



TOUKLEY RSL SUB BRANCH

Newsletter

Issue 60– October 2020

NEW SUB BRANCH MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new Sub Branch Members:

Eric McDonald
Ian Purdie

VALE

Elizabeth Roebuck
Leslie Quigley

Lest We Forget



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



**Sub Branch General Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month,
At 10.00am, upstairs in Club Toukley RSL, with the exception of January.
All Members are invited to attend.**

Wednesday 11 November 2020 – 10.40am	Remembrance Day
Sub-branch Xmas Party	Sunday 20 December 11.00am to 4.00pm

. Keeping your Sub Branch Details Up to Date

If you have recently moved, or your details have changed, please let the Sub Branch Office know so that we can update your address and contact details.

This information is required so that we can send any correspondence and membership renewals to the correct address.

Also, if you know of a member who has moved, either to another area or to an Aged Care Facility, please notify the Sub Branch Office.

Able Seaman Moss Berryman, last surviving member of a daring mission off Singapore – obituary

With the Australian and his comrades posing as Malay fishermen, Operation Jaywick destroyed or damaged 37,000 tons of Japanese shipping.



Moss Berryman

Able Seaman Moss Berryman, who has died aged 96, was the last survivor of Operation Jaywick, perhaps the most long-ranged and daring special forces raid of the Second World War.

On April 7 1942, as soon as he could, Berryman volunteered for the Royal Australian Navy. He and his friend, Able Seaman Fred Marsh, were still under training in Melbourne when they heard that a British officer was looking for volunteers to do something special.

Sent to Refuge Bay on the Hawkesbury River, north of Sydney, they discovered that they were members of Z Special Unit, or “Z Force”, commanded by Major Ivan Lyon and part of Special Operations Australia, formed to operate behind Japanese lines in South East Asia.

“My mate and I looked sideways at each other,” he recalled. “We were basically Sunday school boys. We had no idea how we were going to learn to kill people.”



Berryman, front centre. with his comrades aboard the Krait, a former Japanese fishing boat

However, on September 2 1943 Berryman, now a fully trained commando, sailed north from Exmouth Gulf, Western Australia, in the 70ft Krait, a former Japanese fishing vessel, with seven other British and Australian commandos from the army and the navy, and six boat’s crew.

Only once at sea did Lyon tell them that they were off to Singapore, some 3,500 miles away, “to blow up a few ships”.

Berryman knew that the Japanese did not have a reputation for treating prisoners well, but, he said, “we were young ones, we thought we were indestructible, just like they do today,” and Lyon maintained moral by insisting: “this isn’t dangerous, it’s exciting”.

“Still,” recalled Berryman, “I think if we had known earlier some of us may not have volunteered. There were definitely times we thought, ‘What the hell are we doing here? We’re getting five bob a day for this?’ ”

The two-week voyage though Japanese occupied waters was uncomfortable. They flew the Japanese flag and posed as Malay fishermen, wearing sarongs and constantly applying foul-smelling brown dye to their skin. Berryman spent much time at the top of the mast with binoculars looking out for other craft, which would be given a wide berth. When, occasionally, a Japanese float plane flew over, members of Z Force would wave and stand in a circle pretending to unpick fishing lines.



The Krait – named after a small but deadly fighting snake

On 18 September Krait arrived off Singapore – which was ablaze with lights and where the Japanese thought themselves safe – and offloaded six commandos in three two-man canoes. Much to their disappointment, Berryman and Marsh were told to stay behind. “Of course, we put on a bit of a turn – ‘We’ve done all the training, sir, why can’t we be in it?’ – and he said, ‘Nope, you two are going to be babysitters and look after Krait’ ”.

The canoeists established a base in a cave on a small island, and on the night of September 26 they paddled into the harbour to attached limpet mines to seven vessels, sinking or damaging 37,000 tons of shipping.

However, when Krait reached its rendezvous, the island of Pompong, 50 miles off Singapore, on the night of October 1-2, only one canoe was found. Lyon had told Krait to leave that night no matter what – but “being good old Australians, we decided we’d break the law and go back in two nights later,” when the other two canoes were recovered.

On the return voyage, a few minutes to midnight on October 11, a Japanese patrol boat intercepted Krait in the Lombok Strait. As Berryman crouched low with his Bren gun trained on the warship, Lyon, who had packed Krait’s bows with high explosive, prepared a suicide ramming which would have destroyed both vessels, but after the longest 15 minutes of Berryman’s life the warship drew away without switching on a searchlight or hailing Krait. “It was pure luck,” said Berryman.



Berryman, top left, and comrades

Krait entered Exmouth Bay after a 48-day mission. Berryman was Mentioned in Despatches for gallantry, skill and devotion to duty in a hazardous enterprise.

When later in 1943 Lyon asked Berryman whether he would care to return to Singapore as part of a larger, repeat mission, he carefully considered the proposal for two seconds before declining. All members of Operation Rimau were killed in action or executed by the Japanese.

