



## Message from the Office of the State Minister for Veterans' Affairs Issue 83 (19 October, 2010)

Please find below a message from Bill Denny AM, Director, Veterans SA for your information, distribution and possible use in newsletters, and on "Veterans" themed radio programs.

### Calling all Veterans of Kokoda, Tobruk, Kapyong and Long Tan

Veterans will recall that in June this year, Premier Mike Rann announced that some of Australia's most famous military battles will be honoured along the almost-complete Northern Expressway.

Veterans SA would like to hear from veterans who served on the Kokoda Track, in Tobruk or who were at or associated with the Battle of Kapyong or the Battle of Long Tan. This will enable Veterans SA to keep you apprised of information and events relating to the naming of the five expressway interchanges.

The unveiling ceremony for the interchanges is set to occur on 12 November. Any members of the veterans' community who wish to attend this ceremony are encouraged to call Simon from Veterans SA on 8226 8541. Numbers are limited, however Veterans SA will make every effort to accommodate those wishing to attend.

### This Week in Australian Military History

Did you know that:

23 – 31 October is the anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein (1942) where Sergeant William Henry (Bill) Kibby was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Born in England in 1903, Kibby moved with his family to Adelaide early in 1914. He attended Mitcham Public School and was later employed at a plasterworks in Edwardstown.

In 1936 Kibby joined the Militia and was assigned to the 48<sup>th</sup> Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery. During the Second World War he joined the Australian Imperial Force and was a sergeant in the 2/48<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion.

During the Battle of El Alamein Kibby stepped up to lead a platoon after an initial attack had killed his commander. On 23 October Kibby charged a machine gun position armed only with his Thompson sub machinegun, killing 3 of the enemy, capturing 12 and taking the position. Between 30 – 31 October the platoon came under intense mortar and machinegun fire which resulted in most of the platoon being killed or wounded, Kibby pushed on alone to within several metres of the enemy throwing grenades to achieve his company's objective. He was killed just as his success was within reach.

For these efforts he was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to Commonwealth forces.

Bill Kibby's Victoria Cross is on Display at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

### **Army Museum of South Australia**

The Army Museum of South Australia is located just through the main gates at Keswick Barracks, ANZAC highway. The museum is open to the public on Sunday afternoons between 12 and 4 pm.

The museum displays uniforms, weapons, vehicles, pictures and documentation spanning colonial era right through to present day.

The museum's Medal and Trophy room has recently been upgraded and displays several unique items including two U.S. Distinguished Service Cross Medals awarded to South Australians.

For more information or to make a group booking the museum can be contacted on 8305 6374 or visit: [www.amosa.org.au](http://www.amosa.org.au)

### **National Commission - Centenary of ANZAC 2015**

The State Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon. Jack Snelling M.P., was represented by Mr Bill Denny A.M., Director, Veterans SA at the recent meeting of the National Commission established to investigate and make recommendations to the Federal Government on appropriate ways to commemorate the Centenary of ANZAC in 2015.

The inaugural meeting of the Commission was held in the House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra Friday 15 October, 2010. The National Commission comprises six prominent Australians including former Prime Minister's Malcolm Fraser and Bob Hawke. Each State made a presentation to the Commission.

South Australia should be proud that it was the only State to be individually acknowledged for the stage it had reached in its considerations and the quality of the recommendations it made.

As you might recall the first task of the South Australian Veterans' Advisory Council when created by the State Government two and half years ago, was to consider an appropriate way to commemorate ANZAC 2015. Members of the VAC were asked to consult widely and bring recommendations to the VAC. Nineteen recommendations were received and were refined to a short list of ten in order of precedence.

To begin the conference in Canberra a presentation was made by Colmar Brunton, Australia's largest independent research agency. The presentation had been commissioned by the Federal Department of Veterans' Affairs. Colmar Brunton travelled Australia surveying the nation to determine what the average "Aussie" saw

as important and to try and find out just what is the best way to commemorate the ANZAC Centenary.

It was pleasing that the findings of Colmar Brunton accorded closely with the suggestions from the veteran's community of South Australia.

Indeed three of the projects suggested by South Australia accorded exactly with the findings of Colmar Brunton. Those projects involved educating younger generations about our military history, the inclusion of the multicultural community in our commemorations and ensuring the Indigenous community of South Australia, which was so well represented in World War I, was included.

The list of projects that comprise South Australia's final ten were published in the Minister's Message a few weeks ago and are re-published below.

Veterans SA looks forward to continuing to work with the National Commission and invites any member of the South Australian veteran community who has views on this matter to contact their Veterans Advisory Council representative (or Mr Bill Denny AM, Director Veterans SA on Tel: 82268542).

For more information about any of the items mentioned, please contact Simon at Veterans SA on 8226 8541.



<b>Centenary of ANZACS Projects</b>	
<b>Serial</b>	<b>Project Summary</b>
1	Upgrade State National War Memorial North Terrace & Pathway of Honour (The RSL has been working with the ACC & the State Government on this project for in excess of 8 years and is willing to continue the development).
2	Upgrade of A.I.F. Cemetery - West Terrace.
3	<b>The establishment of a virtual museum, an online resource that documents the contribution of South Australians in times of war through the provision of high quality technology presentations, curriculum materials and a repository of original source material.</b>
4	That 2014 or 2015 be designated the "Year of the Veteran" by the Commonwealth Government.
5	That Australia Post and the Royal Australian Mint be encouraged to commission a series of stamps/post marks and coins that commemorate the sacrifices made on behalf of Australia by our veterans.
6	Acknowledgement of South Australia's Victoria Cross recipients in conjunction with the History Trust through the preparation of photographs and replica medal sets for display at the Torrens Training Depot. Possibly a State Regional Tour like the 'Courage & Humanity' Tour with the display for each Victoria Cross winner being presented to the town of origin of the recipient at the conclusion of the tour.
7	<b>A research project to determine the names and history of all South Australian (or maybe Australian) Aboriginal men who served during WW1. This is a possible project for an historian at the Australian War Memorial. It could be published as a book to include a Roll of Honour and a short biographical history of each soldier or sailor. It could also include a short film showing the contribution of Aboriginal Veterans from South Australia.</b>
8	Week long education campaign to commemorate the "war to end all wars".
9	<b>A "whole of school" short film competition depicting an event or person involved in World War One.</b>
10	Bring all the SA WW1 Victoria Cross medal sets to SA for display.