The Responsibility of the Individual

There is another fight ahead; against everything which divides, against softness, apathy, sloth, greed, selfishness. The old servicemen must lead, having experienced the benefits of complete unselfishness and unity. If so, victory will be secure and we may say with confidence, “Never Again!”—Major-General A. H. Ramsay, in a talk to Melbourne Legacy.

As we approach Anzac Day this year, the Foreign Ministers in Moscow are wrangling over the future of Germany, the spectre of civil war is haunting India, French troops are fighting separatist movements in two continents, and we are no nearer to the conclusion of peace with Japan. The pessimist might well be pardoned for saying that it is only in times of common peril that nations and peoples can achieve anything even remotely resembling unity of purpose. Fortunately, there is another side to the picture. Britain’s economic Dunkirk, brought to its climax by the most villainous winter in many years, has roused Australian sympathies and support in a manner comparable with the Commonwealth’s reactions in time of war. Countries, like individuals, find their friends and their enemies in times of trouble. Times of trouble and danger leave the effect of uniting peoples, eliminating apathy and selfishness, and translating into action the qualities of courage, fortitude and devotion to duty, by which advances are made to higher destinies. That, in fact, forms the pattern woven by history in the looms of time.

It is on occasions like Anzac Day that we are reminded of being-born people, with one flag and one destiny. Starting as the commemoration of an epic feat of arms, the day has acquired a deeper significance, year by year. The men who gave their lives in that glorious landing, and throughout the remainder of a long and bitter war, were men from all parts of Australia. It was the name of Australia, and not of any special part of Australia, however cherished at heart, which resounded throughout the world as the result of their deeds. Among the Anzacs there was a unity of outlook, a unity of purpose, and a unity in comradeship which was almost unique in the history of war. Their spirit carried the survivors of Gallipoli and those who joined them afterwards through the hard-fought campaigns of France and Palestine.

It established the standards that were so nobly maintained by the men of the Second A.I.F. It developed the traditions that might have made the public and private life of our country far richer had they been continued in times of peace.

In recent weeks, we have frequently heard the question, “What does Anzac Day mean to the younger men?” Why should they be concerned with the commemoration of an event which occurred before so many of them were born? Why should that day, any more than the anniversary of some event in the Second World War, be selected as an occasion of such outstanding national significance?” Perhaps the best answer to these questions is that Anzac Day had acquired its significance as a day of grateful commemoration, long before 1939. Admittedly, that answer does not dispose of the questions; but it will help the questioners to look at the matter in perspective rather than in cross section. One could, with equal justice, ask what concern Anzac Day had for the men who had their baptism of fire at Pozieres and Paschendaele. Perhaps it was easier, in those far-off days, and at the distance we were then from home, to appreciate the symbolism of this great day of commemoration. That is why the route march of the years led to the inclusion in our annual acts of homage all the fallen of the First World War, and eventually all the fallen of the Second. Anzac Day marked the entry of the A.I.F. into the ranks of war veterans, or men who had suffered, endured and achieved for their country. It was more than an episode in a war long finished, for the simple reason that the war did not end in 1918. The twenty years of non-belligerency between 1919 and 1939 were not years of peace. They were years of truce, of which the same enemy took advantage to prepare for the second round of the same war. That, in itself, should give the overture to the great drama in two acts, a common interest for the actors in both.

For those who take the larger and more liberal view of the matter, Anzac Day will always remain a focal point in the spiritual life of the nation. It will always be a day on which differences of caste, creed and ideologies will be merged in the common tribute of devotion and gratitude. It will remain the “day on which men forget petty and artificial differences of position and opinion when recalling the sublimity of sacrifice and comradeship. Instead of wrangling about why, or how Anzac Day should be commemorated, let us...
remember and continue to emulate the qualities and cherish
the ideals which carried the young men of Australia to vic-
tory in two wars against the same aggressors. We pay lip
service to unselfishness and unity, while forgetting that
neither can exist without the other. We condemn apathy,
greed and sloth, without troubling to remember how easy
it is to sink into these undesirable conditions, once the need
for opposing a united front to a common danger has passed.
There is no reason why the spirit of Anzac should not pre-
vail throughout the whole year, rather than on one particular
day of the year, any more that the Christian spirit should
be exercised on only one day of the week instead of on the
whole seven. It is the responsibility of each and every
individual to see that the traditions of the battle-line con-
tinue in the ordinary routine life of peace. It is idle to blame
the people for this, that and the other thing, while shirking
one’s duty as an individual. That, in itself, was one of the
lessons of Anzac. We ordinary, everyday fellows are the
people. We make up the nation, and as we are, so the race
will be.

FOOD FOR BRITAIN
The R.S.L State Executive decided to support the Red
Cross appeal for relief to the flood victims of Britain, and
most sub-branches and auxiliaries are busy organising some

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State President’s Newsletter

I feel that I should have something to say relative to recent Press publicity regarding the publication of the new R.S.L. journal. Older members will remember that over several years, resolutions have appeared on the congress agenda desiring the League to publish its own journal. In 1945, congress appointed a committee to investigate and report to the State Executive. The committee, after lengthy investigation, 1946, was again definitely of the opinion that the League should publish its own journal. The State Executive, after further inquiries, gave the company controlling The Listening Post six months’ notice of termination of the agreement in existence whereby the League paid 1/- per year per League member for a copy of The Listening Post to be posted to each member. The Listening Post is a privately-owned and controlled paper and the new journal will be under the control of the League. It is proposed to issue the new journal in July. The State Executive appointed a committee of management and this committee of three has been adversely criticised in the Press as unqualified. This, I think, is quite wrong. Mr. H. A. Leslie, M.L.A., is chairman. Before entering Parliament he was proprietor of a country newspaper and controlled the editorial and business sections. He served in the First and Second Wars and lost a leg with the 2/28th Battalion at Tobruk. He was vice-president of the League last year and has always taken an active part in League affairs. The other members are Mr. T. Sten, who is senior vice-president of the League and Principal of the Teachers' Training College at Claremont; and Mr. W. S. Lonnie, who holds an important position in the Factories Department. He rose to be a Captain in the recent war and has just been awarded the Military Cross.

This committee has power to co-opt any professional journalistic assistance it desires and will make recommendations to the State Executive on the appointment of the editorial staff. Criticism has also been levelled at a change of name of the journal. It should be understood that The Listening Post is privately owned and unless the company agrees to the name the League cannot use it. The State Executive merely asked for suggestions from sub-branches. In other States the League can publish and control its own paper, and there should be no reason why it cannot be done successfully in Western Australia. I would, therefore, ask the co-operation of all sub-branches and members in this project and I personally consider it should be a success if co-operation is obtained.

Some months ago a chartered accountant was appointed to inquire into the administration and general organisation of the Head Office of the League. As a result of his report, a staff committee was appointed to implement the recommendations. Recently applications were called for a qualified accountant and the State Executive appointed, at its last meeting, Mr. K. G. Lee, of Bunbury. Mr. Lee is a chartered accountant and served in the recent war in the 24th Machine-Gun Battalion. He was a prisoner of war and on the Burma Railway. He should be an acquisition to the staff, particularly in view of the increased activities of the League. With the retirement of the State Secretary (Mr. Benson), applications will be called for that position during this month. It is proposed that the new secretary commence

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LUCAS BATTERIES
on July 1, and Mr. Benson retire at congress. During last month, Mr. F. Combs resigned from the League staff. He did invaluable work as Inquiry Officer during his three years' service at a difficult time, and we wish him well in his new appointment. He has taken over the secretariat of the new company formed to market fish. It is an ex-service men's enterprise, and the formation of the company is the result of discussions last congress. The Re-establishment Committee has fostered this organisation. Another resignation is that of Mr. George Yates, manager of the R.S.L. House. He was successful in the recent State elections and enters Parliament as the member for Canning. His work with the League has been characterised by ability and sincerity, and all who know him feel he will distinguish himself in the larger sphere of Government. I am sure that all members wish him success.

Anzac Day will soon be upon us, and sub-branches are asked to make every effort to ensure that the commemoration services are a great success. In the city, we want everybody to march, and sub-branches should encourage our younger members. As Anzac Day services are conducted in most places by the League, it is a reflection on our organisation if there is any lack of enthusiasm. The League made Anzac Day, and it is our duty to further its objects. In my visits to sub-branches throughout the country, one usually pays attention to the various war memorials. Some are in excellent condition while others lack attention. It is the work of every sub-branch to see that the memorials are preserved. In some cases they are cared for by sub-branches, and in others by local governing bodies. I would ask all to take an interest in seeing that whoever controls a memorial, their attention is quickly drawn to the fact if in any way the memorial appears neglected.

The League is taking an active part in the nation-wide appeal to assist Britain with food and clothing. I need not point out the enormous burdens borne by the people of Great Britain during the last seven years. It is desired to get the whole organisation of the League behind this appeal, and I hope sub-branches and women's auxiliaries will do their utmost. Money is required and it should be sent through League headquarters.

A week ago I visited the Fremantle Returned Service men's Club, and it is now a live going concern. Certain alterations to premises are taking place, but these should not take long. This is the first application granted by the Licensing Court. It was sponsored by the Fremantle sub-branch and under the Licensing Act it is separate from the sub-branch. The membership is £1.0/- per annum, and the rules provide that members must be financial members of the League. The Fremantle Club is governed by the ordinary Licensing Act whereas Anzac Club in Perth is under a special Act of Parliament. Any sub-branch thinking of approaching the Licensing Court should first communicate with Head Office and information can be given on the correct procedure. At Fremantle, the alterations to the front of the building provide for offices for the Fremantle and North-East Fremantle sub-branches, and this will keep the whole organisation closely together.

In closing, I would like to recommend R.S.L. Faversham House, York, to any members requiring a holiday. I am sure they will thoroughly enjoy their stay there.

Purely Political

A striking feature of the Legislative Assembly in March was the number of returned servicemen candidates presented by the three main political parties. The natural consequence is the strong representation of servicemen on all sides of the new Assembly. These, with the contingent in the Legislative Council, will make the State Parliament a real servicemen's parliament. Returned men in the Upper House are Messrs. Leslie Craig, Hubert S. W. Parker, H. L. Roche, C. G. Latham and Eric Heenan.


The new ex-service men who will be making their bow to the Speaker are Harry May, who was returned unopposed for the Collie seat, J. H. Ackland, G. P. Wild, L. C. Nimmo, A. G. Reynolds, W. Grayden, James Murray and George H. Yates; and the numbers of returned men in the two Houses are: Legislative Council, 5; and Legislative Assembly, 19, making a total of 24. Add to these Mrs. Cardell-Oliver, who is a serviceman's widow, and Mr. E. H. Hall, who left the Council to win the Geraldton seat in the Assembly and who held commissioned rank in the First A.I.F., although he was not able to go overseas; and it is practically self-evident that the claims of servicemen and their dependants will get a sympathetic hearing on all sides of the new Parliament. In the new Assembly, there will be three men with service in two wars—Messrs. Doney and Panton both served in the South African War of 1899-1902, as well as in the First World War, while Mr. H. A. Leslie served abroad in both World Wars.

