

BLOWING THEM UP

The casualty rate on our squadron would be occasionally no losses at all, and on a couple of flights in the squadron of say 20 aircraft, which is a representative figure, it would be unusual to have more than three that didn't come back. But in the year before, in 1943, it was much more dangerous. There were fewer protective devices, the anti-aircraft guns were very much more effective, and the Luftwaffe had many night fighters and was a real danger.

We had to look out for aircraft all the time, I mean our gunners did, but it was not as crucial as the year before. So quite rightly, there is a division in the talking about bomber command which stops at 1943. We came after that, I'm very glad to say.

Also, by the time we came on the scene, we had installed in our aircraft the GEE set which was a beautifully conceived navigation device. It worked in conjunction with a map of say the whole of the area including England and to the parts of Germany that you're interested in.

It was a device that worked on three pulse transmitters from England. The device itself measured the time between successive pulses from the three stations, and from that, the device could calculate distances, and the distances could effectively be read off the map. It was possible to get an accurate position in the aircraft of probably half a mile or something like that, which was extraordinarily accurate and better than anything that had ever been available before.

So this was all new to us, and actually it started about the same time as we did, so it was new to everybody then. I was fortunate one day, when we were out on a training flight with our GEE set working and everyone in our 'plane was worried by the fact that we were flying home in a cloud that gave us zero visibility. We were heading back to the aerodrome in Yorkshire, but with no ground contact. Of course, it was all blacked out there anyway.

Then it occurred to me that there was a GEE line that went through our aerodrome, and I just picked it up on the map, and we flew until that coordinate came up on the GEE set, and then turned and flew along the GEE line which took us right back over the top of the aerodrome. I told the pilot to bring the thing down below the cloud just when we were over the aerodrome — and they put the lights on for us.

This was really a theatrical production. There, suddenly, after not knowing where we were — and, as was the case with most new crew, their confidence in their not-very-well-known navigator was at a pretty raw state — we were safe. It was a remarkably good opportunity to show what could be done. But of course it was a tribute to the GEE and not so much to do with me, but I enjoyed it anyway.

After the war ended in Europe we did a tour on transport command which flew in Burma, then the Japanese surrendered and there was no opposition at all to any of this flying. The war for me was over. ■

A fair go for Eden-Monaro

Mike Kelly

Since being re-elected as the Member for Eden-Monaro in 2016, I have been a strong advocate for our local community on the issues that matter to people and families living in our electorate.

One thing has been clear to me over the past six years under the Liberals and Nationals — they have the wrong priorities.

The choice at this election could not be clearer.

Do we want the world's best health care and education systems with Labor? Or tax loopholes that favour the top end of town with the Liberals and Nationals?

Do we want a fair country where the economy works in the interests of everyone — particularly working families — with Labor? Or the big business and the banks benefiting more than everybody else with the Liberals and Nationals?

We all know that a strong TAFE sector and apprenticeships are critical to our region — particularly with the new renewable energy projects in development. That's why I'm proud that Labor will invest over \$1 billion in TAFE and apprentices to restore TAFE as the centrepiece of Australian vocational training.

Our community is calling for the Gov-

ernment to take real action limiting the impacts of climate change — it is such an important issue for our farmers and our ski industry. Labor has committed to 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030 by investing in cheaper, cleaner energy.

Labor believes everyone should have access to affordable, quality healthcare. Unfortunately, in Australia, nearly half of all cancer patients pay more than \$5,000 in out-of-pocket costs over the course of their diagnosis and treatment. This is why Labor will invest \$2.3 billion to slash the out-of-pocket costs for cancer patients — the biggest investment in Medicare since Bob Hawke introduced it.

With your support at this election, I'll fight for real action on climate change, better local healthcare and I'll make sure the key projects in our region, like Snowy 2.0, are supported by local jobs.

My pledge to continue serving you

WITH YOUR SUPPORT I WILL WORK TO:

- 1 Take real action on climate change and support renewable energy.
- 2 Ensure cheaper power.
- 3 Get better local health and aged care.
- 4 Protect and improve Medicare.
- 5 Invest in TAFE and apprenticeships.
- 6 Fight for local jobs.
- 7 Give every child in every school the best start in life.

Mike Kelly MP
Federal Member for Eden-Monaro



LTCOL Christine Saunders gave the keynote address at Braidwood

Having lived at Mount Fairy near Tarago for five years, I almost consider myself a local. So it was with great pleasure that I accepted the invitation to deliver the keynote address for Braidwood's 2019 ANZAC Day ceremony.

I have been asked to provide a modern perspective on the current duties conducted by our Australian nurses during war and peace. The military nursing profession today consists of registered nurses in all three Services, The Royal Australian Navy, The Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force.

By virtue of the uniform I wear today this keynote address will have a significant Army flavour but I wish to openly acknowledge the commitment and sacrifice of my nursing peers, not only those in the Navy and the Airforce but the New Zealand nurses; in fact, all nurses supporting and caring for the wounded and ill victims of wars, conflict and natural disasters from all nations.

These magnificent men and women have provided dedicated service in providing care during times of war and peace. The list of deployments is extensive and continues today. As we cel-

SEWING THEM UP

Anzac Day 2019

'A modern perspective on current duties conducted by our Australian nurses during war and peace.'

celebrate ANZAC Day today, Australian military nurses continue to provide care on deployment around the globe. Specifically I acknowledge the dedicated service of four nurses from the Braidwood district who served honourably in WW1 as staff nurses and sisters of the Australian Army Nursing Service. They were part of a legendary nursing history that has shaped modern civilian and military nursing. It is an honour to continue their tradition.

Sister Katie Walsh;
Sister Helen Steele;
Staff nurse Gwladys Llewellyn; and
Staff nurse Lila Bell.

For over 115 years Australian Military Nurses have gone willingly into dangerous, treacherous and harsh environments to provide care to the victims of conflict, victims who may be military or civilian, friend or foe. Despite the often appalling conditions of war or natural disaster Military nurses have served selflessly, diligently and with honour. Gone are the veils and long skirts, no longer used are the titles of 'superintendent', 'matron' and 'sister', but what continues in the service of nursing officers is the compassion and the care for people in a time of what is often their greatest need and vulnera-

bility. For members of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps we continue to proudly adhere to the Corps motto: pro humanitate — for humanity. The Australian Army Nursing Service was formed as part of the New South Wales colonial military forces in 1899.

These nurses were the first women to provide recognised service in the Australian military and most likely paved the way for greater inclusion of women into non-nursing military roles by 1940.

These brave and dedicated nurses showed they were tough enough to stand the dreadful conditions of warfare and mature enough to accept military discipline.

A tradition that military nurses are proud to uphold to this day.

The military nurse has a unique role and the bond between nurse and patient is exceptionally close. This bond

TED HART, TERRY HUGHES AND TOM RICHARDSON AT RYRIE PARK.

