

APPENDIX 1

Selected articles

1. Enlistment in WW II – (Leon Kent)
2. Vietnam War
3. The Lovett Family
4. Reg Saunders (1920 – 1991)
5. ANZAC Day
6. Remembrance Day
7. The poppy
8. The Ode
9. Mateship and the Australian Digger
10. Indispensable in the war effort

1. Enlistment in WW II (Leon Kent)

"During the Second World War many men were conscripted. Alf Hughes remembers trucks coming to Point Pearce to collect the men. He told Lewis O'Brien that men were picked up from all the reserves, even from the North West, and trucked out. Only those with large families were exempt.

Life in the armed forces and in other wartime occupations gave new opportunities to some of our people to gain skills and training, and to experience equality in pay and working conditions. This enabled them to break out of the pattern of unskilled or seasonal employment into which they had been locked. Lionel Ware describes how Leon Kent used his educational opportunities in the RAAF.

He trained in the Institute of Technology then known as the School of Mines and Industries, continuing at the Ultimo Technical College in Sydney, Melbourne Radio College and the RAAF Secret Radar School at Richmond n New South Wales.... in every facet of electronics to pass through Radar School. He graduated as a ground radar mechanic and after an operational tour converted to airborne radar. Early warning radar stations were generally in isolated places which gave the opportunity to do correspondence lessons on maths, English, history and economics.

When the war ended he entered college at his own expense with the hope of doing a law course, but the (Lutheran church appeared to have the idea that he should enter the seminary or leave. So he left. He had declined to go to the college after primary school because he did not want to become a parson. If he had had a choice of vocation he would have gone.

“ In his time it was very hard to be an Aborigine and rise in the community... ”

He rejoined the RAAF to become a member of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan. He spent ten months at Hiroshima where the atom bomb fell during World War Two. He continued correspondence lessons, this time concentrating on languages. When discharged for the second time he worked in the electronics trade, both telephone and radio, and applied for a position at the Weapons Research Establishment. Even though his trade proficiency was described by the RAAF as superior, he was not given a position. He completely dropped out of electronics.

He has had to change vocation and start anew four times. This did not include farming, trapping and odd jobs. Although he graduated as a licensed land broker and got to know about law relating to property, he didn't realise his ambition to become a lawyer.

In his time it was very hard to be an Aborigine and rise in the community...."

(Mattingley, C. & Hampton, K. (1998), pp 124-125)

2. Vietnam War

On returning to Vietnam after recreation leave in Australia

"Kenny was glad to be back in the company of the sappers he had grown to trust and respect, however. He felt surprisingly safe here and his old tent had never looked so inviting. He guessed it must be home, and somehow he sensed a feeling of belonging and unity here. He knew he had made the right decision in joining the field troop; he knew he would make the best of whatever opportunity there was to prove himself. And this, still, was what he wanted more than anything to prove, especially over here, that he was every bit as good as the next man."

(Hall, R.A. (1997), p235)

"He was going home but with much apprehension and uncertainty in his mind. He was returning to a nation obviously bitterly divided about the war he and many other young Australians had become involved in and, for some reason, he was becoming more conscious of the colour of his skin again. His fellow Australians had accepted him over here, but what would it be like back in his own country? Would all his service and achievements mean anything, or would he go back to being just another blackfella?"

(Hall, R.A. (1997), p349)

3. The Lovett Family

Brave family spurned by land they served

May 28, 2007

FIVE Lovett brothers went to World War I and five signed up for World War II. All in all, 20 members of the Lovett family have served Australia in war and peacekeeping, from the Western Front to East Timor.

The most extraordinary point about the Lovett family's record of service, however, is that four of the five brothers who went to World War I also enlisted for World War II.

The saddest point is that while other returned Australians were offered blocks of land on which to settle and welcomed back to the bosom of society, the Aborigines had their applications for land rejected - even for land they once owned - and were turned away by some RSL clubs, pubs and other public organisations.

And dispossession of the First Australians continued. William Murray, a Gallipoli veteran, led the slaughter of up to 100 Aborigines in 1928 which became known as the Coniston massacre. Children were taken from their parents.

The happiest point is that all 20 Lovetts survived the various wars.

The outline of the Lovett story is uncommon knowledge - the Canberra tower that houses the Department of Veterans' Affairs was named after the family in 2000. But the unrivalled nature of their service was revealed only last week on ABC Radio National's *Away!*, when Nigel Steel, of the Imperial War Museum, said he knew of no service record in the Commonwealth to match it. John Connor, a senior historian at the Australian War Memorial, said it appeared the Lovetts occupied a unique place in Australian military history.