The First Digger Premier

The incoming Premier, Mr. Duncan Ross McLarty, has the distinction of being the first returned soldier to hold this office. He has 17 years of Parliamentary experience behind him and is a member of a family who settled as pioneers in Pinjarra, which is included in the electorate he represents, more than 100 years ago. He has always been prominent in land matters, in the public affairs of his district, and has given consistent good service to the R.S.L. He served overseas with the First A.I.F., winning the Military Medal and promotion to commissioned rank. During the recent war, he commanded a battalion of the V.D.C., with the rank of Major. He is a past-president of the Murray sub-branch. He is a younger brother of the late Mr. E. A. McLarty, a good friend to Diggers during many years he was managing trustee of the Agricultural Bank (now the Rural and Industries Bank). The eldest of the new Premier's three sons is a Digger like his Dad. He served with the A.I.F. in New Guinea.

The New Members

Mr. J. H. H. Ackland (C.D.L.), who won the Irwin-Moore seat, was born in South Australia, but came to this State as a child in 1896. He served with the 28th Battalion in the First World War, and was a captain in the V.D.C. in the recent war.

Mr. G. P. Wild (Liberal), the new member for Swan, enlisted in the A.I.F. in November, 1939, and was posted to the 2/11th Battalion. He was promoted lieutenant in March, 1940, Captain in 1941, and Major in 1942. He had
three years' service overseas, including the campaigns in Greece, Crete, New Guinea and the Netherlands East Indies. It was while fighting his recent election campaign that he received the glad tidings that he had been awarded the M.B.E. for his war service.

Mr. Nimm o is the only representative of the Senior Service in the House. He served with the R.A.N. from 1914 to 1918, of which three years were spent in European waters. During the Second World War, he was a member of the V.D.C. Mr. Nimm o is a Tasmanian by birth, and has lived in Western Australia for 18 years. He is president of the West Leederville-Wembley sub-branch and an official of the Ex-Naval Men's Association.

A good League stalwart, Mr. Alf. C. Reynolds (Labour) is to be congratulated on winning the Forrest seat after such a hard fight. He joined the First A.I.F. in Brisbane just after leaving school in 1914. He served at the Gallipoli Landing, and in France until October, 1918. Mr. Reynolds came to this State in 1920.

The youngest member of the new Assembly is Mr. W. Grayden (Liberal), who was returned for Middle Swan. He held a commission in the Second A.I.F. and served with the 2/16th Battalion in the Middle East and New Guinea.

Mr. James Murray (Liberal), the new member for Bunbury, came from Inverness, Scotland, in 1910. He saw four years' active service in the First World War with the 27th Battalion and the 2nd M.G. Battalion. During the recent war, he was doing full-time military service once more; first on the instructional side, and later as Military Forwarding Officer for Western Australia. He was a foundation vice-president of the Bunbury sub-branch and is also a member of the Australian Legion of Ex-Service Men and Women.

The highlight of the election was the victory of Mr. G. H. Yates (Liberal) in Canning. Mr. Yates commenced his soldiering years ago and was a member of the Australian Instructional Corps before the war. He was an original member of the 2/28th Battalion, and became the battalion quarter-master, with commissioned rank, in Tobruk. He served in that capacity throughout the heavy fighting at El Alamein in 1942, and at Lae and Einschafen in New Guinea during the following year. He won the reputation of being the most efficient quartermaster and was Mentioned in Despatches for his services in New Guinea. Mr. Yates was evacuated ill towards the end of the New Guinea campaign and served for the remainder of the war in Australia. He was born in Perth 37 years ago. His election to Parliament will oblige him to resign his present appointment of manager of R.S.L. House, a post which he has held with credit and great efficiency since it was created.

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MAJOR-GENERAL SIR W. T. BRIDGES

By C. R. COLLINS

There were many famous battle-leaders of the A.I.F. whose names are still household words. One brief minute's reflection will be enough for men to recall a gallant cavalcade of all ranks, who will continue to ride in the forefront of memory's pageant whenever and wherever men speak of the first A.I.F. and its achievements. It is one of the injustices of history, however, that the name of the man who had so much to do with establishing the Australian Army system and giving it direction and purpose, who formed the Royal Military College at Duntroon and was its first Commandant, who organised the first A.I.F. and who, in fact, actually named that force, should be almost forgotten. There is a grave on a lonely hillside overlooking Duntroon. There are the terse citations in the official despatches, and the inspired narrative of Dr. Bean in the Official History; but the man himself is remembered only by the privileged few who served with him, and by the more painstaking students of history. Perhaps he would have preferred it that way, for Major-General Sir William Throsby Bridges was one of those self-effacing men to whom the individual counted little in comparison with the service.

William Throsby Bridges was born at Greenock (Scotland) on February 18, 1861. His father, a Captain in the Royal Navy, was serving there at the time. It was while serving on the Australian station that Captain Bridges married Miss Throsby of Moss Vale, New South Wales. The future A.I.F. leader went to school at Ryde (Isle of Wight) and afterwards to the Royal Naval School at Greenwich. It was at the latter school that Bridges acquired his Spartan ideals of discipline. The father retired from the Royal Navy and went to Canada and, in due course, the son entered the Royal Military College of Canada at Kingston. It seemed to be his fate that his parents should move on during periods of his schooling. While the son was still at Kingston, the father's financial means became exhausted and—the family went to Moss Vale, where Captain Bridges was appointed Clerk of Petty Sessions. After graduating from Kingston, William Throsby Bridges rejoined his parents in Australia. In 1889, he received his first commission in the New South Wales Permanent Artillery (now incorporated in the Royal Australian Artillery).

He saw active service in the South African War of 1899-1902, taking part in the Relief of Kimberley and the subsequent operations at Paardeberg. Then he fell victim to that scourge of the forces in South Africa—enteric fever—and was invalided home. Back in Australia, he was appointed to the Headquarters Staff, on which he served during that most important period in which the several colonial defence forces were merged into the Australian Military Forces.

As a junior officer, Bridges was a keen student, with a grim determination to get on. It must be confessed that, in appearance, he was most unlike the popular idea of a soldier. Tall and loose-limbed; bony and thin, with a pronounced stoop, he assimilated rather to the generally accepted concept of the scholar or the research student. Indeed, he was a man of many strange contrasts. He was intensely shy, but very outspoken, and possessed of great force of character. He spared neither himself nor others. There were times when he seemed ruthless. He abhorred any show of sentiment and yet, like Kitchener and Wellington, he was very fond of children and quite at home with them. With a few of his intimates, this cold, austere man could relax even to the point of being jovial, but members of his staff 'always felt towards him as schoolboys might feel in the presence of a stern headmaster. At Duntroon, the cadets saw little of him, and he took no trouble to know them. This may partly be explained, however, that war with Germany was already expected, and Bridges was immersed in plans of strategy and organisation.

Such a man was hardly likely to develop into a popular general like Sir John Moore or Birdwood, or even into one respected if feared like Wellington or Kitchener. To Bridges, a man needed no praise for doing the job expected of him. When a man fell down on that job, it was time for the senior officer to take hostile notice. For instance, one day in Cairo, Captain (afterwards Brigadier-General) Foster, by a dare-devil feat of horsemanship which would have brought credit to a circus rider, saved Bridges from what might have been a fatal riding accident. A senior officer subsequently remarked to the General: "Young Foster deserved a V.C. for what he did today." Bridges merely replied: "Oh, any of you would have done the same." This was not ingratitude. It was but another instance of Bridges' failure to see any merit in a man doing the duty that lay nearest him. On the other hand, like most hard men, Bridges was never vindictive. If he quarrelled with a member of his staff, that member was transferred to other duty, but no adverse report followed.

Equally cold and impersonal was his attitude towards Von Mueller and the other officers of the German cruiser Emden. They were shown the humanity the laws of war prescribe for prisoners, but there were no courtesies beyond that. Bridges simply refused to meet them.
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On the outbreak of war, Bridges was charged with the duty of forming and organising the Australian force that was to serve overseas. In the South African War, contingents had been raised by the several Australian colonies and sent overseas in the most haphazard fashion. Uniformity of equipment and training came as the war progressed, but the Australian units were brigaded with others, and there was no such thing as an Australian staff in the field. Even in the peacetime organisation in the early years of the Commonwealth there was no concept of any formation higher than the brigade. Bridges was determined that the force contributed by Australia to the war should be self-contained, self-staffed, and that it should retain its identity no matter where it was sent, not with what other troops it was called upon to operate. At that time, he had no idea that he would be called upon to command the 1st Australian Division. He was more concerned with what the force should be called. Knowing the Army habit of calling everyone and everything by initials, he wanted a name that would still be striking and dignified when referred to in that abbreviated manner. Experience had shown what the ribaldry of the soldierman could do with such names as C.I.V. and K.F.S. (Kitchener's Fighting Scouts). At first, the name Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force was suggested, if not actually adopted. But Bridges rejected this in favour of something less cumbersome. Further, he objected to the word “expedient.” When none of his staff could make an alternative suggestion he said, "Well, what about Australian Imperial Force?" And Australian Imperial Force it remained through two wars.

Men began to appreciate his worth during the early days on Gallipoli. He exposed himself freely and seemed to scorn all risks. The Diggers became accustomed to the tall, gaunt figure prowling from post to post in defiance of the marksmanship of Turkish snipers. As bad luck would have it, the first time he heeded the monitions of commanding officers in the line was on the very day he fell with a bullet wound that severed both femoral artery and femoral vein. Though fatally wounded, he said to a unit officer, “Don’t carry me down. I don’t want any of your stretcher-bearers to get hit.” This, however, was one occasion on which a general was disobeyed. He was taken to the hospital ship Geccon, where it was found that only a complete amputation of the thigh might save his life. Unfortunately, with a man of Bridge's age—he was 53—a major operation like this had little chance of success. He knew he was dying and faced the end with the calm stoicism of an ancient Greek philosopher. Shortly before he died he said: “Anyhow, I have commanded an Australian division for nine months.”

His remains' were brought back to Australia and buried with military honours on a hill overlooking Duntrnon.

**TAXI LICENCES**

State authorities have agreed to Commonwealth proposals that at least 50 per cent. of all new licences for taxis or hire cars shall be granted to discharged members of the Forces. Just before the beginning of the month, the Minister for Post-War Reconstruction (Mr. Dedman) indicated that this agreement would end a controversy that had been raging in some capital cities in regard to the small number of licences alleged to have been issued to former servicemen.

**The Old and the New**

J. H. Weir, of 16 Wood Street, Claremont, writes: I read with interest your article in the February issue entitled "The Old and the New." I am one of the New, though at 36 years of age I am in a position to appreciate the views of the Old.

It will be, I fear, some years before the young returned men will take much interest in the League. The reasons are various. Firstly, the League as a federal body has disappointed many younger men. I know quite well that it has done much good work and has attempted quite a lot of things, only to be baulked by politicians. But on the other hand, the League did nothing to speed up demobilisation and nothing to prevent the Cantecins Fund being stolen by the Government to aid people who should have been aided by Government funds. These are two matters which vitally affected the new Digger but were not understood by the Old.

Then there is Anzac Day, which means so much to the 1914 men, and is therefore respected by the 1939 boys, the latter have no personal interest in April 25, except in cases where an almost-forgotten father gave his life in the First World War. Perhaps the young man feels that a day of rejoicing on V-P Day, August 15, would be an appropriate memorial. We don’t have many holidays in the year. Surely if the 1914 war justified a day of national mourning, the conclusion of the 1939 war justified a day of national rejoicing. Perhaps I am alone in this opinion, but why has the League not asked its members for their views instead of assuming that the boys naturally want to do what father did?

