

Pozieres Bayonet on view at Parliament Research Library

On 7 December 2015, the people of South Australia were presented with a World War I relic bayonet, unearthed from the fields of Pozieres.

The bayonet is a gift from the people of the Village of Pozieres in France as a symbol of the Pozieres community's admiration for Australians who gave their lives for their freedom and to raise awareness of this significant battle.

The bayonet was presented by Mr Barry Gracey, President of the Pozieres Remembrance Association. The Association has been supporting the Village of Pozieres since 2006 by raising funds to ensure commemorations for Australians who died at Pozieres continue each year.

The certificate accompanying the bayonet reads:

"Your young may rest in our fields, but they are always in our Hearts, Thoughts, and Prayers."

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP, accepted the memorial gift on behalf of all South Australians, formally presenting it to Dr John Weste, Director of South Australia's Parliamentary Research Library for incorporation into its collection for public safekeeping and view.

These objects are all displayed for public viewing with members of the public

Farewell John Spencer

Minister Hamilton-Smith and Veterans SA would like to thank LTCOL John Spencer OAM RFD (Retd) for his service on the Veterans' Advisory Council over the last five years.

John has over 35 years of military service including as a National Serviceman from 1965-72. Active Service and Operational postings included: South Vietnam (1971-1972), Indonesia (1975), Malaysia (1979-1981), Namibia (1989), UN Headquarters - New York (1991) and Cambodia (1991).



Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP, presenting the Pozieres Bayonet to Dr John Weste, Director Parliament Research Library

encouraged to join the regular tours held twice daily (10.00am and 2.00pm) on Parliament's non-sitting days. These visits are free to all who attend. Members of Parliament, and their staff, can also take community groups, school tours and other groups on a guided tour of the Parliament and this can incorporate a visit to the Parliamentary Library by arrangement.

Displaying the bayonet at Parliament House positions it within the state's most central heritage, arts and education precinct at North Terrace, renowned for attracting regional and interstate visitors in addition to local Adelaide based visitors.

The Pozieres bayonet is one of six, century old, bayonets being presented to each

state of Australia in the lead up to the centenary of Pozieres commemorations taking place in the village on 23 July this year.

Five Australians were awarded the Victoria Cross for their gallantry at Pozieres. Two are linked to South Australia; Private John Leak and Lieutenant Arthur Seaforth Blackburn. They were awarded Australia's highest military honour for their valour on 23 July, 1916; the first day of the Pozieres Ridge campaign.

Descendants of servicemen who fought at Pozieres are invited to contact the Pozieres Remembrance Association for more information:

www.pozieresremembered.com.au

the Board of the Repatriation General Hospital, the Consultative Council of Ex-Service Organisations, the Veterans' Health Advisory Council and is a member of the National Servicemen's Association.

John will be sorely missed on the VAC and we wish him and his wife, Mrs Maxine Spencer, well for the future.

Please contact Veterans SA on (08) 8226 8552 or via veteranssa@sa.gov.au if you have a matter that you would like the Veterans' Advisory Council to consider in 2016.



Lieutenant Colonel Spencer was awarded a Defence Commendation for subsequent service in Cambodia (1993).

John was the Executive Director of the South Australian Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia from 1997-2008 and has also served on the Adelaide Legacy Club Board of Management,

ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION FUND

Applications are now open for eligible organisations and community groups wishing to undertake projects commemorating the Centenary of Anzac.

The period 2014-2018 marks 100 years since Australia's involvement in the First World War and the South Australian Government is offering grants to assist and support educational and commemorative activities to honour Australia's war and service history.

For full details including guidelines and application forms visit <http://anzaccenatary.sa.gov.au/grants/anzac-day-commemoration-fund-2015/> or contact Clare Hennessy on 8226 3502 or via email to ANZACDayCouncil@sa.gov.au

This funding round will close on Friday, 22 April 2016 at 5.00pm.

