

Bass Hill RSL Sub-Branch

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"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance"

Newsletter

Issue 122

May, 2024

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EDITORIAL**
Gary Roser, Editor
 *Next time

Sub-Branch Meetings	
<u>Committee</u> Mondays 16:30	<u>Sub-Branch</u> Sundays 10:30am
20/05/24	26/05/24
22/07/24	28/07/24
19/08/24	25/08/24
Sat 11:30 - 07/09/24 Spring Luncheon	

***The editorial is entirely my own opinion and does not reflect the Sub-Branch Executive.*



New T-shirts on display by our models. Final design to be decided at the next meeting

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings Members.

Busy period over the last couple of months, especially in the lead up to ANZAC Day and after.

We have been to 5 Kindergartens, 5 Schools and 2 Nursing Homes either to conduct Ceremonies or just give an address. We were well received by all.

Throughout this newsletter you will find photos of ANZAC Day and our Luncheon. Thanks to Hao Xuan NY for the photos.

Ian Muirhead
President



Ron being presented with a thank-you for your service quilt at our luncheon



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Kia Ora again from New Zealand. Yes I am still here in New Zealand again. But coming home on 28 May.

I attended the Whakatane ANZAC Day Commemoration and hereunder are pictures showing the tributes laid and the ANZAC Breakfast at the Maori meeting house, called a Marae. Later on my Julia and I attended the RSA for lunch with the other veterans.



Gary Roser, J.P.



Christ the King Catholic School at ANZAC Day Commemoration

You Know When Your Over the Hill When.....



I remember the old days...



When "Snap, Crackle and Pop" were sounds that came from my Cereal, not my body!

My wife is singing in the house

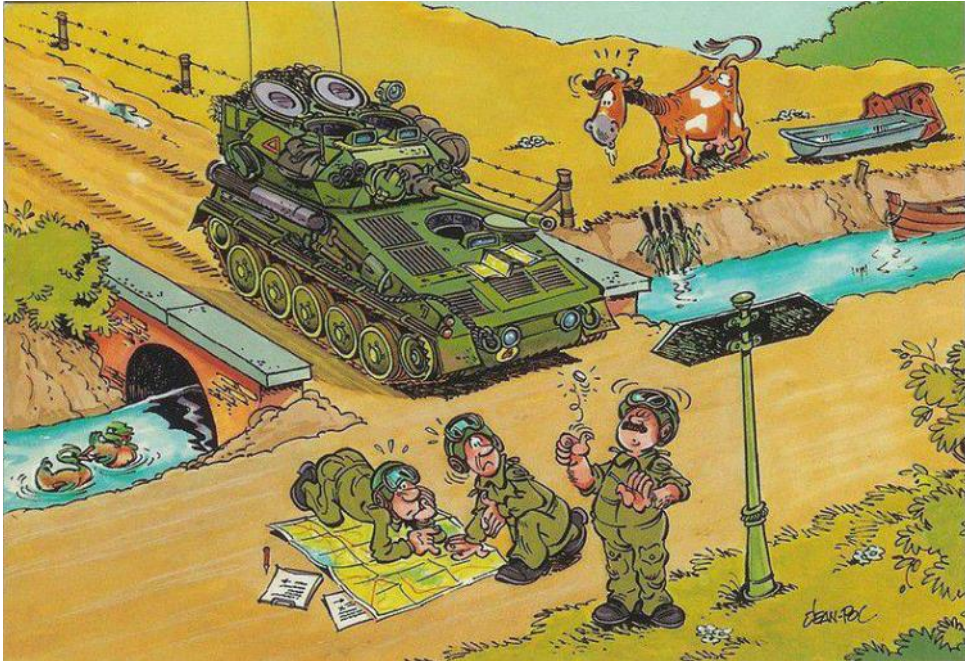


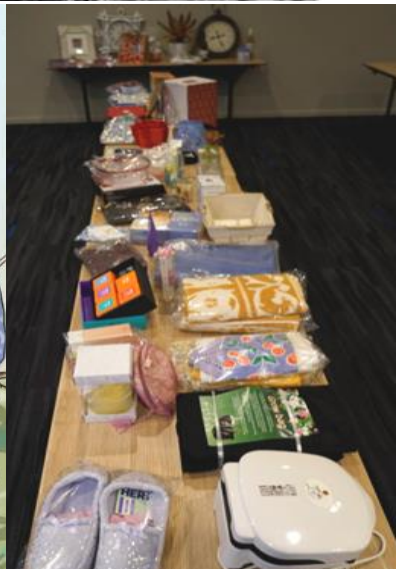
I'm sitting outside so the neighbors don't think I'm hitting her

