



RETURNED and SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
EPPING RSL SUB-BRANCH
ROUTINE ORDERS



Vol 27 No 4

August - September 2024

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As the war in Ukraine continues it is timely to consider the changes in the way war is fought. No longer do we depend on cannons, but we use enhanced weapon systems which are now in our Defence Force with more to come.

The RAAF air-launched strike capability will also receive more advanced weapons systems for their F/A-18F Super Hornet, P-8A Poseidon and F-35A Joint Strike fighter aircraft. The development of hypersonic weapons for Super Hornets will enable targets to be engaged at longer ranges.

These many things will enhance the ADF at a time when external wars and threats demand and strong defence capability.

Long range strike capabilities and advanced targeting systems are planned over the next decade for our Defence Forces.

Army's acquisition of land-based long-range weapons will be accelerated and expanded. The acquisition of 42 high mobility artillery rocket systems (HIMARS) will equip Army's first long-range fires regiment.

I urge all members to remember that the Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance

Brian Swan AM
 President
 Epping RSL sub-Branch

Present funding also covers Army's guided multiple launch rocket system munitions, together with new radars to extend sensor and command and control networks.

A large portion of investment will bolster Navy's sea-based strike capability, including the acquisition of Tomahawk cruise missiles. Hobart class destroyers and Virginia-class submarines will then be able to hold targets at longer ranges.

The next generation Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile Block II and SM - 2 and SM-6 missiles will provide Navy with a greater capacity to target airborne threats, along with Naval Strike Missile for use against heavily protected targets.

VP DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Sunday 11 August 2024

VP Sunday Service

Grand Ballroom, The Epping Club 2.00 p.m.

followed by wreath-laying at Boronia Park Cenotaph

Thursday 15 August 2024

VP Day wreath-laying at Boronia Park Cenotaph. Assemble at 10.30 a.m. for 10.45 a.m. service

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

VALE

“WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”

During the months of June 2024 - July 2024, no advice has been received of the passing of service members.

SENIOR MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

President: Merrill Prestidge
Treasurer: Gavin Nell

Vice President: Les Rowe
Committee Members: Don Greentree, Brenda Greentree

Secretary: Margaret Cummins

To quote our late Queen, the last few months have been Annus Horribilus.

We have had four of our stalwarts leave us.

First was Alan Sullivan Treasurer 2007-2012, then Beryl Engle who took it upon herself to look after our guest speakers on meeting days for their afternoon refreshments, our beloved Deirdre Curdie Treasurer from 2012-2024, 12 years of devoted service, and Valda Small President 2009-2012.

We are very saddened for having them leave us.

On a lighter note, our Christmas in July luncheon was a delight, excellent food and company. 24 of us enjoyed the day. Four gift vouchers were our raffle. The lucky winners were, Les Rowe, Jenny Roddy, Aileen Kaine and a visitor for the day Elizabeth Prestidge.

Our guest speaker for August is Doug Small, speaking on the Small Family which is not very small, and in September a Liaison Officer from Service NSW on entitlements

Merrill Prestidge, President

STAND EASY

The Epping RSL sub-Branch STAND EASY holds its meetings on the third Wednesday of each month from 1300 to 1500 hours at 45 on Rawson, located within The Epping Club. These monthly casual meetings are designed for all members of the sub-Branch to join and enjoy a friendly atmosphere, sharing laughter and experiences with one other. Attendees are also be informed about the current and future events and activities organised by the sub-Branch. Nibbles and drinks are served during these friendly get-togethers.

All Members are welcome and warmly encouraged to attend.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meetings on:

Wednesday 21 August 2024

Wednesday 18 September 2024

Wednesday 16 October 2024

Allan Lotfizadeh

Secretary STAND EASY

AUSTRALIAN WAR WIDOWS N.S.W. LTD

Coordinator: Heather Gillam 9876 3588

Treasurer: Heather Gillam

Meetings: First Monday in month at 10.30 a.m.

