

THE FURPHY

ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

May 2024 Edition



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Ph: (08) 9497 1972

email: secretary@armadalersl.com.au

Website: www.armadalersl.com.au

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General Meetings: Second Sunday of the month at 1030hrs
Annual General Meeting: Second Sunday of September

Committee Positions

Armadale Sub-Branch Committee	
President	Mr Ken Hepburn
Vice President	Mr Hans van de Velde
Secretary	Ms Carol King
Assistant Secretary	Mr Mike Fairweather
Treasurer	Mrs Cheryl Cowie
Warden	Mr Graeme Cowie
Warden	Mr Mick Quinn
Membership Officer	Mr Tom Rynn
Committee	Mr Bob Giles
Committee	Mr Geoff Scott
Committee	Mr Robert Smith
Committee	Mr Geoff Tooth
Advocate / Welfare Officer	Mr Brent Errington
Bar Manager	Mr Mike Fairweather

ADVOCATE / WELFARE

Brent Errington “Erro” is available as follows:

Operating out of RAAFA on Mondays and Fridays

between 0900 – 1230hrs and also at

Armadale RSL Sub-Branch between 1000-1400hrs on Thursdays

Contact Details: *Mobile: 0407 449 150*

e-mail: welfare2@armadalersl.com.au

Diary Dates for May

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>
Sunday	5 th	Social Committee Meeting	1100
Tuesday	7 th	Management Committee Meeting	1100
Sunday	12 th	General Meeting	1030
Sunday	19th	Members Luncheon	1200

9 out of 10 men always agree when their wives say they are correct, no more said.

The 10th man mysteriously disappeared, never to be seen since.

The best thing about being over 50?



We did all our stupid stuff
before the invention of the internet,
so there's no proof!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Folks,

I would like to thank the volunteers who sat at the tables in the shopping centres leading up to ANZAC Day collecting money for our welfare account.

The Secretary will have more information on the amount raised.

It was great to see the numbers that attended the ANZAC Dawn Service this year, particularly the families with children. The numbers were greater than last year, which is exceptionally good to see them paying their respects to all those who have served this country and continue to do so.

The RSL would like to thank Armadale Police Rangers and 1st Armadale Scout Group for the Vigil on the night prior to our Dawn Service and 52 Australian Army Cadet Unit for providing the Catafalque Party for the Dawn Service.

Another good turn out back at the RSL for the Gun Fire Breakfast and a steady flow of people attending the RSL over the day.

An excessively big thank you to all the committee and social committee for the time and effort put into arranging ANZAC Day, the set up and then the clean-up.

Do not forget to buy your tickets and come to the Roast Luncheon on Sunday 19th May 2024.

I will be taking a leave of absence from 3 May 2024 to 2 June 2024, due to personal reasons.

Regards,

Ken Hepburn

President

Returned Services League Armadale Sub-Branch
Ph: (08) 9497 1972. M: 0428 001 949

ANZAC DAY AT MEMORIAL PARK, ARMADALE





The Champion Lakes Dragon Boating Club recently hosted the 2024 National Regatta, it was great to see that the Armadale RSL boat is still alive and well !



Secretary's Notes

Hi Everyone,

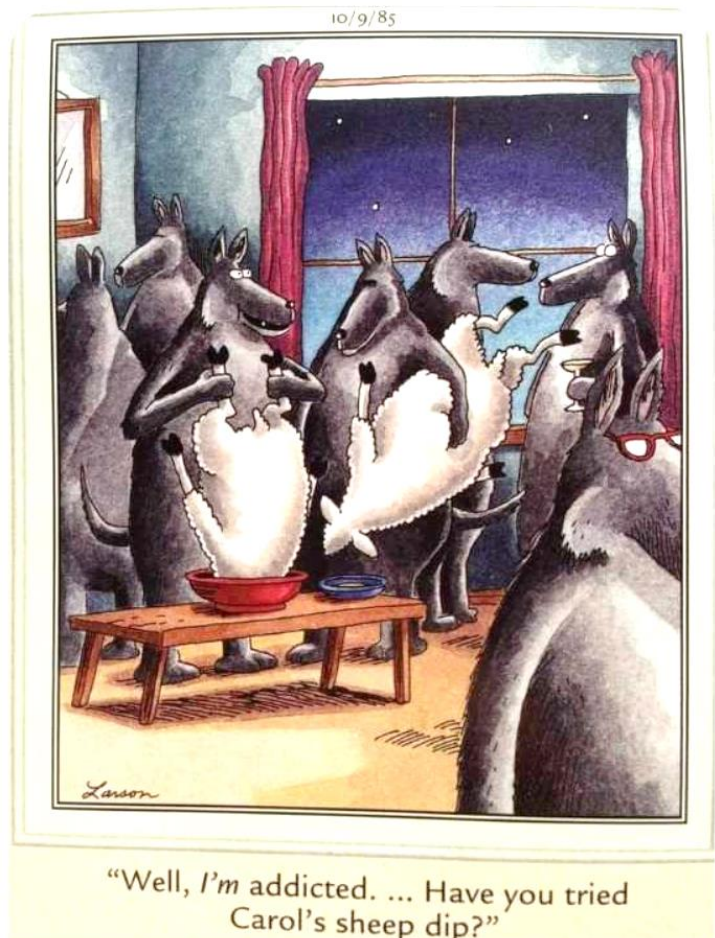
Well finally the **HUGE** effort in the lead up to and on ANZAC Day is over. Again, I cannot speak highly enough of those who assisted on the stalls and on the day. The Social Committee did a tremendous job on the day raising over \$2,600 from selling raffles and arranging a couple of auctions of merchandise. Thank you all so very much. To Stormy, Geoff and Rob – you were legends jumping in where required, we wouldn't have been able to hold such a successful day without you.

