"Come, then: let us to the task,
to the battle, to the toil—
Each to our part, each to our station."

Churchill, 27th January, 1940.
Monty's delight at being made a Life Member of the R.S.L.
"I will wear it always"

The Acting Federal President (Mr. G. W. Holland) affixes the badge. "Monty" laughed heartily when Mr. Holland remarked, "At least, Sir, the 1914-18 tunic had buttonholes in which you could fix things like this."

BELOW: "Monty" signs the ordinary membership form of the R.S.L., thus forming one of a trio of great Empire fighting men who are R.S.L. members: viz: Winston Churchill, Lord Mountbatten and, now, Montgomery of Alamein.

Lord Mountbatten is proud to wear his League badge. On his return to London, after his flying visit here last year, he confided to a friend that the function at which he was made a life member of the R.S.L. would always remain one of his happiest recollections of Australia.
The Old Order Changeth

The old "Listening Post," as we have known it over such a long period of years, takes on a new form as from this issue. The present issue is the first of the new series.

The State Executive, at the 1945 Congress, resolved to ascertain if it was practicable for the League to conduct its own journal. After long and careful consideration by several sub-committees, appointed from time to time, a recommendation was made to the State Executive that it was not only practicable but also desirable for the League to own and conduct its own official organ. Acting on that recommendation, the first issue of the new journal is now presented to League members.

The journal is the official organ of the Returned Servicemen's League, and will be printed by the Imperial Printing Co. Ltd.

"The Listening Post" now belongs to the League; that is to say, it belongs to the members of the League. It is your journal, and it is hoped that it will express your views and become the voice of the R.S.L.; champion the cause of the ex-servicemen; and give expression, through its columns, to the views of the ex-servicemen.

The League is capable, not only on account of its large membership, but also on account of its strong influence and standing in the community, to speak out boldly and clearly in the defence of the rights of ex-servicemen.

It will be the policy, therefore, of "The Listening Post" to fairly and candidly comment on, and strongly and fearlessly protest against, any move by governments or other bodies or persons who would adversely and unfairly seek to whittle away the rights and privileges of ex-servicemen. The new "Listening Post" will continue to interpret the League's policy and, whilst being non-party political, it will maintain the policy of urging the return to Parliament and local governing bodies of ex-service candidates, irrespective of their particular political bias, on the principal that ex-servicemen's interests, rights and privileges can only be best safeguarded by ex-servicemen.
The Old "Listening Post"

The June issue marked the end of a long and honourable career of The Listening Post in its original set-up which has espoused the cause of the ex-servicemen during the past quarter of a century. The Listening Post has been edited during that long period by Mr. E. S. Watt, than whom there was none better able to state the case of the ex-service man in every phase of his interests.

During that period he has been assisted on the literary side of the journal by the able and facile pen of C. R. Collins—more familiarly known amongst his many friends as "Dick" Collins. Dick is a writer of no small merit, and he has distinguished himself as a writer both of poetry and prose.

One recalls the regular weekly contribution of verse which appeared in the Saturday morning issue of The West Australian over a long period under the initials "C.R.C."

The paper has been produced consistently without missing one single issue over the comparatively long period of its career, and no small measure of credit is due to The Listening Post for the place which the R.S.L. occupies in the community.

The young Listening Post thus pays tribute to its parent and expresses the hope that it will enjoy the same worthy and distinguished career as its predecessor.

E. S. Watt

C. R. Collins

Message from the State President

This issue of The Listening Post marks a new departure in League policy. Successive congresses have indicated that the League should accept full control of the journal and we now commence an era of new responsibility. I am conscious of the service rendered by The Listening Post in the past and we look forward to prosperity in the future. Western Australia is the only State where each member receives a copy of the League journal as part of his subscription. In other States there is a separate subscription to the various journals, and although we were forced to have a levy to establish this publication, even then the all-over subscription is cheaper in this State. The new set-up provides for a host of interesting and entertaining features, together with a vigorous publicising of League policy and opinion.

I look forward to unanimous acceptance by all members of this new official journal, and I have no doubt that improvements will further increase its usefulness from month to month. The R.S.L. is a powerful voice in the land, and I wish our new enterprise great success in expressing the views of a virile and successful organisation.

THE STATE PRESIDENT
(Mr. J. M. W. Anderson)

NEW VENTURE


An instruction from 1946 State Congress to the Executive was that the question of Co-Operative Marketing of fish be taken up on a practical basis. The R.S.L. played a prominent part in the formation of the Mandurah Fisherman's Co-Op., and the company has made good progress in the short time of operations. Shortage of supplies forced the business to enter into contracts with some of the ex-service syndicates operating the big boats out of Geraldton. In order to meet the demands of the business, it has been found necessary to form a company with a $50,000 capital.

The membership will be on a co-operative basis, and the major block of shares to be held by fishermen and suburban distributors, all, of course, ex-servicemen. At present, the Co-Op. is supplying 41 ex-service distributors in the suburbs, and supplies are still short. This is another example of where the League helped ex-servicemen to help themselves.
"Never has so little been done by so many for so few"

TANTALISING DELAYS

Considerable publicity has been given in the Press concerning criticisms which have been made as to the apparent delay in settling ex-servicemen on the land. Official replies have been made to the criticisms, which have been made in good faith, but the fact still remains that the tantalising delays continue and a feeling of despondency seems to be overtaking not only the ex-servicemen concerned but also the department administering the War Service Land Settlement Agreement Act. After all this time we learn, on the authority of the Minister, that there are very limited opportunities in this State under the conditions of the War Service Scheme.

WHERE IS THE BOTTLENECK?

Where does the bottle-neck occur? The Commonwealth Government provides the money and they naturally have to be careful that the money is outlayed on sound propositions. The Government acts on the advice of the Economic Council in Canberra, which investigates each proposition and makes a recommendation. The State Government acts as agent for the Commonwealth Government and there is a War Service Land Settlement Agreement Act under which they operate. If the delay arises from an overcautious policy adopted by the Federal Government on the advice of their economic advisers, then it seems that more authority might be vested in the State Government, for implementing the scheme, on the plea that the State Government would be better informed for having first-hand information as to the lands suitable for settlement than would the advisers in Canberra.

SETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Under the War Service Land Agreement Act it is specifically stated that "settlement shall be undertaken only where economic prospects for the production concerned are reasonably sound and the number of eligible persons to be settled shall be determined primarily by opportunities for settlement, and not by the number of applicants." It is to be regretted that this aspect of land settlement should now be stressed, after the lapse of so long a period. There was no warning issued to the applicants in the earlier stages that the chance of securing a farm would be determined primarily by opportunities for settlement.

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It was never, of course, anticipated that the number of applications would decide that point, but applications were called for and, naturally, those ex-servicemen interested in farming applied and, at the present time, there are 1,456 men classified as suitable and sufficiently experienced, including those who only require eight weeks intensive training. The puzzle, is: Why is there such a dearth of suitable land in a country with the agricultural potentialities of Western Australia. If insufficient land is available to settle our ex-servicemen, how then are we going to settle immigrants when they are brought out here in the large numbers which the immigration plans seem to be providing for.

