

SUVLA BAY

We have said good-bye to Anzac
or maybe au revoir?
For who can tell the turning
of fortunes wheels of war,
one day we are winning
the next day comes a blow,
but we must take it smiling
for its the game you know!

We held the cliffs of Anzac
since on that glorious morn,
we landed there and gained them
with British blood and brawn,
and now our work is ended
lock, barrel, stock and gun,
there is nothing left behind us
of use to Turk or Hun!

We have left the shores of Anzac
to join the waiting fleet,
no one said surrender
and no one breathed retreat,
we only left our comrades
who have not died in vain,
to guard the empty trenches
until we come again!

We have said good-bye to Anzac
or is it au revoir?
For who can tell the turning
of fortunes wheels of war,
but none can point a finger
and none can ever say,
that the British lost their honour
in the fight for Suvla Bay

Copyright: 24234 Pte. John Henry Bridgwood. W.R.F., who served in Gallipoli until he was shot in the forehead, left for dead and mutilated by the Turks, rescued, placed on a hospital ship, H.M.H.S Braemar Castle, which was mined by German submarine U73, and beached. He was then transferred to another ship for Britain.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

BORTH BRANCH

ANZAC DAY DINNER

27th APRIL 2013

THE LLETY CEIRO RESTAURANT



In April 1915, Australian and New Zealand forces (the Anzacs) formed part of an allied expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli peninsula, in order to open the Black Sea for the Allied navies in an unsuccessful effort to knock Turkey out of the Great War.

Over 8,000 Australian and 2,700 New Zealand soldiers died. To honour them, the 25th of April was thereafter known as Anzac Day.

Our dinner tonight observes that anniversary, and is held annually now at the instigation of our late branch President Alan Morris M.B.E

During the warfare a particular clash which has resonated in military history was The Battle of the Lone Pine. This took place between 16th and 18th August 1915. The battle took its name from a solitary pine that was left standing at the battle site after Turkish soldiers had cut down all the other trees to provide timber to cover their trenches. This tree was obliterated during battle but in memory of it another lone pine was planted in 1920.

In the Lone Pine Cemetery at Gallipoli, 1,167 Commonwealth (mostly Australian and New Zealand) servicemen are buried, while the imposing memorial lists the names of 4,900 others whose graves are not known.

Our photographs come by courtesy of Mr Gil Jones, a member of Borth Branch.

This evening we welcome Warrant Officer Robert Munro of the Australian High Commission as our principle guest. We also welcome Mr Alan Cathery, our Membership Council Member for Wales, The Royal British Legion.

We also welcome Flight Lieutenant Clive Parker, 561 Squadron Air Training Corps, Aberystwyth.

His Cadets have supported us as a Branch and The Royal British Legion as a whole for many years. Within the ATC they have received many distinctions and awards.

Again we welcome Tony and Kathleen Hockenhull who join us with their HMS Gambia Standard.

HMS Gambia was commissioned in 1942 and in 1943 joined the New Zealand navy, as HMNZS Gambia, and stayed there until 1946 when she reverted to the Royal Navy. During her service with the New Zealand navy she earned battle honours at Sabang 1944, Okinawa 1945 and Japan 1945.. She fired the last round in the second world war when carrying out a 6" gun bombardment of Japan, after which she sailed into Tokyo Bay and was present when Japan signed the surrender.



PARADE OF STANDARDS

WELCOME

Branch Chairman RBL Ray Quant M.B.E

EXHORTATION

Iori Lewis B.E.M (Welsh) The Rev David Williams (English)

IN MEMORIAM

GRACE

The Rev Cecilia Charles
Branch Chaplain

TOAST

THE QUEEN

Flight Lieutenant Clive Parker 561 Squadron Air Training Corps

GUEST SPEAKER

Robert Munro
of The Australian High Commission
who will also propose a toast to The Royal British Legion

PRESENTATION

Alan Cathery Membership Council Member for Wales RBL

ARMED FORCES COVENANT ADDRESS

Paul Hinge

VOTE OF THANKS

Mark Williams MP President of Borth Branch RBL
who will also toast the guests

BIRTHDAY WISHES

To Commemorate the 87th Birthday of H.M. The Queen

KOHIMA EPITAPH

Iori Lewis B.E.M (Welsh) Rev. David Williams (English)