Monday 5 August 2024

Monday 2 September 2024

Monday 14 October 2024 (Labour Day Holiday Monday 7 October)

EPHING RSL SUB-BRANCH

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AUGUST 2024 – OCTOBER 2024

AUGUST 2024

Monday 5	Australian War Widows NSW Ltd	1030
Tuesday 6	RSL Senior Members Association Meeting	1400
Sunday 11	VP Sunday Service. Grand Ballroom, Epping Club, followed by wreath laying at Boronia Park Cenotaph	1400
Monday 12	Epping RSL sub-Branch Committee Meeting	1800
Thursday 15	VP Day Wreath Laying at Boronia Park Cenotaph	1030
Wednesday 21	Stand Easy	1300
Monday 26	Epping RSL sub-Branch Monthly General Meeting	1930
Tuesday 27	RSL Senior Members Association Committee Meeting	1030

SEPTEMBER 2024

Monday 2	Australian War Widows NSW Ltd	1030
Tuesday 3	RSL Senior Members Association Meeting	1400
Monday 9	Epping RSL sub-Branch Committee Meeting	1800
Wednesday 18	Stand Easy	1300
Tuesday 24	RSL Senior Members Association Committee Meeting	1030
Monday 30	Epping RSL sub-Branch Monthly General Meeting	1930

OCTOBER 2024

Tuesday 1	RSL Senior Members Association Meeting	1400
Sunday 6	DAYLIGHT SAVING BEGINS	
Monday 7	LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY	
Monday 14	Australian War Widows NSW Ltd	1030
Monday 14	Epping RSL sub-Branch Committee Meeting	1800
Wednesday 16	Stand Easy	1300
Saturday 19	NATIONAL WAR WIDOWS DAY	
Sunday 27 to Tuesday 29 RSL NSW CONGRESS (Circular 33/24)		
Monday 28	Epping RSL sub-Branch Monthly General Meeting	1930
Tuesday 29	RSL Senior Members Association Committee Meeting	1030

Second World War, 1939–45

awm.gov.au/articles/second-world-war

On 3 September 1939 Prime Minister Robert Gordon Menzies announced the beginning of Australia's involvement in the Second World War on every national and commercial radio station in Australia.

Almost a million Australians, both men and women, served in the Second World War. They fought in campaigns against Germany and Italy in Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa, as well as against Japan in south-east Asia and other parts of the Pacific. The Australian mainland came under direct attack for the first time, as Japanese aircraft bombed towns in north-west Australia and Japanese midget submarines attacked Sydney harbour.

On 7 May 1945 the German High Command authorised the signing of an unconditional surrender on all fronts: the war in Europe was over. The surrender was to take effect at midnight on 8–9 May 1945. On 14 August 1945 Japan accepted of the Allied demand for unconditional surrender. For Australia it meant that the Second World War was finally over.

The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) participated in operations against Italy after its entry into the war in June 1940. A few Australians flew in the Battle of Britain in August and September, but the Australian army was not engaged in combat until 1941, when the 6th, 7th, and 9th Divisions joined Allied operations in the Mediterranean and North Africa.

Following early successes against Italian forces, the Australians suffered defeat with the Allies at the hands of the Germans in Greece, Crete, and North Africa. In June and July 1941 Australians participated in the successful Allied invasion of Syria, a mandate of France and the Vichy government. Up to 14,000 Australians held out against repeated German attacks in the Libyan port of Tobruk, where they were besieged between April and August 1941. After being relieved at Tobruk, the 6th and 7th Divisions departed from the Mediterranean theatre for the war against Japan. The 9th Division remained to play an important role

in the Allied victory at El Alamein in October 1942 before it also left for the Pacific. By the end of 1942 the only Australians remaining in the Mediterranean theatre were airmen serving either with 3 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) or in the Royal Air Force (RAF).

Japan entered the war in December 1941 and swiftly achieved a series of victories, resulting in the occupation of most of south-east Asia and large areas of the Pacific by the end of March 1942. Singapore fell in February, with the loss of an entire Australian division. After the bombing of Darwin that same month, all RAN ships in the Mediterranean theatre, as well as the 6th and 7th Divisions, returned to defend Australia. In response to the heightened threat, the Australian government also expanded the army and air force and called for an overhaul of economic, domestic, and industrial policies to give the government special authority to mount a total war effort at home.

