

Returned And Services League Australia



ANGELES CITY SUB BRANCH PHILIPPINES

www.rslangelescity.com

'LEST WE FORGET'

PRESIDENT	<i>James Curtis-Smith</i>	EMAIL ADDRESS':	president@rslangelescity.com
VICE PRESIDENTS	<i>Noel Roach</i>		
	<i>Vic Meller</i>		
SECRETARY	<i>Dallas Drake</i>		secretary@rslangelescity.com
TREASURER	<i>Bob Young</i>		treasurer@rslangelescity.com
EDITOR	<i>Larry Smith</i>		editor@rslangelescity.com

CLUBHOUSE: PONDEROSA HOTEL

NEWSLETTER No 31 ** OCTOBER 2009

PRESIDENTS REPORT - October 2009

Since the last report the Sub Branch has been very busy. Some 20 members visited Subic Sub Branch where they enjoyed some of the delights of Barrio Barretto culminating in a bbq at the Downunder, and just this week 7 members took up the package deal offered by Southern Cross Hotel and the Southern Cross shuttle bus to have an overnight stay in Manila following up the experiences of Ermita for those of us that can remember. These away activities are great fun and a great way to build camaraderie and mateship amongst the members of the Sub Branch. Many thanks to those who organized both activities. Incidentally for those who don't know, the owners of the Southern Cross Bus (plying daily Manila- Angeles-Subic and return) and the owners of the Southern Cross Hotel are members of the Sub Branch and offer substantial discount rates to Sub Branch members.

Australia Day Fiesta activity is now in an advanced state of preparation and we encourage you all to be involved. The 2010 Fiesta polo shirt is now on sale and available through outlets along Fields Avenue and Perimeter Road and details appear on our web page.

Whilst at the web site have a look at the photos of the presentation by the Sub Branch of a wheel chair to a severely disabled 12 years old local girl who cannot walk and who cannot speak. The little girl was housebound, as with her getting older, bigger and heavier, her family are not able to carry her on outings from their house. The funding of the wheel chair was from the charity account of the Sub Branch which in turn is funded from our Saturday night raffles at The International (renamed and formerly Shano's Irish Pub) and of course from the funds raised from our major fund raiser being the Australia Day Fiesta.

(Pres Jim presents the wheelchair, right)

Our next medical mission will be at Barrio Pampang on October 24 and we expect large numbers of underprivileged children to attend. Please check details and location map at our web page and come and help if you can.

We have been honoured that the Minister for Veterans Affairs for the Australian Government, the **Hon. Alan Griffin MP** has accepted the invitation of the Sub Branch to attend and unveil a plaque of remembrance on behalf of the RSL at the Hellships Memorial at SBMA at Subic on November 11th next. The Minister will be accompanied



on this day by the Ambassador for Australia to the Philippines His Excellency Rod Smith. Details appear elsewhere in this issue and on our web page and I encourage and request as many members and others who are able to attend this dedication and remembrance service.

Finally, and again this month, permit me to remind Australian (and other) ex pats living here in the Philippines to turn their minds to some planning and what happens in the event of your death and or hospitalization. The Australian Embassy will notify relatives in Australia but the financial responsibility is totally yours. Over the last three months 3 Australians who passed away here in Angeles City alone, left behind them families without any financial support and in all three cases no money available at all to cover costs of their hospitalization and funeral.

JAMES E. CURTIS-SMITH
President

11 NOVEMBER 2009

DON'T FORGET the Hellships commemoration at Subic Bay on 11th November 2009. Timings: **be there** by 10:30 hrs for the ceremony and the minutes silence will be at 11:00 hrs.

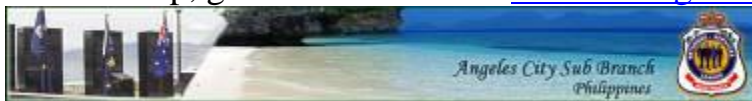
It has been confirmed (see Pres report) that the Minister for Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Alan Griffin MP will be attending the unveiling of the commemorative plaque to the victims of the hellship 'Montevideo Maru'.

After the Nov 11 Hellship Plaque Laying Ceremony at Subic Bay, you are invited play golf Thursday morning at San Antonio for those wishing to **Stay overnight**. For more information, see our website.

WELCOME AND GREETINGS TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS: Cenita Albia (A/C) * Jennifer Corpin (A/C) * Brian Graham (A/C) * Brian Boon (A/C) * Garry James (VIC) * Todd Greenwood (A/C) * Chris Viles (A/C) * Gerhard Gschloessl (A/C) * Johnathon Burnett (A/C) * Carl Burke (A/C) overlooked from March, welcome finally Carl * Rob Gregory (QLD) *

We are always looking forward to receiving applications for new membership, and of course members whose membership lapsed, renewal of that membership. We are accepting 2010 fees NOW which are ₱700.00. NEW MEMBERS can join for ₱700.00 for the rest of this year and all of 2010. We mentioned in last month's newsletter that LIFE SUBSCRIPTIONS are available and that if you are contemplating it, do it now as there is a membership rise starting on 1 Jan 2010. Although that rise is modest, it will make Life Subscription a fair bit higher (depending on age). SO DO IT NOW.