The list is still open for those wishing to attend our mid-year Roast Luncheon on Sunday 19th May. The cost is \$25 per head and tickets are available from the bar until Sunday 5th May. This event is open to financial members only as it is very heavily subsidised by the Sub-Branch. There have only been 30 tickets sold so far which is disappointing as we had budgeted on 50 attending. If we cannot get closer to that number before closing date, the Management Committee will have to reconsider whether we are able to hold these events in the future.

Thanks to everyone who assisted us during the month of April, your efforts are truly appreciated.

Carol King

Sub-Branch Secretary



Membership Update

<i>As at 30th April, 2024:</i>	Service Members:	160
	Affiliate Members:	47
	Social Members:	<u>64</u>
	Total:	<u>271</u>

Membership Fees which are not paid by 31st December were listed as unfinancial until 30th April. These have now been removed from our Membership Records.

Tom Rynn

Tel: 0439 934 285

e-mail: tomrynn@bigpond.com

Most people have heard of Karl Marx, but few know of his sister Onya, an Olympic runner. Her name is still mentioned at the start of every race.



Happy Birthday

May Service Members:

Briggs	Mrs	Debra	02/05	Bushell	Mr	Leslie	17/05
Hennah	Mr	John	25/05	Jarratt	Mr	Adrian	13/05
McFarlane	Mr	John	05/05	Mulvaney	Mr	Anthony	10/05
Northcott	Mr	Keith	11/05	Smith	Mr	James	25/05

May Affiliate Members:

De Groot	Mr	Roland	01/05	Dwyer	Ms	Karen	31/05
Norton	Mrs	Pera	30/05	Paul	Mr	Adam	11/05

May Social Members:

Kendell	Ms	Nita	17/05	Liddell	Mr	Brett	14/05
Paul	Miss	Angel	22/05	Potter	Mr	Warren	06/05

*If anyone has been missed off the list, please advise
Tom Rynn (Membership Officer)*

*These members may collect a free drink of their choice
during the month*

We hope you have a very special Birthday



Bedfordale ANZAC Day Dawn Service

Hosted by the Bedfordale branch of the Country Women's Association with Lyndon Jackson as the Master of Ceremony, the Bedfordale Community hosted the inaugural Anzac Day Dawn Service at the Churchman Brook Community centre. Social media comment prior to the event indicated a healthy interest in the event however the organisers were blown away with a final attendance of 606 people from the community. Of significance, Bedfordale offered up 17 men on the 1st AIF and their surnames now form many of the street names and prominent places within the local community. A Catafalque party from HMAS Stirling delivered an outstanding display of drill. Chaplain Cornelus Bosch from HMAS Stirling led the spiritual guidance. The moving Anzac Day address was delivered by the President of the Bedfordale CWA, Penny Stapelton. VIP's included the Honourable Hugh Jones MLA, Mr Phil Twiss representing The Honourable Andrew Hastie MP and Councillors Sarah Stoneham and Scott Mosey from Armadale. The Statewide Operational Response Division, State Emergency Service Unit undertook traffic control and parking duties for a large number of vehicles. David 'Stretch' Mathieson ran a small team and two BBQ's to feed almost 300 people for the gunfire breakfast which was based on a gold coin donation. With eggs, bacon, sausages, beans, mushrooms, hashbrowns, and a sea of smiles from the Bedfordale CWA ladies serving, there were absolutely no complaints. Community feedback both by personal messages and social media comments have been absolutely overwhelming with positivity and gratitude for the service. It was interesting to learn that some travelled more than an hour away to be part of this service. Based on this public support, the Bedfordale CWA will now move to engage with the City of Armadale Council to establish the current temporary memorial rock and flagpole as a permanent fixture going forward. Lest We Forget.