In March 1942, after the defeat of the Netherlands East Indies, Japan's southward advance began to lose strength, easing fears of an imminent invasion of Australia. Further relief came when the first AIF veterans of the Mediterranean campaigns began to come home, and when the United States assumed responsibility for the country's defence, providing reinforcements and equipment. The threat of invasion receded further as the Allies won a series of decisive battles: in the Coral Sea, at Midway, on Imita Ridge and the Kokoda Trail, and at Milne Bay and Buna.

Further Allied victories against the Japanese followed in 1943. Australian troops were mainly engaged in land battles in New Guinea, the defeat of the Japanese at Wau, and clearing Japanese soldiers from the Huon peninsula. This was Australia's largest and most complex offensive of the war and was not completed until April 1944. The Australian army also began a new series of campaigns in 1944 against isolated Japanese garrisons stretching from Borneo to Bougainville, involving more Australian troops than at any other time in the war. The first of these campaigns was fought on Bougainville and New Britain, and at Aitape, New Guinea. The final series of campaigns were fought in Borneo in 1945. How

necessary these final campaigns were for Allied victory remains the subject of continuing debate. Australian troops were still fighting in Borneo when the war ended in August 1945.

While Australia's major effort from 1942 onwards was directed at defeating Japan, thousands of Australians continued to serve with the RAAF in Europe and the Middle East. Although more Australian airmen fought against the Japanese, losses among those flying against Germany were far higher. Australians were particularly prominent in Bomber Command's offensive against occupied Europe. Some 3,500 Australians were killed in this campaign, making it the costliest of the war.

Over 30,000 Australian servicemen were taken prisoner in the Second World War and 39,000 gave their lives. Two-thirds of those taken prisoner were captured by the Japanese during their advance through south-east Asia in the first weeks of 1942. While those who became prisoners of the Germans had a strong chance of returning home at the end of the war, 36 per cent of prisoners of the Japanese died in captivity.

Nurses had gone overseas with the AIF in 1940. However, during the early years of the war women were generally unable to make a significant contribution to the war effort in any official capacity. Labour shortages forced the government to allow women to take a more active role in war work and, in February 1941, the RAAF received cabinet approval to establish the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF). At the same time, the navy also began employing female telegraphists, a breakthrough that eventually led to the establishment of the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS) in 1942. The Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) was established in October 1941, with the aim of releasing men from certain military duties in base units in Australia for assignment with fighting units overseas. Outside the armed services, the Women's Land Army (WLA) was established to encourage women to work in rural industries. Other women in urban areas took up employment in industries, such as munitions production.

Sources and further reading:

Peter Dennis et al., *The Oxford companion to Australian military history* (Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 1995)

Gavin Long, *The six years war: Australia in the 1939–45 war* (Canberra: Australian War Memorial and the Australian Government Publishing Service, 1973)

J. Robertson, *1939–1945: Australia goes to war* (Sydney: Doubleday Australia, 1984)

Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day

awm.gov.au

VP (Victory in the Pacific) Day, also referred to as VJ (Victory over Japan) Day, is celebrated on 15 August. This date commemorates Japan's acceptance of the Allied demand for unconditional surrender 14 August 1945. For Australians, it meant that the Second World War was finally over.

The following day, 15 August, is usually referred to as VP Day. In August 1945 Australian governments gazetted a public holiday as VP Day and most newspapers reported it as such. However, the governments of Britain, the United States and New Zealand preferred VJ Day. It is not true, as some have claimed, that the day was originally called VJ and that the name was surreptitiously changed later.

