



2023 marks the centenary of an organisation which has looked after tens of thousands of veterans, widows and children left behind during times of war.

In 1923 Major General Sir John Gellibrand formed the Remembrance Club in Hobart to support the families of servicemen and women. Another returning soldier, Lieutenant General Sir Stanley Savage, was inspired to establish a similar club in Melbourne which was named Legacy and thus an institution in Australia's wartime history was formed.

Originally, it was returned servicemen who took on the duty of caring for and supporting widows and children. They later became known as Legatees.

Legacy is still caring for tens of thousands of widows who have lost their loved ones and been affected by their partner's service in the Korean War, Malayan Emergency, Vietnam War; as well as campaigns in Iraq, Afghanistan and in peacekeeping operations across the globe.

Today, there are 44 Legacy clubs across Australia, providing emotional, social and financial support.

The Legacy Centenary Torch Relay 2023 is a six-month satellite relay event taking place to commemorate Legacy's 100 years of service and acknowledge veterans' families.

The relay will begin at a ceremony at Pozieres France on 23 April 2023. Whilst in France the torch will also participate in Anzac Day events before heading to Ypres, Belgium to attend the daily Menin Gate Last Post Ceremony.

The torch will travel to London, the location of the only Legacy Club outside of Australia, where there will be a relay through the streets of London and the torch will then make its journey to Australia starting in Albany, Western Australia and stopping at all 44 Legacy Clubs across the country.

Poppies

Red poppies were the first signs of life in the fields of northern France and Belgium after World War 1. Arising from the blood drenched ground, bright red poppies grew where four years of war led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of soldiers, including 45,000 Australians. The poppy has enabled Australians to show they have not forgotten the 102,911 Australian servicemen and women who have given their lives in wars and conflicts.

ANZAC biscuits



ANZAC biscuit previously known as an ANZAC wafer or ANZAC tile, the ANZAC biscuit we know and love today is a far cry from what the ANZACs ate a hundred years ago. The ANZAC biscuit was originally intended as a bread substitute for soldiers fighting in hostile conditions. The biscuit was made to have long shelf life, meaning it was notoriously hard; in fact, they often adopted the affectionate nickname of 'bullet-proof' biscuits!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of traditional rolled oats
- 1 cup of sifted plain flour
- 1 cup of caster sugar
- 3/4 cup of desiccated coconut
- 125 grams of butter
- 1 tablespoon of golden syrup
- 2 tablespoons of boiling water
- 1 teaspoon of bicarbonate soda

Directions:

- Combine rolled oats, sifted plain flour, caster sugar and desiccated coconut in a bowl.
- Heat butter and golden syrup over a low heat until butter is melted.
- Mix boiling water with bicarbonate soda and add to the butter mixture.
- Stir into the dry ingredients.
- Form the mixture into balls on a greased oven tray.
- Press the balls at and bake in a slow oven (150°) for twenty minutes or until golden brown.
- Loosen the biscuits while still warm.
- Allow to cool on tray.



ANZAC Day Traditions and Symbols

The Ode

They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning,
We will remember them.

The Last Post

The Last Post historically has been used to signify the end of the day. It is played during commemorative ceremonies to serve as a tribute to the dead.

Minute's Silence

One (or two) minute's silence is held to respect on the significance of the day and as a sign of respect.

Reveille and Rouse

In major ceremonies, the Last Post is normally followed by Rouse except at the Dawn Service when Reveille is played. Historically Reveille woke the soldiers at dawn.

ANZAC Day Services

For information on ANZAC Day services in your area, ring your local council.

The Dawn Service

Dawn Service observed on ANZAC Day has its origins in an operational routine which is still performed by the Australian Army today. The half light of dawn can play tricks on one's eyes. The half hour before dawn, with its grey and misty shadows, became one of the most favoured times for an attack. Soldiers in defensive positions were therefore woken before dawn, so by the time first light crept across the battle field they were awake, alert, and manning their weapons. This was and is still known as stand-to. The operation was also repeated at sunset. After World War 1, returned soldiers sought the comradeship they felt in those quiet, peaceful moments before dawn. With symbolic links to the dawn landing at Gallipoli, a dawn stand-to or ceremony became a common form of ANZAC Day remembrance during the 1920s. The first official Dawn Service was held at the Sydney Cenotaph in 1927.

Rosemary

The Ancient Greeks believed that rosemary made their memories stronger. This idea continues today as people wear sprigs of rosemary symbolising remembrance for those who have died in war.

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ANZAC Day



LEST WE FORGET



Cloth Hall rebuilt as it stands today.

Ypres- View of the ruins of the Cathedral and Cloth Hall. In the foreground a Lewis gun section is moving up to the forward area.
AWME01122.1

2023

A newsletter from Rowan Ramsey MP



Rowan laying a wreath at Port Augusta on Anzac Day 2022.

