As we enter the New Year, we are in the position of a young man who has come into his inheritance. We can look back over the past and realise what has been done, and the vast amount that has been left undone. We can examine the present and take stock of the heritage that has been left us; and we can plan for the future by determining how our estate can be reconstructed and improved. We ended the year that has rolled away into the annals of history with feelings of relief and happiness, with feelings of pride in what our young men have achieved, and with feelings of sympathy for those whose gallant men gave their all in making the past year the year of Victory. Never before, since the days of Attila and the Huns, has civilisation had to strive so desperately and so dangerously against the forces of evil. Never before have those forces of evil been so powerfully arrayed and so ruthless in their exploitation of the unpreparedness and weakness of others. And, as the dawn inevitably succeeds the darkness, never before has the victory of decency over embattled depravity been so crushing and so complete. Now that the climate of battle has been stilled, and the shouts of the captains are toned down to the milder notes of diplomacy, we can contemplate the immediate past in a mood of calm thankfulness. We can also rejoice that it has been our lot to live through what, surely, has been the most amazing and important year of modern history. In doing so, we can plot the course of the future in the light of the lessons of the past.

This first year of peace, this inheritance into which we have entered, is not the perfect estate by any means. There is in it much that has been damaged; much that should be pruned or removed altogether; and much that will have to be given different shape and direction. Every paper one picks up these days, every broadcast one listens to, and every utterance made by great men and small, provide ample evidence of how the world in general is shaping up to the big tasks that lie ahead. One reads and hears much of New World Orders, World Orders, and of blue prints for New World Orders, such as the Atlantic Charter and the United Nations Charter; but how many ask themselves, "Well, Digger, what is your New Order?" Lip service to a desire for better things is not nearly enough. Reaffirming the charters, as different organisations do year after year, is as unavailing as the action of the man who had his prayers printed on a wall sheet, and jerked his thumb towards them with the remark "Them's my sentiments" before he got into bed every night. That sort of aimless acquiescence is not even the squad drill of achievement. Effort, vigorous, and intelligent effort, is the essential of success. There is a very old saying, "It takes all sorts to make a world." That saying never had a greater significance than it has today. It has been used again and again to excite the follies of mankind. Today it may be used as a challenge to every member of the human family to do his or her best for the good of all. It does take all sorts to make a world, and it will take all sorts of efforts and expenditure of the energy of all sorts of men and women to make the world the sort of place we want it to be for our children to inherit.

In many of the tasks that lie ahead, our own organisation has a direct interest and a direct role to play. First and foremost is the big and complicated task of rehabilitation, the job of reabsorbing our younger service men and women into that civilian community, which they quit at the call of duty and honour. The League has given much thought to this task and its many individual aspects. To the task, the League has brought the experience of the past, with the result that many things like land settlement, pensions and employment, other repatriation benefits and so on, are generally accepted as national obligations owed by the country to the serviceman. Only those who have gone through the struggle of the past 30 years can realise, or recollect, that what are accepted as the commonplaces of repatriation today were successive objectives that the League had to win, inch by inch, during the years between the wars. Perhaps the aspects of struggle has been a little over-stated, but it would be an under-statement to say that the country's general acceptance of obligations to the service men and women would have come about so easily this time had it not been for the unrelenting efforts of the League, especially during the first decade after the former war and again during the last war, when the Repatriation Act was redrafted and liberalised.

What has been achieved does not represent all that the League desires. For instance, the League is not satisfied with the meagre amount of preference in employment that the Government is prepared to grant under the present Act. The League is far from satisfied with the position of reconstructive training in this State, and the League is impatient at the delays in launching the Service Land Settlement Scheme. The League will continue to plan and to move for amendments that will bring reconstruction legislation more into line with what we think are our just objectives.

The motto of the League is "The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance" and it will be the responsibility of all new members to make sure that this country is never again permitted to fall into such a state of unpreparedness as existed when we were forced into war in 1939. To be defenceless is to invite aggression against us, and the time has not yet arrived when we can, with confidence, dismiss our police force and leave our doors and windows open with the family valuables in view. We sacrificed, too, much in the wars to permit this loved country of ours to fail to profit by the lessons of such heavy sacrifice. To do so
would be extremely foolish and would break faith with our dead. We members of the League, more than any other section of the community, have earned the right of custodians of the great inheritance which has been built by the blood and sweat of our fallen comrades. It is the responsibility of all members of the League to see that the things they fought for are not whitened away by sinister forces of foreign origin in the community whose only possibility of achieving their objectives is through internal strife and bloodshed. The principles of liberty, justice, righteousness and fair play and fair dealing which we fought for must continue to uphold in civilian life.

The League is entering the New Year with a vastly improved organisation. There will be further increases as more men are demobilised. However, numbers are not everything. As an instance of this, it may be mentioned that some of the best work of the League has been done in the past by relatively small sub-branches, while others with bigger membership rolls have not exerted anything like the influence they should have. The increase of members, and of the individual interest which that increase implies, should do much towards making the League one of the most, if not the most, influential of the non-party political organisations of Australia. That this is recognised by bodies outside the League is shown by the attempts made to gain private places inside the organisation, and even more sinister attempts to split the League, so that inimical forces may take hold of the fragments and control them. Such tactics have already been employed in other organisations. The League has, to some degree of success, but they would not have succeeded without the League unless members became apathetic enough to allow the control of their business to be assumed by a few talkative intriguers. It is in the hands of each and every one of us to re-establish the tactics of disintegration. The antidote is the active interest of every member in the affairs of his sub-branch and of the League as a whole.

State President’s Monthly Newsletter

The New Year is upon us and we are now planning for the important work that lies ahead. The year 1946 will, no doubt, be one of the most important years in League history. The rate of discharge of personnel from the forces has been accelerated and membership is growing rapidly. The Discharge Depot at Karrakatta has been returning to civil life approximately 1,500 to 1,600 weekly during the last weeks of the year and, no doubt, will continue for some time. Our representatives at the depot have been enrolling members fast, whilst Anzac House enrollments and the sub-branches have added considerably to the total. We are approximately 25,000 strong in W.A., while it would not be surprising if the Australian figures grew to half a million members at the end of 1946.

Reparatation

Just before Christmas the Minister for Reparation (Mr. C. Frost) and the newly-appointed Chairman of the Reparation Commission (Colonel Wooten) visited Sydney and the League, besides welcoming them at Anzac House, spent some time in conference with them at the Reparation Department. The care and attention of T.B. men was discussed and the Minister assured us that the new reparation section at Wooroloo would be commenced at the earliest possible moment. After years of agitation, it was interesting to hear the Minister say that increased facilities will be available for relatives and dependants to visit Wooroloo. We have always argued that the concession given for visiting should be increased, as it is too costly for frequent travelling if concessions are not given freely, while lack of visits from relatives sets up a feeling of isolation in the patients and is detrimental to proper progress in arresting the complaint. It is to be hoped the new privileges will operate at an early date, as it is very necessary at present when the numbers at the sanatorium are increasing. Other matters discussed with the Minister related to pensions, accommodation for the Reparation Department, the outpatient department, Hollywood Hospital and future hospital requirements. Opportunity was also taken to ask the Minister to press the need for increased housing for ex-servicemen in W.A. and also the difficulties of vocational training were stressed. He promised to discuss the points with the appropriate Ministers when he returned to Canberra.

President’s and Secretaries’ Meeting

During December, a meeting of presidents and secretaries was called for the purpose of discussing post-war reconstruction proposals, particularly relating to rehabilitation. Vocational training is still not operating satisfactorily, and it was decided to ask the Minister for Post-war Reconstruction (Mr. J. J. Dredman) and the Director (Dr. Coombs) to visit Western Australia as early as possible to generally investigate the position in Western Australia. The meeting also decided to call a meeting of representatives of all branches, unions and our own organisation, to discuss matters relating to post-war reconstruction.
should be informed of the obligations required of them; but it seems there is no desire to enforce the Act. With such a large number of personnel being discharged, we must persist in our demands. I find that criticism is the Law League at the League, and in matters that are the responsibility of the Government. It should be remembered that the League is not the Government. It has always been our desire to help the authorities, but we should not be called upon to accept any responsibility which is not justly ours. Unemployment is growing in our midst. This is an urgent matter, which must be faced by the Government.