For more information on membership, go to our website at www.rslangelescity.com



AN INTERESTING LITTLE ARTICLE

Reported in the Victorian T.P.I. News Letter - Chin Up Autumn Edition 2009.

Welfare Report

An issue that concerns me is the number of TPI's I meet that are not aware of the limitation of the gold card in relation to the ambulance service.

Time and time again a veteran tells me that as a TPI he or she has no worries about joining the ambulance service because the gold card will cover all requirements.

Well unfortunately, I have bad news for them if they ever decide to leave their home State.

Please Note:

The ambulance service provided for gold cardholders only covers the State in which you live or if interstate it will only cover transport to the nearest hospital. If ever there is a need for a gold cardholder to be moved from a local interstate hospital to a specialist hospital or to be transported back to their home state from interstate, then it will be at the gold cardholders expense. My advice to all TPI's when travelling, is to either have travel insurance and / or maintain membership of the ambulance service.

	FIESTA GARDEN HOTEL 22 Deluxe Rooms - 2 Family Rooms From 1,000 Pesop per Night
	Facilities: Air Con, En Suite Hot Shower 24 hr Room Service, 24 hr Restaurant Bar Southern Comfort Bar 2 pm till ? Swimming Pool, Cable TV, Pool Table Free High Speed Wireless Internet 24 hr Security Guard, Safety Deposit Box Free Bus Daily to Fields, Laundry Service Garden Function area for Weddings, Party's Special Discount for Service Groups and Long Term Stays
Phone: +63 45 887- 2397 Email: fiesta@smartbro.net	
1176 Jake Gonzales Blvd Angeles City 2009	

AND another bit of good and timely advice:

Pensioner Exemption

Are you a pensioner or do you know a pensioner who still pays their telephone bills with cash? There is a number you can phone to get a pensioner exemption for the soon-to-be-introduced rip-off. This is the \$2.20 you will be charged if you front up to the PO or Telstra with your bill to pay it in person.

Phone 1800 445 708, they require your phone number, name, date of birth and pension card number to register for exemption from this fee. You can register your home & and mobile phones.

Hope this is helpful, even if you pay online, please pass this on to any pensioners you know who may be able to use it!

Ray Payne OAM
 Veteranweb Network
raypayne@veteranweb.asn.au

RSL members can avail themselves of a 15% discount when staying at Coconut Grove Beach Resort, Paringao, Bauang La Union courtesy of Graham Fish. Go to:
www.coco.com.ph

**Coconut
 Grove**
 Beach Resort



For those members who don't have a computer or didn't look at the DVA site, here are the new pension rates below which came into effect on Sept 20.

Pension	Old fortnightly rate	New fortnightly rate
Special Rate (TPI) Pension/ MRCA Special Rate Disability Pension	\$1,011.90	\$1,022.10
Extreme Disablement Adjustment	\$558.50	\$564.10
100 per cent General Rate of Disability Pension	\$359.50	\$363.10
Intermediate Rate Disability Pension	\$686.60	\$693.50
Service Pension – single	\$569.80	\$671.90*
Service Pension – couples	\$951.80 couple \$475.90 each	\$1,013.00* couple \$506.50* each
War Widows/ers Pension	\$607.00	\$679.00
Income Support Supplement	\$170.20	\$202.50*



PASSING PARADE

Once again we have lost one of our member's, **Mick Porter**. Mick had been ill for some time and died of those illnesses on 26 September 2009. Mick had been in the Philippines for what seemed like forever. His latest job was Manager of the Welcome Inn. Mick had a lot of mates in Angeles and you probably would not find a person who had a bad word about him.

Unfortunately Mick was a member for only one year and did not qualify for the Sub Branch assistance with funeral expenses. RIP Mick

THIS is probably as good a time as any to remind our members living in the Philippines to make appropriate arrangements for when you get ill and, if you die, disposal of your remains and support for your family. This advice includes making a WILL.

The old adage *“if in pain, catch a plane”* is too late if you are too ill to catch that plane. An illness in this country which has no free medical and medicinal services starts off a financial nightmare for your family and mates. Far too often families have been left in financial limbo where they have to try and solicit funds for hospitalisation and medicines, and eventually funeral services.

The Australian embassy does not have funds to cover your problems. All they can do is provide consular advice and support of a non financial nature.

A current case. An ex USAF friend of mine here in Davao City, aged 74, started having heart problems. He was transported to the premium heart hospital here where he continued to deteriorate. Contact with the Veteran’s Administration (VA) here in the Phils were of little help. Money became critical. Change of hospital to attempt to rein in costs. His biggest cost was medication. A daughter from the US arrived and was frustrated with the VA. She rang VA in the US and got a good response. They have taken over responsibility but the costs incurred prior, was his responsibility. **No insurances of any sort.** Result. Nest egg gone. Friends hit for donations. Property pawned.

WE URGE all members to SERIOUSLY THINK ABOUT THEIR FUTURE NEEDS.

SECRETARY Dallas is working on a plan to put to members with the view of obtaining GROUP Health cover for our members age 65 +, but for it to work we will need more than 20 to join, and for good discount it needs 40-50. He guess’ the Group cover could include member’s families.