Lyndon Jackson CSM JP





The first all-Australian crew in Bomber Command to complete a tour of operations, with No 466 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force, stand in front of their Vickers Wellington bomber at RAF Leconfield, Yorkshire, in 1943

Mid-Year
Members Luncheon

Sunday 19th May, 2024 (12 noon)

BOOKINGS CLOSE MONDAY 6TH MAY



Meat: Roast Beef, Pork and Chicken with Gravy

Vegetables: Hot Jacket Potatoes with Sour Cream, Carrots, Beans, Peas, Baked Pumpkin and Corn Kernels

Desert: Apple Crumble with Custard

\$25 per Person

(Open to Financial Members Only)

Bar Manager's Report

G'day All,

Well, another ANZAC Day has passed. We had a good crowd in overall. Lots of alcohol was consumed which is great for the till.

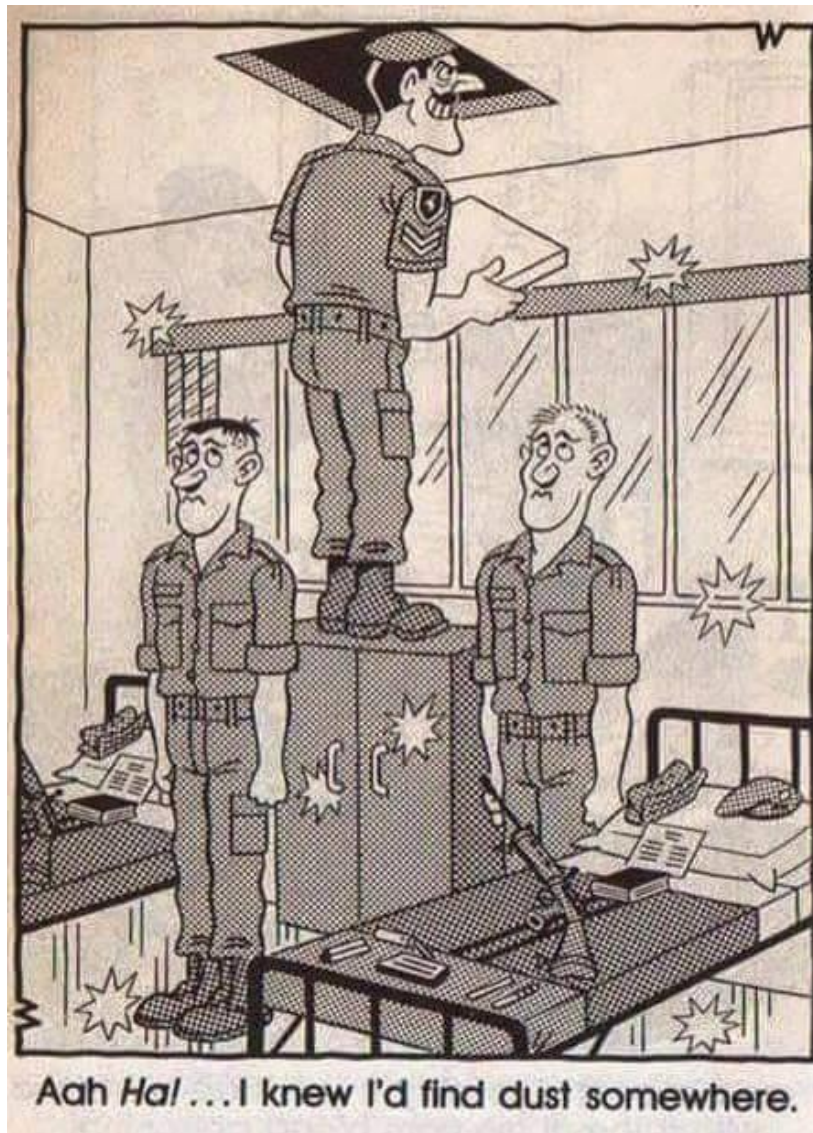
I am going to get rid of the Pure Blonde and replace it. Any suggestions members have for a new beer will be considered.

Stormy



USAAF North American B-25 Mitchell 405BS "Green Dragon" at Garbutt Field (RAAF Townsville) in Townsville Australia – 1943





Attorney: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

Witness: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.

Attorney: ALL of your responses MUST be oral, OK? What school did you go to?

Witness: Oral.