Vale George Mellor

Although he had been ailing for several years, the death of the veteran R.S.L. bandmaster, George Mellor, after a short illness on January 12, came as a surprise to a wide circle of friends. He was a keen enthusiast in R.S.L. affairs and was equally well known in musical circles, both as a conductor and a performer, in the Australian Broadcasting Commission's Orchestra. He played almost any brass instrument, but he was best known as a cornetist and trumpeter. The late George Mellor was the son of an Army bandmaster, the late Lieut. T. Mellor, who died in Sydney a few years ago. George was born in Sydney, but came to this State as a youth and did his war service with the 51st Bn. Towards the end of 1916, he formed the band of the 51st Bn., which soon became one of the outstanding bands of the A.I.F. He was probably best known as a conductor of the R.S.L. Memorial Band, which he formed 24 years ago, and of which he was bandmaster, with one break, ever since. One of his proudest achievements was to have been included, as the only Western Australian member, in the Commonwealth Band, which visited the United States and Canada, under the baton of Mr. Bert Bailey in 1926. For several years, he was full-time secretary of the Perth sub-branch, and he was a member of the State Executive for a long period. Paying a last tribute to an old friend and associate, the State Secretary (Mr. D. M. Benson) said: "The League has lost a very esteemed member and a great supporter, and hundreds of other Diggers have lost a good cobbler." As secretary of the Perth sub-branch, Mr. Mellor successfully advocated the claims of many war widows with the Repatriation Department and the appeal tribunals. He had always made his services available to sound the calls at Diggers' funerals, and had been known to attend at nine gravesides in the one day. Although unseen, he was heard by many thousands when he sounded the calls at Dawn and Anzac Day services on Anzac Day. Associated with George Mellor on these occasions was Bugler-Major Gilmore, whose only absences were during the two years George Gilmore was again on active service in the Middle East. George Gilmore, with Drummer H. Turvey, had the sad duty of sounding the calls over his old friend at the Karrakatta crematorium on January 14. Mr. Mellor left a widow, two sons and a daughter, to whom we tender deep condolences on a loss which is ours as well as theirs.

TO CORRESPONDENTS

"Drapeau Rouge": Your little red hobby horse gets no agistment in this paddock. Your claim that the German Communists consistently opposed Hitler from the very be-

ginning of Nazism is not supported by history. In his book, "Out of the Night," the German Communist, Jean Valtin, describes how the German Communists aided and abetted the Nazis in crushing the Social Democrats (the German equivalent of the Labour Party). In 1934, when German Liberals and Social Democrats formed an Iron Front to oppose Hitler and all he stood for, the German Communists, taking their orders from Moscow, joined forces with the Nazis, and helped them smash up Iron Front meetings. It was only when the same-basher gang tactics were used against themselves that the Communists began to squall against the Nazis. German Communism is as much to blame as German industrialism, for the rise of Hitler. Each thought Hitler could be used to squash the other, but Adolf, or the militarists behind him, outwitted them both.

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REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

Grave dissatisfaction with the position of rehabilitation and reconstruction training in this State was expressed at the meeting of presidents and secretaries of sub-branches, held in Anzac House on December 12. The following resolutions were carried—

(1) That the League, being very concerned with the apparent breakdown of the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Scheme in Western Australia, urgently requests the Minister for Post-War Reconstruction (Mr. Dedman) to come to the State immediately.

(2) That the complete rehabilitation of ex-servicemen be controlled by a Commission responsible direct to Parliament, and that the Commission be staffed by ex-service personnel.

(3) That representatives of sub-branches, together with representatives of employers and employees, be invited to a conference for the purpose of discussing the Rehabilitation Training Scheme and to take suitable action for the improvement of this scheme.

It was decided that, if possible, the conference should take place on the fourth Wednesday in January (January 23). The State Secretary was instructed to approach the employers and the industrial unions, but due to the holidays it has not yet been possible to arrange the conference.

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The Bennett Inquiry

Servicemen of both wars were delighted with the vindication of Lieut.-General Gordon Bennett's personal courage and the high quality of his patriotism in the report of Mr. Justice Ligertwood, the Royal Commissioner, who inquired into the circumstances of the General's escape from Singapore. The Royal Commissioner, himself an ex-servicemen of the former war, found that General Bennett had left Singapore without orders, but that his courage and patriotism were unquestioned, that he had acted in the sincere belief that the course he was adopting, though dangerous to himself, was in the best interests of Australia, and that the knowledge of Japanese tactics, which he brought back with him, was of the utmost value in the future conduct of the war in the Pacific. As far as the technical finding on an 'abstruse legal point is concerned,' no stigma can attach to a General who has been the target of much cowardly calumny, and who has served Australia well and faithfully. If the escape were to be made at all, it had to be done without permission, and the question naturally arises, who was competent to issue such permission, assuming it could have been given in time? The long and varied naval and military history of our British race provides no precedent for General Bennett's position, nor does that of any other nation, though there is something like a parallel in General MacArthur's escape from the Philippines—before the surrender of Bataan. If Lord Nelson had had to face a court-martial after the Battle of Copenhagen, they would have had no option but to find him guilty of deserting a senior officer in the face of the enemy; but if he had not put the telescope to his eye and refused to obey the order to retire, the British navy would have suffered disaster. On the other hand, Admiral Byng, half a century before, adhered strictly to the Articles of War, who was wronged by the extent of King's Regulation in those days, and lost Minorca. Byng lost Minorca, which he might or might not have been able to save from a bigger French fleet; but those were the days of the intrigue, and any departure outside the country regulations would lay a commander open to a court-martial for high treason. As it was, poor Byng became the victim of popular clamour. Public opinion demanded a scapegoat, so he was shot for cowardice. Those are two historical instances of the old service belief that the man on the spot knows best.

The more personal findings in Mr. Justice Ligertwood's report are a triumphant vindication of General Bennett, with which this reviewer is in full concurrence. The General has every justification in expressing satisfaction and pleasure. Mr. Justice Ligertwood has given the lie direct to the whispering cures who carried on their fifth column work in the heat of battle by the Australian Government in Australia by the wicked slander campaign against the General. Had it not been for the insistence upon and the granting of an open inquiry, the true story of the Singapore escape might never have been presented so completely and so convincingly. It was one of the epics of the war, an exploit which was undertaken and carried through at great personal risk, and which enabled the General to render valuable service to Australia, and particularly to Western Australia, in the most critical hour of our history.

Whatever the legal quibbles involved—and most laymen will still be amused at the difference between an unconditional surrender and capitulation, which was an unconditional surrender in everything but name—the verdict of popular opinion is in General Bennett's favour. It is no wishful thinking to expect that the verdict of history will also be in his favour. With that in mind, the League of Nations concurs and approves of the Commonwealth Government, which ordered the inquiry, also concurs, for the Government has decided to pay General Bennett's costs which, according to statements in the Press, are about £1,500.

SERVICE AWARDS, SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

The Federal President (Sir Gilbert Dyett) has advised that the recognition of service, at Darwin is only one aspect of the problem of adapting conditions of eligibility for British Empire awards to meet requirements of the Australian Forces. It appears that conditions governing an Empire scheme of awards is a lengthy process involving consultation and agreement between the various Governments concerned.

It has been complained that no member of the Forces stationed at Darwin was entitled to receive the 1939/45 or Pacific Stars. It was shown in my letter of June 8, 1945, that air crew personnel operating from Australia who had filled the qualifications of two periods of operational service were eligible for the 1939/45 Star, the Pacific Star and also the Defence Medal, under the conditions of issue, and that one of the Government's reservations to acceptance of the United Kingdom conditions of issue of war medals and campaign stars generally was directed to ensuring that all members of the Forces who served in Darwin when that area was subject to aerial attack should receive the Defence Medal. In law of the foregoing, the question now raised relates to the case of the eligibility of land forces at Darwin for the Empire Defence Medal and campaign stars, and introduces the aspect of relativity of the Australian Returned From Active Service Badges.

It has been assumed that the Defence Medal is contemplated for all, but such is not the case. The United Kingdom conditions of issue cover non-operational service in areas outside Darwin. But if the case of our British race that have been subjected to air attack or closely threatened. It will be seen from my letter of June 8 that the Commonwealth Government considered that service in Darwin during the period of air raids established eligibility for the Defence Medal. It is hoped it will be possible at no distant date to announce acceptance of this reservation.

It is claimed that anyone issued with the Returned from Active Service Badge for service at Darwin should be entitled to operational awards for the same service. The Returned from Active Service Badge was inaugurated by the Australian Government expressly for wear after discharge on civilian clothes to indicate that the wearer had proceeded overseas on active service or had served in specified areas in Australia, one of which is the Northern Territory north of latitude 14° South. There is ample evidence that this badge is highly prized by recipients, and is not by any means regarded as being in the nature of a "Sop" as suggested.

The 1939/45 Star and theatre campaign stars are awards applicable to all British Commonwealth Forces having regard to their conditions of service. The difficulty in regard to the allotment of these awards for service in Darwin can, perhaps, be best explained by stating that no British Commonwealth Forces (other than air crew) whose service was confirmed to the United Kingdom are eligible for the 1939/45 Star nor a theatre star.

It will be appreciated that such troops were subjected to heavier continuous bombing than the Australian Forces in Darwin.

It is regretted that delay has occurred in dealing with this matter, and that even to this date it is not possible to furnish final advice.

RURAL EDUCATION

Resolution No. 37 at the Annual State Congress recommended improved educational facilities in outback areas and for transportation of school children to central schools where proper facilities and teachers would be available.

In reply, the Minister for Education (Mr. J. A. Tonkin) has informed the League that they believe the policy of consolidating of schools in order to improve education in rural areas. At present there are 101 bus contracts, and these contracts provide for the transport of 2,562 children at a cost of £31,260 per annum.