Enquiries about Veterans' Voice can be directed to:

Veterans SA
GPO Box 1045
ADELAIDE SA 5001
Phone: (08) 8226 8552
Email: veteranssa@sa.gov.au



Veterans' Voice

A Message from the Minister for Veterans' Affairs



Minister Hamilton-Smith with Hon Sir Eric Neal AC CVO

At this time one hundred years ago sombre preparations were nearing completion for the first anniversary of the Gallipoli landings. On 25 April 1916 Anzac Day was commemorated at Victoria Square. The Governor, Premier and Leader of the Opposition addressed those assembled, including a number of soldiers who had served at Gallipoli. Governor, Sir Henry Galway, made the following statement:

"When we think of those splendid men who performed the supreme sacrifice for love of country, our hearts go out in respect."

The ceremony concluded with one minute's silence, the sounding of factory sirens and a march through the city by returned soldiers.

Over the Anzac Centenary period we all have the opportunity to reflect upon the legacy of the brave men and women from South Australia whose service and sacrifice in all wars, conflicts and peace operations have preserved the way of life that we enjoy today.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Hon Sir Eric Neal AC CVO for his service as the inaugural Chair of the Veterans' Advisory Council (VAC). Sir Eric commenced the role on 11 November 2008, supported by his wife Lady Joan Neal AM. Sir Eric immediately embraced the veteran community and presided over significant issues such as the Anzac Centenary, South Australia's Charter for Veterans, naming of state infrastructure

projects, construction of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial, issues concerning veterans' health care and the wellbeing of currently serving and former Australian Defence Force personnel.

Sir Eric intends passing the reigns to a new Chair after the completion of our state's flagship Anzac Centenary project, the Anzac Centenary Memorial Walk.

It will not be possible to replace Sir Eric with an equally pre-eminent individual, but we will do our best to seek out the best available person to help us continue our work, with a particular emphasis on younger veterans, to ensure the concerns of all veterans and their families are addressed.

In May our thoughts and prayers will be with the soldiers and families of the 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment when, as expected, they deploy to Iraq. We have a solemn collective responsibility to care for the families and soldiers when they return home. It is pleasing that the Australian Defence Force proactively implements plans to care for families as part of its operational commitments.

I recently had the opportunity to welcome two strong supporters of the veteran

community into State Cabinet. The Hon Leesa Vlahos MP has been appointed Minister for Disabilities, Mental Health and Substance Abuse. The Hon Peter Malinauskas MLC has been appointed as Minister for Police, Correctional Services, Emergency Services and Road Safety. I look forward to working closely with both Ministers on matters concerning veterans' mental health and incarceration. I would also like to congratulate Mr Dan Tehan MP on being appointed Commonwealth Minister for Veterans' Affairs.

To everyone who supports our servicemen and women, whether through an ex-service organisation or individually, I thank you on behalf of the South Australian community and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

Lest we forget.

Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs



Minister Hamilton-Smith with 2016 VAC members (Back L-R: COL Chris Burns CSC, LTCOL Jack Gregg, Mr Bronson Horan, Ms Chantelle Graham, Mr David Everitt, BRIG Laurie Lewis AM (Retd), Mr Ray Kemp, Mr Michael von Berg MC OAM. Front: LTCOL John Wilson (Retd), Dr Sharon Mascall-Dare, Mrs Helen Adamson, Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP, Hon Sir Eric Neal AC CVO (Chair), WGCDR Robert Macintosh AFC OAM (Retd), Dr Pamela Schulz OAM and Mr Robert Manton (Executive Officer). Absent: Mr Leon Eddy, BRIG Tim Hanna AM, LTCOL David McCammon DSM)

Over 29,000 attend Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience in Adelaide



Above: Violet Memorial Wall (left) capturing reflective dedications from visitors and the re-created Cheer-Up Hut (right) in the Community Zone of the Spirit of Anzac Centenary Exhibition

The Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience is the flagship community event of the Commonwealth Government's Anzac Centenary national program. It provides an immersive and interactive way for Australians to commemorate the First World War and the ensuing century of service.