Attorney: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

Witness: The Autopsy started around 8.30pm

Attorney: And Mr Denton was dead at the time?

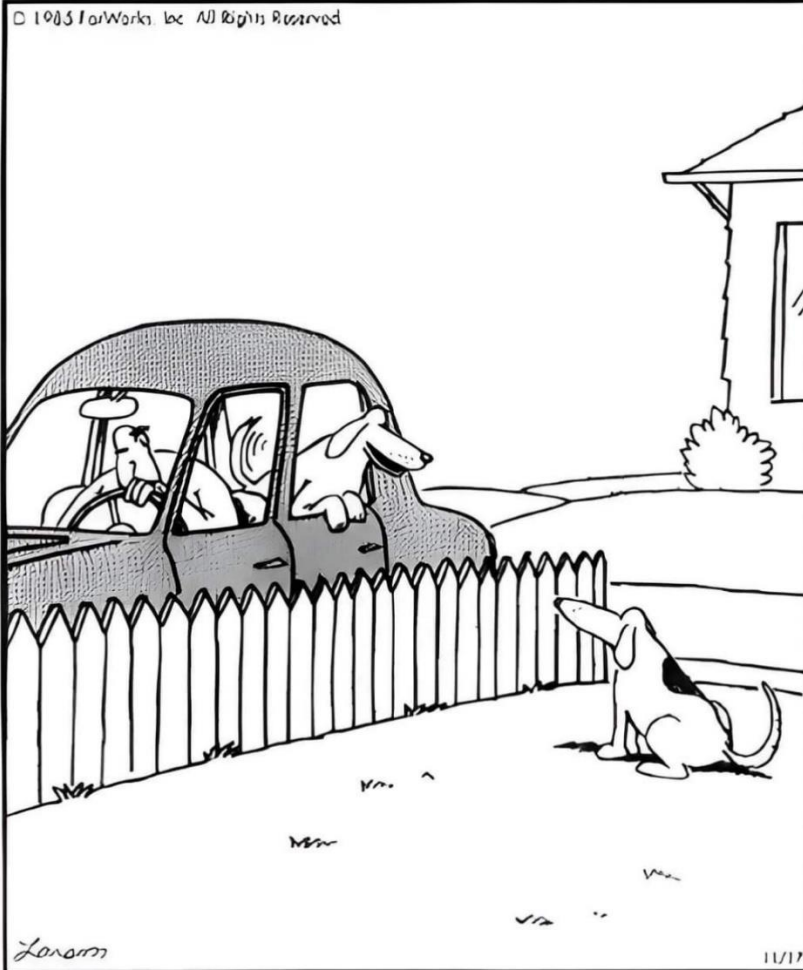
Witness: If not, he was by the time I had finished.



There are some visually unpleasant aircraft in WW2, but the Fairey Battle conversions into trainers with 2 cockpits stand out



HMAS CESSNOCK, (minesweeper), was launched at Cockatoo Island, Sydney. CESSNOCK was sold out of service in 1947, and was renamed NAN-AU.



"Ha ha ha, Biff. Guess what? After we go to the drugstore and the post office, I'm going to the vet's to get tutored."