The Minister states that no formal time is returning a further consolidation is contemplated.

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The Trouble in Java

The way trouble-makers in Australia and elsewhere are trying to make capital out of the situation in Java is just another of the repetitions of history. Dissatisfaction with the present political set-up is no new thing in Java. It flared up into armed rebellion in 1926-27. At that time, Indonesian dissatisfaction with Dutch rule was exploited by European Communists, and Japanese infiltrators. When the Dutch suppressed the rising, the Indonesians were left in the lurch. It is not unnatural that, on the present occasion, the people of Java, and more particularly the more educated classes, should want and agitate for a greater degree of autonomy. There is every reason for believing that many, if not all, of their aspirations will be realised. However, that is between them and the Dutch. It is no business of political opportunists in Australia; and it is unfortunate that British and Indian troops should have thrust upon them the task of disarming and interning the Japanese and protecting and rescuing prisoners of war and interned civilians. But while one respects and sympathises with the desire of any people for self-government, one cannot condone atrocities or denunciation of massed harrinism in favour of those who would look the other way.

Samples of the drivelling slanders that are being launched against the Allies are to be found in the pamphlets published by the Central Committee of the Australian Communist Party. These pamphlets describe the British actions in Java as "a-fool conspiracy." Members of the Seventh Division, recently returned from Borneo, have blamed the Black Tigers for the many executions performed by the Indonesian flames, to the danger of the lives of their comrades. Seventh Division men accuse these non-fighting speakers of personal attacks on Mr. Menzies, of attacking the White Australia policy, and of representing the objects of the war as the setting up of some mythical Red New Order in Australia and all parts west and east thereof. It would seem that an inquiry into some of the activities of the Army Education Service was more called for than the recent expensive inquiry into General Bennett's escape from Singapore.

Returned men, who have been prisoners of war in Java, are no admirers of the crowd who wrong Dutchmen when they wrongly call "our" Indonesian comrades." One survivor of H.M.A.S. Perth (his story was published in "The West Australian," just before the end of November) related a dreadful story of maltreatment by "dirty natives gone mad with bloodlust." About 132 men, who were captured and interned in Java, landed on the west coast of Java, after H.M.A.S. Perth was lost. They were exhausted, naked and many were wounded. Indonesians took advantage of their pitiful conditions and murdered nineteen of them, along with 60 Americans from the U.S. cruiser Houston.

A West Australian soldier, who was a P.O.W. in Java, has sent us his testimony. He was one of the force which tried to carry on the struggle in Java after Singapore had fallen. Their Javanese Allies walked out on them and joined the enemy. About two months after the fighting was over, our men were faced with deserters and renegades "getting around in the cloth caps of the Japanese pattern, wearing sidearms and the badge of a yellow star." The Ambonese were different from the Javanese. "They didn't exactly love the Dutch generally, but they remained loyal to their Queen. They were fine troops and did many a good turn for our boys. Our informant owes his life to an Ambonese, and he assures us that there were, even at that time, open hostilities between the Ambonese and the Javanese. In one prison camp a picture on a wall represented Javanese welcoming the Japanese as deliverers, when the invaders marched into their village. At a later stage of the war, Australian prisoners were guarded by Javanese, who thoroughly enjoyed this task. However, towards the end of the war, they realised that the Greater East Asia programme was not all that could be desired. They liked to get Dutchmen, and particularly Dutch women, and to avenge the most hated of all were the Javanese police, who never missed an opportunity of bullying Dutch women and children. At the same time, our informant stresses the fact that he is not pro-Dutch, but he points out the tremendous amount of good the Dutch have done in Java—in providing good schools, railways, roads and so on. The Javanese have been given good openings in the Dutch fighting and civil services, and it is open to argument whether they would be any better off if the Dutch moved out of the Indies.

However, that is beside the point. The question confronting the Allied nations is whether the island's political future is to be settled by mob violence or by mutual agreement between the leaders of both sides.

R.S.L. CRICKET ASSOCIATION

The Cricket Association has been reformed and a new ground has been held at Inglewood. Fixtures are not set this year, but matches are being arranged by the committee. The president is Wally Crain, of Nedlands, and the hon. secretary is Alan Cook, of Monash House, Perth. Affiliation fee for clubs is three dollars. The houses are the hostels and Anzac House, on the fourth Friday monthly at 7.30 p.m. This association is an asset to the League, giving members an added incentive and with improvement in transport, it is hoped to recommence the A.R.M.S. competitions next winter.

R.S.L. MEMORIAL BUILDING FOR INGLEWOOD & BEDFORD PARK

The members of the Bedford-Morley Parks sub-branch, which caters for returned service personnel of Inglewood, Bedford Park and Morley Park, have shown a very fine appreciation of their district's requirements for social amenities by the recent purchase of a century-old block of land comprising three-quarters of an acre on the corner of Beaumont Street and Crawford Road, for the erection, when conditions permit, of a Memorial Building to cost approximately £20,000.

The building will be of modern construction, two stories high to permit of a mezzanine balcony. The main entrance will face diagonally to Beaumont Street looking city-ward. It will consist of a circular tower surmounted by a Torch of Peace which, when lit, will be seen for many miles. Particular attention is being paid to the provision of a dance floor, and the building will be air-conditioned throughout with a mezzanine, and the front of the wings of which will carry Tablets containing Rolls of Honour indirectly lighted for use at memorial ceremonies.

The walls of the entrance hall, which will be known as the Hall of Honour, will contain the names of all citizens of the districts who served in the fighting and auxiliary services, including the Merchant Navy.

It is proposed to invite relatives of the fallen to purchase their own private tablets if they so desire, and a suitable position will be placed for a tennis court and croquet green, and a safe play area for children of members attending social gatherings during the day.

It is not intended to seek permission to build a temporary housing position has been remedied, but in the temporary tennis courts will be laid down for the use of citizens of the districts, and these will be a source of revenue towards the buildings.

In the meantime, with regular Friday and Saturday night, suits are being held in temporary headquarters in Riley's Hall which has been renovated throughout. Proceeds from these nights will be devoted towards the building fund.
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Members of Mt. Hawthorn-North Leederville sub-branch will be pleased to learn that the ex-sub-branch vice-president, Devlin, is making good progress after his accident. This occurred early in December, when he broke a bone in the ankle. We join with his fellow members in wishing him a speedy recovery.

Osborne Park sub-branch, unfortunately, presented an unusually large sick state for December. Mrs. Foreman, wife of that energetic member, Doug Foreman, has had to undergo an operation. This good lady has been a tower of strength to the sub-branch, and now we trust that Doug’s operation will effect the establishment of the sub-branch library, but the help of his good wife greatly contributed to the success of the library venture. Our wishes for Mrs. Foreman’s speedy recovery reinforce those of the sub-branch. Charlie Graham, an associate member, is not in good health, and has again been in hospital.

Somebody recently asked what the Osborne Park fellows do when they are not working like dickens for the League. Well, this is where some of them spend their time. Vice-president Jimmy Harris helps to quench the district’s summer thirst at the Osborne Park Hotel. He always has a pleasant smile and a cheery word for R.S.L. members who call in for their cough mixture. We hope Bert Croxford will forgive us for putting beer before butter, but our excuse is that Bill has pushed the butter of late. He served with the A.I.F. in the Kaiser’s war and had a second helping of active service with the R.A.A.F. in the recent war. Now, he is back at Boans—in the butter department, no less at Anzac House. Mrs. Gill is having a holiday in Tasmania, so poor old Eric has nothing to do but work.

The young Diggers are joining up and pulling their weight everywhere. At a recent meeting of the Osborne Park sub-branch, members were delighted to see Ted Feltham (2/4th Machinegun Bn.) walk in and join up. Ted has been a private in Japanese hands, but it is pleasing to see him looking so well after the hardships he must have endured. Osborne Park’s new secretary, Neville Johnson, is only 21, but he had much experience of action as rear-gunner of a Lancaster bomber in many raids over England. His health, which forced him to resign from that job, Diggers in the Upper Chapman district will greatly miss the advice and sympathy of the genial Jim.

Vice-president Ernie Hancock, of the Geraldton sub-branch, has been spending a holiday in Perth. Other Geraldton members who have been away on vacation include committee-men E. W. Vinecombe, John Brown and assistant secretary Val Browne.

The Dumblyng sub-branch has suffered the loss of one of its oldest members, his death of Mr. F. J. Pearce. He served with the Australian Commonwealth Horse in the South African War of 1899-1902. In his own quiet way he did a great deal for the sub-branch.

Veteran Jim Proud, of the West-Leederville-Wembley sub-branch, is spending a six-months’ vacation in Tasmania. Jim has had a bad bout of illness, but he is getting on swell and the long holiday should help him to better health. Genl Tom Bird, of West-Leederville-Wembley sub-branch, is also on holidays in the country.