We will publish more on this when Dallas has made some more substantive enquiries. **Ed**



A GLITCH IN OUR COMPUTER SYSTEM

We encountered a glitch in our Webmaster’s computer last month. We apologise to our members who received multiple notifications that the September newsletter had been posted on our website.

Gerald, our webmaster worked hard to rectify the glitch. He is also attempting to upgrade the notification system. Here is a message from him.. *We would like to inform our subscribers that the new **Notification Delivery System** is now upgraded and stable, all new notices will be delivered in this new format. Thank you bearing with us during this transition and helping us in making our website even better.*

***Kind Regards,
Gerald Slide
Webmaster***

Also we feel that some members have changed their email address without advising our Secretary. We cannot keep you posted if we have the wrong email address. Request you check if you recently changed and advise Dallas ASAP.

IT'S ON AGAIN - THE LA UNION CHILLI COOK-OFF

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Col. B.J. Smith VFW Post 9892

National Hwy, Paringao, Bauang, La Union
2501

Philippines

Tel: (072) 607-6660 – Email: vw9892@yahoo.com.ph

30 August 2009

Greetings Chili Fans,

On Saturday, November 28, 2009, the members of Colonel B.J. Smith VFW Post 9892 will be gathering at the Bali Hai Beach Resort, in Bauang, La Union for our 18th Annual "Chili Cook off." Our theme this year is recognizing the U.S. Marines, and all participants will be competing to see who can make the very best "Devil Dog Chili." All chili aficionados are invited to join us for a day of fun in the sun.

The festivities start at 8:30 a.m., when the chili cookers crank up their fires. It won't take long before the aromas alone make you happy you came. The specific objective of course is to determine which team cooks the best pot of chili, judged solely on quality.

For planning purposes early entries are encouraged. Get your team info and fee to us by the end of October to insure proper shirt sizes on the day of the cook off. That being said, entries will be accepted up until the Team Captain's Meeting at noon on Friday Nov. 27, 2009 at the Bali Hai.

NOTE: NO BEVERAGES OR FOOD (except chili ingredients) MAY BE BROUGHT ON PREMISES. YOU WILL FIND FOOD & BEVERAGE PRICES ARE VERY REASONABLE.

All proceeds gained from food and beverage sales go towards our Community Projects support of Bauang, and its residents. Help us as we help them.

We are looking forward to seeing you, and your families, again this year so plan on joining us for a day of enjoyment on the beach.

Sincerely yours,

Frank B. Hilliard IV

Commander



HEADS UP FOR WHAT IS HAPPENING SOON AT THE RSL SUB BRANCH

EVERY SATURDAY RSL CHARITY CHOOK RAFFLE ,AT 'THE INTERNATIONAL' 6.00 pm.

EVERY TUESDAY 2.00 PM.WE MEET AT PONDEROSA (watch for notices as to where we will bar hop)

NOVEMBER 11th HELLSHIP MEMORIAL SERVICE SBMA SUBIC WATERFRONT START 10:30hrs AND MINUTE SILENCE AT 1100HRS (If you wish to play Golf EMAIL secretary@rslangelescity.com, or staying O/N for accommodation)

NOVEMBER 12th GOLF AT SAN ANTONIO

NOVEMBER 27th, 28th, 29th LA UNION CHILLI COOK OFF

DECEMBER 15th PONDEROSA HOTEL 1530HRS CHRISTMAS/PRESIDENT DRINKS

DECEMBER 30TH 31st (NEW YEARS EVE AT DREAMLAND RESORT)

JANUARY 1st 2010 (RECOVERY DAY AT DREAMLAND RESORT)

(THIS IS A FAMILY EVENT, EMAIL secretary@rslangelescity.com FOR BOOKINGS, SPECIAL RATES APPLY)

JANUARY 9th LINGAYEN MEMORIA ,65th ANNIVERSARY OF WW2 LANDING

JANUARY 20th AUSTRALIA DAY BEAUTY PAGEANT 5.30pm.RIB EYE STEAK HOUSE

JANUARY 22nd POKER MACHINE DERBY, BELL RING & SHOW, GOLDEN NILE 5.30PM.

JANUARY 23rd 8 BALL TOURNAMENT, OZ vs REST OF WORLD 2.00pm. THE INTERNATIONAL

JANUARY 24th AUSTRALIA DAY FIESTA STREET PARTY 12 NOON TO 7PM.

