



NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (SA BRANCH)



THE NORTHERN CENTRAL AREA BURBLE

NORTHERN CENTRAL AREA SUB BRANCH NEWS LETTER

Page

PATRON: SENATOR CORY BERNARDI

PRESIDENT: MALCOLM KRUSS: - 8250 9743 SECRETARY: - MRS. HEATHER SIMMS: - 8264 6641

TREASURER: KEITH FITZGERALD: - 8265 1171 PADRE: - REVEREND NORM CARTER: - 8368-1869
JUNE 28TH 2015

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Just where has the last six months gone, when hopefully you are enjoying life at the max, the May meeting was down on attendance due to a number winter type illnesses (flu etc). Apologies were received and accepted from the following members:- Donald Campbell, Padre Norm Carter, Raelene and Trevor Cabot, Neville Pollitt, Nick Gogilis, John Rathman, Fred Tedmanson, Wally Thamm and Allan & Beth Mugford, just reading that one can see just about half of our regular members were away. Minutes of the previous meeting (May) were read and accepted, moved:- Graham Sargent, seconded:- Wally Smith. Inwards and Outwards correspondence was tabled, letter sent to Senator Cory Bernardi offering him the position as Patron of the Sub Branch, for the next twelve months, at the time of this report being written, no correspondence has been received from Senator Bernardi to whether he will accept the position, moved:- Mal Simms, seconded:- Wally Smith. Treasurer Keith tabled the financial report and also spoke on our membership. Which at the moment stands at, 49 Financial Members, 3 Life Members, with 5 unfinancial members, all received accounts have been paid for, rent for the use of the Hall \$100-, Wreath for Anzac Day \$50 has yet to be paid but will be by the time you receive this report, as there were no questions for Keith it was moved by, Graham Sargent and seconded by Wally Smith that the financial report be accepted, Carried.

General Business:- A number of items had to be talked about the main thing is we needed one more committee person and I'm glad report that John Hadaway accepted the position. Letter or e-mail to Padre Norm Carter regarding if he will continue on as our Sub Branch Padre, no reply as yet from Senator Bernardi to whether he will accept the position of Patron, Graham Sargent accepted the position of Auditor, Welfare, Birthday Cards etc, I will keep on doing that as It is all set up on my computer. Remembrance Day, as in the past years we have always been able to muster enough members to help out selling poppy's at a couple of shopping centres, Newton and Gilles Plains, this year as of last year it looks like we will only man the one shopping centre, hopefully that will Newton as Gilles Plains is well and truly out because of, redevelopment of the shopping centre. Secretary to write to the, Adelaide Cemeteries Authority requesting permission once again to place poppies on the Wall of Remembrance located at the Enfield General Cemetery as we have done in the past years. Serious thought must be given, not only by the committee but you members regarding to whether we go ahead and have and have a Christmas Luncheon and a Charter Luncheon, there are a number of venue's close by to pick from, please give it your upmost thought and talk about the possibilities of having these two luncheon's, this Sub Branch when formed always had a couple of fixtures that we all attended, so let's get back to grass roots and hold them again and invite Para Districts and likewise when they have a function we support them, after all that what comradeship is all about. Birthday Wishes for June

have been sent to the following members-: 1st June, William Cahill, 3rd June, Adam Carpenter, 6th June, Neville Pollitt, congratulations to you all and we hope you all had an enjoyable day.

On the other side of the coin to speak, the Cahill brothers, William and Brian are now members of the Enfield RSL their badges were presented to them by, President Garry Ford, congratulations to you both.

NEXT MEETING
JULY 26th 2015
COMMITTEE MEETING 9.30am.
GENERAL MEETING 10.00am.

Malcolm Kruss
 President

Tuesday 9th June 015, Keith and I paid a visit to the Keswick Military Museum to return some artefacts from his family that are on loan to the museum, whilst there we had the chance to listen to a gentleman talk on Operations Manna and Chowhound and whose grandfather was involved in this exercise during the closure of WW2.

Operation Manna and Chowhound

Operation Manna and Chowhound -: took place from 29th April to the end of World War 11 in Europe on 8th May 1945. These two operations – Manna by the Royal Air Force and Royal Canadian Air force (29th April – 7th May) and Chowhound by the US Army Air Forces (1st – 8th May) – dropped a total of over 11.000 tons of food into the still-unliberated western part of the Netherlands, with the acquiescence of the occupying German forces to help feed the civilians who were in danger of starvation in the Dutch famine. When this proved insufficient, **Operation Faust** was launched as well. On the 2nd of May, 200 Allied trucks began delivering food to the city of Rhenen, behind German lines.