**Before we work on
Artificial Intelligence...
Why don't we do something
about Natural Stupidity?**



Byford Rail Extension - Update



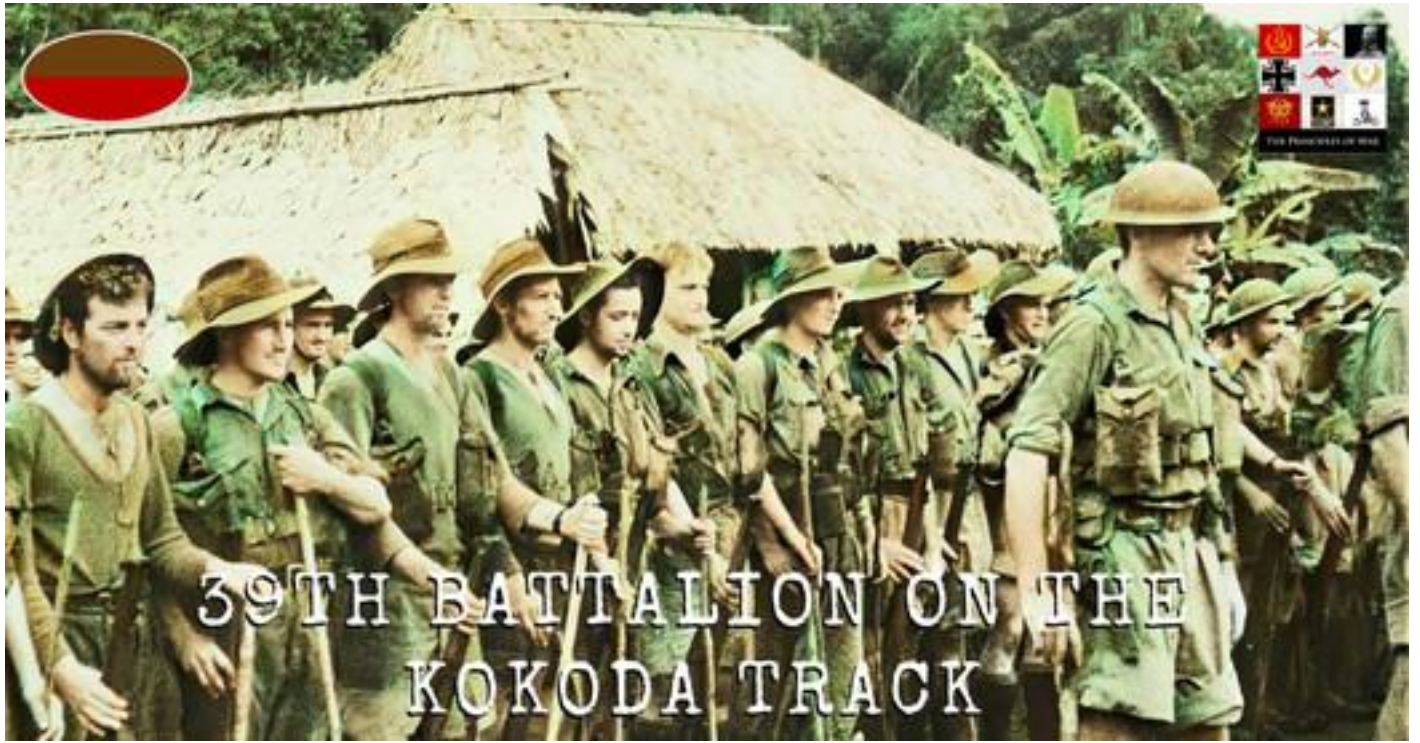
Piling is complete for the Eleventh Road and elevated rail bridges!
The Byford Rail Extension team hit some major milestones with the completion of piling for the elevated rail and Eleventh Road over rail bridges. Over the past six months, an impressive 131 piles ranging in depths of 13 to 33 metres have been installed across the 1.5-kilometre span of the bridge. A further 38 piles were installed to support the bridge at Eleventh Road.

Traffic and pedestrian detours

- Church Avenue, between Hobbs Drive and Wungong Road, is closed to traffic for three months until early May. Traffic detours are in place and pedestrian access across the rail corridor will continue to be maintained at all times.
- traffic management, including reduced speed limits, is in place on Armadale Road between Abbey Road and Church Avenue until April 2025.
- some overnight closures of Armadale Road will be required to continue works on Armadale Road and the elevated rail bridge.



"I'M FINE WITH YOU BEING A STREAKER, DOUG... BUT FOR THE LOVE OF GOD... CAN YOU KNOCK IT OFF WITH THE WARM-UP STRETCHES!?"