A WISE MAN ONCE TOLD HIS WIFE

NOTHING, BECAUSE HE WAS A WISE MAN

AUSTRALIA,- "A sun burnt country, a land of sweeping plains & rugged mountain ranges, A land of droughts and flooding rains, her beauty & her terror , "---- can't remember the rest of the poem,- Says it all anyway !!!





What happened to Germany and Turkey after World War One?

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aftermath_of_World_War_I)

Germany

In Germany, there was a socialist revolution which led to the brief establishment of a number of communist political systems in (mainly urban) parts of the country, the abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II, and the creation of the Weimar Republic.

On 28 June 1919 the Weimar Republic was forced, under threat of continued Allied advance, to sign the Treaty of Versailles. Germany viewed the one-sided treaty as a humiliation and as blaming it for the entire war. While the intent of the treaty was to assign guilt to Germany to justify financial reparations, the notion of blame took root as a political issue in German society and was never accepted by nationalists, although it was argued by some, such as German historian Fritz Fischer. The German government disseminated propaganda to further promote this idea, and funded the Centre for the Study of the Causes of the War to this end.

132 billion gold marks (\$31.5 billion, 6.6 billion pounds) were demanded from Germany in reparations, of which only 50 billion had to be paid. In order to finance the purchases of foreign currency required to pay off the reparations, the new German republic printed tremendous amounts of money – to disastrous effect. Hyperinflation plagued Germany between 1921 and 1923. In this period the worth of fiat Papiermarks with respect to the earlier commodity Goldmarks was reduced to one trillionth (one million millionth) of its value. In December 1922 the Reparations Commission declared Germany in default, and on 11 January 1923 French and Belgian troops occupied the Ruhr until 1925.

The treaty required Germany to permanently reduce the size of its army to 100,000 men, and destroy their tanks, air force, and U-boat fleet (her capital ships, moored at Scapa Flow, were scuttled by their crews to prevent them from falling into Allied hands).

Germany saw relatively small amounts of territory transferred to Denmark, Czechoslovakia, and Belgium, a larger amount to France (including the temporary French occupation of the Rhineland) and the greatest portion as part of a reestablished Poland. Germany's overseas

colonies were divided between a number of Allied countries, most notably the United Kingdom in Africa, but it was the loss of the territory that composed the newly independent Polish state, including the German city of Danzig and the separation of East Prussia from the rest of Germany, that caused the greatest outrage. Nazi propaganda would feed on a general German view that the treaty was unfair – many Germans never accepted the treaty as legitimate, and lent their political support to Adolf Hitler.