A Message From Rowan Ramsey

ANZAC Day has become perhaps our most important national day. Rightly, we focus on our past and the sacrifices made across the world battling those who would destroy us and our way of life, but it is also an opportune time to contemplate modern challenges and where it is we want to go as a nation.

Certainly, in WW2 this country was under threat and suffered direct attacks, but on so many other occasions we have contributed with direct military intervention or peace-keeping support around the world where democracy and freedoms have been under threat.

Our overseas military engagements stretch from the Boer War, the apocalypses of WW1 and WW2 through to commitments in Malaysia, Borneo, Korea, Vietnam, East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan. Far wider again, has been our role in providing peace-keepers all over the world defusing local tensions.

Australia's privileges are not to be taken for granted and it is to our armed forces we turn when we, our democracy and those of others who share our ideals are under threat.

Sadly, these efforts rarely come without the loss of life, and it is those who gave theirs, those who were damaged by the experience and their families we remember today.

If there is a lesson for us today, it is that tensions in our part of the world are elevated, and the capacity and operational suitability of our defence force is coming into sharp focus. While we strive for peace, history shows us that strength and preparedness are a far better insurer of peace than the alternative.



Ypres - WW1

Last December I visited Ypres (Ieper) the Belgian village where some of the heaviest and most sustained fighting of WW1 took place. While it was my second visit, it is difficult to describe the impact of confronting the enormous walls covered with the names of the 54,395 men (UK-34,984, Canada-6983, Australia-6198) who were killed in the surrounding fields of Flanders and have no known resting place.

Wall after wall, names etched on the ghostly white stone of Menin Gate compel us to remember the sacrifice. The names of another 35,000 Allied soldiers MIA feature on memorials dotted around the town at places like Polygon Wood, Tyne Cot, Hill 60 and Messines Ridge.

Accompanied by the remains of a similar number of unidentified Germans they lie in the Fields of Flanders and remain a symbol of the worst horrors of WW1. The first two Battles of Ypres were fought in 1914 and 15 with the third in 1917 lasting from July 31 to November 10 (The Battle of Passchendaele). It was the first time in the war that gas had been used and it was a dreadful weapon. In total, the battles for Ypres claimed 250,000 Allied as casualties, killed, missing or wounded. The Germans are estimated to have lost 200,000.

The Menin Gate monument was constructed in 1927 and every evening since at 8.00pm, the Ypres Last Post Association have staged a ceremony at the gates. (interrupted by WW2 occupation).

The two stone lions made prior to 1700 that stood each side of the narrow pathway through the medieval walls and over the moat were donated to the Australian War Memorial in 1936 inscribed: "In assurance of a friendship that will not be forgotten even when the last Digger has gone west and the last grave is crumbled". They stand at each side of the entrance in Canberra.

In 2018 commemorating the hundred-year anniversary of the war, Minister for Veterans Affairs, Dan Tehan presented replicas of the Lions to the people of Ypres and they are in place near their original position just outside the gates.



Arthur Leslie Philbey, (son of Joseph Henry Philbey and Sarah Jane nee Boss), a farmer from Bute, was killed in action in Belgium in 1917 aged 20 years. He is one of the many thousands of names on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Flanders Belgium listing fallen soldiers with no known grave. Photo courtesy Virtual War Memorial.



New Guinea. A.I.F. bakers at work in New Guinea. Pte. G.I. Hall, of Balaklava, South Australia hands over the dough to Cpl. Melville Roy Cowley of Arno Bay, South Australia. (Negative by N. Brown). AWM 015019

WW2 - 1943 - 80 Years On

Many of us know of the heroics of the Kokoda Track and Milne Bay in 1942, the first times the Japanese invasion force had been defeated and repelled. After that our knowledge of the war in PNG is often covered by "My uncle served in New Guinea, but not on the Track." Be assured it wasn't any easier after Kokoda. Right up until the end of the war in August 1945 Australians were involved in ongoing efforts to clear the enemy forces.

Lae and Finschhafen are located on the Huon Peninsula (North-East PNG) and the campaign for control ran from 8th September 1943 through to January 1944 in almost unimaginable jungles, rivers, swamps, mud and mountains.

The initial attack on Lae, where the Japanese had established an important air base was led by the battle-hardened 9th Division (Tobruk and El Alamein) and was the largest amphibious landing thus far in the Pacific. Amid attacks by Japanese aircraft more than 7000 came ashore that day and demonstrating the challenges, 13 drowned crossing the Busu River. The Australians took Lae and encouraged by success attacked Finschhafen to the south in late September and in echoes of Gallipoli with poor maps, darkness and the threat of Japanese attack missed the destination and landed some distance south under fire. However, they recovered and took Finschhafen on October 2nd, as the Japanese retreated to fight another day.

