Politics and Defence

"Strategy cannot move altogether untrammelled by politics and finance. But political and financial considerations may not present themselves in quite the same light to the soldier as to the statesman, and the latter is bound to make certain that they have received due attention."


Press reports from London during the earlier part of the month mentioned that vital new arrangements for Pacific defence were being discussed in London, Moscow, Washington, Ottawa, Wellington and Canberra. These reports suggested that Australia would take over to a large extent Britain's Imperial defence commitments in the Pacific. At the same time, the Australian Press published references to meetings of the Defence Council, and hints that Australia's role in a co-ordinated scheme of Empire defence would finally be determined when the Chief of the Imperial General Staff (Field-Marshal-Lord Montgomery) visits Australia this year. Naturally, members of this League, which has always stood out for an adequate defence force for Australia, and members of the general public who have for themselves how inadequate defence can provoke and prolong wars, are wondering what our own Government is planning. The Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley), who has a nice appreciation of the value of silence, has rightly declined to make any premature comment. Australia's future role will be announced in due course. In the meantime, it would be folly to make others, including potential enemies, as wise as ourselves.

However much our curiosity may be excited, there is comfort in the knowledge that our future defence policy will be evolved from careful consideration, and in cooperation with other Empire countries and allies. There are no water-tight compartments in defence planning today. Matters which, in the past, were the concern mainly of the statesman and the service chiefs, now call for the services of the scientist, the economist and the industrialist. The two world wars of the present century have shown what a vast difference there is between the armed nation and the nation in arms. They have shown how closely considerations of strategy are bound up with the problems of manpower, production and finance. At the same time, new and epoch-shattering inventions have changed the wrinkled front of grim-visaged war more profoundly than did the invention of firearms and steam-propulsion in former ages. The development of the air arm, the dawn of the atomic age, and appreciation of the need for war organisation of industry, have made defence planning more than ever the job of the statesman and the specialist. At the same time the passionate nationalism which the recent war engendered in nearby Asiatic countries has given a new angle to what an older generation used to call Imperial Defence. Nevertheless, while strategy must be considered in the light of current developments, it has certain features which have been constant throughout the ages. There are certain fundamentals which may be considered by the man who has had war service without any undue encroachment or trespass on the field of the specialist.

Success in future wars, like success in past wars, must ultimately be based on the twin foundation-stones of physical fitness and training. Here, one views with uneasiness and disgust the oft-published hints that compulsory training will have no part in Australia's future defence scheme. This attitude towards compulsory training is all the more astounding when one reads that every youth in the United Kingdom will, on reaching the prescribed age, become liable for seven years' service in one of the armed forces. One cannot help fearing that the illogical attitude of Australian politicians, who boggle at compulsion for defence training, while cheerfully accepting the principle of compulsion in education, trade unionism, voting and a host of other things, is based on a failure to benefit from the lessons taught so bitterly by recent dangers. The Defence Act still provides for a general call-up in time of invasion or similar national emergency, but there is nothing to guarantee that those called up will be anything more than an armed rabble. It is hard to credit that, after the experience of two major wars, anyone should fondly believe that defence begins with invasion, or fail to realise that a country invaded is already a country half conquered. Developments on the scientific side of war underline more heavily than ever the need for training and still more training.

It is realised, of course, that the provision of modern equipment will be costly. It is also realised that considerations of manpower will also align themselves with those of expense. Such considerations must affect the size of the forces to be maintained, and it may not be possible at the outset to train everybody. That, however, brings us the other essential of military efficiency: physical fitness. The expense of maintaining interim forces and of providing
modern but expensive equipment may, of necessity, limit the numbers to be trained for the Citizen Forces. Wars, however, break out with dramatic suddenness. They involve long and arduous service in all sorts of climates and under all sorts of unhealthy conditions, apart from the risks of battle. The first essential of the modern fighting man is that he is physically fit; otherwise he will soon succumb to the strain of modern warfare. The militia forces.

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The State President’s Monthly Newsletter

Anzac Day

March is the month when we commence the initial arrangements for Anzac Day and I feel that to make our National Day a success the League must take the initiative and keep in touch with local governing bodies. This year we want to make a feature of having all our younger members on parade. It is a privilege to have the honour of marching on Anzac Day and sub-branches can do much to encourage the younger men to be with the older members in attendance. Some of our young members are shy. We need to demonstrate to the public the unity of our organisation and by being present on Anzac Day, not only do we fittingly honour the fallen, but create public prestige. I hope sub-branches will do their utmost to ensure large parades everywhere.

Eligibility Ballot

The recent Federal Executive meeting held in Melbourne decided to hold a plebiscite in connection with eligibility. The question passed at the last Federal Congress will be submitted to every sub-branch in Australia and the members of the sub-branch will determine the attitude of their sub-branch. Each sub-branch will have one vote in the plebiscite. Further advice will be forwarded for the guidance of sub-branches.

Country Members

Advantage was taken of many country members being in town for the Farmers’ Union conference and Country Week Cricket carnival to hold a presidents and secretaries’ meeting at Anzac House, on February 20. An invitation to attend was issued to all country members in order that they could gain some knowledge of the work of the League, whilst in Perth. This is helpful, as the member is able to take back to his country sub-branch information of League activities. Five-minute addresses were given by the chairman of the Land, Housing, Re-establishment, Membership, New Official Journal, Faversham House and Repatriation Committees, and a report on the Federal Executive Meeting. Questions on all general matters were possible and much information was given. It was mentioned that although executive delegates would like to visit country sub-branches more, it is very difficult as the demand on time is very heavy and the presidents and secretaries’ meeting would help to keep Head Office in touch with the country.

Re-establishment

The Re-establishment Committee has been very active recently in formulating a scheme which will enable ex-servicemen in the fishing industry to retail fish, direct to consumers. At Congress last year there were several motions dealing with the fishing industry and concern was expressed at the control by aliens in the marketing of fish generally. A scheme has now been evolved which provides that ex-service- men distributors will receive the fish direct from the ex-ser-
Service men in the industry at one of the large fishing districts and they will sell to the consumer. Messrs. Stern, Stoddart and Comb, of the Re-Establishment Committee, have been foremost in organising same, and it is a start in the right direction. To be a success the scheme must be supported and I feel sure that if we can make a success of this enterprise it will be the forerunner of others. Further publicity is being given in the Press.

"Newsletter"

At the recent Federal Executive meeting it was proposed that a monthly Newsletter be distributed by Federal Office throughout Australia to sub-branches and various organisations and persons associated with League activities. The Newsletter will contain items of League interest and generally inform the sub-branches of the activities of the League. This is a good idea and should prove of excellent value. Another matter regarding publicity is that a conference of representatives of the R.S.L. journals throughout Australia will be held shortly in association with Mr. Hawkesley, Federal Assistant Public Relations Officer of the R.S.L., the object being to co-ordinate publication of League activities. With so much interest to League members passing through Federal Office and State Branches these days, there is a need for greater distribution of news. I feel that good must come out of the conference. In reflecting on publicity, I am afraid that members generally do not read sufficiently the published news of League work. The cry of "What is the League doing?" would not be used if members took greater interest. So far as our own new official journal is concerned, the first issue will be the July issue. A board of management, consisting of Messrs. Stern, Leslie and Lonnie, has been appointed to cooperate with the Editor and generally deal with matters relating to the journal. It is hoped to bring under the editorial staff all League publicity and matters pertaining to membership. The editorial staff will be appointed to commence duty on May 1.

Preference

Concern has been felt lately at the number of Government and other appointments which are not in accordance with the Re-Establishment and Employment Act. Repeatedly, advertisements appear calling applications for positions, but no mention is made that the appointment will be in accordance with the Re-Establishment and Employment Act. Local governing bodies are, in many cases, neglectful in this regard. Sub-branches should watch these advertisements in their own districts and keep the Office advised of any breaches.

Subscriptions

In concluding, I would like to ask all sub-branches to follow up members who have not paid their subscriptions for 1947. We must keep up our membership. If we are not a strong organisation, we will lose public prestige. Unity is Strength.

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modern but expensive equipment may, of necessity, limit
the numbers to be trained for the Citizen Forces. Wars,
however, break out with dramatic suddenness. They involve
long and arduous service in all sorts of climates and under
all sorts of unhealthy conditions, apart from the risks of
battle. The first essential of the modern fighting man is
that he is physically fit; otherwise he will soon succumb to
the strain of modern warfare. The basis of the scheme of
compulsory training, adopted by Australia in 1911, was a
graduated system of physical training. It commenced in
the schools and was carried on through the senior cadets and
military forces. It was a highly scientific form of training
controlled by experts, and it was the least expensive activity
of the whole defence plan. In fact, it never cost the country
more than £10,000 in any one year, yet it was the first
activity to be scrapped when renunciation became necessary.
A compulsory system of physical training could still provide
an inexpensive basis for a defence plan, and it would prove
a useful compromise between heavy expenditure on equip-
ment on the one hand and haphazard voluntary efforts on
the other. This League has again and again pronounced in
favour of a national scheme of physical training. We should
insist on this advocacy, if only in the interests of general
national health, because the fitness developed by this training
is the one tangible benefit a man can carry straight out of his
service training into civilian life.

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**The State President’s Monthly Newsletter**

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A Nazi To Be Deported

A few weeks ago, newspapers recorded the Government's intention to deport the former leader of the Nazi Party in Australia, Dr. Johannes Heinrich Becker. In doing so, the papers mentioned that his Australian-born wife and two children would be left behind. A factual presentation in this manner left behind the inference that a father is being torn from the loving arms of his wife and children. To stem the barrage of "propaganda" which might result, we present the following story of the case, forwarded by the League's Public Relations Officer, Mr. G. Hawkesley.

Dr. Becker tried to avoid deportation by applying for naturalisation under the Australian Nationality Act of 1920-36. Before the recent war, he was the leading Nazi in Australia. Born at Schmalkalden, in the German province of Thuringia, he came to Australia in 1928. To all outward appearance, he was just another migrant, anxious to exploit his talents in a new land; but Becker had another mission to fulfil. Evidence at the Tatura Internment Inquiry, presented over by Mr. Justice Simpson, in November, 1945, left no doubt about that. It left no doubt that he came to Australia to organise subversive activities in the war Germany had been preparing for ever since 11 a.m. of November 11, 1918. In 1939, Becker had a trip to Germany, ostensibly to see his sick mother. Back in Australia he continued to be recognised as one of the really high officials of the Nazi Party in this country. His first brush with authoritv was in 1936, when a South Australian Court fined him for having represented himself as a legally qualified medical practitioner. Even in those seemingly careless days, Commonwealth Security officers were quietly watching him, and, as soon as war broke out, he was bundled behind the barbed wires of the Tatura Internment Camp, where he remained for the duration.

A strange thing about the Herr Doktor (Mr. Hawkesley says) is the way he has continuously tried to clear himself, despite the overwhelming evidence of his Nazi activities. By feigning righteous indignation, Becker claimed he had joined the Nazi Party merely to obtain literature in medical journals, which were available only to party members; that he was expelled from the party in 1941; that, while agreeing with the party's policy, he was opposed to its methods. These claims did him scant service at the hearing before Mr. Justice Simpson. Before the inquiry, Becker had applied to be repatriated to Germany, but, with typical impudence, he told Mr. Justice Simpson that he wanted to stay in Australia and become naturalised. Mr. Justice Simpson recommended his deportation.

The R.S.L. had closely watched proceedings and expected that the deportation would follow as a matter of course; but imagine the feelings of members of the Freeling (S.A.) sub-branch last September, when they unexpectedly saw Doctor Becker arrogantly strutting about the streets of their township. The matter was reported immediately, and the South Australian Branch's protest elicited the amazing explanation that Becker had been released on parole, pending deportation, tentatively arranged for January 20, this year, to be with his wife, a British subject, who had regained her nationality under Section 18 (a) of the Nationality Act, and their two children. Arrogant as ever, Becker stayed at an hotel and, when he saw an appeal by the sub-branch for funds for furniture, he actually offered a donation. This, of course, was refused. Probably because the atmosphere of Freeling seemed unhealthy to him, Becker moved to Tanunda.