Ottoman Empire

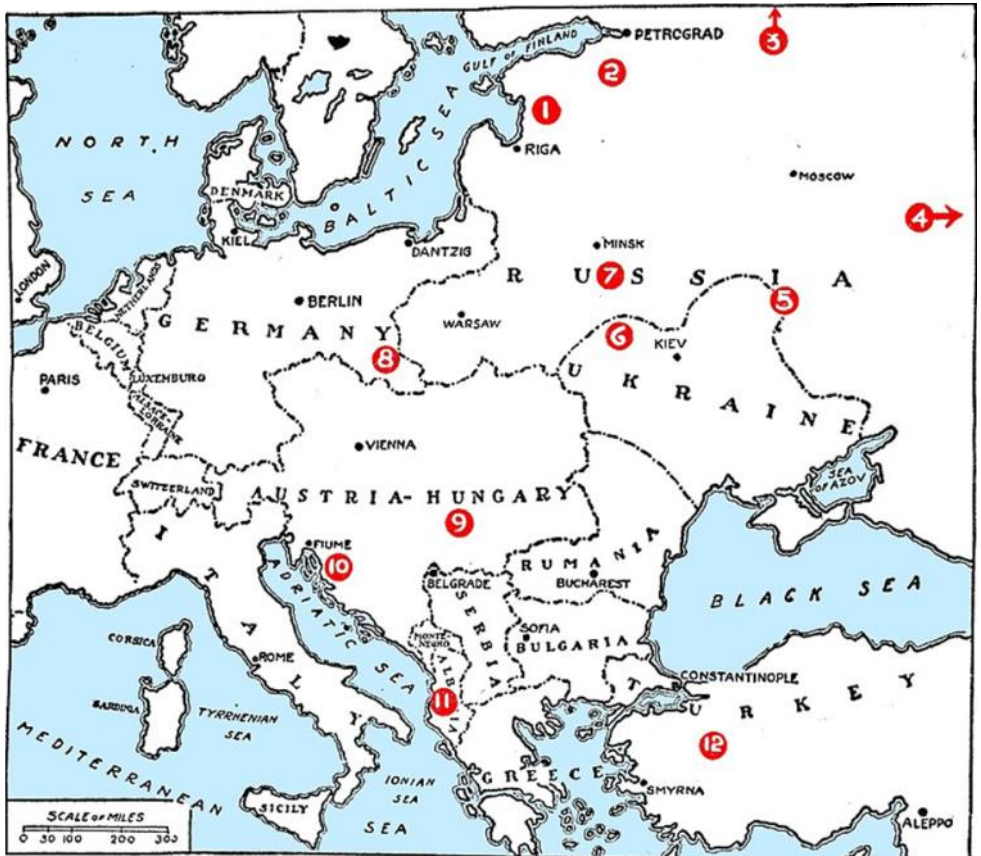
Main articles: Partitioning of the Ottoman Empire, Turkish War of Independence, and Greco-Turkish War (1919–1922)

Borders of Turkey according to the Treaty of Sèvres (1920) which was annulled and replaced by the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923

At the end of the war, the Allies occupied Constantinople (Istanbul) and the Ottoman government collapsed. The Treaty of Sèvres, designed to repair damage caused by Ottomans during the war to the winning Allies, was signed by Ottoman Empire on 10 August 1920, but was never ratified by the Sultan.

The occupation of Smyrna by Greece on 18 May 1919 triggered a nationalist movement to rescind the terms of the treaty. Turkish revolutionaries led by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, a successful Ottoman commander, rejected the terms enforced at Sèvres and under the guise of General Inspector of the Ottoman Army, left Istanbul for Samsun to organize the remaining Ottoman forces to resist the terms of the treaty. On the eastern front, after the invasion of Armenia in 1920 and signing of the Treaty of Kars with the Russian S.F.S.R. Turkey took over territory lost to Armenia and post-Imperial Russia.

On the western front, the growing strength of the Turkish National Movement forces led the Kingdom of Greece, with the backing of Britain, to invade deep into Anatolia in an attempt to deal a blow to the revolutionaries. At the Battle of Dumlupınar, the Greek army was defeated and forced into retreat, leading to the burning of Smyrna and the withdrawal of Greece from Asia Minor. With the nationalists empowered, the army marched on to reclaim Istanbul, resulting in the Chanak Crisis in which the British Prime Minister, David Lloyd George, was forced to resign. After Turkish resistance gained control over Anatolia and Istanbul, the Sèvres treaty was superseded by the Treaty of Lausanne which formally ended all hostilities and led to the creation of the modern



1. War of Independence in Estonia and Latvia
2. White Army of General Yudenich
3. North Russia intervention
4. White Army of Kolchak's in Siberia
5. General Denikin's White Army
6. General Petlura's Ukrainian directorate
7. Polish–Soviet War
8. Silesia tension between the Poles and Germans.
9. Romanian occupation of Hungary
10. Gabriele D'Annunzio's seizes Fiume, creates the Italian Regency of Carnaro
11. In Albania promiscuous fighting is going on
12. Turkish War of Independence

Turkish Republic. As a result, Turkey became the only power of World War I to overturn the terms of its defeat, and negotiate with the Allies as an equal.

