meanwhile, made her way back to the rendezvous point on Pompong, arriving just after midnight on the morning of 2 October. Shortly afterwards, the crew recovered Davidson and Falls in Canoe 2. The other canoes were in the area but could not locate the sampan in the dark. *Krait* retired to the south of the Temiang Strait and returned to pick up the other canoes at around 2100 on 3 October.

Krait made a quiet journey across the Java Sea and approached the Lombok Strait on the afternoon of 11 October. With the crew once again in disguise, she entered the strait later that evening. Shortly before midnight a Japanese destroyer was sighted approaching rapidly on *Krait's* port beam. She approached to within 100 yards; however, *Krait's* disguise was apparently sufficient to allay any suspicions and the ship turned away without even shining a searchlight on the sampan.

Krait cleared the strait early the next morning and entered comparatively safe waters. She arrived at Exmouth on 19 October 1943 having covered some 4000 miles during her 48 day absence. There were no casualties and all involved in the operation were either decorated or mentioned in despatches. *Krait* was not commissioned at the time of the operation but was later commissioned in 1944 and was based at Darwin for the remainder of hostilities. She is still afloat today and is maintained by the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney.

Read of more Z Force Operations led by Major Ivan Lyon in next months newsletter.

Mervyn Whiting...editor

HUMOUR



...from John Balfour

SOME IRISH HUMOUR

Paddy calls Easy Jet to book a flight. The operator asks "How many people are flying with you?"

Paddy replies "I don't know! It's your bloody plane!"

~~

Paddy is said to be shocked at finding out all his cows have Bluetongue.

"Be Jaysus!" he said, "I didn't even know they had mobile phones!"

~~

Mick and Paddy are reading head stones at a nearby cemetery.

Mick says "Crikey! There's a bloke here who was 152!"

Paddy says "What's his name?"

Mick replies "Miles from London!"

~~

Paddy was driving down the street in a sweat because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up to heaven he said, 'Lord take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up me Irish Whiskey!'

Miraculously, a parking place appeared.

Paddy looked up again and said, 'Never mind, I found one.'

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British Korean War Veterans Association



The National Memorial Arboretum, located at Alrewas, near Staffordshire, England, is a 150-acre site containing more than 300 memorials to those who gave their lives in the service of their country. The Korean War Veterans Memorial is one of the sedate stones nestled on the lush grasses that are shaded by more than 30,000 trees. The Arboretum is adjacent to the National Forest. Large circular structure on the right of photo is the Armed Forces Memorial, dedicated to all service personnel who have lost their lives on duty since the end of World War Two, including those who fell in the Korean War. More than 16,000 names are engraved on the walls and more are added annually. Many of those commemorated fell serving in United Nations and NATO deployments, including the UN operations in the Korean War. The National Memorial Arboretum is managed by the Royal British Legion.

New British Veterans Association carries on tradition of holding a national memorial service on Korean War Veterans Armistice Day. The fledgling British War Veterans Association, now in its third year, held a very successful Korean War Armistice Day ceremony at the National Arboretum in Alrewas, near Staffordshire, England on July 27.

Mervyn Whiting...editor

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Our next Meeting is our **62nd Birthday Lunch** on **MONDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER** 12.00 pm Meeting and 1.00pm Lunch, so hopefully you have your name down already as it is always a lot of fun.



At that meeting we will be **Selling Tickets for our Fashion Parade to be held on Monday the 10th October at 12.30 for 1.00pm. Tickets are \$15**, which includes the **Parade, Afternoon Tea and Bubbies or Juice** on arrival.



The season's range of very affordable clothes are from **Airs @ Graces** which also include handbags and jewellery, so come along and join in the fun with Robyn.

We also **have LOTS OF LUCKY DOOR PRIZES and RAFFLE PRIZES.**

Bookings are essential **and Please** make sure you bring your Ticket to claim your **Luck Door Prize.**

We have tables of up to 10 but any number of tickets are available and can be purchased by phoning **Carol on 9975 3759** before **4th of October.**

As this is our main **Fund Raiser** of the year with all the profits going to **Life Care at Narrabeen**, so bring your friends and neighbours to help make this day a great success as well as taking home something special.

For those on the sick list, we hope to see you soon.

President Annie

Footprints in the Sand



One night a man had a dream.

He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord.

Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.

For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand;

One belonging to him, and the other of the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand.

He noticed that many times along the path of his life, there was only one set of footprints.

He also noticed that it happened, at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it.

"Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way.

But I noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints.

I don't understand why, when I needed you most you would leave me".

"My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints in the sand, it was then that I carried you".

(Note; I also noticed, that at the very lowest and saddest times in my life, I have questioned the Lord. I have however, with my faith, strength, and through prayer, found comfort and the will for continual growth. I keep this article as a constant reminder of my faith in God.)

Mervyn Whiting...editor

MEMBERSHIP

Sadly, we report the passing of the following dear members during the past month;

PRIDAY, Trevor
HEPPEL, Lionel Henry John
HOGG, Richard John William
ASHMAN, Douglas Charles

ARMY
ARMY
ROYAL AIR FORCE
ROYAL NAVY

Our sincere condolences are passed onto family and friends.

Current membership totals **473**.

Introductions from our members, family and mates for new membership are always welcome.

CHANGES TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP DETAILS.

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!

To ensure that our records are maintained up to date we would appreciate your advices of any **change** as soon as possible including new address, phone number, e-Mail address, **next of kin and any other personal information.**

Failure to advise current details may affect the bereavement payment privilege.

Also please call us if you wish to check any of your information.

NB. Our sub-Branch MEMBERSHIP e-Mail address is:
membership@forestvillersl.org.au.

Geoff Brown, Membership Officer.

OUR CENOTAPH and MEMORIAL WALKWAY

We still work with a three man crew (normally four) with Jim, Norm and myself. We are still looking for another volunteer.

MEMORIAL PAVERS

A reminder new paver orders will close on **Friday 30th September, 2016.**

Cost for pavers for sub-Branch Members is **\$35.**



Geoff Brown, Cenotaph and Memorial Walkway Coordinator.

'SPECIAL REQUEST TO OUR MEMBERS'

Those who are interested in receiving the Newsletter each month, we are able to send it to you electronically (via e-Mail)!

If you would like to provide your e-Mail address we can send the newsletter to you via e-Mail. This would save us the rising cost of postage and time spent with the preparation of envelopes and use of other resources.

To provide your details please contact;
membership@forestvillersl.org.au

Mervyn Whiting...newsletter editor

SUB-BRANCH OFFICE

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Robin Tapp.....(02) 9975 1229 or 0425 318 531

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Rev. Dave Lanham.....(02) 9975 5410

TRAVEL OFFICER
Bob Connors.....(02) 9451 9494

(All non-urgent enquiries should be directed to the Office during normal office hours.)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday.....0900 to 1200 and 1245 to 1400
Friday.....0900 to 1200
(Except for public holidays and special occasions, or by special appointment.)

Tony Mooney, Hon. Secretary.



DATES TO REMEMBER IN 2016

Wednesday, 7 September ... 1930 General meeting
Wednesday, 5 October ... 1930 General Meeting
Monday, 17 October... 1300 sub-Branch Widows' Luncheon
Wednesday, 2 November ... 1930 General Meeting
Friday, 11 November ... 1040 Remembrance Day Service
Wednesday, 16 November ... 1200 War Vets Luncheon
Sunday, 4 December ... 1800 sub-Branch Xmas Dinner
Wednesday, 7 December 1930 General Meeting

'And the world is a little poorer, for a soldier died today.'