



THE TRAGEDY OF WAR

2015 is a year where we remember a number of significant commemorative dates including the 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta. Many however relate to war including:-

200th Anniversary of The Battle of Waterloo;

100th Anniversary of ANZAC;

70th Anniversary of the end of World War II;

40th Anniversary of the end of Vietnam War.

It's a sad irony that enemies in one War may well be allies in another. In Bagdad, Tasmania at the Dawn Service, not only were those who had lost their lives remembered but also the wounded and the devastating effect of the war on their families.



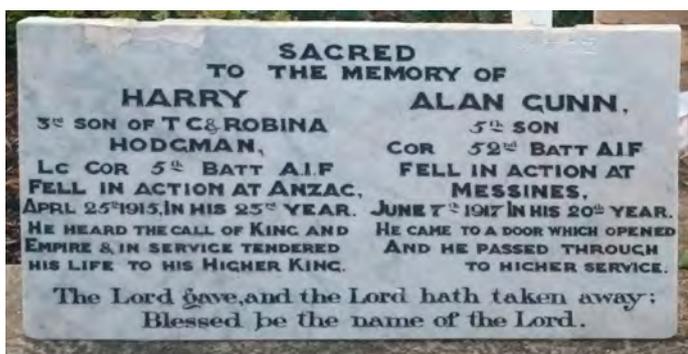
From left to right:- Mr Ron Watling, President, Brighton/Green Ponds, Sub Branch RSL TAS Returned Serviceman; Chaplain Rev Jim Colville AM JP; Mayor Tony Bisdee OAM, Southern Midlands Council and Mr Bill Tewson, Past President, Brighton/Green Ponds, Sub Branch RSL, TAS Returned Serviceman

In Tasmania, with a population of barely 190,000, 15,000 enlisted and nearly 3,000 were killed. Twice that number who returned had been wounded. At Brighton, Tasmania, 11 of the 19 to die had a brother who had also died. There were four Watling brothers who enlisted. Two were killed within two days of each other at Gallipoli; the other two brothers both came back in poor health, one never to work again.

David Benulk records that "The name of three Bond Brothers appear on the small war memorial at Judbury whose deaths caused their mother Rose to write to the army pleading for the return of her other son Hugh. That was granted but his ship was torpedoed on the way home. He made it home although badly wounded".

Unfortunately, many plaques and Honour Boards are lost, as Church buildings are closed and sold.

The Rev Jim Colville AM JP brought to the service two such Memorials from local churches, which have now closed. They were presented after the service to the local branch of the RSL for display and safe keeping in the RSL Memorial Hall at Kempton.



The Memorial Board from Bagdad Uniting Church commemorates where Grandparents lost three Grandsons: - Henry Eddington, Aug 19th 1916 at the Somme; Ernest Bessier, July 11th 1917 at Ypres and Leslie Hyland, Dec 16th 1917 at Warneton.

In 1854 a congregational church was erected on the hill beside the Jordan River at Pontville. It was later replaced with a new church on the other side of the Jordan River. This is where this plaque was located.

Harry Hodgman was killed on April 25th 1915 at Gallipoli. Harry Hodgman was the son of the current Tasmanian Premier Will Hodgman's Great, Great Uncle Thomas, who was also a State Parliamentarian. The other name on the plaque is Alan Gunn Hodgman 20, brother of Harry. Alan died on June 7th 1917 at Messines.

Often it took weeks before a family knew of the death of a son, and being buried overseas, most families never had the opportunity to visit the grave. For many however, war had totally destroyed the body and they weren't even left the solace of a known grave. Harry Hodgman was buried at Lone Pine but his brother Alan is listed on the Menin Gate Memorial to the missing Ypres, Belgium. The memorial is dedicated to more than 55,000 missing British and Commonwealth servicemen including 6,000 Australians.

A third brother Frank Hodgman was discharged after being wounded. He then recommenced his naval career but was lost at sea off King Island in 1920 when on the transport Ship Southern Cross.

The old church on the hill eventually burnt down but the cemetery remains there today. On headstones in the cemetery, the names of these young men are remembered along with their parents and siblings. One can only imagine the pain of the families at that time.

The last Australian ANZAC to die was a Tasmanian, Alec Campbell who died at the age of 103 in Hobart. Alec had enlisted at the age of 16 years and 4 months without his parent's permission and was too young even to shave.

One may reflect on the fact that there is a gap of over 87 years between Harry Hodgman dying at Gallipoli on April 25th 1915 and Alec Campbell dying on May 16th 2002.

The Rev Jim Colville AM shared the story of an elderly lady who every Sunday, attended the Methodist Church in Glenorchy and sat in the same place. Directly above her on the wall was a plaque to a Charles Walton Stansall who was killed on September 10th 1918, 62 days before the war ended. Just before he enlisted on October 10th 1916 they had become engaged. She never married and until the day she died wore the engagement ring he had given her.

