



Department of Hawaii



“Yanks Down Under” Post AU01



Sydney, Australia

OCTOBER 2012

**ALFONS ROSENSTRAUSS, OAM
1925-2012
US ARMY AIR FORCE-WW II**



A Post member for 33 years we knew him as **Al Rosen** after he shortened his name a few years ago. **Al** passed away after a short illness at the end of September. He and his wife moved to Swansea on the NSW Central Coast in February from their home for many years in North Bondi to finally retire. He was heavily involved with real estate in Sydney and took pride in telling everyone he went to “work” every day until their move to Swansea. **Al** served in the Army Air Force from 1944 until his discharge in 1946, with the 22nd Bomb Group, 5th Air Force. At one time we had about 8 members of the 22nd Bomb Group in our Post. **Al** was the last survivor of this group. He loved to tell one and all that his proudest moment was as a Jeep driver for the Commanding General of the 5th Air Force in the 1945 Victory Parade in Tokyo. As they passed the reviewing stand with General MacArthur taking the salute he momentarily diverted his eyes from the road to look at “Big Mac” and almost ran into the group in front of him, fortunately for them and **Al** he averted what could have been a less than proud moment for him.

A prouder moment I’m sure was May 7, 2008 at Government House in Sydney when he was invested with the OAM for his contribution to medical research in founding and managing the wealthiest such foundation in Australia for 24 years and worth these days over \$100 million. Not bad for a former PFC (that’s Private First Class for you former Navy people). For the peasants up there in the colonies who receive this newsletter the OAM is the prestigious Order of Australia Medal awarded by Queen Elizabeth in conjunction with the Government of Australia announced in the Queens Birthday Honors (that’s Honours down here) in April.

Rest in peace **Al** and thank you for your service during World War II.



WE WILL REMEMBER HIM, LEST WE FORGET

I extend the condolences of all our Legion & Auxiliary members to the families of **David Hire** for the loss of his wife **Jean** in July, **Vic Kozanecki** who's wife **Clarice** also passed away in July, she would have been 88 in November and they had been married for over 65 years. **Roy Spence** lost his wife **Beverly** late in August, 4 days short of her 84th birthday. You may remember we mentioned in past newsletters of **Roy and Beverly** and their radio program "Radio Yesteryear" on Radio 97.3, Lake Macquarie. **Beverly** of course was the **Bev** of "Bev's Washboard Band in B#"

Yes it's that time of year again to pay our dues for next year and thank you all for your quick response to the request to do so. We have at present attained 90% of our goal of 101 members, so before you throw those reminders we keep sending you in the rubbish send in your \$27 and hopefully we will once again attain 100% by December 1st and receive the blessings of both National Headquarters and Department of Hawaii. Remember...make any checks (or cheques if you are Aussie) or Australia Post Money Orders payable to American Legion or in the case of our Auxiliary members to American Legion Auxiliary. By the way, the girls of the Auxiliary are ahead of the Post with 96% paid so far. Thanks to all for your effort to once again making us one of the top membership Posts in the Department. If you wish to pay via Bank Transfer contact the Post Commander for the bank details.

A tip of the Legion cap to **Vice-Commander Phil O'Hearn** for representing the Legion at the VP/VJ Day commemoration in Sydney on August 15th. **Phil** didn't get all the names of those from the Post & Auxiliary Unit that attended but he did notice **Ted & Elaine Lange** who travelled 50 miles from the Central Coast, thanks to all who attended this most important ceremony.

This is, as you probably have already gathered, a slow "news" time for the Post. As always we have a few members and their "minders" (known to some as wives) travelling. **Bill Doyle** has finally departed for a short time from the "wilds" of Lorn in "outback" New South Wales taking in the sites in Fiji via local vintage buses and rust bucket ferries and staying in local hotels instead of Resorts. In September he checked out the hotspots in Singapore and Phuket, Thailand. Now now, I know what you're thinking but you're wrong. At 79 years old it's strictly the touristy things like visiting temples, inexpensive (o.k. cheap) restaurants, photo ops with the local wildlife...no no not that kind, real wildlife like animals and huge snakes. Back in the old days things were a bit different for him when he was in the army (he's retired USAF) with the 4th Infantry Division during the occupation of Germany in the early 50's in Frankfurt but we won't go into that, after all this is a family newsletter.