The explanation which was accepted officially was that there was not enough to occupy his time at Freeling. Becker has been at Tanunda since last October. It was on February 1 that the announcement of his intention to apply for naturalisation was advertised in an Adelaide paper. League officials immediately suspected that wires were being pulled behind the scenes. The president of the South Australian Branch (Brigadier A. S. Blackburn, V.C.) made searching inquiries and urged the Federal Executive to ask the Federal Government to confirm the deportation order. The General Secretary (Mr. J. C. Neagle) wired the Attorney-General (Dr. Evatt) and the Minister for Immigration (Mr. Calwell) simultaneously. Within two hours, Mr. Calwell telegraphed the following reply: "As a general principle, naturalisation will not be granted in any cases where there is an objection on security grounds. Dr. Becker was recommended by Mr. Justice Simpson for repatriation. The recommendation will be carried out as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made with the Allied Control authorities in Germany."

Mr. Calwell followed up his wire with a letter explaining that, although released on parole last year, Dr. Becker still had the status of a detained person and could, if the Security Authorities considered it necessary, be recalled to internment at any time. Mr. Calwell added that Becker was aware of the position because he had been officially informed that the Government had decided to accept the recommendation of Mr. Justice Simpson for his deportation. There was no law against his advertising his intentions to apply for naturalisation, but, in doing so, he was simply wasting his money.

As soon as the Government's decision was published, the "Adelaide Mail" sent a special representative to Tanunda to interview Becker. He maintained a typically arrogant attitude and side-stepped discussion. He also refused to pose for his photograph, saying that his friends already knew what he looked like. Mrs. Becker, who was born in the Freeling district, was present at the interview. "I will certainly not go back to Germany," she said. "I have the children to think of. There is a boy of 12 and a girl of 10, and both were born in Tanunda. I have kept this business from them. Children should not have to worry about things. The last seven years have been very trying. I don't know much about the Nazi Party membership—politics is one of the last things I'm interested in, although I suppose we shouldn't say that."

To sum up, and Mr. Hawkesley's account can be verified from official documents, the naturalisation wangle might have gone through, but for the vigilance of the South Australian Branch and the Federal Executive.

So far from being parted from her husband, Mrs. Becker is staying in Australia of her own free will. She and her children found the past seven years very trying. Women and children in European countries occupied by Dr. Becker's Nazi friends found that period much more trying.

The deportation of Becker may seem, in some quarters, an act of harshness and a revenge on a beaten enemy, but those who feel the sufferings of our own men too deeply to be affected by blunderings on behalf of political cut-throats in their hour of defeat, it is a sane and essential precaution. As early as the middle of 1943, the Huns knew they could not win the war. They immediately got their propaganda to work for a soft peace, while their service chiefs were busy laying plans for the Third World War,
We escaped defeat in the Second War only by a very narrow margin, and what carried the Huns and their accomplices within sight of victory were underground activities, not the least of which were the fifth column work carried on during the years of peace, in Allied countries, by just such people as Dr. Johannes Heinrich Becker.

ANZAC CLUB HAPPENINGS

The club snooker tournament is going along very well. Thirty-two players remain in the second round and, by Easter, some member will feel happy when collecting the first prize of £14/14/-.

The inter-sub-branch billiard and snooker championship events will commence about the middle of May, and games of this R.S.L. championship will be played in the Anzac Club. There are many players in the sub-branches, and competitive games bring the best out of them. Last year's games were played very keenly, and all games attracted good audiences. Gordon Davis won the State President's Cup for billiards for the Cottesloe sub-branch; and the State President's Cup for snooker was won by J. Leonard, with Jack Gazeley runner-up for Gloucester Park. Trophies to the value of £25 were also distributed in this championship.

The Anzac Club has very formidable teams in darts, bridge and cribbage. Challengers will be gladly welcomed. Please ring the Chief Steward and make arrangements.

On Wednesday, April 2, Mt. Hawthorn S.S.L. table tennis team will be playing exhibition games against Anzac Club players. Games will commence at 9 p.m., and a good attendance is expected to see these young champions in action.

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Special Federal Congress

A referendum of all sub-branches throughout Australia will be taken on the question of widening the qualifications for membership of the R.S.L., to admit all volunteers for active service, who served for six months and were honourably discharged from the forces. Each sub-branch will have one vote, and the voting is to be completed before May 31. This decision was made by the Special Federal Congress, which met in Melbourne on February 13 and which, incidentally, was the first Special Federal Congress in the history of the League. The Congress was convened in response to the petitions of four Branches—Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory—to reconsider the new membership rule which was adopted by the Annual Federal Congress last October. The new rule gave rise to much discussion and controversy in all States.

At the October Congress, New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, representing nine votes, carried a motion in favour of altering sub-rule (gg) of Rule 5 of the Constitution, to provide: “That all who volunteered to serve anywhere and were accepted for active service, and served for not less than six months and were honourably discharged, irrespective of where they served, may be admitted to membership of the League.” Victoria and South Australia bitterly opposed the alteration, and were active in the question re-considered.

Delegates to the Special Congress were Messrs. K. M. Bolton and K. H. Todd (N.S.W.); G. W. Holland and C. H. McKay (Victoria); R. D. Huish and C. R. Morton (Queensland); A. S. Blackburn, V.C., and A. A. J. Tonkin (S.A.); H. A. Leslie and J. Craig (W.A.); J. T. Wertheimer and H. W. Strutt (Tasmania); and H. K. Joyce (A.C.T.); with the Federal President (Mr. Eric Millhouse, K.C.) in the chair.

South Australia opened the proceedings by moving that the new rule be rescinded. The motion was seconded by Victoria. Speakers from both States emphasised that, if this were done, they would support a referendum. The motion was defeated and delegates settled down to a long discussion of ways and means of the most satisfactory form of a referendum. The motion to hold the referendum was successfully moved by South Australia. The only dissenting delegates were those from Western Australia, who asked for their vote to be recorded accordingly.

The West Australian delegates stated that their Branch considered that the new rule, as carried by the Annual Congress, should have been implemented immediately. Suggestions that not less than 51 per cent. of League members must vote; that, in a majority of State Branches, a majority of branch members voting in favour of widening the qualifications must be obtained; that the decision be accepted only if more than 51 per cent. of the financial members vote for or against the proposal; were withdrawn. Queensland moved that voting be on the basis of one sub-branch one vote. South Australia put forward an amendment that the voting be one for each 50 members, or portion thereof, of the actual number of members voting at the meeting at which the vote is taken. Both amendment and motion were debated at length, and speakers stressed that it was only fair that sub-branch workers, and not stay-at-home badge-wearers, should decide such an important question. This would be achieved by a sub-branch vote, rather than by a postal ballot. The amendment was defeated, and it was decided that the voting shall be on the basis of one sub-branch one vote. The following details of the referendum were approved, and the questions on the ballot paper will be:

“Are you in favour of all men who volunteered to serve anywhere, and were accepted for active service, and served for not less than six months and were honourably discharged, irrespective of where they served, being admitted to membership of the League?”

The printing of ballot papers will be the responsibility of the Federal office, which will forward them to the State Branches for distribution among sub-branches. The sub-branches shall forward the completed ballot paper to their respective State branch headquarters for transmission to the Federal office. State branches shall supply the Federal office with a certified list of sub-branches actually in existence, as at March 31 this year. The closing date of the ballot will be May 31. There shall be no propaganda in League journals regarding the referendum. The Federal auditor (Mr. J. H. Wicks) and the Federal treasurer (Air Vice-Marshal G. J. W. Mackinlpy, O.B.E.) will act as returning officer and scrutineer respectively.

Congress then decided that official photographers and artists, members of the Australian Comforts Fund, and accredited welfare officers of the Red Cross, Salvation Army and Y.M.C.A., who served in a theatre of war not less than six months continuously with the Forces, should be eligible for membership.

A similar motion to admit members of concert parties to membership under the same conditions was defeated.

In his report to the State Executive on February 26, Mr. J. Craig, one of the West Australian delegates, said the Federal President (Mr. Eric Millhouse, K.C.) had informed Congress that the holding of an Australia-wide ballot of
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members would cost about £12,500 for the requisite printing and postage alone. It had, therefore, been decided that a referendum of sub-branches be held on the basis of one vote to each, irrespective of its registered membership.

**Federal Executive Meeting**

The special Federal congress on membership last month was immediately followed by a meeting of the Federal Executive, at which the same delegates—Messrs. H. A. Leslie, M.L.A., and J. Craig—represented the West Australian Branch. From the beginning of the meeting criticism was outspoken of the manner in which the Federal Government has persistently passed over highly-qualified ex-servicemen and appointed defeated politicians, none of whom had had war service of any kind, to responsible and remunerative positions at home and abroad. A strong protest was made against the elevation of the New South Wales Premier (Mr. W. J. McKell) to the post of Governor-General. Such criticism and protests were the main features of the Federal Executive meeting in Melbourne on February 14 and 15. Delegates expressed grave concern at the continued flouting of the preference principle in any but "pick-and-shovel" jobs. The Federal Executive decided to make a test of one recent appointment which had gone to a defeated M.H.R., while the appointment of Mr. McKell was described as an insult to all ex-servicemen. Seldom have such expressions of anger been voiced at an executive meeting.

The need for a vigorous publicity campaign to reveal to the general public just what is, and has been, happening—of the hundreds of pounds being spent by the Federal and State executives in resisting attempts to push returned men into the background—of the contemptuous disregard for qualified returned men, when really big jobs have to be filled—was stressed by all speakers. Certain plans in this direction are being formed, but it would be inadvisable to give details until they are finalised. It will be sufficient to say at this stage that steps will be taken immediately to test at least one of the overseas appointments, and, for this purpose, men who consider themselves qualified to fill the position, will be invited to become appellants.

The first motion dealing with the position came from the Australian Capital Territory Branch, and was carried unanimously. It was that "this Federal Executive deplores the succession of Government appointments of politicians, all non-returned men, to high positions in Australia and overseas, for which appointments many ex-servicemen with distinguished war records have unexcelled qualifications and fitness." New South Wales asked that the Federal Government ensure that all senior positions in all Commonwealth offices and agencies abroad should be filled by Australians, with preference to ex-servicemen. In support of this, it was stated that the Vice-Consul for Australia in San Francisco was an Englishman who had resided for many years in the United States, and had never once set foot in Australia. A protest was lodged against the practice of the Government in not calling for applications by advertisement for certain positions in the Commonwealth Public Service, thus denying returned men the opportunity of submitting applications. If this had been done in the case of the trade positions, filled by defeated politicians, delegates were confident that not one of the present occupants would have been successful. Perhaps the most important resolution decided on the subject of preference was successfully submitted by New South Wales. As a result, the League's solicitors will re-draft sections 27 and 28 of the Re-establishment and Employment Act, to bring the sections into line with suggestions and observations made by the Special Federal Magistrate, Mr. Atkinson, S.M., in his recent judgment in the case of Saunders v. the Wool Realisation Commission in Sydney recently. In that case, which was brought by the League at great cost, Mr. Atkinson ordered that five ex-servicemen should replace non-servicemen who had been appointed wool valuers by the Wool Realisation Commission. The Federal President (Mr. Eric Millhouse, K.C.) will take the amendments to Canberra and place them before the Attorney-General (Dr. Evatt). A very comprehensive and outspoken motion of protest against the appointment of Mr. McKell to the office of Governor-General was then carried. In passing the motion, delegates emphasised that they were not concerned with the political aspects involved.

The executive decided to ask the Federal Government to abolish the sales tax on furniture. Delegates declared that many young ex-servicemen, endeavouring to set up homes, were severely handicapped by the present very heavy rate of taxation. It was agreed that the entire community was entitled to relief in this direction. On a similar subject it was resolved to ask that the statutory exemption under the Gift Duties Act be raised from £500 to £1,000. Pressing for this, Tasmania said the resolution was designed to protect the thrifty ex-serviceman, who passes on deferred pay or other money accumulated while on war service to his wife.

The Federal Executive is determined to take all steps to ensure that Field-Marshal Lord Montgomery will be given ample opportunity to mix with ex-servicemen when he visits Australia in July, and will take the matter up with the authorities who are arranging the itinerary. Delegates recalled the way officials kept Lord Louis Mountbatten to themselves, and, to a less degree, Admiral Lord Keyes, on their respective visits to Australia last year, and are confident that there will be no repetition of the wide-spread dissatisfaction that the men who served had so little opportunity of meeting these two famous war leaders.

A letter from Mr. Winston Churchill informed the Federal Executive that the writer was unable to say when he would be able to visit Australia. Delegates were keenly disappointed, but resolved to confer life membership of the League upon Mr. Churchill. This honour will be awarded him by the Federal President at the conference of the British Empire Service League in London next June.