WHERE THE FARMS CAME FROM

We are advised that up to date only 1,455 offers of properties have been received, although we are assured that every effort has been made to obtain offers of properties. There were about 2,000 Rural Bank holdings on the bank's books in 1943. Of this number, no more than 200 farms could be obtained from this source, most of them being dairy farms. The only other source appeared to be from privately-owned lands, either by purchase or resumption. Is it that the State or the Commonwealth Government have insufficient power to acquire suitable land? The only power of resumption for settlement in Western Australia is contained in the Closer Settlement Act, under which land cannot be resumed for settlement unless it can be shown that resumption would result in a substantial increase in production. The Director of Land Settlement, we understand, has written to about 200 owners of large properties asking them if they would offer their properties to the Government for the scheme. We understand, however, that these property owners are withholding their land against the day when they can receive enhanced prices. It will be seen, therefore, that both Commonwealth and State Governments apparently lack the power to resume such properties unless under the very restrictive conditions provided in the State Closer Settlement Act.

RELEASE OF SUITABLE LAND

It seems that the time is fast approaching when Government powers must be extended in order to release land suitable for soldier settlers. The owners of larger properties, who are withholding them from sale, have, of course, their rights; on the other hand, the settlement of ex-servicemen on the land and the resulting benefit to the country in increased production is of paramount importance. Does it seem, then, that the needs of the majority must take precedence over the interests of the smaller minority?

Then again, there is the other regarding influence on the working of the scheme; namely, the very high standard which has been set by the Government as to the properties on which ex-servicemen will be settled. All this is most commendable, of course, and will greatly benefit those men who are fortunate enough to be allotted a farm. It is the Government's aim that each farm allotted under the scheme must be developed to a stage where it is capable of earning sufficient income to enable a settler to purchase a house and other structural improvements on terms; to repay advances of stock and plant; to pay rent at 3½ per cent. on the value of the land and any structural improvements; and to live at a reasonable standard. In estimating the capacity of properties to measure up to these requirements the price of products have to be considered, not necessarily in the light of existing present-day prices. All this is most commendable. The question arises in our minds as to whether we are not endeavouring, in placing so high a standard, to expect too much from the property, and not enough from the man.

TRYING TO DO TOO MUCH

After all, the Australian serviceman has been noted through the years for his initiative, ingenuity and adaptability, and might there not be just the danger of endeavouring to do too much? We are not only hampering the settlement on farms of the already long waiting list of ex-servicemen, but we might also be curbing the spirit of those who have already been allotted farms. After all, reasonable opportunities to make a success of their holdings is all that the ex-servicemen can reasonably expect.

It is rather disquieting at this late stage to be advised from official quarters that the settlement opportunities in this State are very limited.

Crown Lands were considered in the early stages to be a source from which suitable land would be made available. It is not easy to understand why the Commonwealth Government considers that practically no Crown lands are considered as suitable for settlement under the scheme. In the early stages of the scheme in Western Australia it was thought that with the use of bulldozers and up-to-date methods of top-dressing, areas of Crown lands, particularly in the heavy rainfall regions, could be used for the scheme.

CROWN LANDS

We understand that soil surveys, experimental work and water investigations have been completed in the Crown lands, but we are advised that it is not yet possible to include any Crown land areas in the scheme. To the layman these are puzzling. It is all-important that, firstly, our ex-serviceman should be settled and, secondly, that our unproductive areas should be brought into production with as little delay as possible.

We note that large sums of money have already been spent on the scheme. We note that the blueprints provide for an almost Utopian set of conditions, could they be realised, but, unfortunately, we also note that, although they have been allotted, the unfortunate ex-service-
men, who were fortunate enough to be in the draw, are not yet settled on their farms. These are facts which stare us stark in the face and they add to the already very depressing picture which has already been presented by that long queue of frustrated ex-servicemen who have been waiting for so long, in the apparently forlorn hope that, sometime, somewhere or other, they will be allotted the farm which they so enthusiastically imagined would be theirs—some of them over two years ago—but which has not yet materialised. Markets are good; food production is an essential need all over the world; prices will not always hold at their present level; opportunities are being lost.

OPPORTUNITIES BEING LOST

These opportunities are being missed, and the chances to make good in the next two or three years are being sacrificed to the equally-laudable plan of the guaranteed farm under the idealistic scheme which was originally laid down and, to which, we are perhaps too slavishly adhering, to the exclusion of the major issues. One of the most distressing aspects of the delay in settling our ex-servicemen on the land is the feeling of frustration, disappointment and discontent which is causing them and their families to regard the whole scheme with cynicism and distrust.

The R.S.L. is making an all-out move to secure compensation for certain P's.O.W. and dependants of those who lost their lives in the numerous Japanese “hell camps.” The matter was launched at the British Empire Service Legion Conference, which commenced in London on 30th June, 1947.

The “Australians” case was presented by the Federal President of the League (Mr. E. Millhouse, K.C.) and his co-delegate, Brigadier H. W. Strutt.

An unceasing fight has been made by the R.S.L., over a long period, in this matter and it seems that, in days of peace, the claims of these men are apt to become forgotten.

THE DEATH RAILWAY

It is not an unreasonable claim to make, that the men who built the Siam Death Railway, and similar other works, and also the dependants of those who lost their lives on such jobs should share the value of this undertaking. The Federal Cabinet regards the matter as being one entirely for the Peace Conference, when reparations will be discussed. The League is confident that the British Empire Service Legion, which is the parent body of leading Empire ex-service organisations, will take the matter up and bring it before the British Government for decision. There were aerodromes, railways, roads and other permanent assets built by forced and cruel labour, at the expense of our men, and those assets must not be regarded as belonging to the countries in which they have been built.

BOUGHT WITH BLOOD

They were bought with the blood and suffering of our own kith and kin and no country where these assets are installed should benefit, but they should be purchased and the proceeds distributed amongst the survivors and the dependants of those who died. Commenting on the matter, the Federal President (Mr. Millhouse) stated: “If an officer was paid a field allowance—merely another name for subsistence—because it was included in his daily rate of pay, the ordinary ranker is just as entitled to his 3/-, without the question having to be decided by a peace conference.”

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“Friendliness of the West”

“Monty” remarked on the friendly atmosphere which had struck him on his arrival on his short visit to this State. Full confirmation of this was not lacking when he addressed the returned service men and women at Anzac House who had assembled in great numbers to welcome him.

Not only was the ballroom of Anzac House crowded to capacity, but also the supper-room, where loud-speakers were installed.

For nearly two hours before the Field-Marshal was timed to arrive the crowds started to gather, and before long the seating accommodation was fully taxed.

On his arrival, “Monty” was accompanied into the hall by the State President (Mr. J. M. W. Anderson) and Mr. Benson.

There was a large attendance of representative citizens on the platform, amongst whom were the Naval Officer-in-Charge, Fremantle (Capt. L. H. Howden), Mr. Nelson Lemmon (Minister for Works and Housing), the Chief Justice (Sir John Dwyer), Cr. J. H. Gower (representing the Lord Mayor), the State Premier (Mr. Ross McIlvry), Archbishop of Perth (Dr. Moline), G.O.C. Western Command (Major-General J. S. Whitelaw), United States Consul (Mr. R. W. Hetti), Officer Commanding Western Area (Group Captain W. H. Garing), President of Australian Legion of Ex-Service Men and Women (Mr. F. Collins), President of Ex-Navy Men’s Association (Mr. N. B. Bicker).