Congratulations to Mr. Edwin Huck on his election as Federal President of the Australian Teachers’ Federation. Ted Huck has been the popular and competent president of the W.A. State School Teachers’ Union for several years, and for several years he has been a member of the Perth Boys’ School. At the beginning of the school holidays, his transfer to Boulder State School as head teacher was announced. He was little more than a schoolboy himself when he went to war in the first World War, in which he was wounded while serving with the 28th Battalion.

Last month Gloucester Park members followed in the footsteps of their members, Murray Lamb, of the old 51st Bn., who died on December 21. For many years Murray suffered from war-caused disabilities. Another 51st Bn. stalwart in Joe Coolls passed away a few days later. We join with members of the sub-branch in extending sympathy to the bereaved relatives.

Scattered throughout the sub-branches are many grand chaps who have stuck closely to the cause for almost a century. Many men who have disappointments and even rebuffs at times, but recognising the value of the League have unselfishly carried on their good work. Such men have kept the organisation on a firm and good footing.

Such a Digger is Fred Matthews who, after a difficult period, has agreed to act as secretary of the Victoria Park sub-branch. Fred, who served in the 1914 war with the 44th Bn., has held almost every position in the sub-branch from the president down.

We have been given a need of preference, but extremists and hardy forces can assist in their own establishment by having preference from mates in their own buying. Many Diggers are in business and others will be starting soon. Harry Jenkins, a member of the Mt. Hawthorn sub-branch, has resumed his business of painting. He resides at 95 Kilgoorlie Street, Mt. Hawthorn. Harry saw active service with the 2/28th at Tobruk, El Alamein and other hot spots.

Died in Hollywood Hospital a few weeks ago, after five years’ army service, Captain Florence Cox, of the A.A.N.S. She was one of the two patients on whose behalf a nationwide radio appeal was made for Seaman H. II. The late Captain Cox was a sister of Brigadier A. Baxter Cox, a former member of the State Executive and the architect of Anzac House.

Three of the Australian Broadcasting Commission’s young men—former announcers Peter Leakie, Ivo Greville, and Jack Gibbons—are back on the job again. Peter Leakie, whose father is well known in Perth musical circles, was a member of the 25th Regt. when war broke out. He had his share of the scraps in New Guinea as a sub-lieutenant of the 2/6th Armored Reconnaissance. He was two weeks in hospital with the officers of the R.A.A.F. Ivo Greville, a Cambridge graduate, saw service in North Africa, the Mediterranean and in England. While in England he took his M.A. degree at the University of Oxford. Jack Gibbons did his wartime flying over islands in the Southwest Pacific. All three are members of the League—Peter Leakie of Claremont sub-branch, Ivo Greville of the Public Service sub-branch and Jack Gibbons of the South Perth sub-branch.

The State President (Mr. J. M. W. Anderson) is back in Perth after a holiday in the Geraldton district. During his holiday, he was in close touch with the Geraldton sub-branch. A meeting at Geraldton was attended by 200 ex-servicemen. The prestige of the League is very high in Geraldton, and Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were given a civic reception by the mayor and Councilors. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson also met the members of the Geraldton sub-branch at well-attended meetings in those districts.

J. Alex. Laughton, the new president of the Perth sub-branch, has been an unassuming but consistent worker in the sub-branch for many years. He did his war service with the 51st Bn., and was vice-president of his sub-branch last year. At the annual meeting held recently, he was re-elected President (Mr. J. M. W. Anderson, Newly-elected President (Mr. J. M. W. Anderson) was re-elected President (Mr. J. M. W. Anderson)

Before the end of the year, Mr. M. E. Zeffert tendered his resignation from the State Executive on the grounds of ill-health. His qualities and experience have been of great value to the League of Legacy—Citizens’ Reception Council, the State Executive and the League’s representative on the Regional Reconstruction Training Committee. Mr. Zeffert has not spared himself in public service, nor has he neglected his war work. These public duties have been exceptionally heavy, but he has also managed to find time to let the members of sub-branches know at firsthand what is going on. A lecturer on rehabilitation, which he gave to the Mt. Hawthorn sub-branch, was one of the finest and most informative talks we have ever heard. As this paper goes to press, Mr. Zeffert is recuperating in the Eastern States. We sincerely hope the trip will do him good and restore him to better health. The members of the League appreciate his resignation, expressed deep regret at the position which caused it, and recorded appreciation of Mr. Zeffert’s long and valuable services in the usual manner.

Mr. Zeffert’s place on the State Executive has been taken by Mr. C. R. Cornish, M.L.C. Mr. Cornish, who was for many years at Carnarvon, won the D.S.O. in the former war as a Lieutenant with the 44th Bn. Mr. Cornish has been appointed to the State Executive’s Rehabilitation Committee. During Mr. Zeffert’s enforced absence from the Regional Reconstruction Training Committee, his place there will be taken by Mr. H. Lennard, President of the Claremont sub-branch.
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Timber Areas

The question of releasing timber areas for service settlement was discussed at the meeting of the State Executive on January 9. The State President (Mr. Anderson) said that, during his recent visit to the Geraldton district, he met members of the Tomatoes-Growers' Association. He was informed that there was suitable land, some 160,000 acres within 40 miles of Geraldton and Northampton, and room for a great many more tomato-growers. The market for tomatoes from these districts is almost unlimited. Unfortunately, there is no representative of the Recreation Department in the district. Mr. Anderson thought that something might be done to exploit the possibilities for soldier settlement there. Several members of the Executive expressed disagreement with some statements made in a letter from the Premier (Mr. Wise) in reply to a request from the League for the release of agricultural land not required for reforestation. Mr. Wise said that Australia was by no means rich in timber resources, and that the Commonwealth as a whole produced within its own shores only two-thirds of its timber requirements. Mr. Wise claimed that Australia would have to rely on imports to an increasing extent to make up future deficiencies. In addition, Mr. Wise's letter continued, "there is a growing demand for cellulose products in the forms of paper, rayon and the wide range of articles now manufactured from wood pulp, only a fraction of which is produced in Australia. The war has shown that we cannot rely, with any confidence, on overseas supplies. This timber shortage in Australia is a serious problem. Two States only—Western Australia and Tasmania—produce a sufficient quantity of timber above their own needs. State forests in Western Australia have been reserved for two main purposes, namely, to grow timber and wood products in perpetuity for the needs of the people of the State and to maintain the timber industry. Other important uses of forests which are not so apparent in a young, undeveloped country, and which must become of great value in the future, are water and soil conservation, preservation of flora and fauna, fishing, recreation, holiday resorts and tourist attractions. There are nearly 3,300,000 acres of land which had been permanently dedicated as State forests. In Western Australia, the production in the post-war years will be approximately 12,500,000 cubic feet of timber, valued at £2,000,000 annually, providing employment for 5,000 people. It is expected that the production rate of 10,000,000 cubic feet can be maintained for the next 3 years, but in order to do this it is necessary to utilise all timber on all Crown land and to make sure that none is destroyed."

"The value of the timber industry, as a major form of land settlement with long life in the forest, when working under proper management," Mr. Wise went on, "is not fully appreciated. Many thousands of acres of timber country, which has been cut over, and which was not required for the growth of timber in perpetuity, have been alienated through the years since the passing of the Forests Act. The alienation of land in the forest country can, however, only be done slowly, following the utilisation of the timber crop in order to avoid the waste of raw material which is, unfortunately, in all too short supply in Australia."

After this letter had been received, several members disputed Mr. Wise's statement that this State produced a surplus of timber over its own requirements. They pointed to the present shortage of timber for building requirements. The contention that certain cut-over forest areas could well be alienated was met by the opinion of the majority that members were not competent as foresters to assess the true position. It was decided to send Mr. Wise's reply to the sub-branches which had sought the alienation of the lands in question.

FOURTH VICTORY LOAN

The following letter of appreciation has been received by the State Secretary from the Deputy Director of War Loans (Mr. C. G. Latham):

Once again I am very pleased to be able to extend to you organisation my sincere thanks for the very valuable co-operation given during the Fourth Victory Loan campaign.

This is not the first occasion on which I have been able to thank the Returned Soldiers' League for their assistance; but, as you are no doubt aware, the Fourth Victory Loan area was probably the most difficult loan period yet experienced, and for this reason the generous assistance given by the State Executive, sub-branches and individual members throughout the State was doubly appreciated.

I am pleased to say that in nearly every district in Western Australia where loan quotas were allotted, the driving force in that district was either the R.S.L. Chairman or individual R.S.L. members. The important feature of the campaign was the R.S.L. Day held under the auspices of the League at the Stand of Honour on Saturday, October 27, when an all-time record for subscriptions received at the Stand of Honour was established.

As I am not writing individual letters to R.S.L. sub-branches, I would be very grateful if you could extend my thanks to every section of the R.S.L. in this State for their very valuable co-operation and, at the same time, I look forward to your future support.