The Minister for the Interior (Mr. H. V. Johnson) will be asked to give ex-servicemen preference in the allocation of Crown lands in the Northern Territory, and to set aside portion of the available lands for settlement by ex-servicemen only. The matter arose from a letter in which the Darwin sub-branch states there was no preference at present, the grants being made by open ballot.

The Minister for the Army will be requested that, when the death of a member of the Forces occurs in Australia, relatives should be permitted to have the burial in other than a war cemetery. Tasmania will state a case for the guidance of the Minister.

On a motion by Queensland, a letter will be sent to the British Empire Service League expressing horror and apprehension at the atrocities committed by Jewish terrorists in Palestine.
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The executive will persist in its efforts to secure an increase in the War Service Homes loans from £1,250 to £1,500, with interest reduction to 2 per cent. The executive reached a decision regarding the eligibility for membership of certain A.N.G.A.U. and New Guinea Volunteer Rifles personnel. This will be communicated to State branches.

South Australia successfully moved that no medical practitioner who has not seen active service should be appointed as a psychiatrist, full or part time, to the Repatriation Department, if a qualified returned man is available for the appointment.

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN

During the month, forward steps have been taken towards the organisation of the official organ of the W.A. Branch, which will be owned and controlled by the League, the first issue of which will be published in July. A report of the Executive sub-committee, which was published in the West Australian, met with criticism from the Press sub-branch and others, particularly the suggestion of a new name. Constructive criticism is always acceptable and we feel sure that the journal will prove to be of great value to members and a useful adjunct to the League. Members, however, will have to bear in mind that stock is in short supply, also that the committee will need to limit expenditure to the amount allotted by Congress. A controlling committee, consisting of Messrs. Stein, Leslie and Linnell, has been appointed with power to co-opt.

R.S.L. CRICKET ASSOCIATION

The highlight of the February contests was the Town v. Country R.S.L. match. The State President (Mr. J. M. W. Anderson) welcomed the country players and officially opened the match by bowling the first ball.

The Country team, who batted first, compiled 108 due mainly to the enterprising batting of M. Farrell (33), D. Gilbert (26) and R. Treasure (18).

The most successful bowlers for the Town team were A. Dick (3/18), Moyle (2/9) and Rosewarne (2/14). The luncheon, held at Monash Club, evidently proved too much for the Town team, who could only manage 68 runs when it came to their turn to bat. The only batsmen to reach double figures were C. MacDonald (30) and L. Shand (10). The most successful bowler was Petterick, who secured the excellent figures of 6/15 off 6 overs.

At the conclusion of the match, the players were the guests of the association. Trophies were awarded to D. Gilbert, captain of the Country team, and to C. MacDonald, of the Town team.

The scores were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country R.S.L.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read b Farley</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watts c Hepworth b Dick</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlton lbw Moyle</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasure b Farley</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell b Moyle</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilbert c Hepworth b Murray</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petterick b Rosewarne</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farrell c Shand b Dick</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stehn lbw Rosewarne</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hennah b Dick</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deamories not out</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundries</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bowling: Farley, 2/29; Dick, 3/18; Moyle, 2/9; Hopperton, 0/14; Rosewarne, 2/18; Murray, 1/15.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town R.S.L.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shand c Stehn</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MacDonald lbw Petterick</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosewarne c Charlton b Petterick</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murray c Charlton b Petterick</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hopperton c Petterick</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilcox c Petterick</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moyle c Farrell b Petterick</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dick c Treasure b Petterick</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulger not out</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farrell c Treasure b Petterick</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepworth gun out</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundries</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bowling: Hennah, 0/17; Stehn, 2/16; Watts, 0/9; Petterick, 6/15; Treasure, 1/3.

At the end of February the leading teams in the R.S.L. Cricket Association were: Nedlands, 18 points; West Leederville-Wembley, 16; South Perth, Maylands and Mt. Hawthorn, 12.

SEVENTEENTH BATTALION (A.I.F.) HISTORY

The Secretary of the 17th Battalion Association, Mr. R. S. McGovern writes—

"In connection with the recent publication of the History of the 17th Battalion, my Association should warmly appreciate the co-operation of your valuable journal to the extent of including in the next issue of "The Listening Post" an invitation to all members of the old battalion, who may be interested in acquiring a copy of the history, to write to me at the above-mentioned address.

"Only a limited number of copies are available, consequently we are anxious that as many as possible of our comrades are given an opportunity to secure a copy."

Mr. McGovern's address is 16 Bond St., Sydney.
Brigadier Blackburn Entertained

Victoria Cross winners of three wars were among the guests of the State Executive of March 13 when a reception was tendered Brigadier A. S. Blackburn, V.C., C.B.E., and Mrs. Blackburn. Brigadier Blackburn has been in Western Australia on a private business trip. The reception was to have been held on the previous Monday, but floods in the northern part of the State prevented him from coming to Perth by air, as he had previously intended. The other V.C.'s present were Lieut.-Colonel Fred Bell (South African War, 1899-1902), Capt. R. Gee, a former Member of the House of Commons, who has long been a resident of the State, and who won his V.C. while serving with the Royal Fusiliers in France during the first World War; Messrs. Jim Woods, Jack Axford, Cliff Sadler, who won their awards in the first World War; and Tom Starcevich, whose decoration was earned in Borneo towards the end of the recent war.

Besides being a distinguished soldier of both world wars, Brigadier Blackburn is the State President of the South Australian Branch of the League. Our own State President (Mr. J. M. W. Anderson) who presided reminded the Brigadier that the presidential chair in the boardroom next to which the distinguished guest was sitting had been presented to the W.A. Branch by the South Australian Branch in time for the official opening of Anzac House in 1934. On that occasion, it was formally presented to the League by H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester.

Responding to the toast of his health, Brigadier Blackburn spoke very forcibly on two themes. One was the critical period the League is passing through during the reconstruction years. The other was the urgent need for

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stirring up public opinion in support of the League’s demand for preference to returned men. “Now that the war is over,” he said; “the R.S.L. is facing a critical period; but we have formed a strong and wonderful organisation, which is a power of good to the serviceman and his dependants. Speaking as an old soldier, I find that the new blood from this war has been looking askance, and wondering where, and when the younger blood will be called in. One thing we must have is the young man from this war coming into the League, sharing the responsibilities, taking over the big tasks that lie ahead and, with a leavening of the older men to help, going ahead to a bigger future.” On this aspect of the League’s development, Brigadier Blackburn was able to speak from personal experience. He was the first State President in South Australia after the various unit associations formed during the first world war had amalgamated and constituted the League. He was recently elected State President in South Australia for another term of office, but, he said, he will vacate the chair in the hope that some younger man will fill it.

Brigadier Blackburn was particularly outspoken on the subject of preference. “We have found in South Australia,” he said, “that there is a great need for the R.S.L. to make public, and to keep on making public, the demand for preference to returned men, and to keep alive that spirit of protest against the breaches of the principles of preference. I’m afraid, as I see it throughout Australia, that the Act and regulations giving preference to returned soldiers must be qualified in many cases, by the addition of the phrase, only when the other man doesn’t want the job.” The R.S.L. must see that this is not allowed. We must demand that everyone in authority knows that the League insists on preference for ex-servicemen. We feel that the preference clauses are not carrying the weight that should be given to such enactments.

We must impress on the people in authority that we won’t be拂bbed off with polite letters in answer to our requests that the preference clauses should be honoured. We in South Australia,” Brigadier Blackburn continued, “are hoping to organise the people, with the aid of patriotic organisations, whom we think are behind us, to conduct big public meetings in which we will demand that real preference be given to the men who served by governments as well as by private individuals. We hope that all States and sub-branches throughout Australia will make their national cry: ‘Citizens of Australia; help the returned serviceman to get his proper measure of preference.’

Brigadier Blackburn had words of especial praise for the West Australian soldiers with whom he had been associated in the war. Everyone, he said, thinks his own unit was the best in the Army, but he felt that the 2/3rd Machine-gun Battalion, which he had the honour to command, was outstanding. In that battalion, indeed in the whole of the A.I.F., there were no better soldiers than the men of “Don” Company, who came from Western Australia. He recalled the most difficult and hopeless task he had to face during the war—the landing in Java after the fall of Singapore. Officers and other ranks alike knew that few, if any, of them would ever return, yet no man murmured, and none held back.

Reverting to the League and its ideals, Brigadier Blackburn said: “The R.S.L. is part of the national life of this country, with ideals which make for the betterment and protection by the service given by its members. Therefore, it must play its part in the enforcement, as against governments and government-controlled departments, as well as against private individuals, of the legislative enactments to ensure preference to ex-service men and women.

T. & P.D. ASSOCIATION

It has been noticed that many ex-service men and women, who are in receipt of a special rate pension under the first paragraph of the 2nd Schedule of the Repatriation Act, have not yet joined the association. These people are heartily invited to call on the secretary, Charlie Walker, and make use of the rest room at Geddon Buildings, which is for their comfort. A most enjoyable river trip took place on the afternoon of February 28. Members and their wives were loud in their praises of the good work put in by the social committee under Bill Shearer and his able assistants. It is proposed to hold the anniversary smoko on May 20. This will mark the seventh anniversary of the formation of the association. Subscriptions are 5/-, payable in advance. The musical programme, which is being arranged by Ted Scott, promises to be something out of the bag. At present, there are 21 members who are patients at Hollywood, and eight at Edward Millen. All these members have been regularly visited by the hospital visitors, Messrs. A. Burgess and G. Davis, and hospital comforts have been distributed. Members are reminded of the darts and eighbnoons, which are arranged for their enjoyment.

2/4 MACHINE GUN BATTALION

Second-Fourth Machine Gun Battalion (A.I.F.) Ex-Members’ Association held their annual meeting on February 6, when the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mr. C. E. Green; vice-president, Mr. A. J. Cough; secretary, Mr. D. D. Pearson; hon. treasurer, Mr. R. M. Lander; committee, Messrs. D. F. Howton, L. Armstrong, L. Cody, J. Gorrige and A. Winter; hon. legal adviser, Mr. T. R. Ambrose; auditor, Mr. N. M. Symington. The next reunion will be held at the A.A. Clubrooms on April 2, 1947, at 8 p.m. Members kindly advise the secretary (B4156) not later than Friday, March 28, of their intention to be present.

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PERSONALITIES

☆ Mr. William Duggan, who served as a stretcher-bearer with the 2/28th Battalion, has been in Perth on a holiday and has met many friends at the Anzac Club. As he will be here a few weeks longer, he would like to meet more.

☆ It is with regret that we announce the passing to higher service of the late Mr. J. W. Nelson, of the 'Totally and Permanently Disabled Soldiers' Association. The funeral was attended by members of the association. Gunner J. Noble sounded the Last Post and the Reveille, and Father Fahey, of the Old 11th Battalion, officiated at the graveside.

☆ South Perth members were delighted at the presence of a former stalwart, Wally Greaves, at the sub-branch meeting on February 27. A warm welcome was accorded him by Horrie Day, who occupied the chair for the time being. Being a past secretary of the sub-branch, and a staunch Leaderman, Wally never fails to look in on sub-branch pal's, when ever he is down in the city. During his term of office as secretary, Wally proved his worth and gave excellent service. He has been down from Coorow on the track of matters dealing with the Land Settlement Scheme. We wish him and his family the best of luck, good health and success in the farming business.

☆ Geoff. Archdeacon, hitherto president of the South Perth sub-branch, has had to resign that office through pressure of business. During his term of office, he gave excellent service to the sub-branch. He was always on deck when something was launched in the interest of the sub-branch and South Perth members deeply regret his leaving the chair. Vice-president, J. B. Walmsley will fill the presidential chair for the remainder of the year. He is a hard worker, who has certainly earned his elevation.

☆ The president of the Sixteenth Battalion and Fourth Brigade Association of Western Australia, Mr. W. J. Lileyman, has supplied us with a list of South Australian members of the Sixteenth who are coming to Perth to march with West Australian comrades on Anzac Day. Some of them are bringing their wives with them, and the ladies can also be assured of a really cordial welcome. Those coming are the president of the South Australian association, Mr. Aimbuller, and Mrs. Aimbuller; the secretary, Mr. C. Williamson, and Mrs. Gower; Mr. and Mrs. W. Tanner; Mr. and Mrs. Solomon; Mr. and Mrs. Zlinski; Mr. and Mrs. R. Allman; Mr. and Mrs. D. Slow; Mr. and Mrs. P. Anderson; Messrs. J. Hughes, McKay, Fitzgerald, H. Pope, F. Garcey, C. Smith, F. Munro, Richards, P. O. Neill, A. Bishop and son, Walters (Mar), H. E. Smith, R. Paterson, Fred Maruran, D. Brackenridge, Eames, May, Giles (who is president of the S.A. branch of the 48th Bn. Association); Lawson, Russell and Chet; Mr. and Mrs. Starr; Mr. and Mrs. Crooke and children. The Perth Town Hall has been engaged for a social reunion to welcome the visitors on April 17.

☆ Mr. Hawthorn's sick state for the month included J. Neeson at Edward Millen Home, Harry Blunt at Wooroloo, Vic Finney at Ward X and H. B. Facheas at Ward XI, Hollywood Hospital. Cot-cases in their own homes are Syd George, Tom May, Bill Sates and Alec Pearmain. All would be pleased to receive visits from members.

☆ Old members were all very pleased to see two returned men of the 1939-45 War elected vice-presidents of the Mr. Hawthorn-North Leederville sub-branch. They are Ernie Cooley and Ron Morton. This is decidedly a step in the right direction, and the new vice-presidents have both devoted much time and rendered much valuable service to the many activities of the sub-branch during the past twelve months. Ron Morton is the son of a former esteemed president and secretary, the late Jim Morton, who was such a splendid worker for the League and the sub-branch. It is very gratifying to see Ron following in his good father's footsteps.

☆ Members of Denmark sub-branch received with genuine regret at their annual meeting the announcement that the retiring president, Mr. T. L. Hollings, would not seek re-election. Mr. Hollings said he was retiring to give one of the younger men a chance to be elected to the chair. Mr. Hollings has earned the thanks of his sub-branch for the unending efforts which have placed the show on such a firm footing, and for the harmonious spirit which has prevailed at meetings. He is succeeded by Mr. H. J. North, a returned man of the former war, whose sentiments regarding younger men accepting office were similar to those of Mr. Hollings. Even when it became apparent that one of the younger men felt inclined to accept the responsibility attached to the presidential chair, it was only with difficulty that Mr. North could be persuaded to accept nomination.

☆ At the February meeting of the Katanning sub-branch, the president (Mr. W. N. Mathews) had the unusually pleasant duty put upon him of presenting four Certificates of Service at the one meeting. Those whose years of generous and consistent service were recognised on this occasion were Messrs. J. W. Old, H. W. A. Tylor, W. E. Bailley and A. T. Crouch. All four have an outstanding record of loyal service to the Katanning sub-branch. Apart from being hard-working members, Messrs. Old and Tylor have at different times filled the position of president over a number of years. Mr. Bailley did outstanding work in connection with the District Soldiers' Welfare Association during the war years, and Mr. Crouch has looked after the sub-branch's finances in the capacity of treasurer for more years than he cares to remember.

☆ Among recent awards to West Australian soldiers was that of the British Empire Medal to Pte. Edwin Athley Smith of Subiaco, and formerly of the 2/11th Bn. He was captured at El Alamein on July 27, 1942, and was later in prison camps in North Africa and Italy. He escaped from a working-camp after the surrender of Italy, and immediately joined the Italian partisan forces. With these, he assisted in blowing up a factory. When a British mission arrived by parachute, he acted as guide and interpreter, and carried out sabotage operations on railroads, bridges and other installations.

☆ Mr. Walter Grandison (formerly Squadron-Leader, R.A.A.F.) has been awarded the M.B.E. for courageous
service as a Flight Lieutenant with the R.A.F., during the evacuation of Singapore. The citation published in the London Gazette on January 17, 1947, states that he was in charge of explosive stores from Singapore during the period February 8-10, 1942. While barges were being loaded at the quayside, one barge was seen to be on fire. With outstanding courage, Flight-Lieutenant Grandison boarded the barge to investigate. On removing a quantity of explosives, he discovered that the fire had been caused by a leaking flame-float, which he immediately removed. His devotion to duty undoubtedly saved the whole stock of explosives, and may indeed have been instrumental in saving the whole shipment. Mr. Grandison’s home is in Claremont.

☆ Congratulations to Bill Lonnie of the State Executive and Subiaco sub-branch on his recent award of the Military Cross. When we went to press the citation had not been published, and Bill himself could not supply any detailed information. He thinks it might have been for something that happened when he was an A.I.F. Captain serving in Borneo.

☆ Just before the publisher’s deadline is drawn, we congratulate George Yates, manager of R.S.L. House, on his success in winning the Canning seat in the Legislative Assembly. Other returned men whose election to the new Parliament seems assured at this stage are Messrs. Murray (Bunbury), Grayden (Middle Swan). The last-mentioned polled exceptionally well in the contest for the Federal seat of Swan last year.

☆ Camelo writes: There died at Mount Barker (South Australia) last month the Rt. Rev. J. R. B. Love, M.A., M.C., D.C.M., a brother of Dr. John Love of Nedlands. Bob Love joined the Imperial Camel Corps in Kharga (Egypt) early in 1916. Although an ordained minister of religion, he preferred to enlist as a fighting soldier. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Military Cross. Bob was seriously wounded at Damascus and for a week or two his recovery was doubtful. On his return he took up mission work at Kunnymia, north of Broome, where he performed the remarkable task of translating several gospels of the New Testament into the language of the Worora tribe. At his death, he was the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia. I soldiered with Bob for three years, and could tell many stories of his goodness and his bravery. He was the whitest man I have met, and his passing in his mid-fifties is a sad and severe loss, not only to his wife and family, but to all who were privileged, as I was, to gain his valued friendship.

☆ Yale “Bill” Anderson

The scythe of the Grim Reaper cut another tie with the past when Mr. W. Anderson, affectionately known as “Old Bill” to a host of friends and admirers, answered the Last Call on March 3. Indeed, the date of his passing was in keeping of the eternal fitness of things, for it was on March 3, that Australia’s first contingent of fighting men to serve the Empire overseas sailed from Sydney for the Sudan in 1885. The late Bill Anderson was a very old, if not oldest, contributor of The Listening Post, and one of this paper’s most esteemed friends.

A journalist of the older school of men of letters, who aimed at literary excellence in their work, he had a keen sense of news values, and a pleasing sense of humour as well. He was actually above the prescribed military age when men were wanted for the first A.I.F., but this did not prevent him from getting front-line service overseas. His wide experience of men and places served him in good stead as a Press man and his extraordinary retentive memory helped to make him a rich mine of historical information, especially about the Osborne Park district, in which he resided for almost an average man’s lifetime. The late Bill Anderson has established a splendid record of public service, both in the League and outside it. He was a foundation member of the Osborne Park sub-branch and was able to watch the sub-branch grow with the district. For many years before the end came, he was a victim of war-caused ill-health, which necessitated long spells in hospital. However, he remained cheerful to the end and, until quite recently, he was forwarding contributions to this paper. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, and we join with the Osborne Park sub-branch in offering his relatives and friends the assurance that their grief is also our own. He was, in every sense of the phrase, a grand old soldier.

R.S.L. FISHING VENTURE

After much hard work, backed by courage and enterprise, returned men in Western Australia have launched a counter-offensive against the fishing ring, which is mostly controlled by foreigners. The Mandurah Fisherman’s Co-operative Company Ltd. has been registered as a company and is now supplying fish in the metropolitan area. The men who have banded themselves into this company are all Australian-born returned servicemen, about 70 per cent. of whom served in the recent war. Much of the credit for launching the venture goes to Bill Delaney, a Second A.I.F. man, who had such faith in its future that he resigned a salaried job in the city to become the organiser and first secretary of the company, which was promoted by the Rehabilitation Committee of the State Executive. At a recent meeting of the State Executive, Mr. Ralph Stoddart, who is a member of the Rehabilitation Committee and a shareholder of the company, reported on its formation and the fact that arrangements had been made with nine ex-servicemen to commence the distribution of the fish on a house-to-house basis. Refrigeration accommodation has been secured at Victoria Park, and members of the company have started delivering fish there. Each hawker is equipped with his own motor truck, containing an ice-box, and has been allotted his individual sales area.

The scheme supplies a long-felt want and, from that point of view alone, it should achieve a marked commercial success. It has also provided a means of rehabilitating ex-servicemen, and that fact alone should commend it to all members of this League.

2/11 BATTALION ASSOCIATION

A smoke social will be held in the 16th Battalion Drill Hall, at the foot of William Street, Perth, on March 28. The unconsumed portion of the day’s ration need not be produced, as admission is fixed at 1/- a head. A large attendance is desired. Current subscriptions will not be collected on that date.
VARIA

☆ If Britain’s terrible winter has done nothing else it has shown that all the bad winters do not happen in time of war, though British and Australian soldiers have had plenty of justification for thinking so. England’s worst previous winter was the Great Frost of 1740, when the Thames was frozen hard to a distance well above London. Two hundred years later, in the first winter of the recent war, Piccadilly was a foot deep in snow, and ice floes actually began to form around the English coast. Soldiers of the First World War will remember the winters of the Western Front, especially the bitter winter on the Somme in 1916-17. However, when Flemish soldiers outside Bruges were given a Christmas ration of a gallon of wine a piece, on Christmas Day, 1947, the wine was frozen solid in its casks and had to be freed with an axe and carved with a sword before the troops could find a warm home for it. Christmas Day in the disturbed Europe of 1848 was bitterly cold, but on Christmas Day, 1860, in a time of profound peace, Disraeli’s secretary had his whiskers frozen in Hughenden Park.

☆ The Northam sub-branch had a rich windfall for its amelioration fund when the Northam 2/28th Battalion Welfare Fund Committee decided to allocate £250 from its surplus funds to the sub-branch. The cheque was received at a sub-branch meeting amidst applause, and the president (Mr. J. Adshedd), in expressing appreciation of such a splendid gift, paid a tribute to the untried work of the ladies who had created the fund to provide amenities for the 2/28th Battalion during the war.

☆ At a recent meeting, the Northam sub-branch had before it a letter from a war widow, who explained details of her plight in being without adequate housing for herself and two children. She was living with her parents in Northam, she stated, and the only accommodation available was a room at the end of the verandah, where the three of them had to sleep winter and summer. At times the room became flooded and they were obliged to move until the flood subsided, depending, meanwhile, upon the generosity of neighbours for temporary accommodation. Her elder child suffered considerably from rheumatism. She had endeavoured to secure one of several houses that were being built in Northam for the Workers’ Homes Board, but had been informed that they had all been allotted. Some of the people who were to secure the homes she considered far less deserving than herself. The Workers’ Homes Board advised that her case had been noted for future consideration. The meeting decided to write the State Executive to seek information as to the housing priority of the woman concerned.

☆ Recently an ex-serviceman in the metropolitan area applied to the Rationing Commission for the necessary ration authority to permit him to open a hamburger shop in Northam. The application was refused on the ground that the shop was not warranted. The matter came before the Northam sub-branch at a recent meeting, when it was indicated by the State Executive that the Northam sub-branch’s opinion as to the necessity or otherwise for the hamburger shop would probably determine whether or not the required ration would be granted. Members were surprised at the refusal to issue ration tickets and took the attitude that it was not for them so much as the general public to say whether or not there was a demand for the hamburger shop. They decided to write the State Executive and ask it to inquire why the applicant, who was stated to be a worthy and enterprising type, was refused rations for his proposed business.

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A writer in the United States military periodical, Armored Cavalry Journal, Major Hal D. Seward, has given the relative strength of the main armies of the world. These are his figures: Russia, about 9,000,000; China, 2,700,000 regulars in the National Army; Britain, about 1,500,000; and the United States, about 1,300,000. Major Seward drew particular attention to the very large army maintained by Yugoslavia. It numbers 800,000, about 40 per cent. of whom are women. In regard to the Russian Army, Major Seward added a note of caution. Because of "secrecy and evasion," he said, "any figure can be grossly inaccurate."

A scathing commentary on Poland's recent "free and open elections" has been written by David Boon in the New York Sun. He said, "The Polish people went through their elections with perfect artillery and air support. It just goes to show the value of light tanks in upholding the popular will. The successful candidate emerged suffering only from battle fatigue, and announced in Russian that the people had triumphed again, and that the cause of democracy would go marching on under the leadership of the secret police, Pravda editorialists, and a suitable force of machine-gunners. The Potsdam Agreement was repulsed with heavy losses, and was reported asking for rehabilitation and a transfer to Georgia, where elections are quite as rough, but convenient to first aid stations."

An interesting sidelight on the Major Causen case was supplied by a former P.O.W., writing in a Sydney paper. He said that, when the boys were told to fill in the form supplied by the Japs, they described themselves as dishwashers, labourers and anything on earth rather than say they had been journalists, radio announcers, engineers, mechanics, or workers in any form of skilled employment. Anyone who was a specialist of any kind had the devil's own job to stand out against being forced to collaborate in some way with the Japs.

According to the Atlantic Monthly, the rebuilding of Italy is providing "a heartening experience." Bridges and houses are springing up on all sides. What used to be heaps of rubble is again civilised landscape. Whatever could be done with stones, mortar and labour of hands, independently of bureaucratic interference and foreign materials, is being achieved by the indefatigable industry of a people, which has made up its mind not to die.

The decision to send Australian wool to Japan recalls what an artificial setup Japan's economic system is. Producing very little in the way of raw materials, Japan has to import from several countries. Then she has to export the goods manufactured from them, and undersell the original producers in their own markets to get the money to pay for them. Surely, we are not going to be stupid enough to let history repeat itself in Japan.

According to an English correspondent's estimate, a quarter of a million tons of the White Cliffs of Dover have fallen into the sea in a landslide at St. Margaret's Bay, once the beauty spot of the Straits. The fall happened a quarter of a mile west of the village. A mass of headland, 100 yards long, 30 feet wide, and 200 feet high, subsided to form a new peninsula. St. Margaret's Bay was shelled by German guns on the French side of the Channel during the war. Commandoes used the shell-torn houses of the village and the beaches for battle training. It is thought that the effects of the war and the recent bitter winter weather in the Old Country caused the fall.

The British War Minister, Mr. Ballenger, told the House of Commons last month that there are still 45,000 Japanese prisoners of war on Singapore and Malaya. "We plan to begin repatriating them in the near future," he said. Anti-Japanese feelings still run high in Malaya, particularly among the Chinese. Japanese who escape from prison camps disappear, as a rule, and are never seen again. Some of the luckier ones are returned promptly, bruised and battered, to the nearest camp.

AGED SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN'S FUND

The secretary of the Fremantle sub-branch writes: "For some time, my sub-branch has been concerned as to the purpose for which the Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Fund was established. It was presumably raised mainly by sub-branches and their auxiliaries in a small way for aged returned men who require assistance by reason of their slender means. The Act provided that the fund should operate in 1940, but to-date it has been put to little use, despite the fact that donations are still coming in from the.

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same sources. We suggest that it could be utilised in various ways to make the last days of the people it was raised for a little happier and easier. Fawkham House is now in commission, and it could afford a retreat for an occasional holiday resort, on the recommendation of a sub-branch. Again, the fund could be used to provide amenities in the way of replenishing bed-linen and clothes which these people on small incomes cannot afford, and in numerous other ways. It would be interesting to know what is in the minds of the trustees as to the fund’s future disbursement. We, at least, expect a lead from these gentlemen.”

[The fund is being used for the purpose for which it was raised and this is laid down in an Act of Parliament. Many old Diggers are, today, receiving an extra few shillings a week from this fund. The fund cannot be used for the purposes suggested by our correspondent. Sub-branches and the State Executive have amendment funds to supply these needs.—Editor, L.P.]

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**Britain and India**

_by C. R. Collins_

“Indie is not an Empire attached to England in the same way as the Roman Empire was attached to Rome... Nor is it an Empire which costs us money or hampers our finances. It is self-supporting, and is held at arm’s length in such a way that our destiny is not very closely entangled with its own.”

Professor J. R. Seeley, in “The Expansion of England.”

Mr. Attlee’s announcement that the British Government had decided to withdraw from India at the end of June 1948 came so unexpectedly that the Press described it as an ultimatum. So it was, in the sense that it served notice on the Indian party leaders that they must compose their differences and form a stable government for their country or relapse into the anarchy that prevailed before the coming of the Europeans. In the language of the glorious troops, the British Government has “had” India. The long and tedious history of attempts at constitution-making are fresh in the minds of all newspaper readers. It is a history of wrangles between factions, punctuated by irritating deadlocks and civil disturbances in which British troops have more than once been called upon to restore order. Whether or not one agrees that the time has come to leave India to the Indians, one cannot blind himself to the fact that only such a course
will satisfy all classes of Indians, nor can one deny the bold realism with which the British Government has faced up to the situation. Viewed narrowly, Britain may be making a virtue of necessity, but the British Government is also conceding to India the same rights of self-government and self-determination in defence of which so much blood and treasure were poured out in two world wars.

A British officer, who recently came here on furlough from India, said that the Indian people like the British people but dislike the British Government. Like so many others, in so many lands and in so many centuries, they would prefer an imperfect regime of their own to the most perfect administration imposed on them from without. It is idle to say they are not fit to govern themselves. The same thing was said about Eire. The point is that these people are determined to govern themselves, and Britain has agreed that they should. The parting of the ways, when it comes, is more likely to be friendly, and the friendliness is more likely to be enduring than would be the case if it were preceded by revolution and bloodshed.

There is no parallel between the acquisition of India and that of any other partner in the British Commonwealth. For the most part, the British Dominions were the result of natural expansion. In India, as has often been pointed out, the British came to trade and stayed to govern. There was no definite plan of conquest or occupation. It is not pretended that the measures of the Honourable East India Company were always honourable or even just; but such incidents as the impeachments of Clive and Warren Hastings are evidence of a public conscience in Britain, which refused to condone spoliation even in the interests of Empire. The British found India a sub-continent of many States yielding a nominal allegiance to the Great Mogul, a chaos of warring peoples, and a general condition of most deplorable anarchy. In the isolated cases where political stability had been achieved, the system was not so much government of a low type, as robbery of a high type. The prevailing concept of the State was the robber State, whose swords were turned against every other State. These had to be conquered for the protection of the rest of India, and in these conquests Indian troops played a big part. If the British did nothing else, they established peace and stability throughout the length of the land. They also gave the Indians some measure of administrative experience that could be used to great advantage in the new India.

Such considerations would be purely academic were it not for the fact that the British withdrawal from India must profoundly influence defence policy in Australia. During the recent House of Commons debate on India, there were complaints that security guarantees for the future had not been demanded. It should be plain enough to all unbiased observers that the best guarantee for security in India, and the neighbouring parts of the world, is a friendly India. There is no outward or visible reason why even an Indian Republic should not remain a willing ally of the British Commonwealth. That, in itself, would be a greater guarantee for safety than a discontented partner who must be held down by thousands of armed men.

It has been pointed out that withdrawals from India and Egypt will necessitate opening up another line of communication between Britain and Australia and South-East Asia, across Central Africa. The idea was developed during the recent war, when passage through the Mediterranean was denied to our ships. At the time, it was also foreseen that the Indian Ocean must eventually become another and greater Mediterranean Sea, with vital interests for South Africa, India and Australia. For the defence of these interests, a friendly and co-operative India is essential. Placed as she is, on the flank of the sea and air route from Africa to Australia, a hostile India could constitute a danger too serious to be dismissed lightly. The possibility of such a transformation of the Indian Ocean must necessarily stress the geographical importance of Western Australia in future defence planning. It is an open secret that Empire defence is to be made a matter of co-ordination between the various parts of the British Commonwealth and perhaps other countries as well. That, in itself, should kill the old and dangerous concept of defence which made preparation wait upon attack. That concept nearly killed us twice. The third time, we may not be so lucky.

☆ Mr. Digger: “I see by the paper that its against the law to export Budgerigar seed.”

Mrs. Digger: “Really! I thought they came from eggs.”

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION?
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BY "PIP TOK"

☆ For sublime impudence, the prize must go to a Mr. N. H. Knorr, who succeeded the notorious Judge Rutherford as world president of that multi-named organisation, which is best known to Australians as Jehovah's Witnesses. Old Diggers will recall that Rutherford was sentenced to a long term of imprisonment by a United States Court after his conviction for treason and other pro-German activities during the first World War. The organisation was banned in Australia as an illegal association during the earlier part of the recent war, but the ban was lifted by the Curtin Government and no criticism of this sect could be published or broadcast in Australia unless it had been passed by the State Publicity Censor. The censorship instruction was issued while Jehovah Witnesses were being prosecuted for refusing to serve in the forces when called up, or for other conduct calculated to interfere with the war effort. Now comes Mr. Knorr to tell us the wartime ban in Australia was caused by "stupid politicians who did not know better, and who were affected by war hysteria." The self-styled Witnesses were banned not because of their religion but because of their interference in the war effort. The politicians concerned would have been stupid had they not imposed the ban. It is merely common sense, and not hysteria, to ban traitors when the country is fighting for its very existence. Mr. Knorr mentioned that 10,000 Jehovah Witnesses were thrown into German concentration camps. That proves little beyond the ingratitude of the Hun towards a sect that was doing Hitler's work so well in Australia and America.

☆ Eastern States papers published photographs of Mr. McKell returning the salute of a policeman outside Parliament House, Sydney. Mr. McKell’s salute is an absurd compromise between the Navy salute and that of the Boy Scouts. One sincerely hopes that one who has always been so unilitary as Mr. McKell has not been "militarised" by his elevation to the office of Governor-General. Possibly, now that professional servicemen have been detailed to act as his Aides-de-Camp, they will teach him that, when a salute is returned by someone in "civvies" this is done by raising the hat—and not by going through the motions of a self-conscious recruit who has mistaken a Chief Petty Officer of the Navy for an Admiral.

☆ This happened one afternoon in the Club, when Phil Carter was having communion with another R.A.A.F. man who had served in the Middle East. The latter, discussing the ways of the Wogs, mentioned that a Wog who had served him in some mental capacity or other had sent him several bottles of expensive scent since his return to Australia. It was mentioned that the scent bottles were large and the stuff of a quality that must have cost the Wog more than a few piasers. "Yes," Phil remarked, "but he'll expect something in return." "Pigs-eye!" came the quick retort. "I sent him a boomerang."

BOOMERANG CLUB

On February 14, a group of representatives of all services who had enjoyed the privileges of the Boomerang Club in London, met to discuss arrangements for a proposed dinner and presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Troy and Miss McKinnon on their return to W.A. The committee decided to try to locate all former members of the Boomerang Club, with the object of gathering them together to meet Mr. and Mrs. Troy and Miss McKinnon and to show appreciation of their untiring efforts at this popular rendezvous. It was suggested that they be presented with a boomerang.

Will those wishing to join in the dinner and presentation please get in touch with the hon. secretary, Miss Stella O'Keefe, Adelphi Hotel, Perth, as soon as possible. The closing date for acceptances being March 31.

The suggested cost of the dinner is 7/6 a head and 15/- a double ticket, so that any member who wishes may bring one guest. Subscriptions for the dinner and donations towards the presentation will be gratefully received by the hon. secretary. Those who are unable to attend the dinner will nevertheless be anxious to contribute to the presentation.

Mr. and Mrs. Troy and Miss McKinnon left England by the Orion on February 23, and it is proposed to hold the dinner and make the presentation in mid-April, at a place and time to be fixed.

STATE EXECUTIVE
February 12, 1947

At the meeting of the State Executive on February 12, there were present Messrs. Anderson, Edmondsen, Sten, Davies, Mansbridge, Hakombe, James, Thoin, Leiden, Watt, Bartson, Fitzhardinge, Herlihy, Paton, Stoddart, Lonnie and Murray. Leave of absence was granted to Colonel Collett.

Staff.—A progress report setting out the classification of the staff was adopted.

Repatriation.—The nomination of a solicitor, who is also an ex-service man, for a position on No. 2 Assessment Tribunal was reported.

War Service Homes.—It was reported that a number of individual complaints had been investigated, and action had been taken to bring under notice that a large number of building blocks were being made available by the Perth City Council at Floreat Park.

R.S.I. House.—A report on R.S.I. House showed that the average number of beds used was 977 a week, and the total number for the 29 weeks ended January 31 was 28,342.

Land Committee.—The Land Committee submitted a report on an interview with the Premier, the Minister for Lands and the Director of Land Settlement. It was pointed out that approval had been given for the purchase of 474 properties under the

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Rural Bank. 322 men had been assisted on their own holdings, and 124 on share farming of lessees, making a total of 890. On the other hand, not one man had yet been placed under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme.

Re-establishment.—The Re-establishment Committee reported steps taken in connection with the development of fish-marketing by servicemen.

Trustees.—It was reported that relief had been granted to 29 applicants by the Relief Fund Trustees.

S.S.I.—A report was submitted on arrangements made for a sports meeting on Leederville Oval on March 1.

Security Loans.—Reference was made to the appointment of Mr. Shulkin as Acting Director of War Loans in succession to Mr. Latham, M.L.C. It was resolved to refer the matter to the Re-establishment Committee, with instructions that a strong protest be lodged with the Treasury Department, against the manner in which preference had been disregarded in filling this appointment. It was also resolved that it be pointed out to the Prime Minister that the League had always given strong support to the committees controlling the raising of subscriptions for the Security Loans.

Sub-Branches.—Appointments of officials as advised by the North Perth, Meckering, Williams, Darcan and Bridgetown sub-branches were confirmed. A letter was received from the Commonwealth Bank asking confirmation of the bank permitting withdrawals to be made on the Bunbury sub-branch building fund account without the signature of the secretary of the sub-branch. The matter was referred for further investigation and report. The Albany sub-branch suggested that a qualified person be nominated and a test case be made of the Minister's appointment. It was resolved to refer the suggestion to the Federal Executive. Similar action was decided upon in connection with a suggestion that, failing redress, the Federal Executive should press for the expulsion of Mr. Dorman from the League.

Military Cemeteries.—A request from the Albany sub-branch that the Government be urged to arrange for the return of the bodies of servicemen, who died overseas, for burial in home towns was referred back as being a matter which the sub-branch could bring up at the next State Congress.

Visit of Executive Members.—A suggestion was received from Yokine sub-branch asking that members of the Executive be
The appointment of officials, as advised by the Midland Junction, Manjimup, Carlisle, Bedford-Morley Parks, Upper Swan, Nannup, Baldivis, North Beach and Swan View-Greenmount sub-branches were approved.

State War Memorial.—An appeal for a donation was received and the matter was referred to the Finance Committee for investigation and report.

Perth Sub-Branch.—A request to enter a team for the Basket Ball Association, under the name of Monash Club (R.S.L.) was approved. A further request for formation of an R.S.L. Football Branch was approved.

Italian Club.—Letter of protest was received from the Perth sub-branch suggesting legislation to allow aborigines to claim full citizenship rights. The matter was referred back as one for State Congress.

Victoria Park Sub-Branch.—This sub-branch wrote concerning the unduly appearance of the land near the Causeway and the danger from high voltage wires on advertising hoardings. It was resolved to write to the Perth City Council.

Aged Sailors and Soldiers' Fund— Fremantle City sub-branch asked that service pensioners and other indigent returned men of the 1914-18 War be supplied with necessities in kind from the fund. The request was forwarded to the trustees.

Eligibility.—A report was received from the No. 4 District Council suggesting that certain Press statements should be made on the matter of eligibility. As the matter was at present before State Federal Congress, it was decided to await the decision of Congress.

T.B. Association.—Colonel Mansbridge was appointed to represent the League on the T.B. Association. The former representative was the late Mr. J. Cornell.

Lotteries Commission.—In connection with a vacancy on the Lotteries Commission, the following motion was agreed to: "In view of the spirit of preference expressed in Section 4 of the Lotteries Control Act, the Executive express to the Premier the hope that consideration will be given to appointment of an ex-service man."

FEBRUARY 26, 1947

At the meeting of the State Executive on February 26, there were present Messrs. Anderson, Sten, Davies, Mansbridge, Craig, Halcombe, Holmes, Mr. J. C. Yeates, Olden, Hunt, Watt, Bateson, Fitzhardinge, Murray, Herlhy, Stahl, Paton, Ferguson, Stewart, Lonnie, Stoddart, Potts and Overheu.

Land Committee.—The Land Committee's report showed action taken to endeavour to meet the serious position in regard to the supply of superphosphate. It also referred to the sale of wheel and crane tractors to ex-servicemen. There were reports of the sale of properties to non-servicemen which were apparently suitable for service land settlement. The report was adopted.

Staff Report.—The staff report was amended as follows: "That an allowance of £200 be made from League funds, as a retiring allowance to the State Secretary; that, in addition to this, the State President launch a State-wide appeal amongst sub-branches, along the lines submitted in the committee's report."

War Service Homes.—The report of the War Service Homes Committee covered a number of individual cases of hardship dealt with, and the efforts being made to have road transport restrictions relaxed in the carriage of bricks and other building materials.

Re-Establishment.—The Re-Establishment Committee reported on steps taken to assist the launching of the Mandurah Cooperative Co. Ltd., to assist returned servicemen in fish-marketing. The committee also reported on the disposal of fishing boats at Fremantle through the Disposals Commission and a number of individual cases. It was also stressed that the attention of employers should be drawn to the provisions of the Re-Establishment Act regarding preference to returned servicemen, and that employers be urged to state that preference would be given in their advertisements.

Official Organ.—A report by a committee appointed by the Executive to go into the question of the publication of an official organ contained a number of recommendations, which the Executive adopted. The following members of the Executive were appointed a committee of management: Messrs. Leslie, Sten and Lonnie.

Presidents and Secretaries.—At the meeting of presidents and secretaries of metropolitan sub-branches, an attendance of 93 from 41 sub-branches was reported.

Special Federal Congress.—A report was submitted by Mr. J. Craig, and Mr. Leslie reported on the Federal Executive meeting. It was resolved to send thanks to the Victorian Branch for their kindness and courtesy to ex-servicemen and also a letter to Mrs. Pink, Secretary to the President. A vote of thanks was accorded to the delegates, Messrs. Leslie and Craig.

SUB-BRANCH ACTIVITIES

KATANNING

At the annual general meeting on February 21, the following officers were elected: President, Mr. W. N. Matthews; vice-presidents Messrs. G. Dilworth, F. Fremantle and L. A. Thomson; secretary, Mr. P. A. Stevens; treasurer, Mr. A. T. Crouch; auditors, Messrs. J. Berger and C. Morrison; management committee, Messrs. J. W. Old, Brian Allen, A. Leslie, C. M. Morrison and H. Meldrum. The meeting viewed favourably an offer from the Katanning Repatriation Club to assist the sub-branch in raising funds to assist in the building of the Memorial Hall and club rooms. It was decided that preliminary plans and specifications for the Memorial Hall and club rooms be tabled at the next meeting. The annual Diggers' Golf Day will be held again this year, and a committee has been appointed to make the necessary arrangements. The barbecue, organised by the finance committee, in aid of funds for the projected memorial building, was held on the Katanning Golf Links on March 15.

MUNDARING AND DISTRICTS

The attendance at the February meeting was not as good as it could have been. The usual gratuities were present, but it they dropped off there would be no sub-branch. As the sub-branch has been directly and indirectly responsible for some improvements in the area it is a pity it is not receiving more support. It will be a matter of disappointment if dues are not paid before the end of March. We congratulate Major Colin Cameron on his recent mention in Despatches for his splendid organisation in the P.O.W. camps in Burma. Ask the Diggers who were with him; they know. The Women's Auxiliary (Glen Forrest section) organised a barbecue at Glen Forrest on Friday, March 7. Their efforts were somewhat damped by rain, but by quickly moving into the Agricul-
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SOUTH PERTH

The recent meeting was well attended. The reports of sub-branches were presented and discussed, and the meeting ended with the election of new officers. The annual ball and social event was held on Saturday, January 13, and was well attended. The sub-branch was represented at the Annual State Congress, where much knowledge was gained for future years. Special mention must be made of the staunch and hard-working members, and the sub-branch thanks them for their wholehearted laborious efforts. Special thanks go to the splendid work done, and assistance rendered by the Women's Auxiliary.

NORTH-EAST FREMANTLE

At a meeting on February 24, Mr. Charlton was in the chair. Although the attendance was not large, many subjects were presented and discussed with keenness, and the meeting was highly interesting for some time. Once again the housing situation was discussed. Mr. Herlihy, who is a representative on the War Service Homes Committee, assured the meeting that everything possible is being done to alleviate the position. The fishing industry, too, was given considerable attention. Points of explanation were made by Messrs. Williams and Doust on the Fishing School at Cronulla, N.S.W. This industry has, for some considerable time, been a bugbear and various questions have been raised regarding the overcoming of the monopoly which exists in this quarter at present. A motion to the effect that by Mr. Wall work about immigration of fishermen from Britain may be the answer to the situation. Alf Doust is taking a keen interest in this industry and has gathered information from various angles so that his holiday trip to Mandurah in the near future may be a success. Voting on the eligibility question will take place at the May meeting. As this is a summons meeting for the annual election of officers the roll-call should show a full attendance. It has been strongly stressed in the past, and the matter was again referred to by Mr. Payne, that all matters discussed at sub-branch meetings be treated as confidential. Members are asked to pay particular attention to this request.

WAROONA-HAMEL

A record attendance marked the occasion of the annual public meeting. Popular speaker, Mr. Ray Walsme, was unanimously re-elected for a further term. Hard-working secretary, John Wood, was forced to relinquish his position owing to pressure of other work and, to take his place, Mr. N. Ricketts was elected. Among other officers elected were: Messrs. S. R. Ivey and T. Law, as vice-presidents; and Mr. F. Bowen, as assistant secretary. On February 28, members of the sub-branch, with friends from Harvey, Tooloo, Coorup, Murray and other sub-branches, gathered together on the occasion of their annual union. The State Executive was represented by Colonel Mansbridge, Mr. W. Hunt and Mr. Lin Thorne, M.L.A. Also present was Mr. Ross McIver, M.L.A. Popular entertainers, Geo. Walsme, Mr. T. Kennedy, Mr. W. Jenkins, and Vern Harris provided musical interludes. Every member present reported his name, unit and sub-branch when the chairman asked for a roll-call. It was found that only five of the original members of the Waroona-Hamel sub-branch were among the gathering. These were: Messrs. S. J. Weller, J. Dods, R. Cockburn, E. Mofass and Capt. George Scarr, U.S.N. Later in the evening Mr. M. A. H. Walsme, member, Geo. Walsme, Snr., walked into the hall, having just arrived home after leaving Adelaide by Skyknight at 3 p.m. the same day. A highlight of the evening was when Mr. Tom Law presented a Jap Sunami sword to the sub-branch. It was explained that this particular sword had been the property of a high-ranking officer in the section of the Japanese army to whom Mr. Law's unit was in contact at the time of the surrender. Then, after relating one or two amusing anecdotes, Mr. Law handed the sword to the chairman. He was warmly applauded.

OSBORNE PARK

Many successful functions have been held during recent weeks; the chief being a well-attended picnic for members of the sub-branch and supporters, at Coogee Beach, on February 2. All those who attended had a very enjoyable time. On February 19, members of the Mt. York sub-branch were present at a sports meeting. Though Osborne Park team proved winners, the margin was very tight, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. Mr. Jack Lanigan, Yeork's president, stated that it was decided to keep the contest going for another term.

GAWLA-LEONORA

The year commenced with 14 members and this number has now grown to 63. The success of the Victory Ball and dances held during the year suggests that they were held in high esteem by the majority of the Gawla-Leonora people. The ex-servicemen's empoem brought together many Diggers from the surrounding districts for the first time since the war, and proved a success socially. The Poppy Day Appeal was conducted on similar lines to previous years and Perth Office was very satisfied with the effort. Worthy appeals received the support of the sub-branch during the year, and letters of appreciation were received and filed. The formation of a district committee, with head-quarters in Kalgoorlie, appears as though it is now at a standstill. The sub-branch has written twice since the Annual Congress, but a reply has not been forthcoming from Kalgoorlie sub-branch. The monthly meetings have been attended regularly by a number of members, but we are almost sure that there are many more who could attend and so strengthen the Returned Servicemen's League as the League of the future. For the first time in its history, this sub-branch was represented at the Annual State Congress, where much knowledge was gained for forthcoming years. Special mention must be made of the staunch and hard-working members, and the sub-branch thanks them for their wholehearted laborious efforts. Special thanks go to the splendid work done, and assistance rendered by the Women's Auxiliary.

Tural Hall a wasted evening was saved, and what would have been a flop turned into a success. We understand they were assisting to obtain funds for an honour board.

SUBIACO

At the general meeting on February 26, members expressed gratification at the following out of its instructions in the matter of eligibility by the Special Federal Congress, having been mortised on previous occasions by a tendency of the State Congresses, including our own, to ignore our orders in this matter. Plans for a building more suitable in size and amenities for the present numerical strength are developing steadily. We have the land, the architects and the good intentions. All we want is labour, material and—which why be mercenary? Yallingup has a numerical strength, it is financial membership the general public look at in our dealings with them. So even if you are a young family man and cannot take the interest in sub-branch duties that you might like to, keep yourself financial and help the sub-branch to help your mates of the war days. The hon. secretary is in attendance at every Wednesday evening from 8 p.m., or you can send it to his address, given in the sub-branch directory at the end of this journal.

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SOUTH PERTH

The recent meeting has not been all that could be desired from the membership figures. On February 13, the sub-branch entertained the members of the Victory Hall at the sub-branch headquarters, to enjoy some enjoyable games of competitive indoor games. The home side appeared to have matters in hand, but, nevertheless, the visitors gave a good account of themselves and thoroughly enjoyed the night. Members are requested to note that on April 17 an invitation has been accepted to visit Mt. Hawthorn sub-branch and try their luck at indoor games in the social, competitive spirit. Cricket still goes on, irrespective of the lack of members.

In the last issue of this journal you will note that this sub-branch has the credit of second place, with 12 points, against the top team with 15 points. Does this mean anything to you sportmen of the sub-branch? If so, make some inquiries for placement in the team. Again the members are reminded that the building fund committee is still functioning at the Anzac House dances every Friday night. Your help and attendance would be very much appreciated, just advise Mr. W. R. King, of 29 Angelo Street. The fund has now reached £2,800—a grand effort, but should have been doubled. The committee has often been asked what class of a building will be erected. Well, to meet the demand, the clubroom was remodeled in regard to formulating a preliminary plan to put before the members, to show them that the sub-branch is "dinkum" and to gain ideas to improve what others suggest. Members are again reminded that subscriptions for the current year are due and the membership secretary, Colin Day, of 118 Forrest Street, or the sub-branch secretary, 22 Elizabeth Street, would be pleased to see or hear from them.
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With a "tried and true" captain on the bridge and with a very successful year behind us, our sub-branch looks forward to even bigger and better things in the year ahead.

Claremont

At the meeting on February 6, the new president (Capt. C. J. Paterson) of the old Digger of the former war and well known to many of the recent war as an amenities officer, and the new committee were introduced to the meeting by Harvey Rae, who, after many years of utrecht service, has decided to take a well-earned rest. The president's ruling that all business be completed by 8.45 p.m., unless some matter of extreme urgency arose, was adhered to and thus allowed the large attendance to enjoy the refreshments provided and other participants in the numerous games or gather into little groups such as always will form, given the right environment. The building fund was augmented by a further $260, due solely to the efforts of the Women's Auxiliary, who among other activities, conduct popular dances at the Loch Street Hall each Wednesday and Saturday.

Kojonup

The first monthly meeting since the inauguration of the management committee was held on February 28, with a good attendance. Two motions of importance were carried, the first being that Rule 50, dealing with unrationed members, be enforced; the second being a motion to be submitted to the next State Congress, viz., "To insist that persons making application for membership take the oath of allegiance to the King and to the League before being admitted." It was decided to appoint a delegate to the meeting called to discuss the erection of a women's pension on some suitable site, as the first step towards a memorial block. The meeting was followed by a successful social.

Ballidu and District

The annual general meeting was held on January 17, with only a fair attendance. General business was conducted in the usual manner, followed by the election of office-bearers for the ensuing year. The incoming president and secretary are men of the recent war. President: Mr. H. Atkinson; secretary and treasurer: Mr. J. G. Toster. A vote of thanks was moved by Mr. Wallis for the retiring president (Mr. Wally Townsend), and secretary (Mr. Ray Pettit) for their untiring efforts and keenness in the past.

Denmark

A well-attended annual meeting expressed appreciation when the financial statement showed a credit balance of $138 for the memorial hall fund. Of this amount, $280 has been donated by the women's auxiliary. In his report, the retiring president (Mr. Hollings) thanked all members for their work during the year, especially the secretary (Mr. L. Stewart) and Mr. F. Smith, the organiser of the Poppy Day appeal, at which 400 poppies were sold. The women's auxiliary also earned a hearty word of commendation. During the year membership rose from 65 to 106. The following officers were elected: President, Mr. H. J. North; vice-presidents: Mr. J. Moore and the Rev. Mr. Sherwood; secretary, Mr. L. Stewart; treasurer, Mr. J. Wadding; auditor, Mr. F. Bayley; assistant secretary, Mr. L. Hadlow; committee, Messrs. Sherwood, S. Bell, S. Brenton, T. Hollings, R. Wadding, L. Mumford, W. Kingston, A. Nockolds, R. Walters and B. Beridge. It was also decided to hold a reunion dinner to which the ladies and all ex-service men will be invited. A motion was carried urging that the Commonwealth authorities be approached on the subject of rifle clubs, and be allowed to issue rifles and ammunition free of charge to rifle clubs.

M.T. Hawthorn-North Leederville

Meetings are still attracting average attendances, and the number of activists remains more or less the same. The main effort will be the raising of funds for enlarging the hall. Many functions will be held for this purpose and the management committee would be glad of suggestions from members. At present, a dance is held every Monday night at Anzac House. A good team of workers, including the women's auxiliary, has worked hard this year to make the dances enjoyable and profitable. Members are asked to give these dances publicity, especially among the younger folks. A good night was given to those members of the bridge team who visited Anzac House to play club teams. After some good games, Mr. Hawthorn went home with the bacon. The new sub-committee director, Mr. Hill, has been very pleased with the results. George has a number of good nights arranged for the future, one being in the hall for the visit of South Perth and Victoria Park members. Stocky is greatly pleased with the sub-branch cricket team. The latest win was over Nedlands. With Johnson Grigg in form, the sub-branch hopes to win the R.S.A.C. Cricket Pennant. Members were glad to hear that the new home winners. The auxiliary runs Friday night bridge evenings in the hall. April meetings will be held on the 3rd and the 17th.

Melville

At the monthly meeting on February 17, members had the pleasure of entering members of the Como sub-branch, and welcoming two new members. The building committee, which consists of Messrs. McNally, D. Randacloude, Roy Jones, Kevin Burke, R. Sherwood and Dunkley, Snr., has decided to undertake the erection of a truck fence and memorial arch on the Kingsford Road frontage. The social committee held a successful social for members' female relatives on March 6, at which it was decided to form a women's auxiliary. Several members have visited Leewin Club and spent a most enjoyable evening. Members of Inglewood Club were also there, and Melville representatives won a trophy in the dart's competition. The fantastic score of president Harry Stanbury contributed very materially to the success.

Corrigin

The State President (Mr. Anderson) was welcomed by a large gathering of R.S.L. members at the Corrigin Town Hall on March 17. Among the visitors were Mr. Coumb, and Mr. Mann, M.P.A. The sub-branch president (Dr. James) proposed the toast of Mr. Anderson, who responded with a very interesting talk on repatriation, housing and preference. After the visitors were entertained by items, a very enjoyable evening was brought to a close.

Shenton Park

There was a good attendance at the annual general meeting on February 8. Deep regret was expressed when the retiring president, Bob Ogg, announced that he would not seek re-election. The sub-branch owes so much to his untiring efforts and genial personality. The new president is Alan Boyne, a very capable younger member, who served in the R.A.A.F. Em. Bishop has taken over the secretaryship, and Lloyd Phillips succeeds Frank Strongman as minute secretary. The annual smoke was held on March 7. The combined efforts of the committee and the women's auxiliary made the event a marked success.

Maylands

There was a good attendance at the meeting on February 8. The balance sheet showed that sub-branch finances are in a healthy condition. Veteran member, Art. Hulfein, acted as returning.
officer for the election of office-bearers, and the following were declared the elected team for this year: President, Mr. S. A. Horton; vice-presidents, Messrs. S. Burns, L. Burkle and R. Le Nay; treasurer, Mr. D. Tobin; secretary, Mr. A. Cook; assistant secretary, Mr. F. C. Jackson; auditors, Messrs. R. Goebb, E. B. Winch, C. T. Winter; amalgamation fund trustees, Messrs. H. E. Wilson and A. Liney; official guest visitor, Mr. Bristow; stewards, Messrs. G. Stevenbon, W. Chappell and N. Gawthorpe, comprising both old and new members was also elected. The annual reunion was held on February 18, when nearly 200 sat down to a repast provided by the ladies—Medames Cook, Bristow, Jardine and Weeks. John Sullivan was in charge of the harmony and Sid Dixon's orchestra provided the instrumental music. Mr. W. J. Hunt, representing the State Executive, responded to the toast of the R.S.L., proposed by Mr. A. Cook. Mr. R. Le Nay's toast of the services was responded to by an Air Force man. Mr. F. Graham, of the War Service Homes office, responded to Mr. D. Tobin's toast of the visitors. Membership is now about 760.

COMO

Eight new members were welcomed at the February meeting. Three additional committees were formed to handle the increasing activities of the sub-branch. The finance committee consists of Messrs. S. Burns, L. Burkle and W. Liney; the social committee of Messrs. Herb Jones, Alec Burnett, Harry Mellor and Rex Hillier; and the games committee of Messrs. Keating, Fuller and Hamilton. Appreciation of the untiring efforts of the women's auxiliary was expressed. This energetic organisation was responsible for the sale of nearly 1,000 puddings on Anzac Day, and for a most successful Christmas tree, which gave enjoyment to more than 60 children. Members recently spent a pleasant evening with the Melville sub-branch. A similar foregathering with the Perth sub-branch is being arranged. At the March meeting keen gardening enthusiasts accorded an appreciative reception to Mr. Russell, of the South Perth Horticultural Society, who gave a most interesting talk on gardening. 26 were present, including five new members. During the evening, a cream cake donated by Mrs. Thompson, of the women's auxiliary, was sold to aid the building fund. A games evening between South Perth and Como will be a feature of the next meeting on the first Wednesday in April.

SWANBOURNE

The meeting on March 6 was well attended and further new members were enrolled. There was considerable discussion about a recent War Service Homes Board appointment. Representation is being made to the State Executive to have the matter ventilated, as members feel that preference legislation is being brazenly transgressed. Nominations were taken for trustees of the hall fund and also general trustees. These will be decided by ballot at the April meeting. The present, treasurer and secretary were declared duly elected as the amalgamation committee, and Dan Molyneaux was elected auditor, without opposition. Table tennis, bowls and darts occupied the attention of members at the conclusion of business and some interesting results were recorded. Tennis has commenced at the recently-completed courts. A moderate attendance of members have taken the fullest advantage of the opportunity to regain some of their lost form and promising players have come under notice. The monthly meeting is immediately in hand for the further augmentation of the hall fund and also a concert which is being arranged by scholars of Scotch College. Our thanks go out to the boys for the thought. We were all pleased to see George Coe about again after a little enforced inactivity due to ill-health. George looks in the pink again and should be good for plenty more hard work.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES

At the executive meeting on February 17, the Hospital Committee reported that they had made 81 visits to ex-service patients in civilian wards of the Royal Perth Hospital. Mrs. Stockman (State Secretary) reported that 20 lounge cushions and mattresses had been sent to Edward Millen Home for use of patients, and visitors have reported that patients have expressed unbounded appreciation of these gifts. They owe this wonderful asset to their comfort to Dangin and Quairading Branches, whose generous donation made possible the purchase of a much-needed commodity.

Sunset Diggers thank all who made it possible for their cupboards to be restocked with foodstuffs which were such a welcome addition to their everyday fare.

News was received that the Greenguffs auxiliary has been re-formed. Members visited Wooroloo on March 7 to distribute cheer to ex-service men and women. On February 18, Mrs. McKlinlay presided over an excellent meeting of presidents and secretaries. A welcome visitor on this occasion was Mr. Mortimore (Country Vice-President). At this meeting, it was decided to hold a river trip on March 4, and an exhibition in August.

Mrs. Bell, wife of Colonel Bell—recently arrived from England—was entertained to morning tea in Anzac House by the State President and members of the Executive.

The monthly visit to Claremont Mental Hospital was paid on February 23.

At the meeting on March 3 it was reported that our member, Mrs. Harold, of Gloucester Park auxiliary, was sick. The report was received with regret and we wish her a speedy recovery to health.

Mrs. Stockman reported that an electric toaster had been presented to Sunset Diggers to replace the one which had become useless. A donation from Harvey auxiliary was used for this purpose.

A letter was received from Mrs. Bell, wife of Colonel Bell, thanking members for entertaining her, and a letter from Cooebergie expressing thanks for visits and attention to Mr. Noble in the Royal Perth Hospital.

Our member, Mrs. Weeks, who has been a visitor to Coolgarae brought greetings from Cooebergie and Kalgootie auxiliaries.