Lausanne Treaty formally acknowledged the new League of Nations mandates in the Middle East, the cession of their territories on the Arabian Peninsula, and British sovereignty over Cyprus. The League of Nations granted *Class A* mandates for the Mandate for Syria and the Lebanon and British Mandate of Mesopotamia and Palestine, the latter comprising two autonomous regions: Mandate Palestine and the Emirate of Transjordan. Parts of the Ottoman Empire on the Arabian Peninsula became part of what is today Saudi Arabia and Yemen. The dissolution of the Ottoman Empire became a pivotal milestone in the creation of the modern Middle East, the result of which bore witness to the creation of new conflicts and hostilities in the region.





FUN FACT: a majority of archeologists are women due to their natural ability to dig up the past



AGENDA FOR TODAY

Let dog out

Let the dog in

Let the dog out

Let the dog in

Let the dog out

To be continued



I WISH I COULD DROP
MY BODY OFF
AT THE GYM
& PICK IT BACK UP
WHEN IT'S READY.

**I said I was good at
making decisions. I didn't
say the decisions I made
were good.**



**"What a coincidence! You forgot my
birthday and I forgot how to cook."**

ANZAC Day 2024



ANZAC Luncheon 2024



Clearance divers challenged by environment and experience

By Corporal Michael Rogers,

Photos: Leading Seaman Sittichai Sakonpoonpol

Navy News, 11 April 2024



Chief Petty Officer Thomas Buchanan, of Australian Clearance Diving Team Four, conducts an improvised explosive device disposal scenario during Exercise Dugong.

The robot's video feed showed an innocuous-looking cardboard box but, from intelligence gathered, CPO Thomas Buchanan knew it was time to put on a bomb suit.

Earlier that day, the Mine Warfare and Clearance Diving Task Group headquarters tasked clearance diving elements to clear a wharf in preparation for ships coming alongside. But, with disgruntled locals and an insurgency capable of making improvised explosive devices (IED), suspicions were high. After discovering a dubious package on the wharf, a robot was sent for a closer look, but found no tell-tale signs, such as wires.

“There were enough cues to suspect [from intelligence] it was an IED, so we dress up appropriately in the bomb suit, take an x-ray and come up with a plan to render it safe,” CPO Buchanan said. After x-ray confirmed the IED, a robot was sent in again, this time to disrupt the device so it couldn't function, and the search continued.

It was just one scenario sailors of AUSCDT-1 and 4 took part in during Exercise Dugong. They were joined by clearance divers from New Zealand's HMNZS Matataua and the US Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 to conduct mine clearance and improvised explosive device disposal operations ashore.

The divers worked from a makeshift headquarters at Eden Discovery Parks and launched missions from the beach directly into the area of operations.

Dive team members from Australian Clearance Diving Team One prepare to conduct a mine countermeasure during Exercise Dugong at Eden



The exercise started with divers clearing waters surrounding Eden by confirming potential mines identified by underwater autonomous and remotely operated vehicles. “It was a good hit-out, combining higher command down to our boots on the ground. It was a good representation of how a clearance diving task group operates,” CPO Buchanan said.

Dive teams are split into expeditionary reconnaissance, who find mines, and explosive ordnance disposal to destroy or disable devices.

To provide a realistic edge, training mines gave real-time sensor feedback, so divers could tell whether they had neutralised or detonated the device.

PO Matthew Brooke said it was good to be challenged by the equipment and the environment. “The conditions out here, where you are very exposed to the environment provide invaluable training for some of the newer guys who only had experience in enclosed waters,” he said.

“You don’t really get that training anywhere else, otherwise it’s just diving on a concrete training aid. It really gives you confidence in your ability moving forward.”



Bespoke urban ops live-fire range a first

By: Cpl Jacob Joseph

Photos: Cpl Dustin Anderson

Army News 11 April 2024



Soldiers conduct urban live-fire training at Greenbank Training Area

For the first time, infantry soldiers will have access to a purpose-made urban operations live-fire range, after operational testing and evaluation of a prototype facility finished in Brisbane last month.

About 30 soldiers from 8/9RAR were the first to live-fire in the newly constructed deployable austere shoot house (DASH) on March 22, designed for training with rifle and pistol.

DASH is a first for conventional Army and the latest urban live-fire range since the '90s and early 2000s, when special operations counterterrorism facilities were built in Perth and Sydney.

The single-story complex has 10 rooms and three hallways, configured to test most urban TTPs. Walls are constructed from HESCO baskets wrapped in rubber sheets and filled with 10mm basalt aggregate, so soldiers can fire as close as one metre away.