JANUARY 31st OZ STYLE FAMILY SPORTS DAY,GOLF, SWIMMING, BOWLS, DARTS, DUMMY SPIT, SLIPPER TOSS, ANGELES SPORTS & COUNTRY CLUB (HIDDEN VALE) 9.00 A.M.TILL LATE. (BBQ PROVIDED (BRING YOUR OWN MEAT or order from the Menu)

FURTHER INFORMATION SEE: WWW.RSLANGELESCITY.COM

Editorial. The month of November brings us to Remembrance Day on the 11th. We have been taught all about Gallipoli, the Middle East and France/Belgium from our childhood. However we were never told about 'child soldiers' who upped their ages and went to war in WW1. Thanks to Wikipedia, I have found the name and background of Australia's youngest soldier to die in WW1. Read his story below. Ed

AUSTRALIA'S YOUNGEST SOLDIER TO DIE IN WAR

Private James Martin

3 January 1901 - 25 October 1915 (aged 14)



Studio portrait of 1553 Private James Martin

Nickname	Jim
Place of birth	Tocumwal, New South Wales
Place of death	At Sea, off ANZAC Cove
Allegiance	First Australian Imperial Force
Rank	Private
Battles/wars	Gallipoli
Awards	1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

James Charles (Jim) Martin (3 January 1901 - 25 October 1915) is the youngest Australian known to have died in war, being fourteen years, nine months old. He was one of 20 known Australian soldiers under the age of eighteen to die in World War I. He signed up for war at the age of 14 and 3 months.

Early life

James was born to Amelia and Charles Martin. Charles Martin was born Charles Marks, in Auckland, New Zealand, to Jewish parents. After emigrating to Australia and settling in Tocumwal, New South Wales he changed his name to Martin to avoid discrimination against Jews. Amelia Martin was born in Bendigo in 1876 to Thomas and Frances Park. Her parents had emigrated to Australia during the gold rush in the 1850s. Amelia was the youngest of twelve children. Amelia married Charles just before her 18th birthday.

James was born in Tocumwal, the third of six children and the only son, into a hard life. The family moved to many different suburbs in and around Melbourne, before finally settling in 1915 in Hawthorn. Jim enrolled in Glenferrie State School from 1910 to 1915. The sole family income was provided by his father, Charles, grocer, handyman and (horse-drawn) cab driver

World War I

At the outbreak of World War I, and against the wishes of his family, he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 21 April 1915. His parents finally agreed when he made it clear he would sign on under an assumed name and never write to them if they did not consent. He gave a false date of birth to the recruiting officer, claiming to be eighteen, when he was actually fourteen years and three months.



A camouflaged Turkish Officer captured at Gallipoli is guarded by two Australian soldiers

He joined the 1st Reinforcements of the 21st Battalion as a Private and trained in Broadmeadows and Seymour (later Puckapunyal) camps in Victoria before boarding HMAT *Berrima* in June 1915 to deploy to Egypt. In late August 1915, he was sent from there to Gallipoli on the steamer HMT *Southland*. En route, his ship was torpedoed by a German submarine off the island of Lemnos. He was rescued after spending four hours in the water.

Private Martin landed on 8 September 1915. He was stationed with his battalion in the trenches near Courtney's Post on the ridge above the Monash Valley. He wrote to his family that "the Turks are still about 70 yards (64 m) away from us" and asked them not to worry about him as "I am doing splendid over here". During his time in Gallipoli, he didn't get one letter from his family or friends.

Martin contracted enteric fever (typhoid) in the trenches and was evacuated on 25 October 1915 to the hospital ship *Glenart Castle*. He died of heart failure that evening, at the age of fourteen and nine months, and was buried at sea the next day.

Honours and awards



He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal. His name is recorded on the Australian memorial at Lone Pine and on the Australian War Memorial roll of honour in Canberra.

THE LAST ALLIED SOLDIER KILLED IN WORLD WAR I

There are two candidates for the title of "the last soldier killed in W.W. I." It depends on when the war ended. The official end of the shooting was supposed to coincide with the signing of the armistice at 11:00 A.M. on Nov. 11, 1918. Pvt. Henry Gunther of Baltimore, Md., was with Company A, 313th Infantry, 79th Division of the U.S. Army as it advanced upon Metz near the German border. Gunther's platoon ran into an ambush. Enraged by the enemy machine-gun fire, Gunther charged the German position with fixed bayonet. At the very moment that a messenger arrived with word that the war was ending at 11:00 A.M., Gunther was shot through the left temple and left side, at 11:01. General Pershing's order of the day named him as the last American killed in the war. Posthumously, he

received the Distinguished Service Cross. However, if Gunther was killed after hostilities had ended, then the last soldier killed in the war was Pvt. G. E. Ellison of the 5th Royal Irish Lancers, who was shot to death about five seconds before 11:00 A.M. The third-to-last soldier killed in W.W. I was Pvt. G. I. Prince, a Canadian, who died in action at 10:58. (Note **Gunther was a German American**)

ON THE GERMAN SIDE

There is the story that a German machine gunner was busy firing away at the allies and right at 11:00 hours, he fired his last round, stood up, bowed towards his enemy, turned around and walked to the rear.

THE SIGNING

The actual signing was done at 05:00 hours between a German politician and allied commanders, with the armistice to take effect at 11:00 hours. It was done on a railway carriage that French Martial FOCH used as a HQ. Some commanders stood their soldiers down and they rested and played cards. Other commanders like US General Pershing considered that an armistice was useless and that they should drive right through to Berlin and get the Germans to surrender. So he kept committing his soldiers to battle and lost several hundred more to casualties.

When he arrived back in the United States there was congressional inquiry into his decision. He was still unrepentant and stated publically that Germany should have been made to surrender.



ONE GERMAN SOLDIER NOT SMILING

When the armistice took effect and the fighting ceased, there was a picture of a group of smiling German soldiers but there was one soldier amongst them that was certainly not smiling. He was Corporal Adolf Hitler.