Mrs. McKlinlay and Mrs. Stockman travelled to Bunbury on February 27 to attend a rally arranged by the Bunbury auxiliary. About 120 members were present, representing the following auxiliaries: Collie, Kirup, Bunbury, Donnybrook, Yarloop, Bridgetown, Nannup, Harvey, Bassendean and Capel. Members were addressed by the State President and State Secretary, and a most enjoyable time was spent by all. Mrs. McKlinlay was presented with a cheque for £50 to hand over to the War Nurses' Hostel Fund.

On Sunday, March 2, the City of Perth auxiliary entertained Diggers from Lennons and Sunset to high tea. Mrs. McKlinlay and Mrs. Stockman attended the S.S.L. on that day. They attended the Faversham House meeting on February 27. This convalescent home is becoming popular amongst sick ex-servicemen and is worthy of support by auxiliaries in the matter of home comforts, which could assist the matron in her work.

Mrs. Henderson (State Vice-President) deputised for the State President at a meeting in the City Council Chambers in connection with War-Blinded Soldiers. The object was the formation of an auxiliary to assist them in their rooms, recently opened in Pier Street. Many organisations were represented at this meeting, Mrs. James, of Mr. Hawthorn auxiliary, was elected President and Mrs. Middleton, of 44th Battalion auxiliary, Honorary Secretary; Mrs. Henderson was elected at the executive meeting to represent R.S.L. auxiliaries. There are, at present, 11 World War I blinded ex-servicemen and 50 World War II blinded, and we feel sure that the cause and comfort of these men will commend itself to the auxiliaries.

Hospital visitors reported 52 visits to ex-service patients in Royal Perth Hospital. These weekly visits with comforts are eagerly looked forward to by these patients who so often spend weeks and sometimes months in bed.

An amended list of donations received this year, to March 3, 1947:

Bunbury, War Veterans' Home, £5; Margaret River, Christmas Cheer, £2/2/-; Presi, Comforts for Claremont, £1/1/-; Nedlands, Soldiers' Scholarship Fund, £3/3/-; Subiaco, Faversham Comforts, £4/4/-; Bunbury, Lennons, £1; Bunbury, War Nurses' Hostel, £1; Denmark, Owing Fund, £2/2/-; Denmark, Soldiers' Scholarship Fund, £1/1/-.

The above figures represent donations received through the State Secretary and not donations received through other channels.

COTTESLOE

The monthly meeting was held on the last Tuesday in the month and was well attended. Two new members were welcomed.
in the usual way. There has been a change in officers. Mrs. Ireland has taken over from Mrs. Fry as secretary, and Mrs. Else is treasurer in place of Mrs. Townrow. There was a good roll-up of ladies to visit Sunset this month.

**VICTORIA PARK**

The first general meeting this year was held on February 28, presided over by Mrs. Tomlin. There was an average attendance. Arrangements were made for a marmalade parade to be held on March 14, when it was hoped there would be a good attendance. Mrs. Haig consented to take the place of Mrs. Coleman for hospital visiting for the month of March. Mrs. Fisher will be away at Kalgoorlie for a few weeks to see her two new grandchildren. We wish her a pleasant trip. Discussions took place regarding sports meetings, also the united auxiliaries fair to be held in Monash House some time in August. A letter of appreciation was sent from the social secretary of the Edward Millen Home thanking the Auxiliary for their visits with cakes, etc., forthnightly, and especially for the Christmas party arranged by Mrs. Prue, when a very nice afternoon tea was provided by the auxiliary, and a small gift given to each patient. The next meeting will be held on March 28 and a record attendance is requested.

**SWANBOURNE**

The February meeting was moderately well-attended and the chief business discussed was the means of raising money for the memorial hall fund. Various proposals were put forward and it was resolved that immediate activities consist of bridge evenings and tennis afternoons at the courts recently put into commission by members of the sub-branch. Many new members are coming forward and it is expected that a drive will be made for equipment necessary for providing teas and suppers. It has been reported that many other auxiliaries are preparing for inter-sub-branch sports and, with a view to taking part in these, we contemplate making a big effort at meetings to build up teams capable of worthily representing the district. Members took the opportunity of saying goodbye to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Crump, at the joint sports meeting held on February 19. These young people have left for Queensland where they will take up residence. The joint sports night with members of the sub-branch on February 19 was another success and proved the benefit of members and their wives being able to take part in competitive sport together.

**SWAN VIEW—GREENMOUNT**

The annual meeting and election of officers took place on February 12, in Swan View Hall. Three new members were welcomed by the president, Mrs. Tomkins. It has been a very successful year both socially and financially and members are looking forward to this year’s work. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Tomkins; secretary, Mrs. Tomkins, Jnr.; treasurer, Mrs. Hames; vice-presidents, Mrs. Byrne and Mrs. Williams; committee, Mrs. Tomkins, Mrs. Hames, Mrs. Tomkins, Jnr., Mrs. Byrne, etc.; trustees, Mrs. Patton, Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Marsh; publicity officer, Mrs. Williams. A vote of thanks was given to the retiring secretary, Mrs. Williams, who did not seek re-election. It is pleasing to note that a new secretary is one of our new young members and we wish her every success. A very pleasant afternoon was spent by all members at Swanbourne at the home of Mrs. Richardson, one of the foundation members, who has left Swan View, but still attends meetings. Afternoon tea was served and then Mrs. Tomkinson, our president, presented to Mrs. Hilton, who has left the district, a nice polished jarrah fruit stand. Mrs. Hilton thanked all members present. Although the auxiliary lost two members just lately, we have three new, young members to take their places. Congratulations to Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Neal on the birth of a daughter each.

**MAYLANDS**

Bridge evenings are held every Wednesday in the Maylands Dug-out. These are proving very successful. The auxiliary played its first match in the McKinlay Shield games against City of Perth auxiliary on March 4, and won by two points. Members took a concert party to Lemnos on March 7, which was greatly appreciated by the men there. A pleasant afternoon is spent each month playing bridge with the T. & P.D. men in their rooms at Gleddon Buildings.

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ALBANY—Room, 1st Sunday in month at 11 a.m.; President: H. G. Armstrong; Secretary: A. J. F. M. Leveridge.

ARDMARK—10th Sunday in month at 10 a.m.; President: R. M. Wright; Secretary: W. H. Leith.

BALLINGUP—3rd Sunday in month at 10 a.m.; President: A. S. Wright; Secretary: F. A. Moir; Treasurer: T. J. T. Leake.

BASKET—3rd Sunday in month at 10 a.m.; President: J. A. T. Smith; Secretary: R. A. H. Mason.

BENBOW—Room, 1st Saturday in month at 10 a.m.; President: W. A. Smith; Secretary: W. A. Gillam; Treasurer: T. J. T. Leake.

BEMBREE—Town Hall, 1st Wednesday in month at 8 p.m.; President: W. J. Smart; Secretary: R. A. H. Mason.

BEDFORD & MORLEY PARKS—Riverton's Hall, Beaufort Street, Inglewood; President: H. V. Persak; Secretary: J. J. Smith.

BELMONT—Room, 1st Monday in month at 10 a.m.; President: A. E. Downe; Secretary: T. J. T. Leake.

BEVERLEY—R.S.L. Hotel, 2nd Monday in month at 10 a.m.; President: R. C. Prior; Secretary: S. R. Beven; Treasurer: T. J. T. Leake.

BOYSENBURG—Corner Hotel, 2nd Tuesday in month at 10 a.m.; President: A. G. Scott; Secretary: C. Reilly.

BOYSENBURG—R.C. Hotel, 2nd Tuesday in month at 8 p.m.; President: Boyce; Secretary: C. Reilly.

BRIDGEND—Corner Hotel, 2nd Tuesday in month at 8 p.m.; President: F. L. Ruck; Secretary: W. A. Upton; Treasurer: H. T. Johnson.

BROOKTON—R.L.S. Clubrooms, 1st Friday, 8 p.m.; President: J. F. Coote; Secretary: N. A. A. Norton.

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DUNDAS—Dundas Hotel, 2nd Saturday in month at 6 p.m.; President: H. A. A. Norton; Secretary: N. A. A. Norton.

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BULLBROOK—Bullbrook Town Hall, 1st Saturday, monthly, 7 p.m.

BUNNING—R.S.L. Hotel, 2nd and 3rd Saturday, 8 p.m.; President: B. G. H. Broad; Secretary: S. D. Broad.

BURSTON—R.S.L. Hotel, 2nd Tuesday, 8 p.m.; President: R. J. Broad; Secretary: W. J. Broad; Treasurer: W. A. T. Broad.

CALHOUN—R.S.L. Hotel, 2nd Saturday, 8 p.m.; President: W. S. Campbell; Secretary: H. W. Howard; Treasurer: W. J. Broad.

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CLARENDON—Parish Hall, Stirling Highway; 1st Saturday in each month at 7.30 p.m. (January excepted); President: J. A. Broad; Secretary: J. A. Broad.

COOKE—R.S.L. Hotel, 2nd Wednesday in month at 8 p.m.; President: Rev. E. A. Coote; Secretary: W. A. Coote.

COTTENDON—Council Hall, Forrest Road, 1st Tuesday, 6 p.m.; President: P. J. T. Nicholls; Secretary: W. J. Broad; Treasurer: W. J. Broad.

CRANBROOK—Cranbrook Hotel, general meeting, 3rd Saturday, 7.30 p.m. in July, August, September, October, November, and December.

DALING—R.S.L. Hotel, 2nd Tuesday in month at 8 p.m.; President: J. L. Hankey; Secretary: C. E. C. C. Hankey.

DUNNGAR—R.S.L. Hotel, 2nd Saturday in month at 6 p.m.; President: H. A. A. Norton; Secretary: N. A. A. Norton.

Dundee—Cranbrook Hotel, general meeting, 3rd Saturday, 7.30 p.m. in July, August, September, October, November, and December.

DUNNGAR—Dundee Hotel, 2nd Sunday in month at 6 p.m.; President: H. A. A. Norton; Secretary: N. A. A. Norton.

Dundurn—Dundurn Hotel, 2nd Saturday in month at 6 p.m.; President: H. A. A. Norton; Secretary: N. A. A. Norton.
R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH DIRECTORY—Continued

SPEARWOOD-HAMILTON HILL—H.S.L. Hall, Spearwood; 2nd and 4th Wednesday, monthly; President: G. Ablett, P.O.; Secretary: C. W. Ashton, Hamilton Hill; Treasurer: R. Mortish.

SUMODE—H.S.L. Hall, 81 Townshend Road, last Wednesday in month, 8 p.m.; President: W. S. Lohrle, 10 McColman Avenue, Dargyle; Secretary: W. J. Fullerton, 205 Hay Street, Subiaco. Phone W 2401.

SWAN VIEW-GREENMOUNT—Swan View Progress Association Hall; 2nd Thursday in month, at 8 p.m.; President: E. Leighten, Swan View Road, Greenmount; Secretary: R. Stevens, Swan View Road, Greenmount.

TAMBMIN—Tambmin Hall, 4th Wednesday in each month; President: R. B. Nuttage, Tambmin; Secretary: R. J. Sutherland, Tambmin.


TOODYAY-C.W.A. Hall, 2nd Tuesday each month, 8 p.m.; President: J. Parkin, c/o P.O., Toodyay (phone "Nanny" 6); Secretary: T. B. Colley, P.O., Toodyay (phone Toodyay 79).

TRAYNING-BELLISTON—Trayning; every 4th Sunday; President: J. W. Paterson, Police Station, Trayning; Secretary: H. B. Crake, Trayning.

VICTORIA PARK—Memorial Hall, South Street, 3rd Friday, 8 p.m.; President: Geo. Yalo, c/o R.S.L. House, Murray St., Perth; Secretary: Tom Fitzsimmons, 37 Rathway St., Victoria Park.

WALPOLE—Walpole Hall; 2nd Sunday in month at 2 p.m.; President: H. Allen, Walpole; Secretary: P. B. Bissell, Walpole.

WARROONA-HAMEL—Memorial Hall: 1st Friday, 8 p.m.; President: N. R. Walmley, Walross; Secretary: E. Rickels, Waroona.

WELSHPOOL—Memorial Hall, Welshpool Rd., Welshpool; 3rd Thursday in month, 8 p.m.; President: C. G. Milne, Welshpool Rd., Welshpool; Secretary: S. Cunningham, J.P., Railway Crescent, Welshpool.

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