The welcome was not allowed to assume too formal a character, and in typical Digger fashion—the old familiar songs were sung. When “Monty” entered the hall, the audience sang with great enthusiasm “There’ll Always be an England.” The State President (Mr. Anderson) then delivered his speech on behalf of the League and he was very ably supported by Mr. W. K. Lyall, M.M., President of the 2/28th Battalion Association. The Field-Marshal, on rising to respond, was greeted with loud and prolonged cheering. He won his audience over immediately he started to speak because of the natural, friendly manner in which he spoke. He gave an interesting outline of the great and terrible days through which Britain passed and led up to the great and glorious termination of the threat which had been made towards the Empire. “Some people try to tell us that Britain is done. Not a bit of it,” said the Field-Marshal, with strong and convincing emphasis. Before retiring from the platform to proceed to the supper-room to acknowledge, by his presence, the large crowd which had congregated there as an overflow, the Field-Marshal was introduced to the V.C.’s who were on the stage.

During his progress through the hall he was introduced to representatives from the War Nurses, War Widows, Women’s Auxiliary and Blinded Soldiers.

As a concluding gesture to the departing Field-Marshal, the audience stood and sang as they had never sung before “Australia Will Be There.” And so concluded one of the most successful and enthusiastic receptions which had ever been held in Anzac House, and which, we venture to say, will be a lasting memory for the Field Marshal—Montgomery of Alamein.
Lack of Houses

A Social Evil—Its Effect on Neurotics

Of all evils that war leaves in its train few are more disruptive of the social life of the community than the lack of housing accommodation for the families of the Nation. The shortage, of course, will be felt in every country of the world, but we are concerned, at the moment, with our own people here in this State.

It has been estimated (and it is easily understood) that 80 per cent. of the present civil neurotics derive their conditions from the anxieties, discomforts and worries caused by lack of proper housing accommodation.

HOUSING WORRIES

Many of our ex-servicemen who have already passed through the rigours and horrors of war have had this housing worry added to the many other different readjustments, which they have to make on their return to civil life. Many of these young men are just in the beginning of adult life. Many of them are already married and have young families on their hands, but no suitable accommodation. All this must have its effect on future generations. It is a matter of absolute emergency, and a matter of first national importance to the nation as a whole, that our ex-servicemen should be settled in their homes by the earliest possible moment.

MAKESHIFT CONDITIONS

Whilst they live in the make-shift conditions, with its uncertainties, discomforts and disadvantages, it must effect them in their daily work. These men cannot be expected to concentrate on their work. They are unsettled and unhappy, and industry as a whole suffers. There is no greater asset to any community than a happy, contented, industrious worker. The conditions under which our ex-servicemen are forced to live is a reflection on our civilian life and a rebuke to the public conscience. Men who served in war are still living in tents, caravans, small rooms, lodging with relatives, small flats and any other make-shift accommodation which merely affords protection from the weather. These shelters cannot be regarded as houses and certainly will never develop into homes.

REQUISITIONING OF MATERIALS

The authority, given under the recent amendment to the War Service Homes Act, to requisition materials seems to be the only way to ensure that War Service Homes secure a fair share of the limited supplies of building materials available. A state of extreme urgency, if not actual emergency, exists over the housing problem, and something more than is at present being done must be attempted if the position is not to be allowed to worsen.

TO PREVENT BLACKMARKETING

The Government has been requested to mobilise government and private resources to meet the housing shortage and to prevent black marketing in building materials.

The assistance given to ex-servicemen by the War Service Homes Commission, as measured by the number of homes constructed since the cessation of hostilities, is trivial.

It has been proved that during war nothing is impossible. So, now, with housing! It should not be impossible. It involves the future welfare of the nation, for the heart of the nation is in the home.

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ABOUT CAMELS

There are lots of camels in Palestine. The camel is a quadruped affair with a head at one end, a tail at the other and a sort of chassis in between. This chassis is supported by four legs, one at each corner, to keep it from being flat on the ground. If it weren’t for these legs it would cease to be a camel and become a snake or something, which would be ridiculous, because there must be camels or else there would be no such—and there is—so camels are, or something to that effect. The camel has a hump on its back, which is very peculiar. It also goes without drink for many days at a time. Perhaps that accounts for the hump.

If some members of the A.I.F. went without a drink for a few days there would be so many humps in the battalion that we’d be known as the Camel Corps. Some camels have one hump and these are known as dromedaries. Or, perhaps, some dromedaries have two humps and these are known as camels. I’m not sure which is the other, but it doesn’t matter to me and you don’t care, and the camel (or dromedary) doesn’t give a damn, so why worry about the thing. I mean to say, if a rich man can’t enter the gates of heaven on a camel’s (or dromedary’s) hump (or humps), with the eye of a needle in his pocket, it doesn’t leave us much chance of getting anywhere, does it? Anyway, we all know about camels (or is it ruddy dromedaries?), now, don’t we?

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Back Row (left to right): Col. H. B. Callett, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D. (1925-33); H. E. Bolton (1919-20, 1921-22); A. E. Yeates, O.B.E. (1933-42); Col. C. H. Lamb, M.C. (1918-19); C. G. Ferguson (ex-Assistant State Secretary); J. Chappell, State Secretary Col. W. O. Mansbridge, D.S.O. (1916); D. M. Benson, Retiring State Secretary; J. M. W. Anderson, State President (1944-47); T. S. Edmondson (1942-44).

There have been 12 State Presidents of the W.A. Branch of the League, two of whom were Col. H. Pope and Rabbi D. I. Freedman, who have since died.

Other State Presidents who were not present when the above group was taken were: Rev. J. Fahey and Messrs. H. S. W. Parker (Present Minister for Health) and H. S. Humphrey.

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"LAND-LESS"

(Q.) Can a sub-branch hold land in its own name and on which it desires to build a hall.

(A.) The Rules of the W.A. Branch lay it down in Rule 21 (4) (a) that "the W.A. Branch shall be and is hereby authorised to acquire for and on behalf of and/or to hold land as trustee for any sub-branch.

"PUZZLED"

(Q.) I have a Gratitude Bond amounting to £33. I read somewhere that holders of Gratitude Bonds could receive payment up to £10 on application. I am now told that I cannot receive this £10 until the date of Maturity.

(A.) You have been misinformed as to the operation of this £10 payment. It means that gratuities up to £10 may be paid immediately, and does not imply an advance of a gratuity of a greater amount than £10.

Enclosed is a cutting from the "Great Southern Herald," which reads as follows:

EX-SERVICEMEN'S PROBLEMS

Move Towards Co-Operation

At the June meeting of the Katanning sub-branch R.S.L., criticism was expressed at the result of the widening of R.S.L. membership. The Katanning sub-branch, believing a consolidated voice was necessary for adequately attending the welfare of ex-servicemen, was wholehearted in favour of widening the scope of membership as far as possible, a sentiment reflected in the entire Western Australian voting on the matter. In order to overcome the restrictions retained by the Eastern States sub-branches, the Katanning sub-branch has approached both the Legion of Ex-Service men and women and the Air Force Association with the request it be permitted to assist those two bodies in the handling of problems affecting ex-service personnel—"World War II."

This is in line with our own opinions and we think it has a fairly general acceptance throughout the League.—(Editor.)

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How an Ex-Serviceman was Dumped

The Fremantle City Council advertised for a town clerk. There were 12 applications—eight from ex-servicemen and four from non-servicemen.