When Hitler invaded France in WW2, he deliberately used the same railway carriage that FOCH had used in 1918 to accept the surrender of France. He then had it transported back to Berlin. In the closing stages of the defeat of his Reich, it was destroyed by explosives, probably to prevent it being used again to sign an armistice or surrender.

Corporal Hitler is on the far right of the picture (left)

NB. I had to bring these articles into the October newsletter as Remembrance Day occurs before the November newsletter is issued. Ed

IN THE JUNE ISSUE we did an article about Australian involvement with the liberation of the Philippines during WW2. This month is the 65th anniversary of the start of that liberation. The articles below is an abridged version, but for a more complete version, go to the weblink shown below. Ed

<http://www.awm.gov.au/wartime/28/article.asp>

The first kamikaze attack?

“People of the Philippines, I have returned”, declared General Douglas MacArthur as he waded ashore at Beach Red in the Leyte Gulf in the afternoon of 20 October 1944, thus fulfilling the promise he had made two and a

half years earlier after he was ordered by his President to leave.

On the same day Admiral Onishi Takajiro announced the formation of a new special attack unit (tokkotai) to support the Japanese plan for a decisive battle for the Philippines. The unit was to adopt the suicide tactics soon to become better known as kamikaze attacks. A massive raid at Formosa eight days earlier by a US task force and bombers from China had destroyed a large part of what remained of the Japanese navy's aircraft. This had prompted the Emperor to send Onishi to the Philippines to organise tokkotai to carry out suicide attacks against Allied ships.

PONDEROSA HOTEL

AUSTRALIAN - BRITISH OWNED AND MANAGED

The Leyte Gulf invasion by the Allies to recapture the Philippines, which began on 20 October 1944, remains the largest single Royal Australian Navy (RAN) operation ever undertaken. Among the 550 ships of the invasion fleets were the heavy cruisers Australia and Shropshire, the destroyers Arunta and Warramunga, and the landing ships Kanimbla, Manoora, and Westralia.

On the morning of 21 October, Trafalgar Day, a Japanese Val dive bomber suddenly appeared between Shropshire and Australia. Australia had just weighed anchor, making ready to provide fire support for the Americans ashore. Captain Nichols in Shropshire reports what happened next:

During the dawn stand-to a low aircraft approached from the land between Australia and Shropshire. It was taken under fire and retired to the westward. Observers in Shropshire report that the aircraft was hit and touched the water but recovered. It then turned east again and although under heavy fire, passed up the port side of Australia, and crashed into the foremast at [6.05 am]. Lieutenant Commander Richard Peek, Australia's gunnery officer, was on the bridge at the time. He called to Captain Emile Dechaineux, "Just look at this. She's aiming for us." The Val was heading straight for the bridge and the safety training stops on the 4- inch guns and the pom poms prevented their firing till the aircraft had dropped to an angle of about 30 degrees. By that time it was over the stern. Its cannon played over the upper deck, causing many casualties. According to one observer on Australia, the gun crews "engaged the enemy with no appreciable result, although the pilot's aim was slightly upset, so that he hit the foremast with his wing root and went over the side, instead of falling on board and adding to the fires." But its petrol tanks had exploded, soaking those on the bridge. Commodore John Collins, commander of the Australian Squadron, suffered burns and other wounds; Dechaineux and the navigator, Commander John Rayment, were mortally wounded.



 Southern Cross Shuttle Daily Bus Service	
ANGELES - SUBIC - ANGELES - MANILA - ANGELES	
BOOKINGS - ANGELES 045-892-5475	BOOKINGS - MANILA 02-521-2013
BOOKINGS - SUBIC :- 0906-326-2146	
ANGELES - SUBIC - ANGELES Depart Angeles 9am Depart Baloy Beach 11am	ANGELES - MANILA - ANGELES Depart Angeles 1pm Depart Manila 3.30pm

In all, 30 officers and men were killed or died of wounds, with 64 wounded, 26 of these seriously. Many of the men were badly burnt, and almost unrecognisable. The luckiest survivors were two men in the crow's nest when the plane struck it just a metre below them. The explosion cut away two of the legs supporting it, and bent the mast back. Neither was injured.

Able Seaman Reg Walker saw Dechaineux on the bridge. "The captain was in a sitting position ... And [he] had this hole in his stomach, and he was burnt a little, his lips were rather swollen ...

it was a tragic sight. Commander Rayment was dead. And there [were] a lot of badly burnt people around that area." Walker helped carry the captain below: "And he was asking all the time whether ... those that were

injured were being looked after ... And he kept saying, 'Look after them.' 'Just how serious are the injuries?' ... That's all he was interested in ... He died later in the day ... He never uttered a moan or a groan. He was an outstanding person

On that day, just four days after the attack on Australia, HMAS Shropshire and Arunta took part in the action at Surigao Strait, between Leyte and Dinagat islands. This was one of four actions that day, known collectively as the battle of Leyte Gulf; it was the last ever surface battle fleet action in history and the Allied forces smashed the Japanese fleet, which lost three battleships (including the Yamato), all four carriers, six cruisers, and more than a dozen destroyers



(Continuing our series) THE KOKODA TRACK

Between 21 July and 14 September 1942, 2,000 Australian troops defended the Kokoda Track leading to Port Moresby against 10,000 elite, battle-toughened Japanese troops. The Australians were ill-equipped, poorly supplied, and facing an enemy determined to brush them aside and capture Port Moresby. These circumstances forced the Australians to stage a fighting withdrawal lasting four weeks across the ridges and valleys of the Kokoda Track to Imita Ridge on the mountains overlooking Port Moresby. During those four weeks of bloody fighting on the Kokoda Track the Australians suffered very heavy casualties.