A GENEROUS GIFT

Servicemen in this State will greatly appreciate the spontaneous generosity of Mr. Ernest Lee Steere, who has made the State Government the free gift of his Yanda property, near Mingenew, with the wish that it should be used preferably as a training ground for returned men wishing to go on the land. It is the free gift of a very valuable property for the settlement of returned servicemen on the land under the existing settlement scheme. The Minister for Lands (Mr. Panton) states that the farm is 13 miles from Mingenew. It is in a very good district and includes a substantial area of rich York gum and jarrah country, the balance being lighter types of land. A good farm for stock and cropping, improved and used for a long period in the past, it is a most valuable contribution towards the settlement of returned servicemen on the land. Its book-value is about £7,500.

On the property, there are two dams full of water, a good well, equipped with windmill, and water laid on to the house and to other paddocks. There is a small house, boundary fence, several paddocks and a rabbit-proof fence across the centre of the property. Apart from its intrinsic value, Mr. Lee Steere's gift is a very tangible evidence of his regard for the man who has given so much for their country, and of his desire to see them properly rehabilitated now that the war is over. Mr. Lee Steere also proved to be a great friend of ex-servicemen by donating £1,000 to the Veterans' Home appeal when that fund was opened last year.

At its meeting on January 9, the State Executive carried a resolution that a message be sent to Lieut.-General H. Gordon Bennett, congratulating him "on the fact that the finding of the Royal Commissioner (Mr. Justice Ligertwood) completely vindicated him in connection with his escape from Singapore."
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"We owe the old Digger something more. Let him have the security of a home at least. Subscribe to the War Veterans' Home."
Many who were prisoners of war in Germany knew only too well what Hitlerism, and preceding political set-ups had done for German youth. It was only natural, therefore, that they should be interested in doing something for the development of British youth on cleaner and saner lines. Many returned prisoners of war are taking an active interest in the boys clubs that are being formed throughout Britain to provide recreation, entertainment and opportunities for discussion of the problems affecting youth. Recently, a group of British officers, who had been prisoners of war in Oflag 79 in Brunswick, decided to express gratitude for their liberation in the very practical way of doing something for the rising generation. They called a meeting of the 2,500 who had been prisoners at Brunswick and outlined their scheme. The prisoners decided that they would found a Brunswick Boys' Club. A subscription list was opened then and there, and an amount of £13,000 promised. Commenting on this incident, the British Prime Minister, Mr. Atlee, who is also an ex-serviceman, said, "The club will be a living memorial to the heroic spirit of the men in that camp.

Big strides have been made in Britain in pure jet engines. Commercial jets are now flying which could accomplish Atlantic crossings at economical fuel consumption, when this factor is considered along with the big saving in flying time which comes from a great speed. Jets are now built which could cruise over 3,000 miles at 500 m.p.h. at 40,000 feet. This would give a London to Montreal still airtime of about six hours. The latest in military jet engines is a Rolls Royce "Nene," which produces over 5,000 lbs. of thrust at 12,500 r.p.m. "Nene" was designed, developed and passed for flying in six months. It was experimentally flown in a Lockheed Shooting Star, giving that aircraft a much better performance than it had with the U.S. built turbo-jet, which normally powers it. "Nene" weighs only 1,550 lbs. for its 7,000 h.p., and has a fuel consumption of 1.06 lbs. per lb. thrust per hour.

Ex-servicemen applying for rural loans are being referred the following letter from the Director of Land Settlement (Mr. W. V. Fyles): "The Commonwealth Re-establishment and Employment Act provides for the granting of rural loans to ex-servicemen (subject to certain provisions regarding eligibility) to assist them to become re-established in rural or pastoral pursuits. The scheme under which these loans will be granted will be administered by the Rural and Industries Bank (formerly the Agricultural Bank), acting on behalf of the Commonwealth Director of War Service Land Settlement, from whom it is expected that printed forms for applications for loans will be received within the next three or four weeks. It has been arranged that, immediately after receipt of these forms, one will be sent to you, to enable you to supply the required information in support of your application. The relevant papers from your file have been handed to the Rural and Industries Bank. If your application is unsuccessful, it will not affect your right to apply for a farm, under the War Service Land Settlement Act, administered by this department."
On January 9, the amount subscribed to the War Veterans’ Home Appeal stood at £28,000. This amount included £11,500 from the Miss Australia competition. Further schemes for raising money are being considered, and it is anticipated that the target of £40,000 will be reached within a reasonable time.

At the meeting of the State Executive on January 9, the transport facilities for relatives and friends visiting servicemen, who are patients in the Wooroloo Sanatorium, were described as inadequate and inconvenient. It was stated that visitors from Perth are able to spend only an hour or two at Wooroloo, the greater part of the day being devoted to travelling to and from the institution. It was decided to approach the Government with request that a trailer bus service be run on Sundays from Perth to Wooroloo.

At last long the Commonwealth Government has agreed, as an act of grace, to pay £50 to the owner of a house near Rockingham which was badly damaged by troops camped in that area. The claim was submitted by the League early in 1943. The police had reported that it was the worst case of wanton damage and destruction that they had seen. The claim was submitted to the Minister for the Army, who disclaimed liability, although the Government’s liability was admitted by the Attorney-General (Dr. Evatt). The War Cabinet adopted a policy of rejecting all claims for damages that were not caused by troops acting under direct orders. The case was ventilated in the Senate, without result. Senator Collett then approached the Prime Minister on the merits of the claim, and the hardship that had been caused to the owner (an ex-serviceeman of the previous war) and his wife. Mr. Chifley, while refusing to admit liability for damage caused by troops, or for the unauthorised occupation of the premises, said that he was prepared, in the special circumstances, to making a payment, purely as an act of grace. At a recent meeting, the State Executive expressed appreciation of Senator Collett’s efforts on behalf of the owner.

Sub-branches and other bodies desiring to make use of the word “Anzac” will, in future, be required to get the approval of the State Executive. The Commonwealth Solicitor-General (Sir George Knowles) has written to the League approving of a suggestion that all applications for permission to use the word be submitted to the State Secretary in the State concerned for a recommendation.

Any applications to which objections are raised by State branches are to be forwarded to the Solicitor-General’s office, through the General Secretary of the League. Sir George Knowles said that any further applications received by him will be sent to the State Secretary in the State concerned.

As a result of representations made by the League, the Commonwealth Government has decided to amend the Australian Broadcasting Act, to provide for radio listeners’ licences to be granted at half the ordinary fees to persons in receipt of service pensions under the Repatriation Act. The amending legislation will be introduced during the next session of the Federal Parliament.

The attention of members of the Ante a Club is drawn to the by-law which makes the wearing of the badge, or the presentation of a receipt showing that the holder is a financial member, a condition of admission to the Club. The stewards are not expected to know every member, and they are quite within their rights in refusing to serve anyone who neglects to prove himself in the prescribed way. Unfortunately, new badges are unprociable at present. At the meeting of the State Executive on January 9, the State Secretary reported this and said that,
in order to meet the position, the old two-figure badge had to be issued for the time being. This practice is being followed in the other States. Everything possible is being done to secure further supplies of new badges, financial crowns, and clips.

Shipbuilding yards in the northeast of England are likely to be busy for months. Two hundred and seventy-five thousand gross tons have already been booked for foreign owners alone. Orders for more than 50 vessels have come from France. Other countries which have placed orders for British-built ships are Iceland, Portugal, Holland, Belgium, Norway, Poland, Argentina, and Brazil.

Charley Bannister, of 11 Queen Street, Perth, has produced an attractive R.S.I. pocket diary which he will post to League members for 2/6. In it is, of course, a day to day calendar, much general and League information, a 1946 page calendar, pages for perusal, memoranda, etc. Charlie, who is a bookbinder by trade, served with the 16th Bn. and is a member of the Claremont sub-branch, and should be congratulated on his enterprise and on producing what we consider a long-felt want.

In reply to representations by the League, the Minister for Air has advised that aircrew operating from Australian bases are on the same status as aircrew operating from overseas bases so far as the Gratuity is concerned. The Minister points out that the position concerning such personnel is covered by Section 2 War Gratuity Act, 1947, in which "Service Abroad" is defined to include "Service by a member (b) as a member of the aircrew of a squadron, if the role of the squadron was operational involving flights out of Australia." It will, therefore, be observed that the Act has been so framed as to give such service by aircrew members the same status as members serving overseas, for the purpose of determining qualifying service for war gratuities.

Not so very long before Japan came into the war, the Japanese sympathized a bit with the famous French Foreign Legion story, "Beau Geste." The film was banned, not for any reasons connected with security, but because the Japanese censors considered it presented and condoned acts of cruelty. The deed of marches staged in the Philippines and Borneo, the building of the death railway into Burma, and the use of living prisoners as targets for bayonet practice were, of course, just clean fun; and there are still people in our midst who affect to believe that a kid-glove peace policy can win such a race to the ways of clean-living democracy.