The list of applicants was reduced to five by the Mayor and Councillors; and of these five, four were ex-servicemen. Finally, a non-serviceman was appointed as Acting Town Clerk.

Amongst the last five was Mr. Phillips, who served for a considerable time with the R.A.N. Prior to enlistment, he was employed by the Council, and his place was taken by Mr. McCoombes, who was a contractor prior to his joining the Council.

Of the eight ex-servicemen, five were keen to make application under Section 27 (1) of the Re-Establishment Act. This Section reads: "An employer shall in the engagement of any person for employment, engage, in preference to any other person, a person entitled to preference, unless he has reasonable and substantial cause for doing so." Of the five who were keen to make application under this Section, four withdrew on the grounds that they did not deem it expedient to prosecute. These reasons should be sufficiently obvious to even the most casual observer.

Mr. J. D. Walton, one of the five, remaining ex-servicemen, was not in the employment of the Council, and he felt free to make the application. He holds the Diploma of Commerce, W.A. University; he is an Associate of the Australian Institute of Cost Accountants; an Associate of the Federal Institute of Accountants; Associate of Australasian Institute of Secretaries, and he is a third year student of Law at the University. He possessed excellent references from previous employers.

During the hearing of the case brought by Mr. Walton against the Fremantle Council, an attack was made on his character and honesty, by suggesting that he had been dismissed from the Prudential Assurance Co. Limited, for something concerning money matters. In explanation, Mr. Walton submitted that, whilst he was employed by the company, defalcations had taken place and he found another position. The defalcations, however, continued after he had left. At the adjourned hearing, the manager of the company con-

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cerned gave evidence that the honesty and integrity of Mr. Walton was at no time questioned.

This unwarranted attack on the applicant was a despicable act, as, had there been any suspicions, an inquiry to the company concerned would have removed the suspicions. When an employer such as the Fremantle City Council sees fit to use this form of attack, the effect must be to deter other applicants for preference from claiming their rights in the future.

It is a weakness in the Act that puts the onus of prosecution on the ex-serviceman employee to prosecute his employer for breach of preference. This should be the task of a policing authority appointed by the Government, so that the responsibility does not lie with the unfortunate employee.

"Take Your Pick, Dig."

PERCY CANNOT
CO-OPERATION

There are certain basic differences in both organisations, nevertheless their aims and ideals are almost identical. Both the Legion and the League have as their aim the fostering of the interests of those who served and each is, therefore, striving towards a common goal.

Room for Both

It cannot be denied that there is room for both organisations, and each has its own peculiar task to perform. There is a multiplicity of ex-service associations being formed, all with laudable ideals, but it seems that there is a redundancy which tends towards an overlapping of work and a dissipation of effort. The League has been in existence for well over a quarter of a century, and it has successfully catered for the needs of ex-servicemen.

Two Main Categories

In many of the new bodies which have sprung up since the last war, it would appear that they are not in any better position to cater for their members than is the League. The League has no quarrels with other organisations which have been formed to benefit men and women who have served their country in the time of war. There are two main categories into which service people can be classed; i.e., those who served abroad in theatres of war, which is the League qualification, and those who, from circumstances outside their control, served in other capacities. These latter form the membership of the Legion. Obviously, both groups have common problems. To mention a few more outstanding: Repatriation, Housing, Re-establishment, and Rehabilitation. Both bodies have sub-committees working on these problems.

The R.S.L., as the senior organisation, we think, is big enough and generous enough to subscribe to any workable plan whereby unity of action can be achieved for the common good. Every good purpose can be served, no matter in what organisation, where co-operation is practised.

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That 422,200 war pensions have been claimed, as from members and dependants, as a result of the 1939-45 War.
- That of this number, 242,830 have been granted.
- That the total staff of the Repatriation Department in March, 1939, was 1,748.
- That the number of the staff is now 8,578, which includes 3,270 officers on administration, and 4,308 at the institutions controlled by the Commission.
- That the maximum cost of a War Service Home has been raised from £1,250 to £1,750—if you can get house and land!
- That the maximum advance by the Government on a War Service Home is increased from £1,250 to £1,750.
- That 20,000 ex-servicemen have lodged claims and many thousands more are doing the same.
- That at the present rate of building, it will take a long time for the last applicant to get his house.
- That sub-branches rejected the widening of membership by 866 votes to 699.
- That out of 1,721 sub-branches entitled to vote, 1,572 exercised that right.
- That the “No”-States are Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and A.C.T.
- That of Victoria’s 387 votes, 325 were “No,” and South Australia’s 205, 170 were “No.”
- That the last audited membership figures of the W.A. Branch of the R.S.L. reveal that 34,332 members paid their subscriptions as at 31st December, 1946.
- That the latest figures available would be as at the end of April, and delay by sub-branch secretaries in forwarding monthly returns and receipts renders many members unfinancial, so far as headquarter’s records are concerned.
- That so-called drops in membership, thereby created, are, however, more apparent than real.
- That members who throw in their badge because they cannot get what they ask, do more harm to themselves as an individual than the League as a whole.
- That a quarter of a million good Australian soldiers prize the R.S.L. badge and are proud to wear it.
- That surely that number cannot all be wrong.
- That some members impetuously “throw in” their badge, thinking that by so doing the League will fall to pieces—but it doesn’t.
- That the Counsel who defended the Fremantle City Council in the preference case was Mr. N. DeB. Cullen.
- That the Council might have allowed the case to be decided on its purely legal merits, without adopting the other tactics.
- That, although the ex-serviceman applicant was able to clear his character on the testimony of his former employer, nevertheless, the stigma was there.
- That it is a sorry business when ex-servicemen have not only to fight for their rights in courts of law, but have also to have their characters besmirched, which, in this case, was unnecessary, as it was unjust.
- That the W.S.L.S. theme song is “Kathleen Mavourneen.”
- That the Minister for the Interior will be asked to give ex-servicemen preference in the allocation of Crown lands in the Northern Territory, and also to set aside portion of the available lands for the settlement of ex-servicemen only.
- That the only “ism” for Australia is “Australism.”
- That it should always be remembered that the League had its origin in comradeship.
- That comradeship is still the keynote of the League’s work.
- That, by being a member of the R.S.L., you are in distinguished company. The latest Empire figure to become a life member is Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery. Recently Mr. Winston Churchill accepted the badge and, sometime prior to that, Lord Louis Mountbatten, when he visited Australia, also wore the badge.

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FUTURE PEACE

Australia's voice will be heard on a number of important matters at the B.E.S.L. Conference. For instance, Australia would ask that "Ex-Service-men's organisations in Allied countries be invited to exchange views with the object of stabilising the future peace of the world." Men who fought to preserve all that is decent and best in democracy are the men who are best qualified to know what is needed to prevent another world conflagration.

☆

THE PRACTICE OF PREFERENCE

The real preference lies in the minds and hearts of employers. Preference which has to be fought for is not preference at all.

☆

A Fremantle Digger, highly qualified and apparently in every way suitable for a high position, was denied preference in favour of a non-service-man. He took the matter to court. The Defending Counsel saw fit to attack the character of the applicant by suggesting that he had been dismissed by a former employer over matters of money. This was proved, on the testimony of the former employer, to be absolutely false. Meanwhile, publicity had been given to the attack. Not satisfied with denying preference when it was due, an attempt must be made to destroy the ex-service-man's character, in an attempt to defend a bad case. It was open for the employer who was avoiding preference to enquire from the previous employer, if he had any suspicions regarding the character of the ex-service-man.