Instead, Berryman completed his war service in the destroyer HMAS Vendetta, and was demobbed in February 1946.

Mostyn Berryman was born at Kent Town, South Australia, on November 9 1923, and was brought up a Methodist: his father had fought as a teenaged signaller in the Australia Imperial Force on the Western Front in the First World War.

Postwar Berryman returned to the stockbrokers S C Ward & Co, where he had been a clerk, and remained there until his retirement 46 years later.

Berryman was aboard Krait when she entered Sydney in 1964 to become a museum ship, and in 1993, on the 50th anniversary of Operation Jaywick, he met Lyon's son – “the spitting image of his father” – at Kranji War Cemetery. Lyon's French wife, Gabrielle Bouvier, and their baby son, had spent the war in Japanese internment camps, and together Berryman and the son cried that the son had never met his heroic father.



Berryman, front centre, standing, after Operation Jaywick

For many years Berryman was owed the five-bob-a-day danger money which he had been promised, and which the government topped up to A\$5,000.

Operation Jaywick, one of the most successful clandestine raids in Australian history, left a bitter aftermath. Lyon had intended that Jaywick be publicised to rattle the Japanese and boost Allied morale, but senior commanders decided against this as they wished to conduct similar raids in the future.

Not having the slightest idea of how the attack had been mounted, the Japanese inflicted savage reprisals on Singaporeans, who they suspected of aiding the attack. "Sometimes," a troubled Berryman mused in later life, "I feel that we shouldn't have done it because they murdered untold numbers of people trying to find out who did."

He married his childhood sweetheart, Mary Cant, who predeceased him in 2018, and he is survived by their four daughters.

Moss Berryman, born November 9 1923, died August 6 2020



The Krait at Australia's National Maritime Museum in Sydney

**Did you know on
the Canary
Islands there is
not one canary?
And on the
Virgin Isles?
Same thing - not
one canary there
either!**

The following item was provided for the newsletter by one of our members :

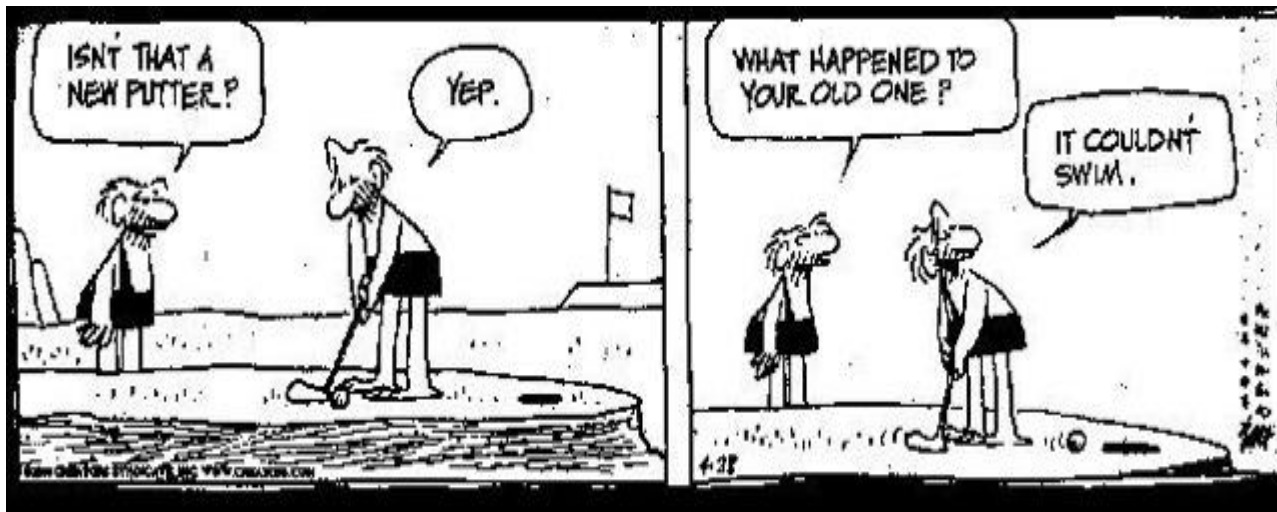
There is some misconception about the “Salute” by Veterans on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day or a Wreath Laying Ceremony. It will be noticed that Veterans will place their Right Hand over their “Left Side”.

Many believing that they were placing their ‘Hand over their Heart” in Respect or Remembrance of their Fallen Comrades”; - this is not so.

The Veterans Salute to their “Fallen Comrades” originated in London on Armistice Day in 1920, during the ceremony to unveil and dedicate the Cenotaph in Whitehall at the same time a funeral procession accompanying the remains of the “Unknown Soldier” halted at the Cenotaph during the ceremony before proceeding to Westminster Abbey for internment. Those present included the senior Soldier, sailor and many Victoria Cross winners. The ceremony concluded with a march past. The Regimental Sergeant Major of the Guard Regiment conducting the ceremony, faced with a gathering of highly decorated and high ranking military men (including many Victoria Cross winners), all wearing rows of medals, decreed that all would salute the Cenotaph as they marched past by placing their hand over their medals, signifying that “No matter what honours we may have been awarded they are nothing compared with the honour due to those who paid the supreme sacrifice”.