The appalling conditions on the Kokoda Track

To add to the problems of the Australian troops, conditions on the Kokoda Track were appalling. The narrow dirt track climbed steep heavily timbered mountains, and then descended into deep valleys choked with dense rain forest. The steep gradients and the thick vegetation made

movement difficult, exhausting, and at times dangerous. Razor-sharp kunai grass tore at their clothing and slashed their skin. The average annual rainfall over most of the Kokoda Track is about 5 metres (16 feet), and daily rainfalls of 25 centimetres (10 inches) are not uncommon. When these rains fell, dirt tracks quickly dissolved into calf-deep mud which exhausted the soldiers after they had struggled several hundred metres through it. Sluggish streams in mountain ravines quickly became almost impassable torrents when the rains began to fall.

Supply was a nightmare for the soldiers on the Kokoda Track, because every item of food, ammunition and equipment had to be man-handled along the track or dropped by air. Heat, oppressive humidity, mosquitos and leeches added to the discomfort of the rain-drenched Australian soldiers who were often without adequate food and even a cup of tea.

As the Australians were digging in to make a last stand at Imita Ridge, the Japanese drive towards Port Moresby ran out of steam. In their fierce determination to overcome the Australians, the Japanese had sustained nearly 3,000 battle casualties on the Kokoda Track. Their supply lines were in chaos, their troops were starving and exhausted, and the Japanese Army General Staff acknowledged defeat on the Kokoda Track. On the evening of 25 September 1942, when the Japanese could see the lights of Port Moresby, the Japanese general was ordered to withdraw his battered army to the beachheads at Gona-Buna. Port Moresby had been saved.



107 Sofia Street,
Jesela Sub division,
Malabanas,
ANGELIS CITY
only 200 meters from
Fields Ave MINI STOP Checkpoint
500 meters from SM Clark
www.affinitycondoresort.com

affinity
Condo Resort

'Luxury living at affordable prices'
Accommodation that make the rest look *alittle average*
and *a lot expensive*

Studios, 1 and 2 bedroom condominiums up to 75 sqms
Fully Airconditioned - Hot and Cold Water
Fully appointed kitchens with granite benchtops
Private Balconies - 24 hour security
Private rooftop pool and entertainment area
Internet Cafe - Full size flatscreen TVs, video intercom, back-up generator,
Business IT room, Cable TV
Very quiet location only 200 meters from Mini-stop Checkpoint and the
centre of night life entertainment area.

** All major creditcards accepted*
** We guarantee the very best rates*
** FREE internet*
** FREE shuttle car*

from only
P1,490
per night

To make a reservation **CALL 89 22 444**
or **TEXT 0922 5555 626** or **BOOK ONLINE**
www.affinitycondoresort.com



VC CORNER

41400 Major Peter John BADCOE

Australian Army Training Team Vietnam. (AATTV)

23 February to 7 April 1967.

Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam

The Citation reads:

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased on the advice of Her Majesty's Australian Ministers to approve the posthumous award of the VICTORIA CROSS to:

Major PETER JOHN BADCOE (41400), Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

On 23rd February 1967 he was acting as an Advisor to a Regional Force Company in support of a Sector operation in Phu Thu District. He monitored a radio transmission which stated that the Subsector Adviser, a United States Army Officer, had been killed and that his body was within 50 metres of an enemy machine gun position; further, the United States Medical Adviser had been wounded and was in immediate danger from the enemy. Major BADCOE with complete disregard for his own safety moved

alone across 600 metres of fire-swept ground and reached the wounded Adviser, attended to him and ensured his future safety. He then organised a force of one platoon and led them towards the enemy post. His personal leadership, words of encouragement, and actions in the face of hostile enemy fire forced the platoon to successfully assault the enemy position and capture it, where he personally killed the machine gunners directly in front of him. He then picked up the body of the dead officer and ran back to the Command post over open ground still covered by enemy fire.

On 7th March 1967, at approximately 0645 hours, the Sector Reaction Company was deployed to Quang Dien Subsector to counter an attack by the Viet Cong on the Headquarters. Major BADCOE left the Command group after their vehicle broke down and a United States Officer was killed; he joined the Company Headquarters and personally led the company in an attack over open terrain to assault and capture a heavily defended enemy position. In the face of certain death and heavy losses his personal courage and leadership turned certain defeat into victory and prevented the enemy from capturing the District Headquarters.