Another reason why young men don’t join the League or don’t attend meetings is that they are too busy. They have young families, new jobs, new businesses, long-neglected sports and hobbies, and they have no time for the R.S.L.—yet. Then, again, when they do attend meetings and the annual election of officers comes along, the young men see all the seniors nominating their old pals for jobs and voting for each other. If the older men are genuinely anxious to admit the juniors to the fold, why don’t they nominate them for office and vote for them? And having elected them, why don’t they let them get on with the job, unhampered?

All too often a young sub-branch worker is embarrassed by too much advice and feels that he is not trusted to do the job. The fathers can’t realise that the sons are grown men and have been doing men’s jobs for six years of war. A man who has been a Corporal in New Guinea should be capable of doing a job of work for his sub-branch, and he is offended if his elders treat him as an inexperienced boy.

Well, I’ve said enough. There’s nothing personal in all this, though my mates at Swanbourne will give me the cane if you publish it. However, I hope you will, because we need constructive criticism and even if I sound somewhat radical in my views my intentions are good and my expressed opinions are sincerely held.

We thank Mr. Weir for the capable and moderate expression of his views. The League did nothing to speed up demobilisation, because the League has been consistent in demanding that no man should be discharged from the Forces until there is reasonable assurance of a job for him. Secondly, it is difficult to see how, in view of all Australia’s
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commitments, the tempo of demobilisation could have been accelerated. In regard to the charge that canteen funds have been stolen by the Government, the League has yet to be convinced that any such thing as ever occurred. Mr. Weir has evidently missed the Press reports of the agreement in regard to the control of these funds by representatives of ex-servicemen's organisations. Mr. Weir suggests that Anzac Day does not mean much to the men of the recent war. That, we believe, is a matter of opinion; but it should be remembered that Anzac Day had acquired a national significance long before the Germans opened the second round of what was really one war with a long interruption. At the same time there is nothing wrong with the proposed day of national rejoicing to mark the end of the second war. No doubt the views of readers on all these points will be many and varied, but the point of our February editorial was that, while the younger men should prepare themselves to take over the control of the League, the transition should be a gradual and logical process rather than an abrupt break with the past. In that article we said—and we continue to say—that many of the older men are not too old to have some years of useful work left in them. While Mr. Weir, no doubt, writes from experience, we think his experience has been individual, rather than general. Our own, gained from visiting sub-branches, and going through sub-branch notes for this paper, suggests that the general tendency is to encourage, if not to rush, the younger men into office. After all, the meetings elect the officials, and people who stay away from meetings, or remain dumb when they attend them, have only themselves to blame if the hardy annuals continue to flourish on committees. On the minor point of the young sub-branch worker being "embarrassed by too much advice," it may be answered that if a man is not sensible enough to listen to advice, and strong-minded enough to discard that advice when he does not agree with it, that man will not get very far in the R.S.L. or in any other organisation.—Editor, L.P.

R.S.L. CRICKET ASSOCIATION

At the end of the cricket fixtures, West Leederville was leading by a narrow margin from Mr. Hawthorn. Following are the points scored by the competing teams:—

West Leederville, 27; Mt. Hawthorn, 25; Maylands, 23; Nedlands, 21; Subiaco, 21; Perth No. 1, 20; Midland, 16; Perth No. 2, 12; South Perth, 12; Bedford, 9; Mt. Lawley, 8; North Perth, 7; Claremont, 6; West Perth, 4; Gloucester Park, 4.

The first and third and second and fourth teams are to meet in the first semi-finals and the winners will meet in the final.

On March 30, a combined team journeyed to Hotham Valley and were defeated by 186 runs.

During Easter, two matches were played at Wickepin. The first resulted in a win for the city team by 32 runs, whilst the second was drawn, the city scoring 182 and Wickepin R.S.L. six for 161.

On these trips the hospitality of the local R.S.L. and residents of both towns left nothing to be desired, and all members who made the trips are loud in their praise of the welcome extended them.

¿WHY NOT THE RETURNED SOLDIER PRINTERS?

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RETURNED SOLDIER PREMIER

For the first time in the history of the State, Western Australia has a returned soldier as Premier. In addition, seven of the eight full Ministers in the new Government are returned servicemen. To mark the League's appreciation of this, the State Executive, on April 10, tendered a reception to the returned servicemen members of the State Parliament. Many, of course, are well known to the League. The Premier (Mr. McLarty) has been a sub-branch president. Messrs. Lin Thorn and Hughie Leslie, being also members of the State Executive, hardly knew whether they were host or guest, while others, notably Harry May of Collie, were old friends, who had attended many a Congress, and felt as if they were attending a Congress reunion.

Welcoming the guests, the State President, (Mr. Anderson) paid tribute to Mr. McLarty's personal service to the League and made a grateful compliment to the former Premier, (Mr. Wise) for his many services to returned men. Referring directly to Mr. McLarty, Mr. Anderson said: "We welcome him as a Digger, and we are proud of him as the State's first ex-serviceman Premier. Mr. W. Lonnie, a member of the Executive, who served with the Second A.I.F., supported Mr. Anderson's remarks.

On rising to reply, Mr. McLarty was greeted with the strains of "Old Soldiers Never Die," and he proved this by the vigour of his response. He said he was proud to be the first returned soldier Premier of Western Australia. His war service had taught him to appreciate the value of human understanding, without which no one could efficiently lead or govern. He also pleaded for co-operation, the value of which should be apparent to every ex-serviceman. No greater monument could be created to the memory of fallen comrades than making the country for which they fought and died a greater country to live in. The Government, he said, had no illusions. Its members knew they faced difficulties and plenty of hard work, but they would strive their utmost for the good of the State, and for every section of people in the State.

Mr. Graydon, the youngest member of the Legislative Assembly, shared in the response. Mr. Harry May, in a very happy speech, said he felt as if being at Congress again, and was glad to greet so many old friends once more.

The occasion, though brief, was one of the happiest gatherings yet seen in the Board Room of Anzac House.

ELIGIBILITY BALLOT

Nearly 200 ballot papers have been sent to sub-branches throughout the State for use in the ballot on the question of eligibility for membership. Sub-branches are asked to answer "Yes" or "No" to the following question:—

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 arrangements for the ballot and the manner in which it is to be conducted were approved by the Special Federal Congress, which sat in Melbourne in February. The following instructions have been issued with the ballot papers:—

Ballot papers to sub-branches are to be distributed and returned to State Headquarters, and from there, to Federal Headquarters.
Ballot papers are to be returned to the State Secretary before May 31, and, provided they reach the Federal Office, will be accepted as valid up to June 14.

A sub-branch formed after March 31, 1947, will receive a ballot paper on application.

Spoilt ballot papers, clearly marked as such, will be replaced on application to the State Secretary, provided the spoilt ballot paper is returned with the application.

If a sub-branch does not receive a ballot paper, one will be issued, provided written application is made.

Sub-branches must insert the name of the sub-branch in the space provided on the ballot paper, and they must ensure that the necessary signatures are added thereto. The signatures referred to are those of the president and secretary, or any member acting in either of those positions.

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**ANZAC DAY MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT, MR. ERIC MILLHOUSE, K.C.**

"April 25, 1947—and so let us pause again on this, the 32nd anniversary of Gallipoli, to pay homage to Australia's illustrious dead, the men of Anzac.

"Let us honour them with a deep sense of reverence and admiration for their amazing and memorable achievement. "Their gallantry, fortitude and heroic exploits immortalised the name of Australia. As a nation we must never forget them; but, in gratitude, resolve readily and cheerfully to discharge our national duties to ensure that the priceless heritage they left behind will forever remain unsullied.

"On this day, too, we remember the fallen of World War II. In them was kindled the spirit of their fathers, enabling this country, for the second time in more than 30 years, to escape the toils of tyranny."

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PERSONALITIES

☆ Alf Buggins, of Subiaco sub-branch, is in Woooloo Sanatorium. Alf, a former vice-president of the sub-branch, was the sheet-anchor, playing-coach and captain of the band of stalwarts of that sub-branch who visited Hollywood Hospital throughout the war. He believes in doing things in a big way, and was responsible for the success of many social functions, and in some cases for the functions themselves. His ability and energy and his truck were always at the disposal of the sub-branch, particularly in social and charitable work, and we trust that before very long he will be back at the old stand.

☆ Jim Beer, Jnr., vice-president of the West Leederville sub-branch, has taken unto himself a wife. Young Jim, like his Dad (also-named Jim), is a glutton for work. Dad, who is the sub-branch secretary, sometimes has to take orders from Junior, when the vice-president in in the chair, which he does so readily that it looks like a regular habit.

☆ We have been requested to ask if anyone knowing the whereabouts of or any information concerning NZ9718, B. D. W. Carlson, A.I.F., kindly communicate with Miss A. F. Hunter, Box 145, Wanganui, New Zealand.

☆ We regret to report that Syd Wedderburn, the capable president of the Nedlands sub-branch, has been very ill, but the latest report is that he is making slow progress towards recovery. Syd was secretary of the sub-branch prior to being elected president last year, and has worked hard and long both on League and Legacy activities.

☆ Mt. Hawthorn members are pleased to see Harry Blunt about again, after his sojourn at Woooloo, and hope that his health will continue to improve. Harry has been a great sufferer and deserves the luck. We are sorry to hear that Ernie Moore is on the sick list again. Others on the sick list are: L. Bren, Ted Turner, well known in the A.B.C. and the sub-branch, Alex Pearmine, Sid George, Bill Scates and Tom May. They would welcome visits from sub-branch cobby.

☆ A wedding of special interest to League members was solemnised on March 15 in the Ross Memorial Church, West Perth. The bridegroom was Ray Stockmin, son of Vern Stockmin (Mt. Hawthorn sub-branch) and Mrs. Stockmin (State Secretary, Women’s Auxiliaries), and the young lady who said “I will” and promised to pass him the sugar at breakfast time, Shirley Pyman, daughter of Syd Pyman, a former committee man of Mt. Hawthorn. Ray Stockmin is a well-known member of the North Perth cricket and West Perth Football Clubs. Our congratulations to the happy pair.

☆ Wing-Commander W. J. McLean, D.S.O., D.F.C., A.F.C., reached Perth by TAA Skymaster on April 8, to spend a little time in the State before leaving for England. One of the most decorated West Australian airmen, he has been given a permanent commission in the R.A.F. Wing-Commander McLean served with distinction as an Australian

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commanding two R.A.F. squadrons during the war. In Burma, he was awarded the D.S.O. and the D.F.C. for his transport work in dropping supplies for the late Major-General Wingate’s Chindit forces. He was later on active service in the South-West Pacific, in command of an R.A.F. Dakota squadron.

☆ At the request of the State Government, Mr. R. A. Wood, who was seconded to the Commonwealth service as Deputy Director of Postwar Reconstruction in Western Australia, will return to his former post of Industrial Registrar of the State Arbitration Court and Deputy Industrial Registrar of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court. His duties as Deputy Director of Postwar Reconstruction involved chairmanship of State Demobilisation Committee, in connection with the demobilisation of about 46,000 service men and women, from October 1, 1945, to February 15, 1947. He was also chairman of the Reconstruction Training and Re-Establishment Committees. A former member of the State Executive, one of the most prominent stalwarts of the Nedlands sub-branch, Reg Wood was among old friends at a reception tendered jointly to Mr. A. W. Paul, Director of Re-Establishment in the Department of Postwar Reconstruction, Mr. Keith Growcott and himself, quite recently. During the First World War, he served abroad with the 51st Battalion.☆ Mr. Keith W. Growcott, hitherto senior investigation officer of the Postwar Reconstruction Department, has succeeded Mr. R. A. Wood as Deputy Director. Mr. Growcott, who is 40 years of age, has had years of experience in the State Public Service. During the recent war, he served with the 2/7th Field Regiment of Artillery in the Middle East, and returned to Australia in 1943 with the rank of sergeant. On his discharge, he was lent to the Commonwealth Government Statistician’s Office in Canberra. While there, he assisted the Ministry of Postwar Reconstruct and the Manpower Directorate in making occupational surveys. He became senior investigating officer and chief assistant to Mr. Wood on his transfer to Perth in April, 1945.

☆ At least one West Australian, who suffered in captivity in Japanese hands, will have a box seat while some of his former persecutors are being tried for their crimes. He is Sergeant Peter Dimopoulos, of Pinjarra. He came to Western Australia when he was eleven years old, and was captured by the enemy after the fall of Singapore. He learnt to speak Japanese during the four years he was a prisoner of war in Singapore and Siam, where he was a camp interpreter.

☆ The death of Henry Ford recalls two incidents of the First World War. The first was Henry’s well-meaning, but abortive attempt, towards the end of 1916, to bring about peace by negotiation. At the time, neither Germany nor the Allies were in the mood for anything beyond winning something more than a points decision. The second was an incident of a more personal nature. In those days, the Ford car was comparatively new on the market, and it was the target of all sorts of jokes, good, bad or indifferent. Henry Ford glowered in these jokes, because he was shrewd enough to appreciate their publicity value. It was said that he even paid for the best of them, as editors pay for contributions. There was one particularly wicked stretch of roadway on the Somme, at the beginning of which was a finger-post bearing the legend: “This road cannot be used safely by any motor transport except Fords.” An A.I.F. officer of our acquaintance chanced his arm and took a photograph of the sign. After the war, he sent a copy of the photo to Henry. He received an autographed and very friendly letter of acknowledgment, enclosing a generous cheque for one of the best advertisements the car had had to date.

☆ When Dr. Edgar Booth, of the International Wool Secretariat, was in Perth recently, it was remarked that, during his residence in England, he had acquired what is commonly called an “Oxford accent.” Actually, even as a boy at the old Fort Street School in Sydney, he was always a precise and cultured speaker, just as Dr. Evatt, who was Booth’s contemporary at Fort Street, was always somewhat careless in his enunciation. Besides being a Doctor of Science of the University of Sydney, Dr. Booth is a returned soldier. He served with the First A.I.F. in France and Flanders, winning the Military Cross and attaining the rank of major.

☆ Bassendean sub-branch recently suffered a severe loss through the death of one of its trustees, Mr. Harold Chipper. Another trustee, Mr. Kirke, has been in hospital, while Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lamb and family were unfortunate enough to meet with an accident while out motoring. We wish Mr. Kirke and the Lamb family a speedy recovery.

NORTHAM WAR MEMORIAL

The matter of a town war memorial was mentioned at the recent monthly meeting of the Northam sub-branch of the Returned Servicemen’s League. Several speakers thought there seemed to be a lack of interest in the proposal so far as the general public was concerned.

Five months ago, a public meeting had been held and a committee appointed, said one member. No decision had yet been reached on the form the memorial was to take and it seemed the sub-branch should act independently and establish a memorial itself—an R.S.L. Memorial Club Room, or an R.S.L. Memorial House.

Finally, it was agreed that the matter be made a subject for full discussion at the next regular meeting.

ESTATES OF EX-SERVICEMEN

The following resolution was adopted at the last Federal congress:

That this congress requests that the Old-age and Invalid Pensions Act be amended to provide that benefits received from deceased servicemen’s estates be disregarded.

The Prime Minister, to whom it was sent, replied:—

The Government recently introduced legislation to liberalise the means test for the purpose of the Invalid and Old-Age Pensions Act by increasing the standard of permissible income from 12/6 to £1 per week and limit of property that a person may possess from £400 to £650. These liberalisations have proved beneficial to many persons in receipt of war pensions, particularly the parents of deceased servicemen. The Government has indicated its intention to further review the means test from year to year, having regard to the financial position existing at the time.

In the circumstances, it is regretted that no action may be taken at the present time to give effect to the terms of the resolution, but you may be assured that the views of your organisation will be kept in mind when the means test is again under consideration.
WAR GRATUITY REGULATIONS

The War Gratuity regulations have been amended by the Federal Government to provide for early payment to ex-servicemen needing the money because of sickness of themselves or their dependants. The Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) has informed the Federal Executive of the R.S.L. of this decision, which was made following representations made to him last October. Mr. Chifley said that applications under the amended conditions should be made in the State in which the entitlement certificate was issued. Normally, first gratuity payments will be due on March 3, 1951. Previously, early payments have been made only towards deposits for home-building.

PUBLIC SERVICE PREFERENCE

The Minister for Postwar Reconstruction (Mr. Dedman) has replied to representations made by Federal members, on behalf of the W.A. Branch of the R.S.L., for insertion in the Commonwealth Public Service Act, which was then before the Senate, of a clause retaining preference to ex-servicemen in appointments to the staffs of the Repatriation and War Service Homes Commissions. The Minister's reply was a blunt rejection of the request, although Mr. Dedman and everyone else concerned know quite well that a straight-out preference clause was contained in the older Public Service Act. Its omission from the new Act has long been a sore point with this League. Consider, now, the peculiar evasiveness of Mr. Dedman's official reply: "You may be aware that the Bill has passed all stages in the House of Representatives, on February 28, and in the Senate on March 6. Moreover, it cannot be accepted that any provisions of the Bill lessen in any way the policy of preference to ex-servicemen."

When Mr. Dedman tells us this sort of thing, someone really should tell him in return that only a very small proportion of R.S.L. members ever served in the Royal Marines. He ended his communication by stating that before the receipt of the League's representations he had already arranged to have a discussion with the Federal President (Mr. Millhouse) on the operation of the Act.

DEFENCE MEDAL

Members of the Forces who served for six months in the aggregate in the Northern Territory, north of latitude 14 degrees 30 mins. south and in the Torres Strait Islands during the period September 3, 1939, to September 2, 1945, are now eligible for the Defence Medal, provided they were not ordinarily resident in those areas prior to September 3, 1939. If they were residents, the respective qualifying period will be three years.

This information has been received by the Federal Executive from the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) in reply to the League's request that the Defence Medal be issued to all servicemen who are entitled to receive a returned from active service badge.

Mr. Chifley pointed out that the Defence Medal is awarded only for non-operational service, operational service being recognised by the 1939-45 Star or appropriate campaign star.

He added: "It would appear probable that your request is intended(512,236),(968,928)

NAVY PERSONNEL DEFERRED PAY

The following resolution was sent by the General Secretary to the Minister for the Navy:

The following resolution was sent by the General Secretary to the Minister for the Navy:—

That the Commonwealth Government be requested to increase the deferred pay of Navy personnel to at least 2/- per day from September 3, 1939.

In his reply, the Minister stated:—

I desire to inform you that I have inquired into the matter.

During the war the position was that whilst Army receive a flat rate of deferred pay, the rate payable in the Navy varied with rank and was, in some instances, higher than that payable in the Army.

It is not intended, therefore, to revise the rates of deferred pay in the Royal Australian Navy with retrospective effect; but, in this regard, I would point out that the general question of co-ordinating the conditions in all three Services is at present under consideration by a committee.

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VARIA

☆ Federal Executive has been successful in a request to the Minister for the Army (Mr. Chambers) that when the death of a member of the Forces occurs in Australia, and the relatives desire the burial to be in other than a war cemetery, the necessary permission be granted. Mr. Chambers has informed the Executive that arrangements are being made to adopt this procedure. Action was taken by the Executive because frequently in the past relatives have been caused extreme sorrow on finding that, owing to regulations, service personnel who died on the mainland, away from their home State could not be returned there, and interred privately. In view of Mr. Chamber's decision, it is expected that naval and Air Force authorities will take similar action.

☆ In response to an inquiry from the League, the Secretary, Prime Minister's Department, stated that the Widows and Mothers' Badges have been issued in respect of deceased merchant seamen since 1942; over 200 having been issued in Australia.

☆ In view of the importance and urgency of the appeal for the relief to the flood victims of Great Britain, the State War Memorial Apellé Committee decided to defer the launching of their appeal, which was to have taken place this month. The advance subscriptions for this purpose have been very encouraging.

☆ At question time in the House of Commons, recently, the Minister for Food was asked: "Are you aware that a person with an amputated leg, who is permitted an extra soap ration, is obliged, when applying for extra supplies, to produce a certificate to say that the leg is still off?"

☆ Whilst people in Britain and Australia have been hearing about steel, aluminium and many other types of pre-fabricated houses, the French have gone back to wicker houses, a modern version of the wattle and daub dwellings used by the Gauls and the Ancient Britons. For the panels of a house, wicker lends itself admirably, and has replaced pine, stone and plaster-board. It has already been successfully in building dams and weirs, having a strength and durability which makes it a rival of reinforced concrete. The French reconstruction authorities are considering building wicker villages in the areas devastated by the war. The wicker is made into panels of the desired sizes, then put into position as walls, and coated with cement and plaster.

☆ Shortage of essential commodities in twice-conquered Austria has developed new and strange types of crimes. Hats are snatched from people in dark streets. On one occasion, people waiting for the Vienna equivalent of the "the Ratler" were suddenly pelted with empty tins. As they ducked for cover, five young men sprang out of the darkness and made a haul of about 20 hats. Other victims are snatched in the streets, hustled into cars, stripped as the car moves at high speed, and then turned loose to form a nudist colony in a suburban street. Clothing, fuel, petrol are the usual objectives of thieves. Burglars specialise in lifting bedclothes and household linen, but in every instance money is left untouched. It is believed that the loot is not sold on the ordinary black market. It is got rid of by private transaction at considerably greater prices.

☆ The 2/16th Battalion A.I.F. Association will hold a reunion smoke social in the 16th Battalion Drill Hall, Bazaar Terrace, on Monday, April 28, commencing at 8 p.m.

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Memorials For World War II

Writing in an Eastern States contemporary, Mr. W. R. Laurie, the President of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, states the views of the profession on war memorials, in order that the public may avoid repeating some of the mistakes of the past. He mentions two schools of thought in regard to war memorials. The more utilitarian school appears to be thinking in terms of memorials of a practical nature—hospitals, wards, clinics, halls, service buildings, community centres, playing fields and the like. There is, however, still a considerable school of thought which feels that the monument, divorced from any form of utility, is a desirable means of commemorating war services. An argument often advanced for this view is that the "utility memorial" merely provides the community with an opportunity to avoid responsibilities, which it should normally shoulder. Whether monument or building, Mr. Laurie says, a memorial should indicate its purpose. It should be dignified, and placed in well-planned surroundings. It should encourage people to visit it, and so obtain inspiration from its existence.

Today's approach to the problem is complicated by the existence of so many memorials of the First World War, which have often become the focal point of celebrations by men of that war. It is generally accepted that these memorials should be the scene of a religious observance at least once a year, on Anzac Day, and sometimes more often. In small communities, where finance is the governing factor, the monument, pure and simple, is still an easy and satisfactory way of recording the efforts and sacrifices of members of the community. But, often, where such a monument is proposed, immediate difficulties arise because of the monument of the previous war. It would be absurd to have two monuments of two wars in different parts of the locality because they would split the commemorative services between the two bodies of returned men. That would be an impossible and disruptive position.

Few existing monuments lend themselves to grouping with a new monument commemorating another war, and different individuals. Enclosure and elaboration of existing monuments can sometimes provide a satisfactory solution, if so carried out that the new does not detract from the old, but but harmonises so well that the new memorial is not placed in any subsidiary significance. An illustration is what our own State War Memorial Committee has set out to do in connection with the existing memorial in King's Park.

The siting of monuments of the First World War was not always satisfactory. As the site is one of the most important matters in the design of a monument, it is advisable that those in charge should seek the architect's assistance at the outset, rather than when the site has been determined. Where the existing monument is not well sited, it would perhaps be practicable to move it to a better site, and so combine the old and new monuments in a fresh design. Even a small monument is relatively costly, and the small community is often forced into the position of economising in design, with disastrous results. The Royal Institute of British Architects, and the Fine Arts Association gave timely help in Britain after the former war. A standardised village cross was designed by the late Sir Reginald Blomfield, and more or less mass produced. It was supplied comparatively cheaply, and architects exercised themselves in designing the settings—walls, pavings, steps, plinths, gardens, and so on. Many Australian memorials are in neglected surroundings. Often the site and surroundings were not fully planned in the first instance because of lack of funds, but often when surroundings were properly laid out, the maintenance proved too heavy for the community concerned. Neglect completely robs the memorial of its dignity and significance, and it is reasonable to suggest that the maintenance of all memorials should be a charge on the municipal rates.

Utilitarian memorials could take the form of a building devoted to a particular purpose, or a park, playing field or avenue. There is no reason why avenues should not be a feature of Australian towns, provided they are properly maintained. On the whole, memorial halls have not been entirely satisfactory, because of poor design and erection. Often, too, only enough money was raised to erect the building, and revenue has been insufficient to maintain it in proper condition. Unless the question of upkeep is appreciated, we shall have the same spectacle of unkempt buildings that we have seen since the 1920's, or buildings which will have to be used for purposes at variance with their early significance. There is little indication of any clear thinking or knowledge about the "utilitarian" accommodation which any neighbourhood requires. The general tendency for returned men's organisations to establish their own hall is not always desirable because of the difficulty of financing the project over the years. Attention might well be drawn to the advantages of making the new memorial an endowment of an existing hall, to ensure its upkeep and to enable it to be fashioned into a modern building.

CORRECTION

In our February issue, it was reported that the York sub-branch had carried a motion protesting against the levy of 2/6. The true position is that a motion protesting against the half-crown levy was defeated at the annual general meeting of the sub-branch. Our apologies to York for this error.

On Page 17 (Varia) of our March issue, it was reported that a gift of £25 to the Northam sub-branch amelioration fund had been made by the 2/28th Battalion Welfare Committee. Actually, the gift was made by the Northam 28th Battalion Welfare Committee.
WAR-BLINDED SOLDIERS

"We have heard brave words from brave men, and I am very glad to have been here to listen to them."

This stirring tribute to fortitude and enterprise was paid by His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor, Sir James Mitchell, when he opened the new rest room for blinded ex-servicemen at 81 Pier Street on March 21. Introducing Sir James, the president of the War-Blinded Welfare Committee (Mr. J. A. Dimmitt, M.L.C.), declared that blinded ex-servicemen were determined to overcome their difficulties and fit themselves into a normal and satisfying life. As an instance of this, Mr. Dimmitt mentioned Mr. Laurie Greenham, the first victim of blindness in the recent war, who is now employed full time as a telephone at the very large switchboard at the head office of the Commonwealth Bank, where he is giving entire satisfaction.

Mr. Dimmitt said the committee was founded by Colonel Collett in 1941. Colonel Collett was then Minister for Repatriation. Its object was to provide amenities for blinded ex-servicemen, outside the scope of repatriation grants. The Welfare Committee has spent £3500 on welfare and training without, at any time, asking the public, or any single society for a single penny, though many helpers have given much material assistance. The provision of the rest room, however, will cost £200, and, as Mr. Dimmitt said, the committee is now making no apology for the public to funds. The blinded men who will be benefited include 10 from the First World War and 32 from the recent war.

Sir James Mitchell praised the work of the president and individual members of the committee, and spoke appreciatively of the devoted work of women helpers. The vote of thanks to His Excellency was proposed by Mr. W. James, supported by Mr. J. Ward, who were blinded while in service with the First and Second A.I.F., respectively.

During the proceedings, Mr. Dimmitt announced that a cheque for £25 had just been presented by Mr. Peter Watson, the official party included the State President (Mr. Anderson), the State Secretary (Mr. Benson), Mr. A. Yeates, of the R.S.L. State Executive, Mr. H. V. Shearn, M.L.A., and Mr. T. H. Bath.

SOUTH PERTH FLOOD RELIEF APPEAL FOR BRITAIN

The South Suburban Motor Cycle Club will be holding a motor cycle carnival at the Hurlingham Estate, South Perth, on Sunday afternoon, May 11. A collection will be taken in aid of the above appeal—afternoon tea and drinks provided.

Residents of South Perth are invited to roll up and assist this very worthy appeal. Good times assured.

R.S.L. sub-branches who desire to add to their funds without having to go to a lot of preparatory work such as functions involve, are invited to read the advertisement of Paterson's Press Ltd. in this issue, which suggests the selling of popular Digger books to friends and supporters of the sub-branch after buying at wholesale rates.

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51st Battalion (A.I.F.) Association

Notice is hereby given that a general meeting of the Association will be held at the conclusion of the parade on Anzac Day, at Monash Club, 10a King Street, Perth. Further announcement will be made at the parade.

T. EDMONDSON, President
R. A. WOOD, Hon. Secretary

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☆ Most Diggers in this State will, we think, thank God on Anzac Day for the width of the continent that separates us from the National Memorial at Canberra, for returned men in the Australian Capital Territory have been very astutely "put on the spot" by the Federal Government. A sub-committee of the Cabinet has arranged the form of service to be observed at the National War Memorial. It provides for the laying of wreaths by the Governor-General (Mr. McKell) and official representatives; one hymn—"God of our Fathers, Kn 0 wn of Old;" a requiem read by a representative of the R.S.L.; and the customary bugle calls. At the conclusion of the ceremony, which is timed to last 40 minutes, the ex-servicemen will march past Mr. McKell and the Stone of Remembrance. This means that returned men in the Australian Capital Territory are faced with the awful dilemma of doing homage in public to one whose appointment to the exalted position of Governor-General aroused bitter resentment in all classes of the community, to say nothing of vigorous protests from the R.S.L. in all States; or of boycotting the ceremony and failing in their duty to comrades living and dead. That, however, is all one to the crowd who must butt in, now, instead of letting the men who ran the war run the commemoration of one of its most dashing exploits.

☆ During Britain's coal crisis, the Minister for Fuel (Mr. Emanuel Shinwell) became a sitting shot for the disgruntled. Human nature, being what it is, this was only to be expected, but it was a bit over the odds when a London Columnist told the Minister, who is called "Manny" by his pals, that "Manny is the root of all evil."

☆ According to an Eastern States weekly, the Governor-General (Mr. McKell) has written to the Scottish Ancestry Research Council, asking that a complete investigation be made of his ancestry. Evidently the G.G. believes in the triumph of heredity over hearsay.

☆ Mr. Louis Laurent, the able French-Canadian, who is now Canada's Minister for External Affairs, recently described as nonsense the statements published in the Russian newspapers "Pravda" and "Izvestia," that Canada was being submerged by United States Imperialism. The Russians and others have, for months on end, been circulating rumours that the United States has been putting diplomatic pressure on Canada to secure bases in the Arctic regions of Canada. When an official denial failed to silence the propagandists, military attaches of all the nations represented at Ottawa were invited to fly to the Arctic as guests of the Canadian Government, to look over the ground for themselves. Russians were among those who accepted the invitation, and a corps of correspondents, including representatives of the Soviet Tass Agency, went with them. They saw only 100 Americans and about 500 Canadians engaged in a scientific survey. Not a gun, war plane or machine-gun, much less an atomic bomb, was anywhere in evidence. Nevertheless, although they must know the facts of the case, Moscow Radio, "Izvestia" and "Pravda" still continue the wild about American Arctic imperialism.
☆ Although no definite announcement has been made, some extra broad hints from Canberra make it fairly clear that compulsory training will not be a part of the Chifley Government's defence policy. A sighting shot fired by Government spokesmen was the statement that the next war would be a push-button war, until one side or the other had secured a decision. However, General Eisenhower, who might reasonably be accepted as an authority on war before the arm chair strategists of Canberra, has different ideas on the subject. "If you talk of push-button warfare (i.e., a war in which scientists in concrete dugouts decide the issue)," General Eisenhower said recently, "you are talking about something in the future, something that is X- years away. The application of the new weapons to actual warfare is a long distance in the future. We are not now in anything like a super-blitz." General Eisenhower believes that any war reasonably near ahead will "pick up just about where the last one left off." Accordingly, he is a strong advocate for keeping Uncle Sam's armed forces up to strength. "The American occupation forces in Germany and Japan," he says, "have been reduced to such a level that we have reached the point of danger.

☆ President Truman's plans for giving financial aid to Turkey and Greece have annoyed Reds abroad, and certain writers of syndicated news nonsense in our own country, more than anything, since the Greeks voted in favour of a monarchy. On that occasion, Greek Cons. refrained from voting, because they did not want to give away the pauchy of their numbers. When a British Parliamentary Mission went to Greece on a pro-E.A.M. fishing expedition over a year ago, they had the shock of their lives when British soldiers gave eye-witness accounts of what the E.L.A.S. thugs had been doing, with the arms they were given to fight the Germans. More recent testimony about the position in Greece has come from Mr. L. A. Mandalis, a prominent member of Perth's Greek community, and former A.F.I. lieutenant, who returned recently from a visit to his homeland. Mr. Mandalis said: "The rumour that Greece is Fascist is completely unfounded. There is complete freedom and personal liberty throughout the country. The people are anti-Communist, and very bitter towards Communist trouble-makers arriving from the States on the north." While in Greece, Mr. Mandalis, on behalf of the Greek community of Perth, laid a wreath on the Australian section of the British war cemetery at Kalmaki, near Phaleron.

☆ The London Times has pointed out one effect of the delay in signing the peace treaty with Germany. Until the treaty is signed, the Allied Governments have legal grounds for retaining German prisoners of war. According to The Times, there are still 3,500,000 Germans held in Allied countries. The bulk of them—up to 2,500,000—are in Russia. There are about 340,000 in Britain. At the present rate of repatriation, it will take Britain two years before all these are returned to Germany. France is holding about 700,000, more than half of whom were captured by the Americans. The U.S.A. has asked France to return them to Germany by August, but the prisoners are to have the choice of going back or remaining in France as free workers. In a leading article, The Times pointed out that the German population today is nearly 66,000,000, of whom 36,597,146 are females and 29,313,853 are males. The return of the prisoners of war would do much to redress this balance of 7,000,000.
and not a branch of the National Service Department, as being
in the best interests of ex-service men.
Trustees.—The report of the Amelioration Fund showed 15
cases of relief granted, and A.M.F. Special Benefits Fund, 14 cases
granted.

Public Service Bill.—The President reported that he had wired
to all the W.A. members of both Houses of Parliament, asking
them to urge the Prime Minister to insert a clause in the Public
Service Bill retaining the past policy of preference to ex-service men
in staffing Repatriation and War Service Homes Commission.
Repairs had been received from Senators Fraser, Cullen, Cluchier
and Nash, and Mr. K. E. Readey, M.P.

Federal Correspondence.—Circular 82: Regarding the refusal of
the South Australian Trench to admit to membership of the
League an Italian who, before the 1939-45 War, was a member of
the League, but who had been interned. The Federal President
had ruled that under no circumstances must such persons be
admitted.

Circular 84: Containing a copy of a letter from a League member
in Borneo, endeavouring to enlist the aid of an ex-service man's
association in Australia in erecting a Sandakan Memorial.

Circular 86: Giving copies of the acknowledgments from the
Prime Minister's Department concerning numerous protests at the
appointment of the present Governor-General, "which had been
noted," and a reply from the Minister of Postwar Reconstruction
regarding the request that the Government appoint a Committee
on investigation into the matter of settlement of ex-service men.
Comments of the Minister will be forthcoming in due course.

Circular 83 Information from the Commonwealth Statistician
showing the racial origin of permanent, new arrivals and total
arrivals in Australia during the year ended December 31, 1946,
which were 18,217 and 34,890, respectively.

Circular 81: Contained a reply from the Prime Minister with
reference to the proposed visit of Field Marshal Montgomery
and that consideration would be given to the request that ex-service
men, through the League, in each State, would be given the
opportunity of meeting and entertaining the Field Marshal.

Circular 68: Showing Federal Executive resolutions as to admission
to the League of personnel who served with A.N.G.A.U.,
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Circular 1127: Copy of a letter from the Minister for Post-War Reconstruction in connection with the Reconstructed Settlement, remarking on the amicable and helpful relations which existed between the Commonwealth and State Government authorities, and that he had never understood that relations were anything but amicable and helpful.

Mountjoy Appointment.—A file of correspondence about the Mountjoy appointment was referred to the Rehabilitation Committee, who are examining Hainsard. It was resolved further to refer the matter to the League Legal Officer.

Harvey Sub-Branch.—A protest was received from this sub-branch against the admission of alien immigrants whilst shipping space was scarce. This matter was already covered.

New Sub-Branch.—Approval was given for the formation of a new sub-branch at Wandering.

No. 18 District Council.—The officers for the ensuing year for No. 18 D.C. were confirmed, and a number of resolutions were referred to their appropriate committees.

State War Memorial.—A letter was received from the sub-warden of the Memorial, pointing out that the rule where no service was held at the Memorial, but only the laying of a wreath, had been departed from in a recent instance. It was resolved that a letter be written to the parties concerned, drawing attention to procedure in the past.

Eligibility.—A letter was received from a man who had served as a civilian in Royal Naval Ammunition Carriers, and on the British Admiralty Staff, giving an outline of his service. Although he was paid by the British Admiralty he was not attested. The matter was referred for a decision by the Federal President.

Shortage of Linseed Oil.—Reference was made to the shortage of linseed oil, and it was suggested that the Government be asked to exchange wheat with India for linseed and that the shortage be investigated by the Government, urging that this case be conducted by barter in the exchange of commodities in short supply.


MARCH 26, 1947

At the meeting on March 26, there were present Messrs. Anderson, Edmondson, Sten, Davies, Mansbridge, Craig, Halcombe, Ferguss, James, Watt, Fitzhardinge, Herlihy, Stahl, Paton, Ferguson-Stewart, Lonnie and Stoddart.

Visitors present were Messrs. C. Court, B. Chambers and C. Gummery (of Geraldton).

Mr. Ross McLarty.—At the suggestion of the State President, it was decided to tender a reception to Mr. Ross McLarty, the first returned soldier Premier of the State, and that an invitation be sent to all returned soldier members of Parliament.

British Flood Relief Appeal.—It was agreed that the League support the W.A. Division of the Red Cross Society in its appeal on behalf of British flood victims, and that the League's help should be along the lines of that given in the Prisoner of War Appeal.

Public Service Bill.—The State President reported that he had received letters from further Federal members of Parliament in answer to the recent request of the League in connection with the Public Service Bill. The letters were from Senator McDonald and Messrs. K. Beazley and T. Burke. It was also arranged for the Executive to meet Mr. K. A. Wood, who is resigning from the position of Deputy Director of Postwar Reconstruction, and Mr. Paul, who has been appointed Director. The meeting was arranged for Wednesday, April 5, at 5 p.m.

Staff.—The resignation of the chairman of the R.S.L. House Committee, in-advertising for a manager in succession to Mr. George Yates, who resigned on being elected to Parliament, was confirmed. It was agreed that Mr. K. G. Lee be appointed accountant at Anzac House, subject to medical examination. It was also agreed that the President and two vice-presidents be added to the committee for the appointment of the new State Secretary, and that applications be addressed to the State President, in a manner similar to those for the position of accountant. Messrs. Forby and Fitzhardinge were appointed to prepare specifications and report on the calling of tenders for the alteration of office accommodation at Anzac House.

Anzac Day.—It was resolved that the arrangements for the coming Anzac Day be similar to those of previous years.

Land Matters.—The Land Committee's report gave details of the serious position in regard to superphosphate supplies, and referred to the allotting of points to approved applicants for farms, the appointment of a non-serviceman to the position of Field Superintendent of the Lands Department, and the position of rural training.

Faversham House.—It was reported that there were twelve guests in residence at Faversham House.

War Service Homes.—The War Service Homes Committee reported on the New Zealand scheme for the erection of community houses, single units of which are let at a weekly rental of 17/6. Although the Workers' Homes Board had submitted to the Government, the league's suggestion that similar action might be taken here, the Government was not altogether favourable to the erection of community houses.

Fremantle Appeal.—The Rehabilitation Committee reported that an appeal had been lodged against the appointment of a non-serviceman to the post of Town Clerk at Fremantle.

Resignation.—The Re-establishment Committee was requested to appoint a successor to Mr. Combs on the Regional Reconstruction Training Committee, as Mr. Combs has resigned from the staff of Anzac House. Appreciative references were made to the way Mr. Combs had carried out his duties whilst a salaried officer of Parliament, and it was resolved that he be sent a letter of appreciation.

Hospital Visiting.—An amended roster of hospital visitors was approved. It was announced that the W.A. Sportsmen's Council had given a library of 100 books to Lemnos. Another report pointed out that tobacco supplies for hospital patients in Geraldton were very scarce. It was resolved to take the matter up with the Red Cross Society.

Federal Correspondence.—Circular 96: The Minister of the Army advised that arrangements were being made permitting the adoption of the suggestions from the League that where the death of a member of the forces occurs in Australia permission can be granted to relatives for the burial to take place in other than a war cemetery.

Circular 100: The Minister of Repatriation notified the appointment of Mr. E. C. Stevens as Chairman of No. 2 Assessment Appeal Tribunal. It was resolved to write to the Federal Executive to inquire as to the displacement of the previous Chairman, who was first on the panel of names submitted.

Circular 97: A reply from the Prime Minister set out the qualifications for the Defence Medal, following a request from the League that a medal be issued to all servicemen entitled to receive the Returned from Service Service Badge.

Circular 114: A reply from the Prime Minister commented on the regulation which stated that no member is deemed to have served overseas unless the headquarters of his unit also moved overseas, with particular reference to air crews based in Australia and operating as far afield as the China coast.

16th Battalion Association.—A request that the State Executive receive and welcome a delegation of the Adelaide Branch of the 16th Battalion Association was received. It was resolved to recommend that the House and Club Committee make the necessary arrangements for the visit.

Maylands Sub-Branch.—This sub-branch protested against sub-branches writing direct to the Press, criticising the State Executive. It was resolved to acknowledge the letter and express agreement with the views of the sub-branch.

Full Citizen Rights for Ex-Service Aboriginals.—A resolution that all aboriginals who served in the forces should automatically be granted citizen rights on discharge was deferred pending information from the D.R.O. or Native Affairs Department. It was resolved further to refer the matter for consideration to the Re-establishment Committee.

Perth Sub-Branch.—A letter received in connection with conferring life membership on a member was referred back for further consideration.

Marvel Loch Sub-Branch.—A letter of protest against the appointment of Mr. Mountjoy to C.S.I.R. was received.

Swan View-Greenmount Sub-Branch.—This sub-branch urged an increase in Widows' Pensions. It was pointed out that this matter has been actively pressed by Federal Congress.

Poppies Day.—It was decided to arrange a meeting of sub-branches to present final figures and preparations and issue of a statement on the Poppies Day.

Purchasers' Protection Act.—Mr. Stoddart cited a case where an ex-serviceman had been misled in the purchase of land.
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CORRIGIN

There was a well-attended meeting on March 29. Most of the evening was confined to business. It was resolved that future meetings would be held at six weeks' interval, with each alternate meeting being purely of a social nature, to which the V.D.C. and all members of the defence forces will be invited. Plans are well in hand for the establishment of a community centre in the town. This sub-branch requests the public to take a lively interest in the matter, thereby furthering the success of the project. Plans are also in hand for erecting suitable and well situated new buildings at the bowling green, and the others, inside the entrance gates of the town Park. The sub-branch also recorded its vote on the R.S.L. eligibility issue. The president (Dr. Janes) made a special request to members to attend the Anzac Day parade in full force—outside the Co-op. buildings at 10.45 a.m.—and for the wearing of all medals or ribbons.

MT. HAWTHORN-NORTH LEDERVILLE

March meetings were well-attended. The most important item of interest was the ladies' night on March 20. The music for the dancing was good, and Max Tolley was a successful M.C. As usual, George Black had his social committee in good form. The management committee still runs Monday night dances at Anzac House in aid of the building fund. More members are needed to boost the dance. The March dinners and was keenly contested. It was won by H. Charles and F. Hendon from H. King and E. Bruce. A bridge tournament is under consideration. Members should ask the sports director (George Hill) for further particulars. Members are in training for the visit of South Perth and Victoria Park this month. The sub-branch has entered a team for the Archbishop Riley Memorial Shield games. The cricket team has entered the semi-finals and, with. stalwarts like Johnny Gregg, Ern Cooley, Bert Flegg, Morgan Herbert and L. Dewar, in form victory prospects seem good. The sub-branch has entered a team in the table tennis association. The ladies of the auxiliary hold their bridge evenings on Friday nights in the hall. Future meetings are on the 1st, 15th and 29th of May.

BUNBURY

Membership has exceeded the 100 mark, but neither attendances at meetings nor general interest and assistance in sub-branch activities are as they should be. At the previous meeting, we received a cheque for £100, for the general fund, as a donation from the women's auxiliary. This followed several of the same amount for the Building Fund. Bunbury has long claimed to have the best auxiliary in the State, and now the younger set are following in the steps of their mentors, and were awfully good. Two players contested the semi-finals, and, with the help of the 3rd player, a winner, having already donated £100 to the building fund. The first annual sports meet on Australia Day unfortunately coincided with the railway strike and the only wet day in months, but, although prices were very generous, we contrived to escape a loss. Entries were excellent and we have great hopes for our next attempt. The cricketers have had some very enjoyable picnic games, but were disappointed when Mr. Hawthorn were unable to fulfil their arrangement to visit Bunbury, owing to final.

Margaret River

The election of office-bearers was carried out in January and

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SMITH W. C. Smith and C. R. Oldman were re-elected president and secretary respectively. The committee was very busy over the month and the meet and dance was held on January 27. An amount of approximately £60 was raised towards the building fund. The death of our comrade, Jim Coffey, in January, was quite a shock to us and a big loss to the community. He will long be remembered for his sporting activities and helping hand in all social functions of the district. It is intended to hold a Deb's ball on April 23.

SHENTON PARK

The April meeting was held on the 2nd. The President (Mr. Alan Boyne) presided. A big programme of work is in front of us and the support of all members is necessary. Arrangements are being made for the co-operation of the women's auxiliary, for a social on a grand scale to be held shortly. Proceeds will be handed towards the aid of the Food for Britain appeal. The date of this social will be announced at the next monthly meeting on May 7. Members are earnestly requested to give this social full support. Mr. Whitney has kindly donated two prime drakes to be raffled, and Mr. Strachan has donated £1. The annual reunion and smoke social was held on March 7, and was an unqualified success. The layout of the tables and the decorations were a credit to the women's auxiliary. The usual toasts were proposed and responded to. The artists gave a wonderful performance and helped to make the evening a success, We were pleased to see many of our young comrades in attendance. The stewards, under the direction of Mr. Tom Law, were kept busy dispensing the "amber fluid." Mr. Alan Boyne conducted the proceedings and the tactful manner in which he controlled the evening contributed largely to its success.

NORTHAM

In the absence of the president (Mr. J. Adshead), Mr. A. Bancroft (vice-president) presided at the recent monthly meeting. In response to any announcement by the State President (Mr. J. M. W. Anderson) regarding the impending retirement of the State Secretary (Mr. D. M. Benson) it was decided to open a subscription list for those members who desired to contribute towards a testimonial to Mr. Benson in appreciation of his long services to the League. The Organiser (Mr. F. Harwood) reported on arrangements for the R.S.L. hall to be held in the Town Hall on Wednesday, April 30, and invited members to assist with the preparations. The last meeting, held on January (25) in the chair, was quite good. The usual events were a credit to the women's auxiliary. The usual toasts were proposed and responded to. The artists gave a wonderful performance and helped to make the evening a success. We were pleased to see many of our young comrades in attendance. The stewards, under the direction of Mr. Tom Law, were kept busy dispensing the "amber fluid." Mr. Alan Boyne conducted the proceedings and the tactful manner in which he controlled the evening contributed largely to its success.

BALLIDU

Approximately sixty members and guests attended the reunion on March 15. The guests included representatives of Dalwallinu, Murchison, Wyndham Hills, Cadogan, Harvey, Goldfields, and all branches of the armed forces, including the Royal Navy and the Northumberland Fusiliers, were represented. Wives of members and other ladies provided excellent catering. The president (Mr. H. A. Atkins) was in the chair, and Arthur Wallis was at the piano. The toast of The Ladies was proposed by Mr. H. Goodie and ably responded to by Mrs. C. Petchell, and Mrs. Goodie. The toast of The Ladies was proposed by Mr. R. Petchell, and responded to by a member of each visiting sub-branch.

FREMANTLE CITY

At the last general meeting on Thursday, April 3, with Mr. J. Proctor in the chair, an animated discussion arose on that vexed question of the fishing industry in W.A., particularly of the lack...
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of the British element at present engaged and the following resolution was carried under the policy of the League (Clause 4): Federal conditions. "That the State Executive appoint a small deputation with a Fremantle representative to wait on the Premier, requesting him to bring forward at the next Premiers' Conference and to press the consideration of the following: That in determining the incidence of Australia's immigration policy, provision be made to recruit British fishermen who are prepared to take up their calling in Australia, thus ensuring a better British background to this important industry in Western Australia." As a previous meeting had agreed to participate in the Archbishop Riley Shield Competition, members interested in these inter-sub-branch games are requested to give their names in to the Secretary (H. G. Wilson) as soon as possible. This is an interesting social side to R.S. activities and need not knowing your comrades of the League. The matter of the appointment of a non-executives as Acting Town Clerk at Fremantle was also included in the Secretary's report, which informed the meeting that the matter was now in the hands of the State Executive's rehabilitation committee, and all relevant correspondence had been handed to them. Members are also requested to take notice that on May 29 the ballot for eligibility will be held, also the nomination of officers for the ensuing 12 months. These are both of vital importance to your sub-branch in particular and the League in general. So let us have a big, bumper attendance.

SUBIACO

The sub-branch committee at the March meeting established a course record. Commencing at 7.30 p.m. Subiaco time (8 p.m. Perth time), they ended their deliberations somewhat later than 11.30 p.m. The general meeting on March 26 produced no atomic upheaval, but we got through a lot of necessary business and decided to defy the Quiz Kids by continuing to wear our medals on the left breast. The meeting registered displeasure with the lack of journalistic talent in the personnel of the management committee of the proposed new League official journal; even though one of these is president, Bill Lonnie. However, it was clear that all was said in heartfelt naught at Mr. Lonnie's own call of 'general business' several days to his feet to offer the sub-branch's congratulations to our president on the recent award to him of the M.C. On this evening the hon. secretary was a heavily-overworked man receiving subs—a pleasant sight. May we remind members that subs can be paid at our rooms any Wednesday evening.

SHACKLETON-KWOYLIN

Mr. N. Beaton presided over an attendance of 17 members and a visitor, Mr. H. Capel of Perth sub-branch, at meeting in the Kwoylin Hotel on April 5. A letter from the women's auxiliary told that all was in readiness for the dedication ceremony of the bed in the Bruce Rock Hospital. Attached to the bed is a plaque bearing the names of three local lads who laid down their, lives in the recent war. A date is to be arranged as to when this ceremony takes place and all near relatives have been invited to attend. Discussion next centred around a memorial plaque which the sub-branch is erecting. This plaque measures 2ft. 4ins. by 1ft. 8ins with a depth of 21ins. The three lads' names are inscribed (R. G. Langdon, J. D. Mills, N. J. Venenmore), and it is the hope of the sub-branch that the unveiling will take place on Anzac Day. Anzac Day will be solemnised in the usual manner, all returned men falling-in at 10.30 a.m. at the flag pole, then at 11 a.m. they will march to the hall for the devotional service. A committee meeting will be called on a near date to draw up plans for a smoke social to be tendered to the Bruce Rock sub-branch members in return for the very hospitable time they have given our chaps whenever a visit has been made to their meetings. It was decided that an appeal be launched by the sub-branch to raise funds to support Britain in her present plight. A dance will be run in the near future, and subscription lists will be opened at the following places. Committee are Enkin, Mr. N. Beaton; Shackleton, Mr. J. Jamieson; Kwoylin, Mr. M. Hastings; Pantapin, Mr. J. Groves. Anybody interested in this cause will greatly assist by getting in touch with one of the above, who are always ready to receive donations.

YANDANOOKA

The sub-branch continues to hold alternate meetings at Mingenew and Yandanooka. President (Joe Campbell) has initiated a series of quiz contests, the first of which was compiled and compared by Mr. Bernard Bowler at the April meeting. Yandanooka, represented by Messrs. Brown, Wilkes, Saunders, Lynch, Campbell and Grosvenor, put it all over Messrs. Ferrier, Ridgeway, Sohn, Morris, Bishop and Brands of Mingenew, but the latter have hopes of revenge on their home ground. The sub-branch has subscribed £10 to the Aid for Britain Appeal, and this amount has already been more than doubled by contributions from individual members.

SWANBOURNE

The meeting held on April 2 drew only a moderate attendance of members. We were favoured with a visit from Mr. Wilson, secretary of the Fremantle City sub-branch. The following officers were elected during the evening: Trustees, Hall Fund, Messrs. Cole and Young; trustees (general), Messrs. Day and Morcombe. Nominations were taken during the evening for a committee to be known as the Hall Building Committee-Messrs. Day, Weir (Jack), Morcombe and Wilson. This committee, when elected, will look out for suitable land in the district for our memorial hall and will report progress at each meeting. Many members are taking full advantage of our tennis courts at Allen Park. The Neldlands Board has consented to our taking over the other two abandoned courts and it is hoped, as the results of efforts of members, that four courts will be in first-class playing condition for next summer. Working bees are the order of the weekends (Saturday and Sunday mornings) and things will soon take shape. Combined sports nights are still a feature of our activities. Fifty members of the sub-branch and auxiliary took part at the last meeting and a very pleasant time was enjoyed by all who attended. Members decided that the sub-branch will take part in the forthcoming A.R.M.S. games competitions. We should provide plenty of competition in table tennis and darts and, in short time, the same should be said about quoits. Rifle shooting will be taboo unless we can make arrangements to conduct this part at some other venue. Considerable discussion took place over the Anzac Day and it is anticipated that a strong resolution on the question will come from this sub-branch for next Congress.

WEST LEEDERVILLE-WEMBLEY-FLOREAT PARK

The second March meeting held on the 24th was fairly well attended. Jim Beer, Snr., was kept very busy before and after the meeting accepting subscriptions—Jim reports that subs are coming in very well. Two new members, John Clayton and Eric Elsgood, were introduced to the members. During the meeting, the following members were reported sick in Hollywood Hospital: Messrs. Douglas and Birkens, Ward 18; Perkins, Ward 5; and our old member, Jack Harvey, Ward 13. All these boys...
would welcome a visit from members. It was reported that our cricket hopes have been making a name for themselves and are now at the head of the League, and it is said that they have a very good chance of bringing home the "ashes." Our senior vice-president (Jim Beer, Jnr.) was married on March 29, so our hearts go out to him and he can be assured that when beset by trials and tribulations, he will have the sympathy of his fellow members, especially the married ones. Members were reminded of girding up their loins in preparations for the A.R.M.S. competitions and our newly-appointed sports director (Alex Crow) will be keeping his eye on any likely-looking, new blood that shows promise. Shortly after 9 p.m., business being finished, the chairman (Mr. Les Nimm, M.I.A.) closed the meeting and the rest of the evening was spent in a spot of yarning and judging by the banter and laughter that filled the hall, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

CANNING DISTRICTS

There was an excellent attendance at the monthly meeting on February 23. Social Secretary (Jack Duckwood) reported that the committee had decided to give a social to members’ wives on March 26. The sub-branch picnic to Serpentine was fixed for Sunday, March 16. It was decided to organise a sub-branch of the S.S.I. Messrs. G. Williams, R. Benger, Jack Connolly and H. Godfrey were appointed wardens. The new committee of the community committee has pointed out that their local board, in seeking a grant for the area selected by it for the Memorial Garden in Coker Park. As this has not been allowed for in the ground plans, the committee was disposed rather to grant the district’s fallen borders around various drives. This does not meet with the unanimous approval of the sub-branch, so negotiations will be continued. (The area selected was one-fifth of an acre, and not one acre, as stated in last month’s issue.) The residents of the district will be asked to co-operate with the sub-branch in financing the memorial. The memorial committee consists of Messrs. Haywood, Vidler (3), Garden, B. Doyle, Woodley and Connolly (2). Messrs. G. Williams, R. Bannister and C. Lepp were appointed to the social committee.