The war was followed by a worldwide influenza pandemic that infested 500 million and killed 50 to 100 million people. This was more people than the terrible losses suffered in the war. A depression followed and then twenty years after the end of World War I, World War II.

Those who complain today about how hard life is should reflect on what has gone before and be thankful that we are so fortunate.

The Rev Colville is wearing the medals of his grandfather, James Colville. James lowered his age when he volunteered in World War I. He received the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

In World War II he enlisted again but wouldn't accept his World War 2 medals, as he was very upset at being discharged at nearly 68 years of age. Fifty years later Rev Colville was granted receipt of these medals, which are the Australian Service Medal 39/45 and the War Medal 39/45. The other three medals were those of his wife's father Lisle Archard. He was fortunate to survive the war when shot over the heart on September 1st 1918. The bullet hit the whistle in his pocket, was deflected under the



Lisle's whistle shows where the bullet hit

heart and out through his back. He died in 1972 while going for a walk, when a driver backed a car out of a driveway without looking and Lisle was killed.

Mayor Tony Bisdee OAM is wearing the medals of a second cousin Lt Colonel John Hutton Bisdee. The first Australian born VC winners were Tasmanian. Lt Colonel John Hutton Bisdee's medals are the Victoria Cross, Officer of the Order of the British Empire OBE and Queen's South Africa Medal with three clasps (Transvaal, Cape Colony and Wittebergen). Kings South Africa Medal with 2 clasps (South Africa 1901 and South Africa 1902). 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal (Mentioned in Dispatches).

On the Thursday, prior to Anzac Day the Rev Colville was honoured to be invited to unveil a plaque at the Bagdad Primary School commemorating the sacrifice of so many in what was believed to be the war to end all wars. This is located in a new and beautiful memorial garden partly funded by the Federal Government and donations. It was constructed with the assistance of volunteers and the help of many of the school children. It is pleasing to see a new generation who will carry on the traditions of Anzac Day into the future.

Rev Jim Colville AM JP

NORTHERN REGION NOTES

The last three months has been an active and stimulating period for Northern OAA members. At the end of July we had lunch at the old Evandale hotel and then moved on to the Royal Flying Doctor Service base at Western Junction where we were addressed by its CEO Mr John Kirwan. Everyone present was impressed by the scope and quality of the RFDS service across our nation.

In early August we hosted the annual branch meeting at the Evandale Fire Station. This was the first time at this venue, and it proved a very successful alternative to the previous Launceston venue.

In September, our luncheon event was privileged to be addressed by Emeritus Professor Nigel Forteach AM PhD JP. He spoke of his life journey which began in India and continued back and forth across the globe, finally finishing in Australia; and his part in the establishment of the first seahorse breeding program in the southern hemisphere. It was warmly received by all present.

The highlight of our next quarter will be the Mayoral reception at the Launceston town Hall on 15 October. All members and families are invited – members please wear miniature insignias. This will be followed by our northern region annual general meeting at Glenara Lakes at 2.30 PM on 22 October.

Frank Madill AM



Emeritus Professor Nigel Forteach AM with the Honourable Michael Polley AM, former Speaker of the Tasmanian House of Assembly.

TASMANIAN BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AM, Governor of Tasmania

Chairman:

Mr. Noel Viney OAM

Deputy Chairman:

Mr Clive D Lee AM ASM (North);

Secretary:

Mrs Maureen Rudge OAM JP (South)
Ph 03 6225 3954

Treasurer:

Mr Noel Ruddock AM ASM (South)

Functions Manager:

Mrs Sue Cox AM (South);

**Tasmanian Director
on the National Board**

Dr John Thorne AM JP (South)

Committee:

Dr Frank Madill AM (North);
Mrs Thérèse von Samorzewski OAM (Secretary North);
Mr John Pease OAM (North-West);
Betty Hite OAM (Secretary North-West);
Mr Alastair Douglas OAM (South & National Treasurer);
Dr John Thorne AM JP (Chairman South & Branch Director);
Mr Terry Mather OAM (Secretary South)



AND THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT

And so part of the Scottish poem says “From ghoulies and ghosties And long-leggedy beasties And things that go bump in the night” could refer to many things yet in Tasmania it could well be possible to hear some bumps in the night. A person staying over in a mountain hut, a country shack or farm shed might wonder about strange and ghostly noises or thumps and bumps heard from under the floor during the hours of darkness. Most likely the noises are not from some mythical being but from imps, yes that’s right, imps.

Imps are very real creatures that inhabit the Tasmanian bush and can often make home under a house or shed. Actually they are rather cute and have become internationally recognised as Tasmanian. I am referring to the juvenile Tasmanian devil that is called an imp.

For some years the profile of the endemic Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*) has become well known due to the American cartoon character Taz and, regrettably, because of a cancerous disease that has in recent years decimated wild populations of the animal. As the world’s largest remaining marsupial carnivore the devil occupies a unique and valued place in the wild environment.