39TH BATTALION ON THE
KOKODA TRACK



THEN



NOW

By delroy history

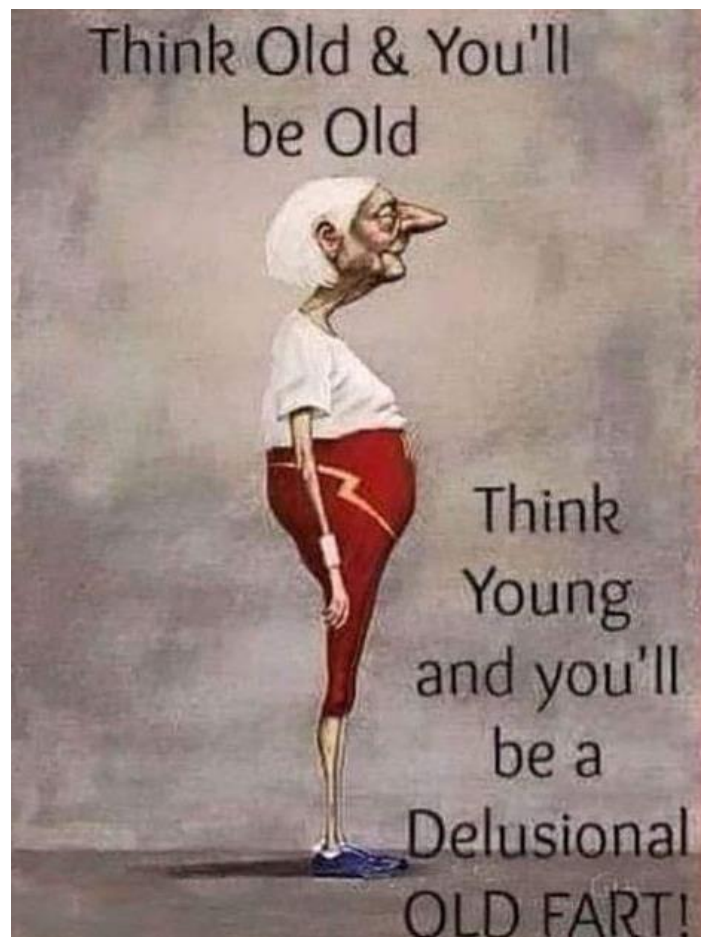


Hoarder collie





U.S. soldiers wearing experimental body-armor and helmets displaying results of bullet testing, April 27, 1918.



Significant Events

When Australians went to War in China



Australian troops of the British Military Mission 204 march to the front in Jiangxi province.

Australia has experienced major power competition in the Indo-Pacific before. When we last experienced this environment, we deployed forces into south-western China under the little-known Mission 204 in 1941. This mission was expressly intended to deter Japan from aggression; a purpose that still resonates today in the context of the 2023 Defence Strategic Review which establishes a need for ‘asymmetry’ against a more powerful competitor, to affect ‘a strategy of denial.’ Mission 204 thus highlights capacity-building lessons pertinent to the Australian Army that resonate in the contemporary environment of major power competition.

Mission 204 was raised by the British in February 1941 in response to a request for support from Chinese President, Chiang Kai-shek, to grow ten Chinese guerrilla warfare battalions that would be used against the Japanese Kwantung Army. Mission 204 envisioned a contingent of 250-300 advisers, of whom about 40 were Australian soldiers, commanded by

Major D. MacDougal, drawn from the 8th Division in Malaya on 27 July 1941. This commitment was made *prior* to war with Japan, in other words, during *competition*.

Despite its support to China, the British cabinet did not wish to incite direct conflict with Japan. Accordingly, with a force of 300 Commonwealth troops, Mission 204 was directed to undertake action that would force 'the Japanese to lock up the maximum forces.' As such, it would 'have as its primary object the strengthening of our defensive position on our own frontiers [i.e. Commonwealth colonies].' To achieve its purpose, Mission 204 was to raise six Chinese guerrilla battalions to each of which a demolition squad of Commonwealth officers and other ranks would be attached.

From an Australian government perspective, it was believed that such quiet assistance to the Chinese would be 'a means of absorbing Japanese energy and aggression.' Australian policy rationale can be discerned from the strategic argument made by the Australian High Commissioner in London that points toward a belief in 'unconventional deterrence':

The alternatives before us as I can see them are: (1) To pursue the idea of negotiating a wide settlement... (2) To abandon the idea of a wide settlement and concentrate on *keeping alive and increasing* Chinese resistance, and *at the same time intensifying financial and economic pressure* on Japan so as *to deter* her from outside adventures and to bring her into a more reasonable frame of mind (emphasis added).

On 10 November 1941, Australian troops began to be dispatched to China as tensions increased with Japan. Australia's commitment to Mission 204, however, was largely overtaken by events with Japan's 7 December 1941 commencement of hostilities. In response, some military elements of Mission 204 were quickly re-directed against Japanese targets on the Thai-Burma border. During this period, pre-mission training was conducted at the Bush Warfare School, Maymyo, Burma. Ultimately, it wasn't until 16 February 1942 that the Australian component of Mission 204 finally arrived at the Chinese Nationalist training areas, after travelling some 3360 kilometres to Ch'i-yang (Qiyang) overland from Burma.

Luck was not on the Commonwealth's side. On 16 March 1942, the mission's British commander, Major-General Dennys was killed in an air crash at Kunming. The mission was also beset by logistic and health problems, with some thirty-five per cent of the Australian contingent becoming non-battle casualties over the first three months. The mission had aimed to hamper the southward movement of the Japanese army using the Chinese guerrillas, a mission rendered purposeless, from a British perspective, following the fall of Singapore.

It took until 9 September 1942, before General Wavell, Commander-in-Chief India Command, cabled Britain with the recommendation that the mission be withdrawn. On 29 October, the Australian component of the mission was returned to Australia, a decision likely influenced by the medical state of the force. The Chinese Commando Groups, now termed 'Surprise' battalions, were retained by the Chinese Nationalists in the form of ten, 1,000-men formations under General Li Mo An.