Negotiations -: By early 1945, the situation was growing desperate for three million or more Dutch still under German control. Prince Bernhard appealed directly to the Allied Supreme Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower, but Eisenhower did not have the authority to negotiate with the Germans. While the Prince got permission from the British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eisenhower had Air commodore Andrew Geddes begin planning immediately, on the 23rd April, authorisation was given by the Chief of Staff, George Marshall.

Allied agents negotiated with Reichskommissar Arthur Seyss-Inquart and a team of German officers.

Among the participants were the Canadian future writer Farley Mowat and German commander-in-chief General Johannes Blaskowitz. It was agreed that the participating airplanes would not be fired upon within specified air corridors.

Operation Manna -: The British operation started first. It was name after the food which was miraculously provided to the Israelites in the book of Exodus. The planning of the whole operation was done first by the Royal Air Force.

The first two Avro Lancaster's chosen for the first flight , the morning of the 29th April 1945, were nicknamed Bad Penny, as in the expression "a bad penny always turns up". This bomber, with a crew of seven young men (five from Ontario, Canada, including pilot Robert Upcott of Windsor Ontario) took off in bad weather despite the fact that the Germans had not yet agreed to a cease fire. (Seyss-Inquart would do the next day) Bad Penny had to fly low, down to 50ft (15m), over German guns, but succeeded in dropping her cargo and returned to her Airfield.

Operation began in earnest. British aircraft from Groups 1-3 and 8 consisting of 145 Mosquitoes and 3.150

Lancaster bombers took part, flying between them a total of 3.298 sorties. The bombers were used to dropping bombs from a height of 150 meters (490ft) some even flying as low as 120 metres (390ft), as the cargo did not have parachutes. The drop zone was marked by Mosquitoes from 105 and 109 Squadrons using Oboe, were: Leiden (Valkenberg airfield). The Hague (Duindigt horse race course and Ypenburg air field). Rotterdam (Waalhaven airfield and Kralingse Plas) and Gouda. Bomber Command delivered a total of 6.680 tons of food. John Funnell, a navigator on the operation, says the food dropped was tinned food, dried food and chocolate. 'As we arrived people had gathered already were waving flags, making signs, etc, doing whatever they could. It was a marvellous sight. As time went on, so were all the messages such as 'Thank you for coming boys. On the 24th April we were on battle order at Elsham Wolds. We went to a briefing and were told the operation was cancelled because Bomber Harris thought it was too dangerous for the crews. The idea was we would cross the Dutch border at 1.000ft, and then drop down to 500ft at 90 knots this was just above stalling speed. On the 29th we were on battle orders again. There was no truce at that point, and we crossed the coast, we could see anti-aircraft guns following us about. We were meant to rise to 1.000ft but because of the anti-aircraft guns, we went down to rooftop level. By the time they sighted us we were out of sight. A lot of people were surprised that we went without armaments, in case of any trigger happy tail gunner. Originally it was going to be 'Operation Spam' which was in my log book. We also went to Lyden, but dropped the food at Falkenburg. We navigators are interested in the latitude and longitude of the place, rather than the name.'

The idea was for the people to gather and redistribute the food, but some could not resist eating straight away, which caused some people to be sick and vomit (and some died) a result that fatty food can have on staved bodies. On the other hand, distribution took as long as ten days, resulting that some people getting the food only after the liberation. Nevertheless many lives were saved, and it gave hope and the feeling that the war would soon be over.

Earlier, there had been distribution of white bread made from Swedish flour that was shipped in and baked locally, a popular myth holds that this bread was dropped from airplanes, but that is a mix-up between the two events. Also the food was not dropped with parachutes as it is often said.

Operation Chowhound -: On the American side ten bomb groups of the US Third Air Division flew 2.268 sorties beginning 1st May delivering a total of 4.000 tons, 400 Flying Fortress bombers of the United States Army Air Forces dropped 800 tons of K-rations during 1st-3rd May on Amsterdam Schipol Airport.

Losses -: Three aircraft were lost: two in a collision and one due to an engine fire. Bullet holes were discovered in several aircraft upon their return, presumably the result of being fired upon by individual German soldiers.

Recognition -: On the 28th April 2007, British Air Commodore Andrew James Wray Geddes was honoured when a hiking trail in the Rotterdam district of Terbregge, the Air Commodore Geddespath was named after him. The path goes past the Manna/Chowhound monument in the soundwall of the northern ringroad around Rotterdam. The official unveiling of the plaque was performed by, Lieutenant-Commander Angus Geddes RN (son of Andrew Geddes) from England and Warrant Officer David Chiverton from Australia (grandson of Geddes).