Bill Earls took a trip to the colonies during the Australian winter months to "thaw out". During a stop-over in Hawaii rounding out their latest around-the-world trip, **the Raymond's** briefly met up with **Jose' & Robyn Ramos-Pagan** at the Ala Moana Shopping Center, where else would you go to if you were in Hawaii. **Jose' & Robyn** were preparing to return to Sydney via cruise ship...now that's the way to travel. Bon Voyage to you both.

O.K. ...here it comes...just what you all have been waiting for....**David & Sonja Raymond's** latest trip....briefly. We left Sydney on July 26th for Singapore for a few days then on to Germany for a few weeks before heading for the states to visit friends, grandchildren and Great-grandchildren (yes HE's that old) in Maryland, Tennessee visited the Chattanooga Choo Choo in Chattanooga (if you are under 50 and reading this you would have no idea what that was) then on to the Legion National Convention in Indianapolis and following that we were driven over to Ohio with grand-daughter Barbara. Following a great time over the Labor Day weekend it was on to Hawaii for some S & MS for about 2 weeks. S&MS ??? That's **Sonja's** term for Aloha in Paradise....(S) Shopping& (MS) More Shopping. Now the big event of the trip....BRIEFLY....On the plane awaiting take-off from Frankfurt, Germany it was discovered by an Air Marshall aboard the plane that four (yes count'em... 4) middle eastern types (3 men and one woman) were intending to sabotage the plane. This was about 8:30 in the morning. The German Police, about 30 strong, took charge and the passengers were disembarked one at a time, each searched etc before the next was allowed off the plane. All were loaded on buses. The 4 middle eastern types as they left the plane were immediately hand-cuffed and photographed and led to another bus.

This all took about 6 or more hours. That evening we were put up in a very nice hotel and most were re-booked on other flights the next day. This all involved as we later found out, 3 different aircraft. Two in Frankfurt and one which was over the Atlantic and diverted to Iceland. Hope this was brief enough. Lesson learned here is we no longer will fly a US registered airline out of Europe as this is the second time this happened to us over the years.



The convention in Indianapolis was as always very good. Indianapolis was a magnificent place to visit also. Indianapolis has the distinction of devoting more acreage to honoring veterans than any other city in the U.S.A. It is second only to Washington D.C, in its number of war memorials. We had a tour of the American Legion National Headquarters which is huge. The 95th National Convention next August will be in Houston, Texas. Followed by conventions in the following cities; Charlotte, North Carolina, Baltimore, Maryland, Cincinnati, Ohio, Louisville, Kentucky, Minneapolis, Minnesota and the 100th National Convention in 2019 will be once again in Indianapolis.

More travelers? **John Bird** who is turning 85 this month (he says he's getting old and decrepit, that's not true, you're not getting old) bought a new (?) second hand mid-size campervan but the furthest away he can get from his home, way up at the top of Australia in Cooktown, is a coastal beach 30 kilometers (about 18 miles) down the road called Archer Point. He said he can get off into areas the crowd (crowds in Cooktown?) can't reach with his 4 W.D. He writes it's been blowing a gale for the past month so camping out is no fun (camping out in a campervan? With a shower, toilet and TV?) I still say he's not old.



Last but not least, **Frank Finch** is off to the USA in December. First stop his old stomping ground San Pedro, California taking a trip out to Catalina Island on the WW II Victory Ship the **SS Lane Victory**, a fully restored WW II cargo ship. Sorry **Frank** it doesn't go to Tijuana. At 10,000 tons the Victory ships were slightly larger than the Liberty ships. **Frank** is a member of the **Lane Victory Vet's Association** and writes articles for their newspaper "The Anchor Light". Following this he's off to Montana (in December???) and going up the Little Big Horn via Billings (no, not on the SS Lane Victory). Watch out for those pesky Indians **Frank** don't make it **Finch's Last Stand** like that other fellow in 1876.

If any of you are up Kyogle way (that's in New South Wales, not Montana) drop in to the **Finch Maritime Museum** situated at 45 Highfield Road, Kyogle. Be sure to see **Frank's** erection in his backyard (**the crow's nest...the crow's nest**).

Phone ahead (02) 6632 1679 and they'll give you a guided tour.

Don't forget your 2013 Legion & Auxiliary dues (\$27 for the Legion \$10 for the Auxiliary).

Send us some news for the November newsletter. You send us news then we won't bore you with our travel news. Howzat that for a bargain. Coming up in November is of course our annual **Thanksgiving Day Luncheon**. All the details will be in the November newsletter.

Until then **HAPPY HALLOWEEN.**



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&
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