Two revamped urban operations courses were recently run by 8/9RAR to prepare soldiers and range staff to conduct live-fire training. Serials included the use of nonlethal and lethal ammunition in opposed and unopposed scenarios.

Course instructor WO2 Phil Brown, from the 8/9RAR Combat Cell, said opposed scenarios, incorporating non-lethal training ammunition, explosive breaching and sim grenades was considered the “high watermark” for training.

“The end state of the course is to prepare for war, not a live-fire range,” WO2 Brown said. He said live-fire was just one of the mediums used to validate individual and collective TTPs. Soldiers preferred non-lethal opposed scenarios as it replicated elements of combat conditions.

Sgt Casey Morrison, another combat cell instructor, said although live-fire was crucial for training progression, soldiers said it was “benign” compared to opposed scenarios, where they learned to control stress and anxiety.



Doctrine and TTPs were developed over the past three years by WO2 Brown, Sgt Morrison, Cpls Nigel Tegg and Cameron Cherrett based on their experiences conducting urban livefire, up to platoon level, with Special Operations Command.

Sgt Morrison said one of the key concepts to emerge was abandoning the perfect

solution for a principles based approach that could be adapted to solve different problems.

“If our participants are using these principles in a combat context, not only do they make us more lethal and survivable but they also aid range safety, controlling a live-fire manoeuvre practice.”

It represents a new approach to urban training, according to course instructors, who said a lot of work was needed to reshape soldiers’ perceptions from “kicking in doors and rushing in” to being deliberate and methodical.

“There’s so much in this space to learn,” Sgt Morrison said. “Every soldier needs to start this journey from when they reach Singleton or Kapooka. “It’s a skill that degrades quickly and takes a lot of practice to maintain – reading building anatomy and other combatants’ body language and manoeuvring as a team in a complex environment effectively.”

When testing wraps up, DASH is expected to roll out to combat brigades within the next three years.

Returning home from Ukraine mission

By: Lieutenant Carolyn Martin

Photos: Cpl Nicole Dorrett and LAC Adam Abela

RAAF News 11 April 2024



A RAAF plot in the cockpit of an E-7A Wedgetail deployed on Operation Kudu in Germany. The photograph has been altered for security reasons.

A RAAF E-7A Wedgetail is returning to Australia after a six-month deployment to Germany on Operation Kudu. The Wedgetail and a contingent of up to 100 personnel were deployed to protect humanitarian and military assistance bound for Ukraine.

While in Germany, Commander of the Task Element WGCDR Darrin Lindsay said the mission success rate was equal to similar missions in Iraq and Syria. “What that means is the ADF detachment based out of Ramstein Air Base here in Germany has been ready to produce an airborne early warning effect well over 90 per cent of the time. Noting that we do a lot of alert status, on call effectively, overall we have been completing 90 per cent of our mission requirements, which over the course of five months is excellent.

“I’m really proud of what the crew has been able to achieve, and to hear [Chief of Joint Operations] LTGEN Bilton say that he’d been receiving praise and heightened interest in the superior capabilities of Australia’s E-7A Wedgetail while he’s been visiting Europe is really pleasing to hear,” WGCDR Lindsay said. LTGEN Greg Bilton visited Ramstein Air Base last month and thanked the deployed contingent for their dedication to the mission.

The deployment enabled Air Force to complement other Operation Kudu missions such as the training and logistical supply mission to provide protection of the logistic hubs, according to WGCDR Lindsay. “It is a testament to how well the team have come together that the reputation of the E-7A Wedgetail has flourished across Europe,” he said.

WGCDR Lindsay said the team used ingenuity and initiative to overcome the integration challenges that occurred as they began operations as a non-NATO partner within NATO airspace.

“We have been working closely with the US and NATO partners, particularly as we provide critical support to the force protection of the flow of equipment and logistics capabilities through Poland into Ukraine.”

The Deputy Commander of United States Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa, LTGEN John D. Lamontagne, also visited the Australian contingent at Ramstein last month and boarded an E-7A Wedgetail flight.

LTGEN Lamontagne said partnering with the Australians on the Eastern Flank had been invaluable. “The E-7A Wedgetail has significantly enhanced our situational awareness and bolstered interoperability with advanced command and control aircraft,” he said.