On 7th April 1967, on an operation in Huong Tra District, Major BADCOE was with the 1st A.R.V.N. Division Reaction Company and some armoured personnel carriers. During the move forward to an objective the company came under heavy small arms fire and withdrew to a cemetery for cover, this left Major BADCOE and his radio operator about 50 metres in front of the leading elements, under heavy mortar fire. Seeing this withdrawal, Major BADCOE ran back to them, moved amongst them and by encouragement and example got them moving forward again. He then set out in front of the company to lead them on; the company stopped again under heavy fire but Major BADCOE continued on to cover and prepared to throw grenades, when he rose to throw, his radio operator pulled him down as heavy small arms fire was being brought to bear on them; he later got up again to throw a grenade and was hit and killed by a burst of machine gun fire. Soon after, friendly artillery fire was called in and the position was assaulted and captured.

Major BADCOE'S conspicuous gallantry and leadership on all these occasions was an inspiration to all, each action, ultimately, was successful, due entirely to his efforts, the final one ending in his death. His valour and leadership were in the highest traditions of the military profession and the Australian Regular Army.

Peter John BADCOE was born in Adelaide on 11 January 1934. He was buried at the Terendak Cemetery, Malacca, Malaysia. His headstone is shown below left.



ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON PETER BADCOE VC

Peter Badcoe's original family name was BADCOCK, pronounced Badcoe. He changed the spelling of his name to BADCOE in 1961. He graduated from Officer Cadet School Portsea as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1952 and was allotted to the Royal Australian Artillery. He remained in the Artillery serving in several regimental appointments including service in Malaya, and transferred to the Royal Australian Infantry in 1961. Within the ranks of his fellow AATTV advisers, he was referred to as 'the running Major' because of his tendency to approach everything at the run. MAJ Badcoe was supposed to be on R&R in Hong Kong with fellow officer MAJ Ross Buchan, when the need arose for one of them to go on the operation that he was eventually killed. He volunteered and told Ross to enjoy his R&R. The rest of his story appears above.

The epitaph on his headstone is inscribed 'He lived and died a Soldier'.



AUSTRALIA DAY FIESTA 2010

Conducted by the members of the
RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA - ANGELES CITY PHILIPPINES SUB BRANCH
www.rslangelescity.com

It is not too early to advertise the coming Australia Day Fiesta 2010 to be held in January. This also serves as a reminder to those supporters who wish to participate in the festivities. For more information, have a look at our website or contact Secretary Dallas Drake. Application and conditions of entry may be provided. For those members who do not live in Angeles, this is a good time to book a trip and make it coincide with the fiesta. You will not be disappointed.

(I tried to make the Aussie colours of green and gold but the gold was too hard to read, so I have to settle for orange) Ed



THE Federal Government has referred a case of alleged fraud involving a man who claimed to be one of Australia's youngest prisoners of war to the Australian Federal Police for investigation.

South Australian Arthur Rex Crane, 83, has been on the highest level of service pension since 1988 and is the Federal President of the Prisoners of War Association of Australia, Fairfax Media reported.

He has alleged he was captured by the Japanese in 1942, became a prisoner of war at 15 and was imprisoned in Singapore's Outram Road jail.

But *the Sydney Morning Herald* reported that throughout the war the 83-year-old lived in Adelaide and had never served in the military.

The newspaper said that when confronted about his past, Mr Crane said: "It is me living a lie, isn't it?"

Federal Veterans Affairs Minister Alan Griffin released a statement describing the case as disgusting.

"Personally, I think for anyone to impersonate a prisoner of war is disgusting. It is a betrayal of all the values our veterans stand for," Mr Griffin said.

He said his department had referred the matter to the AFP on Thursday.

"This matter should be pursued to the fullest extent of the law and I am confident that the AFP will do so.

"I eagerly await the outcome of that investigation."

To see Minister Griffin's media release go to:

http://minister.dva.gov.au/media_releases/2009/oct/va087.pdf

To see the story about Rex Crane and how he was found out go to:

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/pow-chief-a-prisoner-of-his-own-lies-20091002-ggid.html>



**Beyond the
Black Stump**

www.beyondtheblackstump.com
(A couple of Australian cockatoo's idea on water divining)



Rural Australian Computer Terminology

A little bit of Aussie culture

LOG ON:	Adding wood to make the BBQ hotter.
LOG OFF:	Not adding any more wood to the BBQ
MONITOR:	Keeping an eye on the BBQ.
DOWNLOAD:	Getting the firewood off the Ute . (Pick-up truck for non Aussie members)
HARD DRIVE:	Making the trip back home without any cold tinnies.
KEYBOARD:	Where you hang the Ute keys.
WINDOW:	What you shut when the weather's cold.
SCREEN:	What you shut in the mozzie season.
BYTE:	What mozzies do.
MEGABYTE:	What Townsville mozzies do.
CHIP:	A bar snack.
MICROCHIP:	What's left in the bag after you've eaten the chips.
MODEM:	What you did to the lawns.
LAPTOP:	Where the cat sleeps.