The devil is mainly a scavenger but is happy to eat anything as opportunity presents. They usually sleep under rocks, in caves, logs or burrows but can choose a nice dry haven under a country dwelling. An important role of the devil is to clean up carcasses in the bush, prey on feral cats and generally maintaining a balance in the natural environment but the facial tumour disease has so reduced the wild population it is suggested the feral cat population has considerably increased thus wreaking havoc on small animals, birds and reptiles. As the apex predator in the Tasmanian bush the devils decline has effected some significant changes in the native animal population. As an example, possums are now much more confident to spend time on the ground moving further from the safety of trees without fear of being attacked.

There are a number of challenges to be overcome to ensure the survival of the species. The devil faces an uncertain future as it battles a cancerous facial tumour disease and suffers massive population loss. The contagious disease is transferred from devil to devil infecting about 80% of the wild population. To protect the species, a dedicated number of individuals and organisations around Tasmania, in mainland states and overseas fortunately have disease free animals and are doing their best to increase the populations.

The Tasmanian devil was recently added to the endangered species list and while research is being conducted to find a solution, time is running out for this famous Tassie icon. The University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government are currently sponsoring Australia’s largest conservation program providing various project grants and scholarships funded from donations received through the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal.

The devil cancer is unusual in that it is transferred from animal to animal through biting. Live tumour cells are not rejected as the devil’s immune system doesn’t recognise the cancer cells as foreign. A trial with 20 devils that have received a vaccine developed by the renowned Tasmanian Menzies Institute for Medical Research have been released into Narawntapu National Park in Northern Tasmania this September. This important field trial will test the effectiveness of the animal’s immunisation response and help with the development of more effective vaccination techniques. Unfortunately within 10 days of their release four devils have been killed on different roads by motor traffic, another threat to the survival of the species as they seek a meal from other road kill.

In 1962 the Tasmanian Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) was proclaimed as the official floral emblem of Tasmania but it was just in late May 2015 that the Tasmania Government proclaimed an animal emblem. Tasmania was the only Australian state not to have an official fauna emblem and quite aptly the devil was named. This important recognition will assist in maintaining a public focus in assisting research to ensure the survival of the species.

The image of the Tasmanian devil that indicates the Tasmanian Branch contributions to The Order was generously donated by Iain D. Williams, wildlife, nature and conservation photographer of Anaspides Photography. www.AnaspidesPhotography.net.

Alastair Douglas OAM



A healthy Tasmanian devil protected in a disease free park. Photo by A Douglas



The horrific facial tumour disease will cause this devil a slow and painful death. Photo courtesy Save the Tasmanian Devil Program

Check out our website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY AWARDEES MEET MEMBERS AT DINNER

Following the Queen's Birthday Investiture at Government House many of the new awardees, their families and guests attended the Association Dinner organised by the Tasmanian Branch. Over 90 attended the dinner held at The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania and in addition to the presentation of the new awardees, the guest speaker for the evening was Ms Jan Davis, former chief executive officer of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association.



Front: Brian East and Margaret East OAM, and Gaye Anderson. Rear: Alison East, Peter Anderson and Natalie East. Photo: Maureen Oates OAM



Rear: Dugald McDougall OAM, Graeme Phillips, Jan Phillips. Front: Sandra Nicholson, Anthony Nicholson OAM and Richard Nicholson. Photo: Maureen Oates OAM



Order of Australia Association reception at The Forth Hotel for The Honourable Sue Smith AM with Tasmanian Branch chairman Noel Viney OAM both of Ulverstone. Photo courtesy The Advocate newspaper.

NORTH WEST REGIONAL GROUP NOTES

A very enjoyable reception/luncheon was held at the Bridge Hotel, Forth on September 20th to congratulate The Hon. Sue Smith AM who received her well earned award in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. The 26 members, family, friends and the Mayor of Central Coast Council, Jan Bonde attended. The Mayor spoke about Sue listing her many achievements during her term on the local council and parliamentary commitments until her retirement earlier in the year that included five years as President of the State Legislative Council.

Betty Hite OAM
Secretary

CAROL MCGHEE OAM

Carol McGhee OAM was recently recognised by "Better Hearing Australia" as the best lip-reader in the nation. This follows the annual national challenge which is quite unique.

A DVD is circulated around the branches, but it has no sound! Various interactive scenarios are played out with actors speaking to each other about a variety of topics. What a challenge!

Carol gained 100% in the competition and recently was recognised by the Acting Mayor of Clarence on September 23 during a special presentation with about 50 community members present.

Carol's background with lip-reading or speech reading is interesting because she became involved when her mother, May, became quite hearing-impaired and needed to supplement her communication with highly skilled lip-reading. At that time Carol learned about the disadvantages of hearing loss in the general public and soon became a skilled teacher of lip-reading. She has now spent 38 years helping a wide group of hearing impaired through Better Hearing Australia. In addition, Carol has educated the public through service clubs, schools, Probus and a wide section of community organisations.

Carol has received several honours including an OAM in 1994 and it is ironic that in very recent years she has begun to experience a hearing loss. Her unusually high level of competence in lip-reading will now be used personally.