The Australian Government and the Australian War Memorial, supported by the Commonwealth Bank and Telstra, brought the Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience to Adelaide between 8 and 20 March. More than 29,000 visitors attended over the ten days of the presentation hosted by the City of Unley and supported by Veterans SA.

The Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience follows a chronological timeline spanning pre-World War I Australia to the present day, using a mix of arresting visuals, artefacts, audio and film to engage visitors.

On leaving the main exhibition visitors enter the Community Zone, which features the Violet Memorial Wall (pictured above) as well as a re-created Cheer-Up Hut complete with piano and kitchen. This uniquely South Australian initiative, established by the Cheer-Up Society in November 1915 and revitalised in World War II, is designed to be a focal point for community storytelling, encouraging South Australians to research and share their family's Anzac stories.

The Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience will visit South Australia again later this year. Hosted by the Port Augusta City Council from 8 – 14 November 2016 it will be presented at the Central Oval Community Sporting Hub where a Cheer-Up Hut recreation will also feature.

Tickets are free and can be booked online here: <http://www.spiritofanzac.gov.au/book-tickets>

Follow the exhibition on social media here: <https://www.facebook.com/SpiritofAnzacCentenaryExperience/>

Wish Me Luck – An Anzac Centenary Photographic Exhibition Honouring SA's World War II Veterans

On Anzac Day 2015 the Australian Institute of Professional Photography (AIPP) embarked on a nationwide project for the Anzac Centenary to photograph Australia's surviving World War II veterans – many now in their late 90s. In South Australia alone 1,050 portraits were taken over a seven month period by South Australian professional photographers who donated their time and expertise to make this remarkable tribute.

Veterans SA is partnering with AIPP, Flinders University Art Museum, and Atkins Photo Lab, to present a selection of 100 portraits from the South Australian collection, for an exhibition titled 'Wish me luck'.



Photo: Louise Bagger of Clifford Brice (Rat of Tobruk), 2015 c-type photography courtesy the artist and the AIPP Reflections Project

The exhibition provides a snapshot of our remaining South Australian men and women who served in World War II, honouring their service and the service of those who are no longer with us.

Curated by Sharon Cleary (Veterans SA) and Louise Bagger (AIPP), 'Wish me luck' will be presented at Flinders University Art Museum on North Terrace from 2 July through to 11 September, 2016. Entry is free. A series of public talks will accompany the exhibition.

On Flanders Fields Poppy Trail Project

The 'On Flanders Field' project is designed to commemorate the involvement of Australian soldiers on the Western Front, where their sacrifice continues to be honoured by the French and Belgian communities with ongoing gratitude. It adopts as its starting point the 100th anniversary of the entry of Australia into the Battle of the Somme.

The Poppy Trail project comprises a range of cultural events and an exhibition series in

state cultural venues along North Terrace. Highlights will include: 'The Flanders Fields Poppy Trail' exhibition series, a revival season of 'Oh! What A Lovely War', a concert entitled 'Songs from the Great War' and a 'Great War at the Cinema' festival. Each event will contribute to an increased understanding and appreciation of the sacrifices, privations, bravery, destruction, pain and agony of war.

The project is an initiative of the South

Australian Honorary Consuls of France and Belgium in collaboration with a local consortium including Veterans SA, History SA, the South Australian Museum, the University of Adelaide, the State Opera of South Australia and the State Library of South Australia.

Further details will be available via anzaccentenary.sa.gov.au or by telephoning 08 8226 8543 in the coming weeks.

Anzac Centenary Memorial Walk Opening



Members of the veteran community are welcome to attend the opening of the Anzac Centenary Memorial Walk at 12.30pm on Saturday, 23 April 2016 at the South Australian National War Memorial, North Terrace, Adelaide.