Scabbards Off

By PIP TOK

In the BBC's "In Town Tonight" programme last month, an English actor gave his version of the birth of "Mademoiselle from Armentiers. He claimed authorship of the words, though he was emphatic that he wrote only four verses. He also stated that a Canadian Lieutenant, Gitz-Rice, of Montreal, composed the music. Both claims are preposterous. The versifier may, as he said, have written some verses in 1914, and these verses may have had some influence on the form the song developed in certain units, but both the song and the music go back beyond 1914, into the mists of history. I heard one version sung during the South African War of 1899-1902, to the music the troops knew so well in France and Flanders. The form of the words are a soldiers' parody of a lyric by the German ballad writer Uhland, who flourished during the Napoleonic wars. That parody was probably worked out by Wellington's men, during their association with the Prussians in the Waterloo campaign. It starts with the line, "Oh, Landlord, have you any wine?" and the place of the "patze-vous" refrain is taken by the gibberish "dolo, skoebse." No doubt many old soldiers will remember it, especially as that form was more familiar to the troops during the earlier half of the First War. The Madamoiselle version was gathered on the older song to give it a more up-to-date local colour. As to the music, in my young days the tune was believed to be a perversion of "Lillibulero," the soldiers' song of the 17th century, which had so much to do with driving James II from his throne. If that theory is correct, the song as known today has gone far away from the original. That, however, does not make the claim as far-fetched as it may seem at first sight or, should I say, as one hears of wiretaps, censors, and censored music, one frequently hears a current version of the Madamoiselle song. For obvious reasons, the words have been severely bowdlerised for home consumption, and the music, though too obscure to be recognisable, is only a perversion of the air the troops sang and whistled during that little unpleasantness we had with the Kaiser.

The elevation of the Australian-born Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Dr. Norman Thomas Gilroy, to the status of Cardinal, has been deeply appreciated by ex-servicemen throughout Australia, whatever their religious persuasion may be. Dr. Gilroy is the second Australian prelate to be made a Cardinal, and the first-born of Australia to attain such high distinction. He was born at Glebe, Sydney, on January 22, 1896, and commenced worked with the P.M.G.'s Department as a telegraph messenger. He was a junior telegraph officer when war broke out in 1914. He joined the Naval Wireless Telegraph Service as a wireless operator, and took part in the landing at Gallipoli. After his war service ended, he went into the Church. His appointment as Cardinal, however, did not find favour in the sight of the Minister for Immigration (Mr. Calwell). That ornament of democracy weighed in with an ill-tempered and worse-mannered criticism of the appointment and of the Apostolic Delegate in Australia. This is more than strange when one reflects that it has long been the policy of the Labour Party to urge the appointment of Australians as Governors and to other high offices. Ex-servicemen in the Labour ranks will also approve of the appointment of a returned man to such an outstanding dignity. One thinks that Mr. Calwell should mind his own business and look after his own expensive department. Only a few weeks before his outburst against Cardinal Gilroy's appointment, two broadcasters of the Information Department made mischievous and ill-founded attacks on the Allied policy in regard to the policy of the Allies in Java. The broadcasts provided fuel for the fires in that troubled island, but these glaring indiscretions put the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) in the invidious and humiliating position of having to make an apologetic explanation to the head of the Southeast Asia Command (Lord Louis Mountbatten). When Mr. Calwell was a boy at school, the old maxim about silence being golden was not one of the headings of his copy-book.

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TELEPHONE, U 1746
The Australian Capital Territory Branch of the League has also noticed that the "for all" promises that were set up as substitutes for adequate preference are not materializing. The president of the A.C.T. Branch complained that the only jobs available for returned men are those of unskilled men, and the men skilled in the building trade had little work. The Australian Capital Territory Branch is also concerned about the fact that the Digger, who has done his job, is not being given the opportunity to make his position in the State government's earlier readiness to do the fair thing by the Digger.

One of the most regrettable features of uncontrolled interference with the shipping of our Dutch Indies troops to the tropics is the loss of, or transfer of, skilled men who have trained for service overseas with the result that the wear and tear on the ranks of skilled workmen is actually increased. This is a serious situation, and it is one that the Government, which has the power to arrange for training programs, should take into account when it decides to do anything to increase the number of skilled workmen available for service overseas.

The Listening Post for January, 1946

**TERRITORY OF PAPUA-NEW GUINEA**

Applications are invited from male persons between the ages of 20 and 35 years who are desirous of appointment to the position of Clerk, Department of External Territories, Territory of Papua-New Guinea, with eligibility for higher administrative positions carrying salaries up to £250 per annum. (The Income Tax Assessment Act does not apply to any income derived by a resident of the Territory from sources within the Territory.)

Applicants may be stationed at the headquarters of the Administration or at any outstation. The annual salary will be within the limits of the scale, which varies according to the position held, and will commence from the date of appointment.

Applicants will be on probation for a period of 12 months, after which they will be eligible to apply for permanent service which may replace the Public Service of the Provisional Administration.

Applications may be terminated at any time during their period of probation for inefficiency or unsatisfactory conduct.

Applicants should state their educational qualifications. It is desirable that applicants should have passed the examination at one of the Australian universities, or an examination of equivalent standard.

Applicants must be subject to a medical examination as to fitness for employment in the tropics, which will be arranged by the Department of External Territories.

Applicants may be required to contribute to the cost of the examination.

After 21 months' service in the Territory, a Clerical Assistant who has satisfactorily completed a period of 3 months' leave of absence on full pay, may be employed for a further period of 12 months.

Applications, accompanied by copies only of testimonials, must reach the Secretary, Department of External Territories, Territory of Papua-New Guinea, by 15th February, 1946, and should be on a standard form available from any Public Service Department.

**6th Battalion Association**

Members of the 16th Bn. Association are invited to bring their wives and friends to a social and musical evening to be held at the Anzac House Hotel on Monday, 20th January, 1946. It will be possible to extend a welcome to Brigadier A. W. Forts and other old members who have returned to Australia. Further details will be announced later.

The 6th Battalion Association will be in existence for one year on 1st January, 1946. The committee will then be dissolved, but a formal request will be made to the Minister for Defence that a reorganization of the association be carried out.

Applications for membership of the association must be made on a form available on the evening of the dinner, or before 1st January, 1946.
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Established 1851
A. L. Ingram, Manager
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Grosses of Grosses Hats
Buy your Hats, Shirts and Mercery from

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Rich Sign Co.
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Vacancies for Medical Officers

Applications are invited for appointment as Medical Officer in the Public Service of the Territory of Papua-New Guinea. Salary, £200 per annum, rising by annual increments of £30 to £1,000 per annum. (The Income Tax Assessment Act does not apply to any income derived by a resident of the Territory from sources within the Territory.)

Appointment is subject to a medical examination as to physical fitness for service in the tropics. This will be arranged by the Department. The Headquarters of the Administration are at present at Port Moresby, but appointees will be required to serve in any part of Papua-New Guinea.

After 21 months' service in the Territory, appointees will be eligible for three months' leave of absence on full pay.

Applications, accompanied by copies only of testimonials, setting out particulars of age, qualifications and experience, and stating whether married or single, should reach the Secretary, Department of External Territories, on or before 18th February, 1946.

AUSTRALIAN WAR GRAVES

On the movement of the A.I.F. to the Middle East, an Australian War Grave Unit accompanied the force for the purpose of locating and recording all Australian war graves in that theatre, and to arrange proper marking, care and maintenance. The extent of the Middle East theatre of operations necessitated close co-operation with the British War Graves authorities and the Imperial War Graves Commission.

When Japan entered the war, an Australian War Graves organisation was established; war graves units were formed, operating first throughout the New Guinea campaign and, later in all other Pacific areas. At the present time there are 27 Australian War Graves Units and two detachments of the Australian War Graves Maintenance Unit operating throughout the Middle East, Malaya, Borneo and Central Pacific, Japan and Northern Pacific, and New Guinea area, which includes the Solomon Islands, New Britain and New Ireland.

War cemeteries have been established as follows:-

Middle East: El Alamein, Hailfax, Salum, Tobruk, Acroma, Benghazi, Tripoli, Sicily (Caserta), Greece (Athens), Crete (Suda Bay), Beirut, Damascus, Haifa and Gaza.

Borneo and Central Pacific: Morotai, Tarakan, Balikpapan, Labuan, Ambon, Timor and Melitser.

New Guinea: Milne Bay, Bomana (Port Moresby), Soputa, Kokoda, Lae, Salamaua, Finschafen, Rabaul and Torokina (Solomon Islands).

The task of establishing war cemeteries in the Malayan and Japan and Northern Pacific areas is being carried out at present.

In Australia, all war graves of the 1914-18 and 1939-45 wars are receiving constant care and attention from detachments of the Australian War Graves Maintenance Unit.

DESIGN OF ARMY EQUIPMENT

During the war, civilians rendered much valuable scientific and engineering assistance to the Army. In the final preparation of designs of Army equipment, however, considerable knowledge of the conditions and terrain in which the Army is fighting, and of the general performance required of the equipment, is essential. For this reason the design of Army equipment has been directed and co-ordinated by trained Army engineers and scientists.