In addition there is no requirement for personnel laying a wreath to place their right hand over their heart, and is also not done during the Ode.

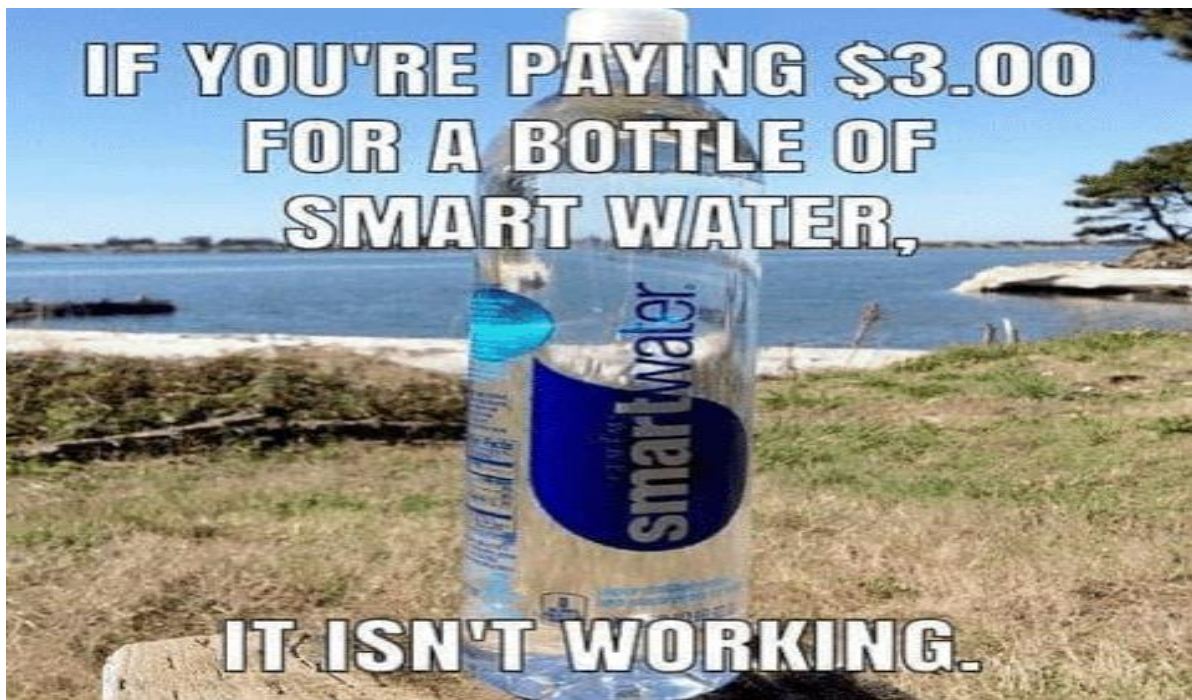
Source: Gary Traynor Administrator of the Military Based website MedalsGoneMissing and Military Historian.



**Toukley RSL Sub-branch
Allocation of Duties
February 2020**

Duty	Description	Allocated To
Membership	Ensuring that all Memberships are up to date. New Members	1 Ian Collier 2
Memorabilia	Documenting all new Memorabilia. Register to be kept up to date. Cabinets to be cleaned twice a year.	1 Judith Walker 2 John Noorbergen
Assets	Ensuring that Asset Register is maintained & kept up to date. New assets are recorded	1 John Noorbergen 2 Rod Clark
Cenotaph	Responsible for general overall appearance of cenotaph grounds. Plastic & dead flowers/rubbish/ornaments to be removed & disposed of.	1 John Noorbergen 2 Arnold Lockley
Diggers Inn	Liaison Officer All upkeep for the building & grounds. Key register. Any queries/problems to be notified to trustee	1 Steve Edmunds 2
Sub Branch Bus	Responsible for general upkeep	1 Rod Clark

	of bus - registration/ advise President of any problems Booking out by any groups Liaising with groups /use of bus	2
Monthly Newsletter	Produce newsletter each month Draft copy to President prior to printing	1 Ian Collier 2
Cenotaph Records	Maintain records in current form Update as internments occur ensuring that the next sequential plot is used Maintain & update number of interned veterans	1 Judith Walker 2 Allan Love



TOUKLEY RSL SUB BRANCH

Patron: Karen McNamara

President: Allan Love

Vice Presidents: Rod Clark
Ian Collier

Secretary: John Fraher

Treasurer: Terry Murray

Committee: John Noorburgen
Dutchy Lockrey
Judith Walker
Steve Edmunds

Telephone: 4396.4855
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Pensions & Welfare: Graham Treddinick
(Located at Diggers' Inn) 0419 634 624

Trustees: Bob Wilson, George Meier, Milton Porter

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