☆

Sub-Section 5 of Section 27 of the Re-Establishment and Employment Act, 1945, should be deleted to avoid compliance with the Section. Even if a new position is being advertised and it means an addition to the staff, an employer can call for applications, pick out a non-service-man, employ him temporarily as a clerk prior to the appointment to the new position.

He then only has to promote the man selected and the Act does not apply. Preference does not extend to promotions. It is difficult to see the reasons for this sub-section, and unless it is deleted from the Section, which is so vital to ex-service-men, preference will be a right without a remedy or means of enforcement.

☆

REPARATIONS FROM JAPAN

The R.S.L. is concerned at the tone introduced into talks advocating the resumption of trade with Japan. The League realises that some resumption is inevitable, if not actually necessary economically, but at the moment the fact should not be lost sight of that Japan owes a substantial sum of reparations as a recompense to those servicemen whose health has been wrecked by privations, whilst held as P.O.W., and whose bodies were wrecked by bestialities whilst in their hands.

☆

PROMISES

In the dark days of the war, when our servicemen stood between us and the invader, nothing was too good for them. They were our heroes, and how we clapped them as they marched through the streets on their way to battle. How we waved the flags; how we made the promises; and how—we have forgotten them! To mention just one broken promise: We made him fight for his preference and force him even to go to law. We defeat him, however, by technicalities and strict interpretation of the letter of the law and, where we are not sure of that, we attack his integrity, as in the Fremantle Council case.

☆

THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT

It behoves all employers to interpret not the letter of the law regarding preference. In the spirit. We have a promise to discharge to ensure that the sacrifices made by those men who stood between us and our enemies are not too lightly regarded or too readily forgotten.

☆

PREFERENCE WEAKNESSES

The decision by the Magistrate in the Fremantle Council case was given under Section 27, (5), (a), of the Re-Establishment and Employment Act, which states: "Nothing in this Section of the Act shall apply in relation to the engagement or employment by any employer of person who is already employed by him... This, of course, protects the non-service appointee if he happens to be already employed by the employer, irrespective of the fact that, morally, the ex-service-man should be given the preference. This is yet another weakness in the Act, which has exercised the mind of the R.S.L. for a long period and, concerning which, it has strongly protested from time to time.

☆

FOR ONLY BY EX-SERVICEMEN'S HANDS CAN THEIR WRONGS BE RIGHTED

Under the recent amendments to the War Services Homes Act there is one which abolishes the position of Commissioner, who is now replaced by a Director of War Service Homes under the Department of Works and Housing. The League does not welcome the absorption of Government Departments which have been created to cater for the ex-service-man by other departments not handling, exclusively, ex-service-men's affairs. It has always been felt that the needs of ex-service-men can best be served and understood by staffs comprising ex-service-men.

☆

ALIEN IMMIGRANTS

A census should be taken of all alien immigrants who have arrived in this country during the past two years, in order to ascertain their place of residence and their occupation. Their place of residence should then be compared with the particulars of intended place of abode, supplied by them on their immigration papers. As a people, we are apt to be too lax in matters such as these and the result tends to render more difficult the rehabilitation problems of our own ex-service-men.

☆

LAND SETTLEMENT DELAYS

The reports on the delays in the settlement of ex-service-men on the land and the pessimistic statements of those in authority regarding the comparatively small number of men who will ultimately be settled on farms makes depressing reading. It is certainly not due to lack of organisation and planning, which left
nothing to be desired, but it seems as though the results will not be forthcoming. To misquote Churchill, we can only say, "Never has so little been done by so many for so few."

LET THE STATE HANDLE IT

The decision of the State Government to take over the settlement of ex-servicemen on the land is hailed with satisfaction. Much of our land, which has been condemned by the experts in Canberra, no doubt is suitable for soldier settlement. Surely the State Government is in a better position to know where the suitable land is? Should the State become a principal and not the agent for the Commonwealth, as at present, the Commonwealth will not, of course, be liable for the financial losses involved. Whatever losses occur will only be made good by the Commonwealth, indirectly, through Commonwealth grants to the State Government. We have reached the stage now where anything is better than the present "delayed action" War Service Soldiers' Settlement Scheme, as we now know it.

THE MAJORITY RULES

After the controversy which has raged for four years, sub-branches throughout Australia and the Pacific Islands have rejected by 866 votes to 699 the proposal that membership of the League be extended to all volunteers who did not serve. The statement of the Federal President that "the majority rules—so let's get on with the job" is good advice. The same advice should have been given, it seems, in October of last year, when it was thought that the issue as to the eligibility had been decided. In fact, it was decided. New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and A.C.T., representing nine votes, succeeded in altering Sub-Rule (GG) of Rule 5 of the Constitution, to provide: "That all men who volunteered to serve anywhere and were accepted for active service and served not less than six months, and were honourably discharged, irrespective of where they served, may be admitted to membership of the League." Victoria and South Australia bitterly opposed the decision and were active in having the question reconsidered. The recent ballot was the result. As the Federal President has pointed out, "the majority rules," but it did not in this case. Why?

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

It will be remembered how officialdom kept Lord Louis Mountbatten to themselves and, to a lesser degree, Admiral Lord Keyes, when they visited Australia last year. It is hoped there will be no repetition of the wide-spread dissatisfaction amongst those who served, that they had little opportunity given to them of meeting these two famous fighting men. The League took steps to ensure that Lord Montgomery would be given ample opportunity to mix with ex-servicemen.

LISTENING POST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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MEMBERSHIP WRANGLE

The Hatchet is Buried—But the spot is Marked!

The figures show that keen interest was taken in the ballot—a 91 per cent vote being recorded. This is in striking contrast to the apathy shown when State Branches held individual plebiscites last year.

The history of the wrangle over widening membership goes back to 1943, when first efforts were made to admit men who, although volunteers, had not served overseas or in certain Australian areas, officially defined as being theatres of war.

The question reached a peak last October when, at the annual Federal Congress in Melbourne, Western Australia successfully moved that Rule 5 of the Constitution be amended by including the following sub-rule:

"All men who volunteered to serve anywhere and were accepted for active service, and served not less than six months, and were honourably discharged, irrespective of where they served, may be admitted to membership of the League."

That decision caused further controversy and, exercising their right under the Constitution, four States (Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and Australian Capital Territory) requested the Federal President (Mr. Eric Milhouse, K.C.) to summon a Special Congress to reconsider the new rule. The Special Congress, incidentally the first in the history of the League, was held in Melbourne on February 13 last.

South Australia, supported by Victoria, failed to have the new rule rescinded, but it was decided that a referendum of all sub-branches be held to determine the matter.

This was conducted on the democratic lines laid down by the Federal Executive, and a much vexed question has been finally settled—or has it?
It Can Be Done—
How a Sub-Branch Overcame a Housing Problem

The Gosnells sub-branch, under the leadership of its president, like a stream of water, when it could not get over an obstacle, got around it. The point is, it got there!

This is a simple story of difficulties overcome, and a striking example of self-help.

A widow, who occupied a house at Gosnells, had the house sold over her head to a naturalised Spaniard and, as the purchaser required the premises, notice to quit was served on her. Incidentally, this widow had three sons in the Services—one of whom was killed.

In addition, she had an ex-service couple living with her, who, between them, had 9½ years service to their credit.