Sources

“VP or VJ Day?”, *Wartime* 21, 2003, p. 5

Further Information

Prime Minister J. B. Chifley announcing the end of the war against Japan, 15 August 1945

Eric Carpenter, «Accepting the Japanese surrender», *Wartime* 31, 2005, pp. 30-33



Photos: Irene Rowe

Arr. John Curdie



Photos: Irene Rowe

**Sub Branch
Mid Year/
Life Member
Luncheon**
Sunday, 16 Jan 2024 June 16th 2024



Arr. John Curdie

Against All Odds

When I joined the British Army straight from school at the age of 16, there were six of us from my school that joined the military at the same time. All my teachers said that I would not last five minutes in the Army. Of the six of us that joined, everyone we knew said the same thing, 'Brayshaw there is no way you will make a soldier. You are unfit and do not have the right attitude'. Even my own family were not supportive.

When I arrived at the Royal Army Medical Corps, Apprentices College at Ash Vale, just outside Aldershot, our military instructors, the Staff, lined us all up on the Parade Square. They walked along the lines of raw junior recruits saying 'Yes. No' as they passed each one of us. When they arrived at me one of the Sergeants looked me up and down and then turned to the other Staff and said, 'I will give this one a week' and they all began to laugh and so did most of my fellow recruits.

In my mind I was beginning to think the same thing as I stood thereon the Parade Square until a little voice inside my head said, 'Come on Andy you can do this, you can prove them wrong'

I must admit I found the training very hard, and I was way out of my comfort zone. I got lots of verbal abuse, some of it accompanied with a vigorous push from the Staff. Somehow, I managed to make it passed the first week. By this time however the training was becoming much harder especially the physical demands on my body. Half our time was spent in the classroom doing academic studies such as Maths, English and Human Biology the rest of the time was spent doing military training. This included lots of physical exercise in the gym and running over the "Three Hills" on the Military Training Area that ran along the back of the barracks.

By the time the end of the third week came I was in bits. My body was hurting all over. I was feeling very dejected and in my mind that was it. I had gone as far as I could. Everything that was said about me prior to joining the Army was true. I was not fit enough to be a soldier; I didn't have the right mind set. I was not going to make it; it was time to call it a day and quit. I went to my House Sergeant, (SGT), Junior SGT Appleby and told him I wanted to see our House Officer Commanding (OC), Captain (CAPT) Wheeler. SGT Appleby spoke to our Training SGT and told him I wanted to see our House OC.

I was marched to the OC's Office and told to stand to attention and wait until I was called in. After what seemed like hours, but was only about ten minutes, I was called into the office. I marched into the office, halted in front of CAPT Wheeler's desk and saluted. CAPT Wheeler told me to sit down and relax and asked me what the problem was. I immediately broke down and burst into tears. I told him that I had had enough and couldn't take it anymore. I wanted to go home.

For the next 30 minutes CAPT Wheeler talked to me about the real Army life. What it was like to be a soldier and how good it felt. He told me about all the places I would get to see and all the different opportunities that the Army offered a young man like me. He finished off by saying 'Andrew I have every confidence in you. I can tell just by looking at you that you will get through this and do well in your Army career'.

This was the first time that anyone had ever shown any form of confidence in me to make it in the Army. I decided that I would have another go. As I left the OC's office that voice in my head was now loud and firm saying 'Come on Andy, you've got it. Let's show everyone what you are made of.

I went back to training with a purpose in my life. I was going to be a soldier. I knuckled down and put 110% into everything I did. My fitness began to improve, and I was beginning to get accepted by my fellow Apprentices, that I was one of the team.

To cut a long story short of the six of us that joined the military from school I was the only one still serving after three years. What followed over the following 22 years was an amazing journey through the British Army. I served all over the world in various military medical roles. I took part in numerous military operations and got to the ultimate rank Warrant Officer Class One, Regimental Sergeant Major (WO1, RSM).

My military career did not stop there. After completing my 22 years' service in the British Army I applied for the Australian Army and joined as a Lateral Transfer in 2002. I went on to serve another 19 years, finally leaving due to a medical discharge in the rank of Major.

I had done it I had proved them all wrong.

Andy Brayshaw

CUTTING-EDGE TECH ON SHOW

John Noble,

AirForce Vol.66 No.10, June 6, 2024

THE accuracy with which tactical defence and disaster relief payloads are delivered is set to be revolutionised thanks to the cutting-edge work of a team in the Jericho Disruption Innovation Program at RAAF Base Edinburgh.