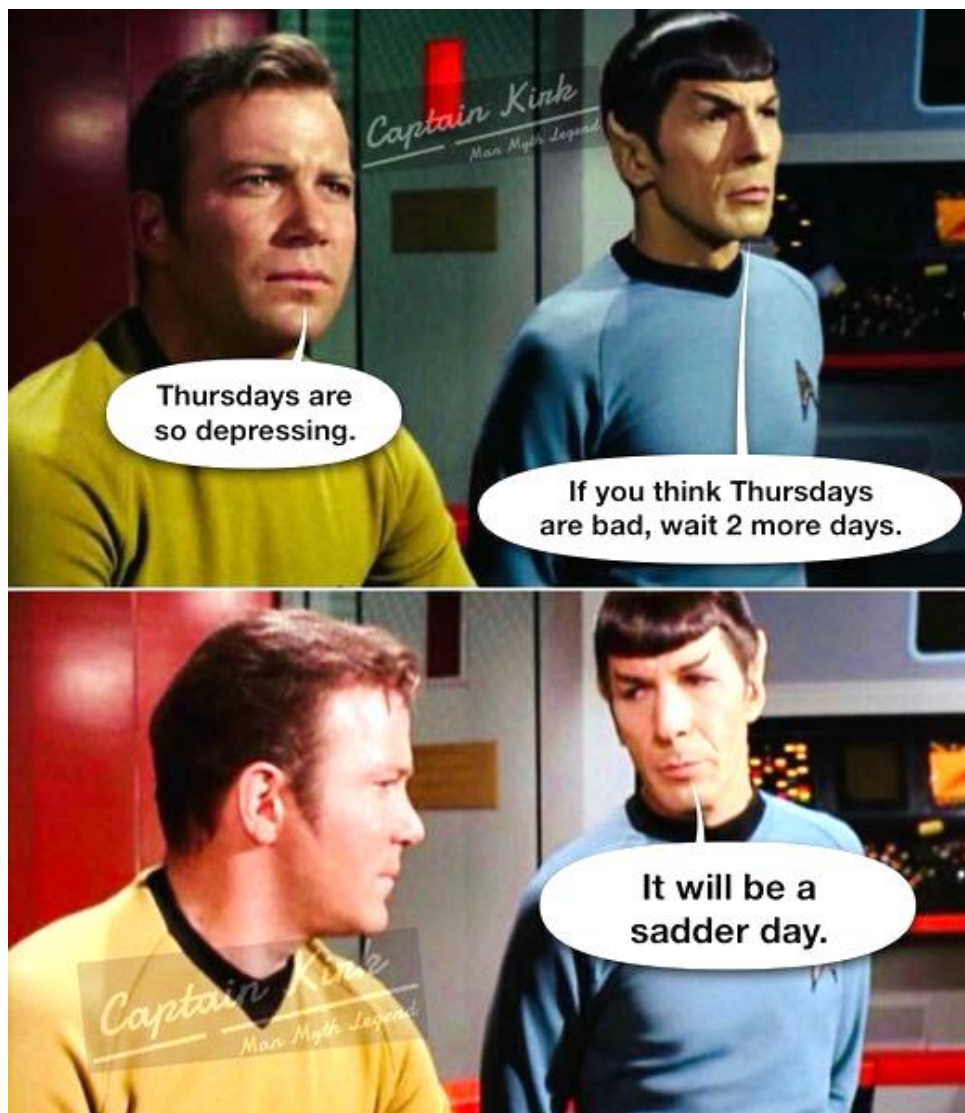
The dilemma that Mission 204 exposes is that of political discretion versus military effectiveness. To be effective in competition, which might deter or complicate an adversary's considerations about escalating into conflict, some risk must be borne. To transition into being effective in conflict, an advisor force must be logistically supportable and geographically proximal to where it is needed, having built the intelligence and support networks ('the underground') that serve to protect and sustain the advisors. It should be tailored to what the partnered force needs, having built the skills and trust with the partnered force to be operationally employable at the time required. Mission 204 was unlikely to have ever been tactically successful due to deficiencies in these characteristics. Importantly, however, it was able to contribute to the defence of Burma due to being forward deployed to conduct pre-mission training at the Bush Warfare School. This example illustrates that strategic flexibility can be derived from pre-conflict engagement.



Four members of the Australian contingent to the British Mission 204 in Yunnan Province, China in 1942.