Eviction Threat
She was faced with eviction and the threat was that her furniture would be placed on the roadway. The local R.S.L. took the matter up and did everything possible to prevent the threatened eviction. Apparently the law, however, was on the side of the stronger party, and it seemed as if the law would have to take its course.

Adjournments were, of course, obtained, with the assistance of Headquarters, Anzac House, but, meanwhile, application was made to the Workers' Homes Board for a permit to build, which was refused. The application was renewed on several occasions, but the acute shortage of materials was the answer.

The court order for eviction was again deferred for 28 days, pending further negotiations with the Workers' Homes Board. The time expired to within a few days. The sub-branch then determined to make a last, final bid, and convened a public meeting, from which a deputation was formed to again wait on the Workers' Homes Board. The result was that a permit was granted on the last day of the order.

A further extension of the order was then sought and obtained. Eight weeks were asked for, but four weeks were granted, pending the erection of the house.

Tantalising Delays
There were several tantalising delays over the permit, which gradually used up the time in which the building would have to be erected. The house was erected. It was built in exactly 10 days 5½ hours actual working time. Today, there is an asbestos and timber, four-roomed house; tiled roof, lined with plasterboard; back and front verandah; bathroom and laundry complete.

Had it not been for the persistence of the local sub-branch and their determination to see that the weak were protected, an injustice would have been done.

Something Accomplished
The work was all done quickly and quietly, and now the naturalised Spaniard has the home which he bought over the widow's head; the widow is safely and happily established in a much better home; and the local sub-branch has functioned!

A House is Built.

On June 13, Clive Myrell Shenton died at the Mount Hospital after a short illness. His grandfather, George Shenton, Snr., was one of the pioneers of the colony. Clive was an original member of the 8th Battery and was at the Landing at Gallipoli. He received his commission in France and returned to Australia in 1918. In World War II he joined the 25th Cav. Regiment, in which he held the rank of Captain, and was later a training officer at Northam.

In civil life the deceased was the secretary of the Quairading Road Board, and after discharge from the Army he was an officer in the Probate office. His eldest son, Sgt. Peter Shenton, was killed in action in the New Guinea campaign. Sympathy is extended to his widow and son.

---

Bill Fullerton
10th Light Horse

We regret to record the passing of the late Bill Fullerton, who died on July 8 at the Hollywood Hospital after a short illness. Bill had been the Secretary of the Subiaco sub-branch for some years and had always been a staunch supporter of the League and a valued member of the sub-branch over a long period. Bill served in the First World War with the 10th Light Horse in Egypt, Sinai and Palestine. Before his retirement, he was on the clerical staff of the W.A.G.R. His son, Rod, went overseas with the 2/4th M.G. Battalion, where he was wounded and later a P.O.W.

We extend our deepest sympathy to him and to the bereaved wife.
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Rehabilitation Benefits

UNDER-AGE YOUTHS OF MERCHANT NAVY.

The Prime Minister’s Department was approached with a request that rehabilitation benefits be extended to youths who joined the Merchant Navy at or before the age of 17 years.

The Prime Minister has replied: “That the nature and conditions of service of members of the Merchant Navy are not comparable with those of the Armed Forces.”

He admits that there is much to commend the request, but the difficulty arises when it is considered that similar cases would be made out for other groups of youths who were employed on civilian war work.

With a certain amount of reason, the Prime Minister goes on to state: “That members of the Merchant Marine are civilians who, in war-time, follow their usual occupation, but, in the course of same, are subjected to risks and dangers from enemy action, on occasions equal to those experienced by the Fighting Forces.”

This personal hazard has been covered by special benefits for disabled seamen, under the following Acts and Regulations:

(a) Seamen’s War Pensions and Allowances Act, 1940.
(b) National Security (Additional Allowances to Seamen) Regulations.
(c) National Security (Wages of Seaman Detained by the Enemy) Regulations.
(d) National Security (Medical Benefits for Seamen) Regulations.

EX-SERVICEMEN AT PERTH TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Shortage of Materials Retards Training

The Superintendent of Technical Education (Mr. L. W. Phillips) said “that the shortage of material was having a retarding effect on the reconstruction training of ex-servicemen at Perth Technical College.”

Only 175 ex-servicemen began their training last month at the College, compared with 200 during each of the past few months.

Seventy of the students have attained the 40 per cent. efficiency and are waiting to be absorbed in employment.

The total training potential of 400 ex-service trainees was not being used.

This position cannot be improved until more shipping is available to Western Australia. A bad show, indeed!

GOVERNMENT BY REGULATION

How We Can Be Thwarted

Away at the very end of the Re-Establishment and Employment Act, 1943, there is an innocent-looking little sub-section of two lines, which is the most potent weapon in the hands of Parliament, so far as the Act is concerned.

This regulation is Sub-Section 2 of Section 137, and is tucked-away in the last eighth and ninth line of the whole Act. It reads:

“Regulations may be made providing for the repeal, or amendment of, or the addition to, any provision of this Act.”

The danger here is, of course, obvious. This is an example of where the voice of the people can be stifled.

CLOSING DATE FOR TRAINING UNDER C.R.T.S.

Extension in Certain Cases

The closing date was 30th June, or 12 months after discharge, whichever was the later. The Minister has said, “that there will be no general extension of the closing date, but provision would be made to enable discharged members of the Forces, suffering from a war-caused injury or illness, to apply after 30th June.” Similarly, the closing date would not apply to widows of members of the Forces.

PROVIDING HOMES

Easing Up of Local By-Law Restrictions

The Director of War Service Homes has been given power under a recent amendment to the Act to have erected houses which will conform to a reasonable design and construction in any locality, irrespective of whether such buildings may, in some measure, contravene the building by-laws of local governing authorities. These local by-law restrictions have contributed in some measure to the delay in the erection of houses.

The League does not deny the desirability of keeping up the standard of dwellings, but when bricks are not available, a well-built timber house is the next best alternative, even although it may be a so-called brick area. Many ex-servicemen owned blocks of land in brick areas, but they were precluded from building because bricks were not available.

Many of them were compelled to sell their land at Treasury valuation and repurchase another block elsewhere, where timber houses were permitted. This caused not only loss, but also delay. It is not expected that there will be any undue breaking-down of local by-laws and, no doubt, local governing bodies will accept the position and co-operate to the fullest extent.

TURNED OUT

Eviction of returned servicemen from their homes is causing concern to the Returned Servicemen’s League in this State, and arrangements are being made to discuss the matter with the Premier (Mr. McIarty). Thirty-six evictions have been ordered by the court within the past month and, of these, the majority affect families of ex-servicemen.

Servicemen so evicted have priority in the allotment of war service homes, but, as only 20 houses are now available under this scheme, it means that many must still look for other quarters. It is one thing to have a priority, but it is another matter to be able to exercise the priority. This is not the solution.
The amendments arose mainly in consequence of the decision of the Government to increase the pensions of certain classes of members of the forces and widows of members who died as a result of war service.

The increase will be 5/- per week in each case, similar to the increase to aged and invalid pensioners. Service pensioners will also benefit. A service pension is a scheme of age and invalid pensions for ex-members of the Forces. The provisions are more liberal, however, than those of the civilian scheme, but generally they conform with each other.