The team is fine-tuning a technology that will allow air drops of communication or relief supplies to be delivered with pinpoint accuracy on land and at sea.

The Air Launched Delivery Drone, or 'Aladdin', will open up limitless opportunities for assistance not only in the field of battle or Defence exercises, but in the complex and challenging area of search and rescue, and disaster relief.

Project lead officer WGCDR Paul Hay said the current focus of Aladdin was on Defence tactical resupply but believed it would be a boon for other areas too.

"We are all very excited about the future potential of this technology not only for the defence of the nation, but also its benefits in the civil sector," WGCDR Hay said.

"For example, one of the great features of Aladdin that we are actively developing with the technology is its application in search-and-rescue missions or in disaster relief.

"Where there may be heavy cloud cover above a stricken vessel at sea or similar scenario on land with people stranded, Aladdin can be deployed out of the aircraft and then fly below the clouds, or very thick smoke in the case of a bushfire ... it will then be guided using the on-board camera to fly the specific payload such as emergency-relief supplies) right next to the survivors.

"This is where we feel Aladdin will be most effective in the short term - assisting people affected by natural disasters in a way they haven't been before."

Aladdin is being tested using relatively small

payloads, but the team will scale up the weight and size delivered by the guidance system between 20kg to 30kg over the coming months.

"Key to the design of the system will be that anybody can build a payload module to be deployed by Aladdin that is independent of the drone head," WGCDR Hay said.

"Navy is now working with us on further developing Aladdin because by mid-year we're aiming to be able to launch a payload from an aircraft and safely land it on the deck of a moving ship.

"This opens up countless opportunities to assist in search-and-rescue missions because at the moment it's likely that a helibox launched from a plane would have to be physically retrieved by the crew of a stricken boat in often very harsh condition on the open sea, rather than being dropped within virtually inches of them on the vessel's deck.

"It will also assist in warfare where a communications repeater, sensor or related equipment can be dropped with great accuracy and precision on a mountain top or specific location to assist with communications or surveillance on the battlefield."

Aladdin was on display at the Air and Space Conference, enabling attendees to get a first look.

"We at Jericho are really excited about the future of Aladdin and will continue our partnership with Adelaide company Sovereign Propulsion Systems as we test, trial and further evaluate the system - including a potential trial flight from the back of a C130 later this year," WGCDR Hay said.

A ham sandwich walks into a bar and orders a beer, bartender says "sorry, we don't serve food here."

Why shouldn't you write with a broken pencil? Because it's pointless.

EPPING RSL SENIORS Christmas in July Lunch July 9 2024



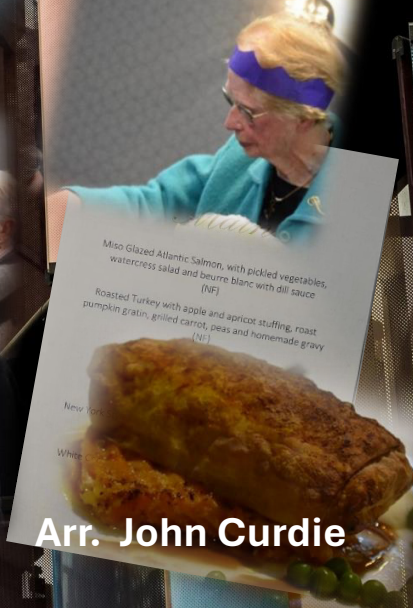
Photos Irene Rowe

Arr. John Curdie

EPPING RSL SENIORS Christmas in July Lunch July 9 2024



Photos Irene Rowe



Arr. John Curdie

EPPING RSL SUB-BRANCH DIRECTORY 2024

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ROUTINE ORDERS is issued 5 times per year, in January, April, June, August and October.

Contributions for inclusion in ROUTINE ORDERS, such as forward activities, interesting personal notes etc. are always welcome. Items for the next issue on Monday 30 September 2024 are required before Wednesday 18 September 2024.

Earlier would be appreciated. Electronic copy preferred if possible. *Routine Orders* editor Barry Hoschke bhoschke@tpg.com.au.