SOFTWARE:	Plastic knives & forks you get at Red Rooster.
HARDWARE:	Stainless steel knives & forks - from K-Mart.
MOUSE:	The small rodent that eats the grain in the shed.
MAINFRAME:	What holds the shed up.
WEB:	What spiders make.
WEBSITE:	Usually in the shed or under the verandah.
SEARCH ENGINE:	What you do when the Ute won't go.
CURSOR:	What you say when the Ute won't go.
YAHOO:	What you say when the Ute does go.
UPGRADE:	A steep hill.
SERVER:	The person at the pub who brings out the counter lunch.
MAIL SERVER:	The bloke at the pub who brings out the counter lunch.
USER:	The neighbour who keeps borrowing things.
NETWORK:	What you do when you need to repair the fishing net.
INTERNET:	Where you want the fish to go.
NETSCAPE:	What the fish do when they discover a hole in the net.
ONLINE:	Where you hang the washing.
OFFLINE:	Where the washing ends up when you haven't bothered using pegs.



**AUSTRALIAN VETERANS'
CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST**

Scholarships for Children of Veterans intending Tertiary Studies in 2010

In 2010 the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) are expecting to give financial assistance for up to 65 students under many different scholarship schemes. All schemes help the selected children in need of the Australian veteran community with the costs of tertiary education. Applicants are considered for all schemes for which they are eligible.

Applications open on 18 August 2009. To apply you must be:

- a. Within the means test. That is eligible on assets and income grounds for Youth Allowance benefits for full-time education.
- b. Enrolled, or planning to enrol in a full-time course of tertiary education in Australia by attendance at a university, TAFE or college. The course must be of one or more academic years length and at undergraduate level.
- c. The child or grandchild of a person who has operational service with the Australian Navy, Army or Air Force, or if not has three or more year's continuous full-time service as a member of the Australian Defence Force.
- d. Under the age of 25 when applying, unless exceptional circumstances related to veteran's service exist.

The largest scheme is the Long Tan Bursary funded by the Australian Government. There are 50 new bursaries each year. They are valued at \$9,000 each which paid at \$3,000 per year for three years. There are selection number targets for each State and Territory. To apply you must be the child of an Australian Vietnam Veteran, be resident in Australia, be entering any year of tertiary study, having not previously received a Long Tan Bursary.

The other national schemes are the AVCAT Bursary, the two RSL Scholarships, three Vietnam Veterans' Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Scholarship and the Defence Force Welfare Association Scholarship. George Quinsey Scholarships directly pay tuition fees for economics, commerce and accountancy studies. There are also regional scholarships. In NSW, there are three from Brisbane Water Legacy covering Gosford/Wyong NSW and two from the NSW TPI Association. Some private donors offer two scholarships to resident NSW applicants. In SA, the VVAA also offers a scholarship.

Schemes vary between \$3,000 and \$5,000 per year each. Some are restricted to location of residence or studies. Most require veteran service in Vietnam but others are broader. Most schemes continue payments for later years of study. All scholarship schemes but one pays monthly instalments. That scheme helps with tuition costs for courses in commerce, economics and accountancy. One scheme is for indigenous students doing substance abuse or related studies. For this scheme there is no upper age limit nor a need to be related to a veteran. In addition to the above there is one grant per year

to assist an handicapped eligible veteran's child or grandchild with special extra costs of transition to tertiary studies or employment

To receive an application form, register interest on **1800 620 361**.

Children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans should do so now, as should any others who believe that they are eligible.

If not sure, ask:

Applications close on 31 October each year.

AVCAT PO Box K978, Haymarket, NSW 1240

FAX: 02 9281 9164,

Email: vvt@accsoft.com.au

Web: www.accsoft.com.au/~vvt

Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust Limited

ACN 008 609 032 / ABN 50 008 609 032

[llvprom104MayVTS09AVCATAd_June 2009](#)

Mark Newell

Executive Officer

Telephone: (02) 9281 7077

Facsimile: (02) 9281 9164

email: vvt@accsoft.com.au



STOP PRESS

A FINAL BIT OF ADVICE FOR REMEMBRENCE DAY

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD

Armistice Day Service November 11th commencing 1030hrs at Hellship Memorial. This day is common to many Nations and all are welcome especially our VFW, FRA, American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America friends etc.

The Hon Alan Griffin MP, Minister for Veteran Affairs, Australian Ambassador to The Philippines, His Excellency Rod Smith, Australian Defense Attache, CAPT Vic Jones along with the Official Party will be attending. An unveiling of the Central Podium Plaque will take place immediately after the Memorial Service. Invited guests include Congressman Gordon, Mayor Gordon, Chairman of SBMA, Chief of Police, Heads of local military in the area.

It is suggested you arrive early and take to opportunity to visit the Museum and view the updated display areas for Hellships.

This is a Poppy Day and RSL Angeles City will provide the poppies to RSL Subic Bay Ladies Auxiliary to sell.

Wreaths will be laid (Australian Embassy, DVA Minister, RSL Angeles, RSL Subic Bay, and local VFW,FRA etc).

After the Service the Official party will attend a Luncheon at Wild Orchid (Beach Front Area) at approximately 12.30 p.m.

Cost will be P250/per head for the Buffet and local drinks will be at reduced price.

(We need an indication of numbers as max would be 200).

Later those who are staying on will join for drinks at Down Under Bar Beach Side (less formal), bar hop and possible BBQ ??

“THE PRICE OF LIBERTY IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE”