

REVELLE

The Voice of New South Wales Serving and Ex-Service Men and Women

THE PRICE OF LIBERTY



IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE

The Women's Auxiliaries and The Quilt



"Lest We Forget"

VOL 87 NO43 JULY-AUGUST 2014
SUBSCRIPTION \$5.50
PP243459/900095

WOMEN WHO DO

The story of the Lest We Forget Quilt

The Australian Imperial Service of Women's Auxiliary was formed by the mothers, wives, widows, sisters, daughters and aunts of men who served in Australian Imperial Forces in the First World War. It was founded on fellowship and a desire to care for the welfare of veterans, their families and our communities.

In 1949, at the Annual State Congress of RSS & AI of Australia (New South Wales Branch) it was established that there would be an RSL Central Council of Women's Auxiliary (CCWA), which became the governing body of women's auxiliaries.

"Dedicated", "committed" and "quiet achievers" are just some of the accolades that come to mind when describing the ladies of the women's auxiliaries. Many present members have been in the Auxiliary for over 50 years, a lifetime of devotion to welfare of veterans. There are three generations in some women's auxiliaries.

The women of the auxiliaries have been tirelessly working in the background ever since their conception those many years ago and always with our veterans' interests at heart. On ANZAC Day 1944, members of the RSL Combined Services sub-Branch Women's Auxiliary served meals to one thousand soldiers in the club at 5 Barrack Street, Sydney. The men were served refreshments from 3am until late into the night. Coffee and biscuits were provided to those attending the Dawn Service and a hot breakfast was ready for them afterwards. Men who had come down from the country the previous night



The completed quilt made its debut at CCWA congress and made quite an impression.



stayed at the hostel and were served supper. There were around 60 helpers working in relays.

Their incredible fundraising efforts and selfless contribution to the League have helped the RSL continue the vital work it does in assisting serving and ex-serving members of our Defence Force and their families. Auxiliary ladies visit the sick in hospital and those convalescing at home; they raise funds by holding raffles, selling tokens for the ANZAC and Poppy Appeals, as well as other fund raising avenues that arise throughout the year in their local sub-Branch area. In 2013, RSL NSW Auxiliaries (156) raised over \$750,000, an astonishing amount. These funds will go a long way to making a difference in the lives of our veterans and their families.



Funds raised by Women's Auxiliaries are donated to RSL LifeCare, the State President's Christmas Appeal and the Disaster Fund.

Fund-raising has changed over the years. The days of selling home-made crafts and baked culinary delights at street stalls are no longer a suitable or viable way for the auxiliaries to raise funds. Deputy President and Recruitment Officer of the CCWA Pauline James had an idea, a vision, which would become the "Lest We Forget Quilt": a handmade quilt celebrating 100 years of Australia's defence forces.

Turning her idea into reality was the next step, so Pauline called on friends Christine Frame and Ann-Marie Jacobs, who both share a passion for quilting. The ladies had a desire to create something special and meaningful which

would also raise much needed funds for DefenceCare. Says Christine: “This is very close to my heart as my uncle was killed at Gallipoli.”

Pauline adds: “They gave their lives along with too many others. I can give time and energy to support families of those who have not returned and those who have returned a different person.”

When the word was put out about making a Lest We Forget Quilt that would be raffled, with the proceeds donated to DefenceCare, the interest shown by the ladies of the auxiliaries was amazing. Everyone wanted to contribute: hundreds of blocks were requested, and every block has been made with heart-felt emotion; and all have their own special story to tell. The Lest We Forget Quilt may not be a Rembrandt or even a Norman Lindsay, but the women of the RSL auxiliaries of NSW gave of themselves with every stitch that went into making it.

They may never meet the men and women who are our country’s pride and strength, but take comfort in knowing that the funds they raise will be used for the betterment of their welfare. Women’s

auxiliaries have always been there to help.

Quilts are a great representation of people’s recollections, wishes, dreams and messages. Quilts give comfort; they provide warmth to the heart as well as the body. Creating a quilt seemed the most natural way to represent the proud traditions of our Australian service men and women, and to symbolise the gratitude felt by all Australians for their bravery and the sacrifices both past and present that they have made.

Funds raised will be donated to DefenceCare. (DefenceCare is the new name of the Defence Service Assistance Centre, RSL Welfare & Benevolent Institution.) DefenceCare helps current and ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force and their families in times of injury, illness or crisis. DefenceCare is “always there” to help our service men and women get through tough times and will continue to help as long as it is needed. They assist in providing services such as welfare, financial support, counselling, and help with entitlements and advocacy.

**Claudia Edwards with Pauline James
Photography by Claudia Edwards**



HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

Consider becoming a member of an RSL women’s auxiliary. Members enjoy the friendship of like-minded women and the opportunity to be part of an organisation dedicated to the welfare of our defence personnel and their families. For more information on how you can join please contact Pauline James on 0416 247 635.

HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS

Tickets for the Lest We Forget Quilt are \$2 each and are in books of 25. The sold ticket butts and unsold tickets must be received by CCWA at ANZAC House, Level 3, 245 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, no later than 30 September 2014. To purchase tickets contact CCWA Tuesday to Thursday 10am to 3pm on (02) 9264 8188 (Ext. 334/335) or 0416 247 635 E: CCWA@rslnsw.org.au. The Lest We Forget Quilt will be drawn 1 November 2014.

A very warm thank you to the RSL sub-Branches whose generous donations helped launch the Lest We Forget Quilt on 1 November 2013 at the ANZAC Memorial, Ingleburn RSL Club paid for the printing of the raffle tickets. Thank you to the General Manager Glenn Cushion, it was a tremendous help.

WHY IS 1 NOVEMBER SIGNIFICANT?

November 1 is significant as it was the day in 1914 when the first convoy set sail from Albany, WA, carrying Australian and New Zealand troops to the First World War. For many of our soldiers Albany was the last time they saw Australia. 1 November 2013 was the day the quilt was launched and it will be drawn on 1 November 2014.

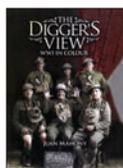
THE DIGGER'S VIEW WWI IN COLOUR

EDITED BY JUAN MAHONY

WWW.THE.DIGGERSVIEW.COM.AU

\$49.95 PLUS POSTAGE AND HANDLING

OR PO BOX 44, NEW LAMBTON 2305



This collaboration between Juan Mahony and Kent Rowe Digital Print has resulted in a unique and fresh look at our participation in The

Great War. Five years in planning and production, the book is now set to be released to coincide with the centenary of this important part of Australian history. All the images have been painstakingly colourised to accurately portray what the Digger's world was like and how they saw themselves. The narrative text of the participants further enhances the personal perspective we quickly obtain as we make our way through the pages.

Although colour photography was around prior to 1903, the Lumière brothers, Auguste and Louis, patented the process in 1903 and developed the first colour film in 1907. The French army was the primary source of colour photos during the course of World War I, however, the famous Australian official photographer, Frank Hurley also experimented with colour photography.

The gallery contained within these covers is part of our ever growing collection of Australian and international World War I photography, painstakingly hand coloured and restored. Each high resolution image takes between 1 day to 1 month to complete, and the attention to detail in the colouring process has achieved results far superior to automated recolouring techniques. This volume must form a part of any library in our country that's claiming to cover the history of our involvement in major conflicts.

Rod Bain

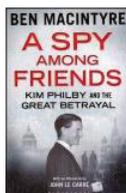
A SPY AMONG FRIENDS: KIM PHILBY AND THE GREAT BETRAYAL

BY BEN MACINTYRE

BLOOMSBURY PUBLISHING

PH: (02) 8820 4900

E: AU@BLOOMSBURY.COM



Many will remember the various scandals of the Cambridge Five, including Burgess and Maclean; the exposure of these spies all took place in the 1950s and

1960s. This well-constructed book deals with Kim Philby who was undoubtedly the master spy.

As the author points out, Philby was responsible for many deaths amongst people MI6 was utilising to gather information on the Soviet Union and their allies. It is this fact that we must keep in mind when reading of his duplicity.

The book takes us through events from 1934 to 1963. A reader will, as I did, wonder at the luck that Philby enjoyed and how he was able to brazenly avoid situations where his exposure appeared imminent. The point that startles this reviewer was how the English spying fraternity was so trusting of those who went to the right schools and universities. The vetting of these people was non-existent and as such it is hardly surprising that moles existed within the various services.

This is what our author outlines: namely; with the right friends, clubs and associations, these potential moles easily infiltrated MI5 and MI6 in the late 1930s. Whilst the Soviet Union was an ally of the UK and the USA (in WW II) the impact was minimised, but as the Cold War came into being, the impact of these moles became very serious and virtually destroyed US and UK intelligence co-operation in the early 1950s. In fact, it was the failure of a number of initiatives

put into place as joint US and UK operations in the early '50s that led to the US authorities calling for the re-call from Washington DC of Kim Philby. A short while later Maclean and Burgess defected to the Soviet Union, placing Philby in the spotlight because of his long association with both.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book although cringing whenever I thought of the people who died because of this evil man. A worthy read about a time which I can hope has now passed, but I doubt it!

Warren Baker

I WAS ONLY NINETEEN

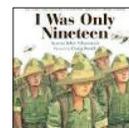
BY JOHN SCHUMANN

PICTURES BY CRAIG SMITH

ALLEN & UNWIN

PH: (02) 8425 0100

E: WWW.ALLENANDUNWIN.COM



For many of us, the Vietnam War has various meanings and experiences.

I am the wife of a Vietnam veteran, the sister-in-law of a Vietnam veteran, and the cousin of Vietnam veterans. Tragically I lost three cousins who were killed in action in Vietnam.

In 1983 the Australian folk group Redgum released the single *I Was Only Nineteen*, also called *A Walk In The Light Green*. This song, with the singing of John Schumann, is beautiful and haunting at the same time; a great Australian song that captures the meaning and spirit of those who served in Vietnam.

In 2014 these beautiful lyrics have been put together with drawings by Craig Smith to create a great book. This book is perfect for my young grandchildren to read. The artwork of Craig Smith beautifully complements the lyrics of John Schumann. As I read the book to my grandchildren I found myself

singing, rather than reading. It is suitable for young and old. It allows our young generations to feel the experience of our Vietnam veterans and the cost of war. It allowed my grandchildren to understand why their Poppy sometimes becomes cranky and upset.

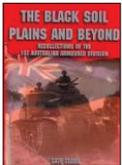
As the cover of the book says, it is “the iconic song about the Vietnam War that helped change a nation”. This book should be in every primary school library across Australia so that our young people can read and see the Vietnam War and the effects it has had on our veterans.

Pauline James

THE BLACK SOIL PLAINS AND BEYOND

BY CATE CLARK

E: WWW.WRITERIGHTMEDIA.COM.AU/



This book aims to tell the stories of the men of the 1st Australian Armoured Division. The Division was raised in mid-1941 because

of the need for a more forceful response in North Africa. However, the Japanese advances resulted in its remaining in Australia. Late in WW11 there was limited operational service by some divisional units, primarily in the Borneo campaign.

It is emphasised that this book is mainly recollections about the Division; it does not attempt to provide a history or some operational record. Such recollections range from statements in newspaper clippings, and personal experiences not only of servicemen but also of civilians, who came in contact with them. There are even recollections of very young children. One wonders whether, with the passage of time, a fictional element may be present. There is also much human interest displayed in the way troops were received in their training areas. They were invited into

homes, dances were held, organisations such as the CWA gave generous support, and it was recognised the Division was training to give valiant service for the country. A chapter on Christmas exemplifies the goodwill between the troops and the locals.

A large segment of the book is directed to the training carried out in the North West of NSW in mid-1942. Manoeuvres were designed to integrate all units into a well-trained fighting force. The title of the book arises from the training area – it is rather a strange choice when it is primarily about a Division. The book also covers the move to Western Australia which arose from a possible Japanese invasion. It recounts the logistic obstacles to the transfer of the Division: the differing rail gauges, poor roads, and the threat to sea transport.

It is a large tome filled with personal experiences in training to become a fighting force. While it is well researched, a book about a Division which had minimum operational service, is likely to have only limited appeal.

J.G. Cornish

JUNGLE WARRIORS: HOW THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY BECAME THE WORLD'S MOST DEADLY JUNGLE FIGHTING FORCE

BY ADRIAN THRELFALL

ALLEN & UNWIN



In his first book, Dr. Adrian Threlfall has used the theme of training to demonstrate how, from 1939 with no jungle fighting experience, the Australian Army became successful ultimately defeating the Imperial Japanese Army in the battlegrounds of the Pacific Islands. A brief perspective entitled “No military knowledge of the region” outlines the

period from 1914 to 194, providing the introduction to the campaigns of the next four years.

The Malayan jungle campaign waged by the 2nd Australian Imperial Force’s (AIF) 8th Division is examined; similarly, the jungle campaign undertaken by the 2nd AIF’s 6th Division in Ceylon. Thereafter, commencing in 1942, the training actually taking place in Australia assumes some prominence. Where this book comes into its own is from the Milne Bay campaign in August 1942. leading on to the Kokoda Trail campaign. The Australian Army then moved on to battles of attrition at Gona, Buna and Sanananda. Finally, the successful campaigns of Wau-Salamadua come into the spotlight.

To concentrate all these campaigns into a single easily readable book is an excellent achievement. There is much to commend the way the author has told the story of many participants in these bloody extended campaigns, highlighting the dramatic changes in training from large terrain European style fighting to close quarter hand-to-hand jungle fighting particularly through Canungra and the Atherton Tablelands.

What does not emerge from this history is that the famed jungle divisions not only came into being because of the new terrain, but because there was a massive labour shortage and recruiting numbers were poor.

Despite this important omission, the author has undertaken a worthwhile task in demonstrating how training was able to turn the tide in some of the most awful fighting conditions the Diggers have ever faced. More importantly it did ultimately lead to lessons that were well accepted when the Australian Regular Army again entered conflicts in South East Asia.

Roland Millbank