“I want to extend my gratitude to the Aussies and WGCDR Darrin Lindsay and team for their exceptional service.”

Also during this deployment, in a first for the Wedgetail, the Australian contingent successfully tested and implemented new de-icing and anti-icing procedures before Christmas.

The contingent integrated themselves and their equipment with US personnel and equipment. “The team has formed as one operating unit even though our people here come from units across Canberra, Adelaide and mostly from Newcastle. Those external to 2SQN have melded right into the team and together they [grew] a community here at Ramstein that supports the E-7A,” WGCDR Lindsay said.

WGCDR Lindsay added that the achievements of the detachment had been enabled by families and friends in Australia.

“As we now reflect upon our critical enabling role here in Germany, understanding the great accomplishments the team have achieved, I wish to recognise the continued support and sacrifices our family and friends have made,” he said.

“Each team member has forgone key moments with family and friends over the past few months to achieve the successes here in Germany.”



Looking at our Allies

In this edition of the Newsletter we look at what other countries are up to regarding weapons.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3243373/die-hard-two-years-after-us-killed-rail-gun-china-brings-it-back-life-major-technological-leap>

<https://executivegov.com/articles/the-ultimate-guide-to-rail-gun-technology-applications-and-advancements/>

<https://www.borntoengineer.com/electromagnetic-railgun-technology>

The Railgun

A *railgun* or *rail gun* is a linear motor device, typically designed as a weapon, that uses electromagnetic force to launch high-velocity projectiles.

Unlike traditional firearms that use chemical combustion to generate force, a railgun relies on the principles of magnetism to generate an extremely high-velocity launch. This makes railguns an attractive option as they can launch projectiles over long distances with incredible accuracy and speed.

How destructive is a railgun?

By firing smaller projectiles at extremely high velocities, railguns may yield kinetic energy impacts equal or superior to the destructive energy of 5"/54 caliber Mark 45 Naval guns, (which achieve up to 10MJ at the muzzle), but with greater range.

What would happen if a human was hit by a railgun?

A railgun is just a bullet that's going faster and was thrown with a different method. Expect it to be very similar to a normal gunshot wound unless it is extremely high velocity. If you are hit with a railgun projectile you are literally history and **the speed of the shot would basically disintegrate you.** 25 Jul 2017

USA

The agency allocated over \$500 million to spur developments for the futuristic weapon capable of firing supersonic projectiles. Railguns are supposed to be next-generation equipment, but **they never became a reality.** After more than 15 years, the Navy paused the program development for Electromagnetic Railgun in 2021.

CHINA

To years after US killed the rail gun, China brings weapon back with a technological leap . A group of Chinese navy engineers claim to have



*Rail guns are seen as part of game-changing technologies that could tip the scales in future wars.
Photo: US Navy*

built an electromagnetic rail gun that can swiftly fire a multitude of projectiles without sustaining damage. Even during continuous firing, the weapon retained a remarkable level of shooting accuracy, they said.

One of the major challenges faced by the US Navy failed to solve in their railgun development was barrel wear. To tackle this issue, Chinese researchers have tested the use of liquid metal as a cooling material for the rails. This highly conductive material has proven effective in reducing wear and tear on the rails.

According to recent reports, the Chinese railgun prototype has been a success, with the ability to launch projectiles at a higher velocity and longer range than the US Navy's version.

In one test, the prototype was able to launch a projectile past Mach 7, reaching a target located 155.3 miles away though it is still to be determined if they have been able to overcome the other drawbacks of the technology.

Of course, verified news on the Chinese railgun is extremely limited, and like the USA they are also switching their high-tech military research to focus on hypersonic missiles. The 'problem' as militaries see it is while there is the potential of railguns as a potent weapon, the focus is always going to be on seeking alternative and more reliable means of long-range destruction.

It remains to be seen if railguns will be a technological dead-end or if they will eventually be deployed as part of standard military equipment.

For now, it seems that railguns are not quite ready for prime time, and we will have to wait to see how the Chinese efforts progress in the coming years.

LAST POST



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Lest We Forget

STOP PRESS

Spring Luncheon, 11:30 hrs 7th September 2024

Refundable Deposit of \$25.00 each
Tickets must be obtained from the sub-Branch