The battles were fought in hostile terrain at places like Sattelberg, where Tom (Diver) Derrick won his VC, single-handedly destroying ten machine gun posts, at the Busu River, Scarlet Beach, Kakagog, Jivevaneng, Katika, Pabu and half a dozen other places the Australians enhanced their reputation. In the end the Ninth Division suffered 1028 casualties, including 283 killed. Of the Japanese force of 12,600, only 4300 escaped.



One of the replica Lions at Menin Gate.



Trainers and force protection members from callsign K12 prepare to depart at dawn for the 'amber zone' to conduct training with the Iraq Army at the Taji Military Complex. AWM2018.644.37

Iraq

On 20 March 2003, a combined force of American, British and Australian troops under US leadership invaded Iraq in what was termed 'the Second Gulf War'. Their object was to locate and destroy suspected 'weapons of mass destruction' and remove dictator Saddam Hussein from office in the process.

A small but highly effective contingent of Australian army, air force and navy assisted the operation. Within three weeks Coalition forces had seized Baghdad and brought the Hussein reign to an end. He was tried and executed for war crimes in 2006. However, the US intelligence which concluded Iraq had, and was making weapons of mass destruction proved to be wrong and none were found.

The Australian effort included contributions from the army, navy and air-force. Following the initial invasion, they were involved in training, reconstruction and resisting insurgents, before being withdrawn in July 2009.

While officially no Australian lives were lost in combat in Iraq, three died as a result of accidents, one some years later as a result of an IED blast, a further three while serving in the British military and another six working for private contractors.

Timothy Hughes

Timothy Hughes, a Narungga-Kaurna man from Point Pearce is a Local Hero with a remarkable record, both in the war and after. Enlisting in December 1939, Pvt Tim Hughes was posted to the 2/10th Infantry Battalion and served until the end of the war, including in England during "The Blitz", in the Siege of Tobruk and the Pacific Campaign. He was awarded the Military Medal for his efforts fighting the Japanese at Buna Airstrip, New Guinea on 26th Dec 1942 where he showed remarkable bravery and disregard for his own safety.

Pvt Hughes's platoon was pinned down by machine-gun fire. He volunteered to climb on top of a dispersal bay (protective barriers) and despite coming under concentrated fire from three directions, engaged two Japanese posts with grenades.



Timothy Hughes, a true local hero. Photo courtesy Virtual War Memorial.

Armed with a sub-machine gun, he protected his comrades while they took cover; he then made three sorties to silence the enemy's weapons, enabling the platoon to consolidate its position.

Pvt Hughes was wounded in battle at Sanananda in January 1943 and after returning to Australia was promoted to Corporal. Battling bouts of malaria, he was assigned to the 31st Employment Company until the



Timothy Hughes' medals. Photo courtesy Virtual War Memorial.

“Where there are men fighting, there are always nurses.”

Sister Florence Syer



South Australian nurse Olive Lilian Cresswell enlisted in 1914. Her letters and diary extracts were the basis of the television series Anzac Girls. Olive served in the 2nd/2nd Australian General Hospital. She worked in Egypt, and Boulogne, where she treated men who had been "very badly wounded" at Ypres and those that had suffered from German gas attacks. Olive passed away at the age of ninety with a record of military and social service of which anyone could be proud. Photo courtesy Virtual War Memorial.



Merle Mary Relf (nee Buttrose) of Robertstown. (Courtesy Virtual War Memorial) 2nd/2nd Australian General Hospital.

of the wounded or dying for the rest of their lives.

More than 2000 Australian nurses served in the Australian Army Nursing Service during WW1. They had to be aged between 25 and 40 and be unmarried. Twenty-five lost their lives during the war with eight being awarded the Military Medal for bravery.

When the Second World War broke out, nurses again volunteered, motivated by a sense of duty and a desire to "do their bit". Eventually, some 5,000 served in locations ranging from the Middle East, the Mediterranean and Britain through to Asia, the Pacific and Australia. Seventy-eight died, some through accident or illness, but most as a result of enemy action or while prisoners of war.

One of these nurses was Captain Merle Mary Relf (nee Buttrose) of Robertstown who enlisted in 1940 and served with the 2/2 Australian General Hospital as a nurse. The 2/2 AGH served at El Kantara, on Suez Canal, Egypt from 1940 -1942.

Merle died on 14 August 2007, aged 93 years.

end of the war.

While he returned home as a highly decorated soldier, he was subject to the discriminatory Aborigines Act (1934-39) limiting his freedom of movement and access to the benefits of citizenship after experiencing the mateship and patriotism of the battlefield. Hughes resented this treatment of him and other returned aboriginal servicemen and began his fight for recognition and equality for all returned Indigenous soldiers.

After share-farming for a period at Point Pearce he was awarded the lease of a soldier settler block at Conmurra in the South-East and was by all accounts a successful farmer. In 1966 he was appointed inaugural Chairman of the Aboriginal Lands Trust, a position he held until 1973 and was awarded an MBE in recognition of this service and died aged 56 in Ardrossan.