The importance of familiarity with Service requirements in the designing of Army equipment is illustrated by analysis of the number of inventions submitted by civilian and Service personnel. Between the inception of the Army New Munitions Committee, a body representative of all sections of the Army, in March, 1942, and August, 1945, 1,001 sub-
missions were considered; of these, 520 were submitted by servicemen and 481 from other sources. From these submissions, 108 of those received from servicemen and 32 received from non-service personnel were accepted as Army requirements.

A proportion of the many inventions submitted by soldiers and civilians which, after careful consideration, were not accepted by the Army because of excessive weight, difficulty of repair in forward areas under service conditions, or because better equipment had been developed, appeared to offer possibilities for commercial use.

*State Executive*

DECEMBER 5, 1945

At the meeting of the State Executive on December 5, it was decided to welcome the Minister for Repatriation (Mr. C. Frost) and the Chairman of the Repatriation Commission (Major-General G. F. Woolten) on December 10 at 9 p.m.

Deferred Business.—Letters from the Fremantle City sub-branch about the retrenchment of temporary clerks, and protests against recent appointments being in favour of non-servicemen, were referred to the Rehabilitation Committee.

A letter from Victoria Park sub-branch, urging the establishment of a War Service Homes Board in this State, was referred to the War Service Homes Committee, with the suggestion that the committee make representations to the Minister for Repatriation. It was also decided that this committee should meet on Friday, December 7, at 4 p.m.

A proposal to create a sub-branch at Welshpool was referred to the Membership Committee.

Land Committee.—Pursuing out of the report of the Land Committee, it was decided to supply a list of sub-branch officials to the Director of Land Settlement, with a request that in all country visits of boards and officials the sub-branch be notified.

Combined Meeting.—The report of a meeting of several representatives of several sub-committees on the previous night disclosed that the main consideration had been increased accommodation for staff and added Club facilities. On a recommendation contained in the report, a committee consisting of Messrs. Reece, Mitchell, Harvey, Ferguson and Davies was appointed to consider the questions.

Trustees.—The Trustees reported on action taken to supply refreshments to patients in hospital for Christmas, and furnished a report from the Superintendent of Sunset on clothing conditions there.

This trusty friend of the "Old Diggers" is now being supplied to the Commonwealth Military Forces.

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FIRE MARINE ACCIDENT

Rehabilitation Committee.—The report of the Rehabilitation Committee referred to the unsatisfactory position in respect of the progress made in technical training. It mentioned a statement prepared for publication.

Fishing Industry.—A report on the fishing industry, submitted by the Fremantle sub-branch, was referred to the Rehabilitation Committee, December 12, 1945.

There was an adjourned meeting of the State Executive on December 12 to complete business that had been on the agenda for the meeting the previous week.

The Federal office forwarded the official minutes of the conference of ex-servicemen's organisations in Melbourne during November. The conference had been attended by the State President, who again reported on the proceedings.

Another Federal office had drawn attention to the vacant positions of General Secretary and Assistant Secretary. The applications for these positions closed on December 11.

Preference.—It was decided to write to the Federal office to ascertain the position in regard to the preference clauses of the Re-establishment and Employment Act, and to ask what had been done about the appointment of Regional Preference Boards.

Congress Resolution 37.—The Minister for Education notified that the policy of the Government aims at the consolidation of schools and the improvement of education in the rural areas.

Malayan Scholarship.—A letter was received from Captain Gwynne inviting contributions for the proposed A.L.F. Malayan Scholarship. It was decided to draw the attention of sub-branches to this opportunity.

Honorary Life Membership.—A recommendation by the Bedford Park sub-branch that the award of honorary life membership be made to a blinded soldier was approved.

War Pigeons.—A letter from the Northam sub-branch protesting at the action taken in regard to year pigeons was received.
Victory Loan.—A letter was received from the Deputy Director of War Loans (Mr. C. G. Latham) appreciating the efforts of the League in support of the recent Victory Loan campaign.

December 19, 1945

At the meeting on December 19, the State President extended a welcome to Colonel Plane, Major Hunt and Mr. B. C. Chambers (Warrooms).

Resignation.—Mr. M. E. Zeffer tendered his resignation from the State Executive because of ill-health. It was decided, in the circumstances, to accept the resignation of Mr. Zeffer and to place on record the appreciation of the League for loyal and efficient services rendered over a long period. Mr. Zeffer’s place on the Executive will be filled by Mr. C. R. Cornish.

Rehabilitation Committee.—Reports were presented covering meetings of the Rehabilitation Committee on December 6 and December 13. The matters discussed included the fishing industry, the efforts being made to establish discharged servicemen, preference, technical training, applications for assistance under Section 91 (3) of the Re-establishment Act, and a number of matters under discussion with the Regional Training Committee. The report of the meeting of presidents and secretaries on December 12, which made a number of recommendations relating to rehabilitation, is reported on another page.

Reinstatement.—The report of the Reinstatement Committee indicated the proceedings at recent meetings of the committee, and the efforts made to secure the reinstatement of personnel in their previous occupations.

War Service Homes.—The following recommendations by the War Service Homes Committee were adopted:

(1) That 75 per cent. of all dwellings erected in the sub-area, under the Re-establishment Act, be allotted to ex-servicemen.

(2) That a reasonable percentage of all building areas resumed under the Re-establishment Act be allocated to clients of the War Service Homes Commission at the resumption prices.

(3) That materials for exceptional cases of hardship under the War Service Homes Act should be available.

Land Committee.—A report of a conference between the Land Committees and the Director of Land Settlement (Mr. V. V. Fyfe) on December 11 was present. At the conference, the Director indicated the possibility of securing agreement with rural training and the placing of ex-servicemen on farm properties.

Sub-Branch

WEST LEEDERVILLE-WEMBLEY

The first meeting for 1946 was held in the Town Hall, Cambridge Street, when all records were broken with an attendance of 150. A review of the previous year’s operations was given by the retiring president (Mr. Cecil Bolton) and his report, together with the reports of the secretaries, treasurer and auditor, were received and confirmed. It was considered that this sub-branch had done a very good year and the progress in connection with the League had been maintained. No fewer than 26 new members were introduced. Membership at the beginning of 1945 was 379; membership at the beginning of 1946 was 688. Appreciation was expressed of the excellent work done by the retiring president after his two terms in the chair and the work of all his executive. The new president, Mr. C. Nimmo, was installed and there is no doubt that he will prove a very worthy successor. The vice-presidents are Mr. E. Troope (re-elected), Harry Tull (vice-president), Roy Johnson. Jim Beer was re-elected as hon. secretary, together with Bert Pike as hon. treasurer, G. H. Newton and A. E. T.Cornish, auditors; F. Stephens and E. Tonkinson, sports directors; C. A. H. Bolton and V. Kinns, employees; J. Patey, secretary, with Bert Pike as hon. treasurer, G. H. Newton and A. E. T. Cornish; minutes secretary, George Warden, and publicity officer, V. E. Troope; committee: W. Lehmam, H. Sains, A. Bensley, D. McIntyre, P. Perkin, L. Coadwell, H. Ingle, T. Di Legia, D. T. Hillier, W. Nicholls, G. Bulger, B. Gordon, A. Broad, I. Crowe, S. Sberries, P. Teller, T. Neal, W. McCulloch, D. H. Merritt and J. Campbell. The smoke held in December was an unqualified success. Attention of all members, and all intending members, is drawn to dances that are held in the Perth Town Hall every alternate Saturday night. The first dance having been held on January 12. The next will be on January 28. All are welcome. The finances of the sub-branch are in a very healthy condition. We are sorry to hear of the sudden illness of Mrs. Nicholson, the retiring president’s wife, one of the great workers in the women’s auxiliary. We are now installed in the main Town Hall, so there is plenty of room for all sporting activities after business. We regret to report the loss of Reg. Brown, who was recently killed in an accident.

CALLING

There was an attendance of 26, including about 150 guests, at the Sub-Branch meeting on December 13. The new members were warmly welcomed by the president, Cliff Martin. As Cliff’s health has

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not been the best during the past year, he has decided to retire from office. Mr. W. S. Campbell was elected to fill the vacancy, with Ron Traver as vice-president. W. Howard was re-elected secretary. The amount standing to the credit of the amelioration fund is £14,675. War Savings Certificates to the face value of £44 are credited to the building fund. An amount of £26 was donated to the War Veterans’ Home appeal. The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. H. Berry, M.L.A., asking him to inaugurate a discussion in Parliament on the subject of crop insurance.

**OSSANGE PARK**

Fortnightly meetings have been well attended. Members are looking forward to the coming year-end meeting on New Year’s Eve, and dancing contests. The first dance continued until 1.30 a.m. The dances which have been held for the last three years have been a great success and have gone into recess until March 23. Mr. Alex. Cowan, President, has been a regular member of the committee in the past three years, which is a splendid record. At a meeting on November 23, an election was held for the secretary, who became vacant through the resignation of the outgoing member, R. E. A. Dowling. The secretary nominated, Neville Johnson and Dan Groot, both of whom served in the recent war with the R.A.F. The ballot resulted in: Mr. G.醑 Johnson was elected on the casting vote of the president.