The lessons of Mission 204 are pertinent today, in the development of resistance strategy, and external 'support to resistance' doctrine when training aims to build up a whole-of-society capacity to resist an aggressor's offensive military actions, as has recently been demonstrated in Ukraine. What is particularly intriguing about Mission 204 is the asymmetry inherent in a mission of only 300 Commonwealth soldiers, intended to mobilise ten battalions of Chinese Nationalist combat power, to impose costs that might prevent the use of military force elsewhere. Modern counter-insurgency maxim posits that manpower in the order of 20:1 is required by the counter-insurgency force to establish control over an area. As such, Mission 204 had the potential to divert several Divisions of Japanese combat power. Had it been more effectively executed; it may have had a significant impact on the closely fought Japanese offensives of Malaya and Burma.

Ultimately, Japan had made the decision to commit to a southern advance long before Mission 204 had begun its intended pre-conflict mission. Nonetheless, the belief among Commonwealth policymakers that the imposition of costs might serve to deter adventurous policy is the most relevant lesson to derive from the history of when Australia last went to war in China.



Australians and the Russian Civil War

In the years following the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, the Russian Empire descended into a brutal civil war in which millions of people died. Throughout 1918 and 1919, several hundred Australians served in foreign intervention forces in the terrible conflict. Australians served in training, reconnaissance and advisory roles in regions ranging from the territory of the Don Cossacks in Ukraine, and as far as to western Siberia. The largest Australian contribution was in Russia's north, as part of a multinational force sent to the port towns of Murmansk and Archangel'sk. There they assisted anti-Bolshevik White Russian forces and protected allied stores that had been sent to the now deposed tsarist armies in their fight against Germany. The only two Victoria Crosses awarded to British and Dominion forces in the campaign were awarded to Australian servicemen: Corporal Arthur Sullivan and Sergeant Samuel Pearse.



Three unidentified Australians serving in the 45th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, in north Russia

When the British authorities called for volunteers to take part in the North Russian Relief Force in 1919, the AIF indicated that it would not send any units as part of the campaign. Any Australians that did serve were required to discharge from the AIF and enlist in the British Army. Those that did take part in the North Russian Relief Force served in two British units, the 45th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, and the 201st Battalion, Machine Gun Corps.



Two unidentified Australians in the snow of north Russia, 1919

Service in the North Russian Relief Force was voluntary, and there is little evidence to indicate that any of the men volunteered for political reasons. Some, such as Corporal Arthur Sullivan VC, had arrived in Europe too late to take part in the First World War and likely wanted to see some active service. Others were decorated veterans of Gallipoli and the Western Front who were

interested in continuing fighting. They were perhaps curious to see Russia while taking part in a conflict that was not likely to be any more arduous than the fighting on the Western Front.



Corporal Arthur Percy Sullivan VC

On 10 August 1919, North Russian Relief Forces took part in a major attack on Bolshevik positions along the Dvina River. The plan was to attack and weaken the enemy in the area so as to allow a safe withdrawal of the force from Archangel'sk. During the attack, Corporal Arthur Sullivan, of Crystal Brook, South Australia, was part of a small detachment sent to take the towns of Sludka and Lypovets. After successfully taking their objectives, Sullivan's platoon were fighting a rearguard action to rejoin the main force when, under

enemy fire, they were forced to cross the swollen Sheika River over a small plank. During the crossing, an officer and three other ranks fell into the water. Without hesitation and under intense fire, Sullivan jumped into the river and rescued each man. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions. His citation read that without his action his comrades “would undoubtedly have been drowned” and that “It was a splendid example of heroism as all ranks were on the point of exhaustion and the enemy less than 100 yards distant.”



Sergeant Samuel Pearse VC

On 29 August 1919, Sergeant Samuel Pearse, a Welsh-born veteran of Gallipoli and the Western Front, took part in the British attack on the railway village of Yemptsa, 170 kilometres south of Archangel'sk. During the attack, Pearse's unit came under attack from a Bolshevik-controlled blockhouse. Under heavy enemy rifle and machine-gun fire, Pearse cut his way through enemy barbed

wire, charged the blockhouse and killed the occupants. Not long after clearing the blockhouse he was hit by enemy fire. He was evacuated from the front line for treatment, but died soon afterwards. He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, his citation stating: "His magnificent bravery and utter disregard for personal danger won him the admiration of all troops." He was 22 years old.



Australian, French and Russian members of the allied mission to the Don region, December 1918

Although the bulk of the Australian role in the Russian Civil war occurred in the north, Australians were scattered across wide areas of the complicated conflict. In December 1918 HMAS *Swan* took part in a reconnaissance mission to support anti-Bolshevik forces in the Don region near the Black Sea.

The Russian Civil War was a brutal war fought over thousands of kilometres.



**RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE
ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH**

Your RSL