The Lovetts are Gunditjmarra people from Victoria's western districts. Known as "the Fighting Gunditjmarra", they fought white settlers in what is known as the Eumaralla War and, having lost that one, fought overseas on the side of those who took their land.

Dozens of people from the Lovett, McDonald, Rose and Saunders families from Lake Condah Mission, near Hamilton, went to war. Reg Saunders, the first Aborigine to become an officer, fought with the 6th Division in the Middle East, New Guinea and then Korea. Others fought in Vietnam. Ricky Morris, grandson of Frederick Lovett, who served in both world wars, went with peacekeeping troops to East Timor.

Most of the Lovetts are descendants of Hannah Lovett, who died in 1946, aged 91. Five of her 12 children - Alfred, Leonard, Edward, Frederick and Herbert - served overseas in World War I.

Alfred, the eldest, fought with the 26th and 12th battalions on the Somme in 1916, including the battles at Pozieres and Mouquet Farm. Frederick served with the 4th Light Horse in Palestine. Leonard was with the infantry of the 39th Battalion, part of the 3rd Division, which fought around Passchendaele in 1917 and in the crucial struggle around Amiens in 1918.

Edward served with the 4th, then the 13th Light Horse, which patrolled on the Western Front. Herbert was with the 5th Division, his machine-gun company fighting in the successful attack on the Hindenburg Line in 1918.

Hannah's youngest son, Samuel, was too young to go to that war but joined Edward, Frederick and Herbert in World War II. The three older men were too old to fight abroad but served in garrison and catering units.

Two female Lovetts - Alice and Pearl - are among the 20. Alice joined the WAAF in 1941; her son, Mervyn McDonald, was wounded in Vietnam. One of Granny Lovett's grandsons, Murray, was with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan, while three others served in Korea.

After World War II, Herbert Lovett put his case for a block of soldier-settlement land around the former Lake Condah mission, once the homeland of the Gunditjmarra people. His application was refused; returned white soldiers were granted the land.

Johnny Lovett, Herbert's son, said the injustice still hurt, although he was pleased that the Aboriginal contribution was honoured yesterday. There was some consolation from the Federal Court in March, when it gave the Gunditjmarra non-exclusive native title rights over 140,000 hectares of Crown land and waters.

According to Gunditjmarra lore, there had been small consolation after World War II, too. Refused a drink in a pub, the Lovetts had taken control of the hotel, drunk what they wanted, shot bottles off a shelf, and retired in peace.

Source: *The Sun-Herald*

Source: *The Sun-Herald* (viewed 16/12/09)

www.brisbanetimes.com.au/news/national/brave-family-spurned-by-land-they-served/2007/05/27/1180205078964.html

4. Reg Saunders (1920 - 1991)

Daughter Glenda Humes gives a brief outline of her father's life and career.

"My father was born on 7 August 1920, in a small town of Purnum, just outside the Framlingham Aboriginal Reserve in the Western Districts of Victoria. After his mother died, when he was about nine years old, his father took him and his brother, Harry, to the Lake Condah Mission where his father could find work and have family support.

At the outbreak of World War Two, in 1939, he joined the army. This was part of his heritage, of being a warrior. His people, the Gunditjmarra, had fought many battles with white settlers to retain their land; his Uncle Reg Rawlings MM, for whom he was named, and who had brought great honour to his people, was killed in action in Flanders.

He then began a brilliant and extraordinary military career. During World War Two, he was recommended for Officer Training School in Portsea, where he graduated with men such as Tom Derrick VC.

He served with the 6th Division and saw action in the Middle East and New Guinea.

In Korea he was promoted to captain and was the Officer-In-Charge of C Company of the 3rd battalion. This battalion won the United States Presidential Citation for the Battle of Kapyong. During the last twenty years of his life he worked with the former Department of Aboriginal Affairs. He travelled widely and met Aboriginal people from a variety of backgrounds. He was a very special Aboriginal man, whose place in Aboriginal and Australian history can never be diminished in time."

(Jackamos, A. & Fowell, D. (1993), p19)

5. ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day commemorates the landing of Australian and New Zealand troops on the shores of Gallipoli at ANZAC Cove on 25 April 1915. The Australian and New Zealand soldiers were part of a largely British force that also contained troops from France, India and Newfoundland. On 25 April the allies began an attack on the Ottoman Empire (now Turkey), which was fighting on Germany's side. This action began an eight month campaign in which tens of thousands of soldiers lost their lives and thousands were injured. The campaign ended with the evacuation of all allied troops by January 1916. Although the Gallipoli campaign was unsuccessful, every year on the anniversary of the landing, Australians honour the courage of those who fought and commemorate the sacrifice of those who died in the campaign. On this day - ANZAC Day - Australians also commemorate those who fought and lost their lives in all wars.