The increase will apply to the same classes of pensioners of both World War I and II, as the pension provisions are common to both wars. Except for the amendment made last August, which modified the provisions relating to income and property of service pensioners, the Act has not been before Parliament since the general revision in 1943. It was amended in 1940 to extend the pension provisions and the general benefits to the Forces of World War II and, in 1941, regulations were made for the purpose of assisting members back into employment. This was the first direct re-establishment measure. It provided for unemployment sustenance, tools of trade and payment of fares. In 1942, a joint Parliamentary Committee, consisting of all members of both Houses and all parties, gave consideration to the existing repatriation legislation, to ascertain what further measure should be adopted in the re-establishment of ex-members of the Forces.

As a result, the Act was substantially revised and the regulations were completely re-written to include new benefits. The main alterations were a general increase of all classes of pensions and a widening of the grounds of eligibility for pensions, and the generous interpretation of the provisions in the case of a doubt as to entitlement.

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**The Listening Post**

- The Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act, 1920-1946, has been amended at various points and came into operation on July 10, 1947.

**RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF MEMBERS AND DEPENDANTS, 1939 WAR**

**Some Interesting Figures**

**War Pensions—As at the end of March, 1947:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Benefit</th>
<th>No. of Cases</th>
<th>Value of Grants £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Businesses (including agricultural loans and loans to follow a profession)</strong></td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>2,486,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Re-employment Allowances</strong></td>
<td>63,150</td>
<td>504,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fares and Removal Expenses</strong></td>
<td>9,020</td>
<td>130,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tools of Trade—Gift</strong></td>
<td>147,500</td>
<td>1,129,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tools of Trade—Loan</strong></td>
<td>5,600</td>
<td>89,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supplementation of Wages of Apprentice</strong></td>
<td>11,370</td>
<td>1,343,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Free Passages</strong></td>
<td>4,430</td>
<td>52,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Furniture Grants—Members</strong></td>
<td>53</td>
<td>2,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Furniture Grants—Widows</strong></td>
<td>3,550</td>
<td>225,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WAR PENSIONS, 1939 WAR**

**Analysis of Pensions in Force as at 30/6/46:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of Pensioner</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Annual Liability £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members (male)</td>
<td>67,103</td>
<td>2,486,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members (female)</td>
<td>994</td>
<td>45,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependants of Deceased Members:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widows</td>
<td>9,100</td>
<td>1,222,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>11,240</td>
<td>455,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Dependents</td>
<td>5,140</td>
<td>340,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependants of Incapacitated Members:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wives</td>
<td>42,850</td>
<td>635,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child.en</td>
<td>52,620</td>
<td>320,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Dependents</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>8,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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REPARTIATION

MERCHANT NAVY

Armed Forces Benefits Available

Certain benefits, specifically designed for the rehabilitation of members of the Armed Forces, are available to ex-members of the Merchant Navy, as follows:

(a) War Service Homes (providing the applicant was awarded the Australian Mercantile Marine War Zone Badge, or the British Mercantile Marine Medal of the 1914-18 War, or, during the recent war, was employed under agreement or indenture on any ships engaged in trading from or between Australian ports, and who was, during such employment, domiciled in Australia).

(b) Training (eligibility restricted to ex-members who, because of war-caused incapacity, are unable to return to their pre-war employment).

(c) Repatriation Benefits (as an Act of Grace), as under:

(i) Education and training of children of certain classes of mariners—deceased, blinded or totally and permanently incapacitated—on the same basis as the Soldiers’ Children’s Education Scheme.

(ii) Grant for the provision of furniture to blinded or totally incapacitated mariners and widows with children.

(iii) Grant of Tools of Trade (eligibility restricted to ex-members who, because of war-caused disabilities are unable to return to their pre-war employment.)

It has been pointed out that, whereas members of the Merchant Navy continue in civil employment, which does not come to an end with the finish of the war, members of the Armed Forces were engaged in an occupation alien to their civil employment, which ceases with their demobilisation.

MILITARY HOSPITALS

Transition from War to Peace

Repatriation Commission in Control

The taking over by the Repatriation Commission of military hospitals has been completed and the Commission is now in control. By the transition, 3,580 beds, additional to those in other institutions controlled by the Commission, have become available.

As to the other institutions mentioned, considerable expansion took place in order to meet the requirements of members needing treatment after discharge during the war years. By this expansion, the maximum bed strength was increased during the war from 1,890 to 2,914 and this, together with 3,580 beds, already mentioned, in the military hospitals taken over, a total bed strength of 6,494 results.

Many excellent hospitals were taken over from the Army. To name some of them: Greenslopes, Queensland; Concord, New South Wales; Heidelberg, Victoria; Springbank, South Australia; and Hollywood, Western Australia.

REPARTIATION BENEFITS

1914 and 1939 Wars Compared

The provisions of the original 1920 Australian Soldiers’ Repatriation Act, with the Act as we now know it today, provides some interesting comparisons, which shows that the Act as it now stands is almost generous in comparison.

Here are some of the advantages to ex-members of World War II which were not enjoyed by those of World War I:

(1) Loans of up to £250 to enable certain classes of members, or widows with children, to establish themselves in business.

(2) Gifts of £75 for furniture to married members who were totally and permanently incapacitated or blinded; also to widows with children.

(3) Medical treatment extended to cover, for certain classes of members, disabilities which were not due to service.

(4) Free passages to Australia of wives, widows or children of members who married abroad.

(5) Free passages from Australia to abroad of incapacitated members, wives and children, or widows and children, where it was to their interest to join relatives and friends.

(6) Transportation expenses to meet the cost of fares and removal of household belongings in the case of a member with a family taking up employment, a business, or settling on the land.

(7) Vocational training for disabled members pending the institution of a general scheme of vocational training.

WAR SERVICE HOMES

Joint Ownership by Husbands or Wives

A recent amendment to the Act provides extension to eligible persons of the opportunity to secure homes jointly, with their wives or husbands as the case may be. Previously, assistance was granted only to eligible persons and precluded the wife or husband erecting or acquiring a home as joint tenants.

Land owned jointly by an eligible person and the wife or husband of that person, as the case may be, must now be transferred to the name of the eligible person before assistance may be granted.

The R.S.L. requested this provision as being a reasonable method of assistance. The League contended that it encouraged saving towards complete ownership by the husband or wife. Each would have a personal interest in the house, which would pass by survivorship.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Powers of Acquisition

Returned men and women will be given a valuable priority in securing materials for house building. Authority has been vested in the Minister whereby power is given to the Government for the acquisition of the necessary material available for building homes. This will prevent the black marketing of materials and also prevent the diversion, into other channels, of materials which should be available for building houses.
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Twenty Australian ex-servicemen living on Ocean Island have received permission from the Federal Office to form a sub-branch on the island. Ocean Island lies due West of Nauru Island, which lies mid-way between the Solomon and Gilbert Islands. This sub-branch is about as far north-east of Brisbane as Perth is from Melbourne.

One of the finest jobs being done by Postwar Reconstruction, through departmental and ex-service co-operation, is the special committee work on problem cases. They deal with cases which represent a wide range of personal difficulty and re-adjustment. Sub-branches with such cases should make inquiries either through the R.S.L. or Postwar Reconstruction.

After World War I, a King's Roll was introduced by special permission of His Majesty the King, which proved a notable success in securing employment for ex-service personnel. Endeavours are being made to have a similar roll established, on which would be shown the names of all employers who voluntarily agreed to employ a certain percentage of ex-servicemen.