**MOORA**

There was a good attendance at the annual meeting. Newly-elected members were introduced to the sub-branch in satisfactory numbers and a hearty welcome was extended to them. The Secretary, Mr. Horace Cowan, and the Auditor, Mr. John Murphy, were re-elected. The sub-branch has adopted a healthy financial position. Mr. G. L. Gardner was appointed representative of the sub-branch in addition to the existing members, Messrs. Prior, Boyce and Gardiner. The arrangements for a welcome home to returned men were held over until the next meeting. The following officers were elected: President, Mr. J. E. Symonds; vice presidents, Mr. L. A. D. Symonds and Mr. A. Symonds; secretary, Mr. Les. Kuhl; auditor, Mr. J. M. Gardiner; committee, Messrs. White, Timm, Gilchrist, Ferguson, Prior, Boyce, Groves, Kistle, Gardner and Dr. Myres.

**SOUTH PERTH**

There was a good attendance at the Christmas reunion on December 19. Wives of members and guests of the sub-branch were the guests of the evening. The president, Mr. Horrie Day, congratulated the sub-branch on the alliance of the Miss Australia guest, Miss O. Robinson and her hard-working committee, for their splendid effort in the current competition. Members are enrolled in large numbers, and the total is now over 700. The building fund committee did magnificent work during the year. The fund now stands at £1,200. The following function was held on the Christmas Eve: a ball at Cassley’s Hall. The Ansley House dances will commence around every three months and will commence again on January 24, the third lighter member, there is a Charge of the Bottle Brigade every Monday. Married men from the depots at Horrie Day, of the Auxiliary, service and the Auxiliary Morris, are reminded to submit their subscriptions to do so at their earliest opportunity and so help our secretary, Mr. A. T. B. Steed. We would remind you that all members have recovered ere this. The next meeting will be held on an urgent appointment with the membership committee. The sub-branch has been invited to the dance by the Auxiliary of the St. John’s Ambulance Brigade. For further particulars, ring or call at office in "West Australian" Chambers, Swan Street, Fremantle next door to Fremantle Post Office. Phone: L2994 and L2728.

**SUBICHO**

The festive season was brought to a close sedately in sub-branch affairs, although we hear that debating was somewhat keen at the last general committee meeting. The next meeting of the Auxiliary of the R.S.P.L., on December 20th, was well attended. The collection in aid of the Red Cross for the war effort was successful, and are already taking their places during the year. The R.A.A.F. The ballot for the post of president, Colonel Jack Herlihy, occupied the chair of the meeting on December 17 and welcomed the members. The sub-branch members from World War II were well in evidence in voicing their views on the many questions brought up for discussion. The show was keen in interest in problems which are likely to come before them in the not too distant future. We would remind all members that annual subscriptions for 1946 are due, and we would ask those who have not renewed them to do so at their earliest opportunity and so help our secretary, Mr. John Pitcher. The secretary, Mr. John Pitcher, took the chair at the meeting on December 17 and welcomed the members. It is a credit to him. The ladies’ Christmas supper, which was an unexpected black-out, there was no cash on hand. The sub-branch is now in a healthy financial position. Mr. G. L. Gardner was appointed representative of the sub-branch in addition to the existing members, Messrs. Prior, Boyce and Gardiner. The arrangements for a welcome home to returned men were held over until the next meeting. The following officers were elected: President, Mr. J. E. Symonds; vice presidents, Mr. L. A. D. Symonds and Mr. A. Symonds; secretary, Mr. Les. Kuhl; auditor, Mr. J. M. Gardiner; committee, Messrs. White, Timm, Gilchrist, Ferguson, Prior, Boyce, Groves, Kistle, Gardner and Dr. Myres.

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was ably assisted by our maid of all work Clyde Opie, while Johnny Chadpole and his ice cream vendors did a roaring business.

Again, the auxiliary showed its capabilities by the way it handled the lollies and suppers, to say nothing of the caps, which were rushed by the audience. The house committee has done a good job of work by successfully negotiating for the block of land for the new building. Tommy Lamb, as usual, comes up trumps - to see him handle a piano single handed is to learn a few tips on how not to do it. Whenever anything is wanted, Tom always appears to have it in his house, and up it comes. Arthur Wood is another magician when anything is wanted, and is a crack at acting minutes secretary.

Between Woody and Bernie Green the secretary has had to get a handwriting expert on the job to decode the hieroglyph. Bill Carlton is setting out to provide a few items for future entertainment. Bill has had experience in the way of handling the lollies and suppers, and is a crack at acting minutes secretary.

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MT. LAWLEY-INGLEWOOD

The allotment in the month of December meeting apparently went through the way of handling the lollies and suppers, and is a crack at acting minutes secretary. Probably owing to the Christmas holidays, correspondence was negligible, and the same spirit still prevailing no one had any contentious matters to discuss. There was a good attendance at the ladies' meeting, with 120 members present. The past year has been a most successful one for the sub-branch. Membership has greatly increased and it is to be hoped that this very busy year of affairs will continue to exist in the future.

GLOUCESTER PARK

The sub-branch Christmas Tree and Goose Club was a great success. In spite of the shortage of time, great things were achieved in preparing for the wants of the children. Wembly Hall was the place of amusement for the Christmas Tree. The children had a very enjoyable time. General meeting on January 15 saw Bill Fisher installed as the president with Mrs. Robinson and Jack McLean as vice-presidents. Members are asked to bear in mind a night of entertainment at our headquarters in February, when the South Sub-branch will be our guests. A good attendance is requested on this occasion.

THE LISTENING POST for January, 1946

GRAYLANDS

At our annual general meeting on December 20, Mr. Coghill was elected as vice-president and Mr. Ted Walters and Mr. Fred McQuarrie (R.A.F.F.) vice-presidents. Mr. Jack Chance was elected honorary secretary. The retiring secretary, Mr. Hurtle Ebyard, who held the job right through the war, would not offer himself again, as he considers it was time the younger members took over some duties. On looking over the balance sheet so ably presented by the treasurer, Mr. Theo McCracken, one outstanding item was $2,196 paid to the War Veterans Home appeal, a grand effort for such a small sub-branch. More new members were welcomed by the president.

WICKEF

At the annual general meeting on December 21, Mr. Coghill was re-elected president and Mr. Ted Walters and Mr. Fred McQuarrie (R.A.F.F.) vice-presidents. Mr. Jack Chance was elected honorary secretary. The retiring secretary, Mr. Hurtle Ebyard, who held the job right through the war, would not offer himself again, as he considers it was time the younger members took over some duties. On looking over the balance sheet so ably presented by the treasurer, Mr. Theo McCracken, one outstanding item was $2,196 paid to the War Veterans Home appeal, a grand effort for such a small sub-branch. More new members were welcomed by the president.
their Christmas party a success, and they will be delighted to know that the patients appreciated their fine gesture.

Mrs. McKinlay and Mrs. Jefferson visited Claremont Mental Hospital. Mrs. Jefferson said the ladies auxiliary were offering gifts to ex-service personnel. On December 13, Mrs. McKinlay was present at a meeting of the Perth women's auxiliary. The State President and Secretary were present to investigate the possibility of having a Christmas party for returned men in the month Mrs. Collie, from Victoria Park, was elected as the president of the auxiliary. Mrs. Higginson, the treasurer, has resigned, and her place has been taken by Mrs. Rennick. Miss V. G. Smith, the secretary, has consented to act as vice-president in Mrs. Nelson's stead.

Geraldton

On December 17, during a mock wedding, the Auxiliary of the Blind Soldiers' Association in Geraldton was present at the baptism of Mrs. M. N. Nolan's baby. Mrs. Nolan was given a present of 10 guineas, which had been donated by the Auxiliary of the Blind Soldiers' Association in Procornby. The Auxiliary of the Blind Soldiers' Association in Geraldton has consented to act as vice-president in Mrs. Nelson's stead.

COTTESLOE

The Younger Set held its first annual meeting on 11 December, with the efforts of the past twenty years given to the members. Miss N. O. Payne, reported the given to private funds.

BULLSBROOK

The Auxiliary celebrated its birthday, after the members of the Auxiliary of the Blind Soldiers' Association in Cottesloe were held in aid of the Perth War Memorial. The Auxiliary of the Blind Soldiers' Association in Cottesloe has consented to act as vice-president in Mrs. Nelson's stead.

ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICEMEN


ANZAC DAY—Annual meeting December; President: W. J. Ross, Secretary: W. J. Ross, Treasurer: W. J. Ross.

ARTILLERY COMRADES' ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, Perth; President: S. T. Reid, Secretary: D. A. Reid, Treasurer: D. A. Reid.

ATLANTIC BATTALION—Annual meeting December; President: W. J. Ross, Secretary: W. J. Ross, Treasurer: W. J. Ross.

BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, Perth; President: W. J. Ross, Secretary: W. J. Ross, Treasurer: W. J. Ross.

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