The Anzac Centenary Memorial Walk is South Australia's flagship project to commemorate the Anzac Centenary.

The Memorial Walk seeks to highlight a century of service by Australian defence personnel, to acknowledge the sacrifice of all Australians who have been affected by war, and to pay homage to the more than 102,000 service men and women who have given their lives in conflict.

The Memorial Walk's design is based on three pillars around the theme of "a Memorial for all, not a few":

- Remembrance, symbolised by the South Australian National War Memorial
- Service, symbolised by the Torrens Parade Ground from where many have deployed
- Loyalty, symbolised by Government House

A \$10 million project funded by the Commonwealth Government through donations to the Anzac Public Fund (\$5 million), the Government of South Australia (\$3 million), and the Adelaide City Council (\$2 million), the Anzac Centenary Memorial Walk will be a lasting reminder of the human cost of war.

Anzac Centenary SA on Social Media

If you're social media savvy, or have young people in your family or community who are, you may not yet know that Veterans SA has established dedicated social media platforms that form a key part of SA's Anzac Centenary engagement strategy. Join another 1400 South Australians who are now following Veterans SA's dedicated Anzac Centenary South Australia Facebook page, where information about South Australian focussed Anzac Centenary stories, events and activities are posted daily. Recent campaigns include the weekly Veterans SA Think Piece series on Facebook and Linked In, the SA Recruitment heritage posters on Instagram, South Australians profiled in The Last Post Ceremonies at the Australian War Memorial on Facebook and the Peter Badcoe VC profile.

If you're into social media why not contribute your stories to the digital record Veterans SA is compiling on behalf of the state, which will form part of the Anzac Centenary South Australia Time Capsule project. To find out more visit anzaccentenary.sa.gov.au

To engage via Social Media find, like and follow us via the following:

Veterans SA Social Media:

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Anzac-Centenary-South-Australia>

Twitter:

https://twitter.com/Anzac_100_SA

Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/anzac-centenary_sa/

Hashtags: #Anzac100_SA
#AnzacCentenary_SA
#CheerUpHutClu

Cheer-Up Hut Club



Come to a Cheer-Up Hut near you!

This year, as part of our State's Anzac Centenary commemorations, a Cheer-Up Hut will reappear in South Australia's regional cities and towns providing a focal point for community storytelling. Join the Cheer-Up Hut Club for your step-by-step guide to researching, writing and enhancing your family's Anzac story.

Dates and locations for 2016 are:

March

Tuesday 8 – Sunday 20
Wayville Showground, Adelaide

May

Friday 20 – Monday 23
Adelaide Drill Hall, Torrens Parade Ground

Friday 27 – Monday 30
Mount Pleasant Soldiers Memorial Hall
61 Melrose Street, Mount Pleasant

September

Friday 16 – Monday 19
Mount Gambier Library, 6 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier

November

Tuesday 8 – Sunday 20
Central Oval Community Sporting Hub
Augusta Terrace, Port Augusta

anzaccentenary.sa.gov.au/cheer-up-hut-club

Prior to attending a Cheer-Up Hut re-creation we invite you to join the Cheer-Up Hut Club.

This free digital storytelling program provides members with practical assistance to research, write and enhance their Anzac stories during this important period of national reflection (2014-2018).

Club Members will be able to bring their pre-prepared stories to the Cheer-Up Hut for direct upload onto the RSL Virtual War Memorial and the Anzac Centenary South Australia websites or book a time to record their story inside a specially devised Cheer-Up Hut recording booth.

Bring your precious memorabilia with you on the day, so it can be scanned and saved onto a USB to be added to your Anzac story. Artefacts can also be photographed.

Contact Veterans SA to find out more, or visit our website to become a Cheer-Up Hut Club member.

Tel: 08 8226 8543

Email: veteranssa@sa.gov.au

Web: anzaccentenary.sa.gov.au/cheer-up-hut-club