MELVILLE

There was an excellent attendance at the meeting on March 13. Two new members were enrolled and two visitors were welcomed. A balance sheet, showing the sub-branch’s assets, has been prepared. A valuation of the land and buildings was made as a free gift by Messrs. Montgomery and Anderson, of Perth. Land improvements and buildings are shown at £530. This does not include furniture, gardens, etc. Water and electric light have been laid on. A social to entertain wives and members who have helped the sub-branch was held on March 6. It proved a most enjoyable evening. The social committee intends to resume the dances on April 18, at Applecross Hall, Canning Bridge. Mr. Bill Hunt, of the State Executive, explained a scheme whereby sub-branches visit and help returned men in public institutions. It was pointed out that Melville already visits Heathcote. The sub-branch will fall in with the plan.

MOSMAN PARK

The monthly meeting was held on March 22, before a good attendance. The main item of business was the report from the sub-committee re publishing a newspaper. This caused an interesting and lengthy discussion. Finally, the sub-committee was empowered to go ahead and organise it. Notice of motion re special meeting to deal with eligibility for membership was carried, but further word from Head Office was awaited before the date of the meeting was fixed. So watch out for the date of this meeting. This is a grave and important matter and everyone should turn up and give his views before the decision is made—not after. The re-organisation of the library is going ahead; old books being repaired and new ones added, from time to time. This is a steady Sunday morning job.

BASSEYDEAN

A combined meeting of sub-branch and auxiliary members was held on February 30, to discuss suggestions for raising money for a memorial hall. A meeting of the building fund committee was held on March 12 to discuss the suggestions. Before the meeting commenced, members paid the silent tribute to the late Mr. Harold Chipper, a trustee of the sub-branch, whose passing has been a sad loss. The women’s auxiliary held a social afternoon on February 27. Arrangements are in hand for a big bazaar on April 29.

KUKERIN

The annual reunion dinner was held at the Kukerin Hotel. There was a fairly large gathering of ex-servicemen from four wars. The president (Reg. Davison) was in the chair. The oldest soldier present was Mr. H. E. Hills, who is 86. He fought in the Sudan in 1884-85. Also present was Mr. Joe Mycock, a veteran of the South African War of 1899-1902, and men from both World Wars. Wally Mott made the journey from Perth to be present, and Charlie Walker, who has been the president of the sub-branch for many years, will be the distance again. Visitors from Lake Grace were: the president of the Lake Grace Sub-branch (Mr. H. Pelham); the secretary (M. Jim Lyall); Mr. J. Coad; and an old friend and entertainer, Joe Magaden.

Women's Auxiliaries

STATE EXECUTIVE

A meeting of the Executive was held on March 17, when the following reports were received:

Wooroloo.—On March 6, the State President and State Secretary, accompanied by members of the Executive and representatives of auxiliaries, journeyed to Wooroloo and distributed gifts to ex-service patients and books to wives of servicemen. This visit was appreciated and auxiliaries who have donated money for entertainment of hospital patients receive the grateful thanks of the ex-Diggers, which was expressed in a letter received from Wooroloo after this visit.

Picnic.—On March 4, an enjoyable picnic was arranged for auxiliaries with a river trip to Mosman Park, the sports being organised by Mrs. Burgess (Sports Secretary), and although the attendance was not as large as expected, all voted it a real “day out.”

During the month, Mrs. Blackburn, wife of Brigadier Blackburn, V.C., was entertained to morning tea by members of the Executive in Ansac Hall.

Mr. Hawthorn auxiliary celebrated their birthday on March 13. The State President and State Secretary, with members of the Executive, were guests at this function.

Mrs. Mckinlay attended a meeting of the newly-formed Guildford auxiliary on March 14.

On March 13, members of York auxiliary visited Favemorth Convalescent Home, where they arranged a musical programme and provided support for the residents. Tuesday was a musical programme. On March 16, Diggers from Lemnos, Sunset and the Homeland were the guests of Mr. Hawthorn auxiliary to a picture afternoon by courtesy of the management of the Ritz Theatre; after which, high tea was provided for them in the R.S.L. Hall, and during the evening, Councillor Gaddy competed a programme of his own, and Mrs. Henderson deputised for Mrs. Mckinlay at this function.

The next meeting of the Executive was held on March 31, instead of April 7, being Easter Monday. A letter of thanks was received from Sunset Diggers for a gift of a toaster received from Harvey auxiliary. Letters were received from two new auxiliaries—Miling and Katanning. A welcome is extended to them.

Mrs. Mckinlay reported attending a social arranged by the Cona auxiliary—one of our new branches—and said that this auxiliary was making good progress.

The State President, State Secretary and Mesdames Dix and Burgess accompanied ex-service patients from Claremont Mental Hospital to Kelmscott on Sunday, March 23. Here, they were entertained to luncheon and afternoon tea by the auxiliary, and the afternoon was spent by patients in playing cricket, dancing, etc. The Red Cross also made transport available and our thanks are due to them for making this trip possible, and thus providing a bright spot in the lives of these unfortunate Diggers.

On March 27, the State President attended the official opening of the Blinded Soldiers’ Rest Room in Pier St., Mrs. Henderson, our representative on the auxiliary attached to same, was also present, and, from time to time, members of the Executive will do duty in this rest room.
A social and meeting of the Scarborough auxiliary was attended by the State President and State Secretary on March 29.

On March 29, Mrs. McKinnay journeyed to Mungadgen and attended a dinner arranged by the R.S.L. and auxiliary, after which a memorial plaque to the memory of the men of the district, who died on active service, was unveiled. Mrs. Mortimer (Country Vice-President) was also present.

City of Perth auxiliary meeting was attended by the State Secretary on March 27.

Mrs. Cullen visited Midland Junction auxiliary and presented a Certificate of Service to Mrs. Wilkinson. Mrs. True visited Mandurah on Sunday, March 25, the occasion being an outing arranged for Diggers from Lemnos, Sunset and Edward Millen Home by the Mandurah auxiliary, in conjunction with North-East Fremantle auxiliary. A record number of patients availed themselves of this trip, which was taken in buses provided by North-East Fremantle auxiliary. Catering for luncheon and high tea was in the hands of the Mandurah auxiliary, in the theatre, and Mrs. Marshall (president) and her band of helpers are to be congratulated on their excellent arrangements, which left nothing to be desired. An unusual programme, interspersed with dancing, was enjoyed, and some of the visitors were able to enjoy a swim.

Mrs. Jenkins, a member of Waroona auxiliary, has been a patient in a hospital in Perth. She was visited on two occasions by Mrs. Brown, who took a gift of flowers, from her fellow members of Waroona auxiliary. Mrs. Sherlock reported paying a visit to West Beederville auxiliary.

Hospital Report.—Mrs. Weeks reported 106 bedside visits to ex-service patients in the Royal Perth Hospital during the month when gifts of cakes, sweets and cigarettes were taken to patients.

List of Donations During March.—Claremont Auxiliary: £10 for Claremont Mental Hospital; £5 for War Veterans’ Home; £2 for Aged Sailors and Soldiers’ Fund; £2 for Faversham Convalescent House Comforts Fund.

MAYLANDS

We regret to announce that the secretary (Mrs. Johnson) is ill in Royal Perth Hospital. Mrs. Fisher is acting-secretary. Members have won three out of four games in the McKinlay Shield competition. Office-bearers attended the “house-warming” party on the Nedlands auxiliary on April 1, and enjoyed a pleasant evening. Mrs. Fisher had a full house at a bridge evening to raise funds for the sports. It was a social and financial success. The weekly card evenings in the Town Hall continue to draw good crowds.

VICTORIA PARK

Meetings on March 14 and 28 were presided over by Mrs. Tolmie. Members were reminded that the United Auxiliaries Exhibition would take place in August, and would be held at Monash House. Members promised to donate an apron each for the Victoria Park stall. At the meeting on March 28, it was unanimously decided to donate £10 from auxiliary funds to the appeal for flood victims in Britain. Members had a very interesting talk on dress-cutting and designing by Mrs. Stanley of the Stanley School for Dressmaking. Various models displayed garments they had made, illustrating various fashions, from sports to bridal attire. A vote of thanks was carried, and light refreshments were served.

SWANBOURNE

A great deal of enthusiasm was indicated at our March meeting in connection with a dance to be held at an early date for the purpose of raising money with which to augment the Memorial Hall Fund. A strong committee was formed and under the guidance of Mr. Jack Weir, big things are expected. Our Secretary was unavoidably absent from the meeting owing to a radio engagement, and whilst we wish her luck in this new field, we look forward to seeing her in her customary position at meetings again. The fortnightly tennis meeting proved to be an unqualified success. Fifteen ladies attended at our first outing and many more have indicated a desire to take part. Prizes are being arranged for the winner on each occasion. The joint sports night with members of the sub-branch was the usual success. Members acquired themselves well, but the need for more practice was evident. More time is being given to the various sports now that the winter is approaching. Members are fitting themselves for visits to neighbouring sub-branches and will probably later take part in the shield competition.
ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICEMEN.

AGNEW—Coyne's Room, every fourth Sunday in month at 10 a.m.; President: Arthur Geoghegan, Agnew; Secretary: R. L. Evans. Agnew; Treasurer: D. R. Nairn.

BUNBURY—R.S.L. Club, every Sunday at 8 p.m.; President: J. E. Hay, State School, Albany; Secretary: A. Wright, 57 Maddington Street, Bunbury; Treasurer: J. J. Erickson.

R.S.L. BRANCH DIRECTORY.

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R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH DIRECTORY.

AGNEW—Coyne's Room, every fourth Sunday in month at 10 a.m.; President: Arthur Geoghegan, Agnew; Secretary: J. L. Evans, Agnew; Treasurer: D. R. Nairn.

BUNBURY—R.S.L. Club, every Sunday at 8 p.m.; President: J. E. Hay, State School, Albany; Secretary: A. Wright, 57 Maddington Street, Bunbury; Treasurer: J. J. Erickson.
DUNBAR - Municipal Hall; last Monday each month; President: John Hearne, Dunsborough; Secretary: J. H. Moore, Street, Dunsborough.

DOUGLAS - Park Hall; 1st Wednesday in each month; President: J. Jarrett, Secretary: R. J. Jarrett, Street, Kingaroy.

DUNDEE - Memorial Hall, 2nd Sunday in each month; President: H. W. Jamieson, Secretary: T. W. Jamieson, Street, Dundee.

DUNEDIN - Park Hall; 1st Thursday in each month; President: W. Badger, Secretary: W. H. Badger, Street, Dunedin.

DUNEDIN - Castle Hill Hall; 1st Wednesday in each month; President: R. McAlpine, Secretary: G. T. McAlpine, Street, Dunedin.

DUNEDIN - Court House, Ballarat; 1st Tuesday in each month; President: H. H. McAlpine, Secretary: G. T. McAlpine, Street, Dunedin.

DUNEDIN - Soldiers' Memorial Hall; 1st Saturday in each month; President: H. H. McAlpine, Secretary: G. T. McAlpine, Street, Dunedin.

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