(Australian War Memorial, 2007:2)

6. Remembrance Day

On 11 November 1918 - at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month the Armistice was signed, effectively ending the First World War. Originally known as Armistice Day, Remembrance Day marks this anniversary. It is the day on which we remember and honour all Australians who fought, died and suffered in the First World War and in the wars and conflicts that followed. Remembrance Day is an international day of commemoration, unlike ANZAC Day which is a day of remembrance unique to Australia and New Zealand."

(Australian War Memorial 2007:20)

7. The poppy

During the First World War, red poppies were among the first living plants that sprouted from the devastation of the battlefields of northern France and Belgium. Soldiers told the story that the poppies were vivid red because they had been nurtured in the ground drenched with the blood of the soldier's comrades. The sight of the poppies on the battle field of Ypres in WW I 1915 moved Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian to write the poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

"In Flanders Fields"

*In Flanders field the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunsets glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break the faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

Lieutenant Colonel J.M. McCrae, 8 December 1915

8. The Ode

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."*

The Ode is taken from the elegy *For The Fallen*, by English poet and writer Laurence Binyon and was published in London in *The Winnowing Fan; Poems of the Great War* in 1914.



9. Mateship and the Australian Digger

"To be the sort of man who would give way when his mates were trusting his firmness; to be the sort of man who would fail when the line, the whole force, and the allied cause required his endurance; to have made it necessary for another unit's work; to live the rest of his life haunted by the knowledge that he had set his hand to a soldier's task and had lacked the grit to carry it through – that was a prospect that these men could not face. Life was very dear, but life was not worth living unless they could be true to their idea of Australian manhood."

(Bean, C.E.W. (1921), p 607)

"Although the experience of travel, adventure, new skills and authority were important issues, perhaps the most important legacy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander servicemen was the quality of the relationship they were able to establish with white Australians. Life within the services generally offered an environment in which interpersonal relations were remarkably free of racism.a remarkable cohesion – one which surpassed even the most thoroughly integrated of pre-war civilian communities- is evident. This relative absence of racism was a result of the nature of service in the armed forces."

(Hall, R.A. (1997), p68)

10. Indispensable in the war effort

"After Japan's entry into the war, the strength of the Services in the territory grew rapidly reaching a peak in the late 1942 of over 100,000 men. The servicemen who flooded into the Territory were mainly recruited from the cities and towns of south east Australia. This created a requirement for large scale employment and the only available workforce was the Aboriginal population. As Army combat units moved into the Territory, supporting logistic units followed. These maintained the flow of reinforcements of men and equipment, rations, fuel, ammunition and spare parts and a host of other supplies and services to the combat units. Army logistics units such as bakeries, butcheries, staging camps, hospitals, ordnance depots and the like, blossomed along the Stuart Highway..... that Aborigines were involved in cement work, carting and shovelling sand and gravel, timber cutting, and cartage and stacking of ammunition. The hours worked by this unit were from 7.30 am to 5.30 pm... The natives are contented. The opinion of those in charge is that the natives are good toilers, and capable of exertion far in excess of soldiers and labour units in the Middle East..... The Aborigines evacuated from Darwin and coastal areas formed a ready workforce to support these units.By mid 1942 the Aboriginal labourers had established themselves as an important part of the defence effort and were acknowledged as such by the officers of the Native Affairs Branch. "It must be realised that the native population of the Northern Territory has made a valuable contribution to the war effort", wrote V.J. White, "and at present may be regarded as indispensable towards its furtherance."

(Hall, R.A. (1997), pp138, 140, 141)

APPENDIX 3

Glossary

ANZAC – stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. In 1917, the word ANZAC meant someone who fought at Gallipoli and later it came to mean any Australian or New Zealander who fought or served in the First World War.

ANZAC Day – is held every year on 25 April to mark the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War.

Veteran – describes a person, man or woman, who has rendered service to their nation in the armed forces; in many cases this includes active service overseas.

Commemorate – to keep alive, or to honour, the memory of some person, group or event by a ceremony.

Armed Services – include the Australian Army, Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Air Force.

Servicemen and women – those people who render service to their nation in the armed forces.