Recent visitors to Anzac House from the country were: Country Vice-president (State) Arnold Potts, from Kooringal and; Bill Overheu, Country Vice-President (Central), from Lom Ambassador. We like to see members from the country calling at Anzac House, where they are always welcome.

Armada sub-branch proposes the erection of new club-rooms when building materials are available. The sub-branch also has decided to assist the Parents and Citizens' Association in the purchase of a film-projector for the Armada School.

On a visit to his parents in Perth, F/O. John Collins, R.A.A.F., son of our "Dick Collins." John has been attending a General Duties course at a R.A.A.F. school in Richmond, N.S.W. 'Dick Collins' knows that spot, as he had some early schooling in Richmond.

We regret to learn that Mr. Tom Butler (Manjimup sub-branch), late 2/2 Aust. Phil. Workshops, who was seriously injured two months ago, is at present in the Mount Hospital. It is hoped that he will have a speedy return to full health.

What the Sub-Branches are Doing

Space considerations prevent long reports of sub-branch activities and Publicity Officers are urged to condense as much as possible when making reports.

"The Listening Post" will be published on the first day of each month after the present time lag is eliminated, and copy will, therefore, require to be in the hands of the Editor, Anzac House, by the 15th of the month preceding.

SUB-BRANCH DIRECTORY

The sub-branches were circularised asking for particulars for inclusion in the Sub-Branch Directory. The particulars required are: Name of sub-branch, date, time and place of meeting, name of president and name and address of Secretary.

As a great number of sub-branches have not yet supplied these particulars at the time of going to press, the Directory will not appear in this issue. Sub-branch secretaries are urged to supply the particulars already asked for.—(Editor.)

ARMADALE

The annual reunion and social was held on May 28. Seventy-five members and friends were present. The president, Mr. Gwynne, welcomed the State Premier, Mr. Ross McIvor. Other guests included Mr. G. Wills, M.P.A., Messrs. J. Savage (Kelmwood-Rileystone), W. E. Treasure and F. G. Carden (Canning). A musical programme was given by Messrs. K. Marsh, Perry, McGurk, Douglass and Briers.

BULLSBROOK

The annual meeting of Bullbrook sub-branch was held on June 7. A new member, B. G. Blanch, has joined from Dangn'-Quirading, where he was a member for ten years. Metropolitan sub-branch members were welcomed. The
election of officers resulted in the following appointments: G. Pickett, President; A. Cunningham, Treasurer; B. Scantlebury, Secretary; Vice- Presidents, Messrs. Riddle and Jones. A fancy dress ball held at the Bullsbrook Hall on June 28 was a great success.

CANNING DISTRICTS
Canning Bridge started off well again by appointing three of the young members to executive office. They are: W. E. Treasure (President), F. G. Carden (Secretary) and C. Lee (Treasurer); C. H. Godfrey and G. Williams are Vice-Presidents. Plans are being made for purchasing and re-erecting a hall; Social evenings are held every Friday in conjunction with the recently-formed women's auxiliary.

CANNING
Twenty-four members was a small attendance for the general meeting. A branch of the Sons of Soldiers' League has been revived, with a membership of 50, and the women's auxiliary has donated indoor games for their use. Joe Connolly is in charge of hospital visiting. The annual meeting was held on June 23. The sub-branch regrets to report the death of Cyril Vidler, on June 9, at Hollywood Hospital. He was a member of the 2/4th M.G. Battalion, and a P.O.W. in Japanese hands. Sympathy is extended to Jack Vidler and his wife and family.

CITY OF PERTH
A ladies' dart tournament will be held at Monash Club, King Street, on August 3 at 8 p.m. Nominations close on July 50. Team of six; nomination fee, 6/- per team. The games will be played under the W.A.T.A. rules.

COTTESLOE
The annual ball on July 21 was a social success. It is hoped members will take full advantage of these functions. They are deserving of the fullest support. The annual smoke social will be held at the Lido Cabaret on Friday, August 15. The second match in the A.R.M.S. contest was played against Mosman Park, who won. Sub-branch contribution to the State Congress agenda is four items.

DENMARK
A visit was made during the month by the Country Vice-President, Mr. A. W. Potts, who discussed land settlement matters and also the question of forming a District Committee in the Albany area. Several members from the neighbouring clearing gangs attended the meeting, and their presence was particularly welcomed. The sports committee has in hand the organisation of tournaments and games.

KOJONUP
The sub-branch mourns the loss of the late Fred Loveland. Unfavourable weather affected the attendance at the meetings. The annual ball will be held on Saturday, September 13. Suggested items for the State Congress agenda are in course of preparation.
MERRIEDIN

The sub-branch has a live committee which prepared recommendations for the general meeting. This saves time and permits the social side of the sub-branch to be developed after dealing with the recommendations. Next committee meeting: July 29. General meeting: August 5.

MOUNT HAWTHORN-NORTH
LEEDERVILLE

A full programme of meetings and games nights is in progress. George Hill, in charge of the sports, is busy with the Riley Shield games. A visit to Kalambur is arranged to play the Darling Range sub-branch. Yokine Sub-branch was visited during the A.R.M.S. games. The State President visited the sub-branch during the month. The ladies' meeting on July 1 was a great success. The Perth Highland Pipe Band was in attendance, and visitors were present from the West Leederville - Wembley - Floreat Park sub-branch.

MANMUP

A move was made by the sub-branch to have appointed an additional constable to the town. The district has a population of 7,000 and it was felt it was more than could be conveniently managed by one sergeant and one constable. The completion of the new

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PITHARA D.C., No. 19

The inaugural meeting of the committee was held last month, with representatives from Pithara, Dalwallinu, Milang and Ballidu sub-branches. Pithara sub-branch took the initiative, which met under the chairmanship of Mr. A. Locke as President and Mr. Jeanes as Secretary. The exchange of viewpoints of sub-branches was considered invaluable for an over range of views and the building up of plans. The committee of the new district committee comprises: President, A. Locke; Secretary, M. Jeanes (Pithara); committee members, Rev. Riley (Dalwallinu) and L. G. W. Browning (Pithara).

RETURNED ARMY NURSES

A pleasant evening was held at the War Nurses’ Hostel. The hostesses were the Second War Nurses and the guests the First War Nurses. The Matron of Hollywood (Mrs. Ferguson) and Miss Howard were guests. The monthly meetings are well attended. We regret to report that one of our members, Mrs. Graham-Brown, is a patient at Hollywood Hospital.

R.S.L. CRICKET ASSOCIATION

In recess during the war, the association was re-formed last year. Fifteen teams were fielded and over 300 members registered. The team, consisting of one player at least from each club, with country sub-branch representatives, propose to visit Melbourne in December. This, of course, is subject to satisfactory finance. The annual meeting will be held at Anzac House on Friday, August 29. The address of the Secretary is: 10a King Street, Perth; telephone B6238.

SWANBOURNE

A move is being made to acquire suitable land for the erection of the Memorial Hall. The proposed gymkhana is being arranged to take place at Claremont Show Grounds. Jack Beswick obtained a possible in the five rounds rapid shooting. Lemmon was visited during the month by a committee from the sub-branch. Members enjoyed the visit as well as the patients. Members are arranging a chair-making “bee” to provide seating for the card evening; Charlie Day and Jack Weir are in charge. Glad to see Roy Hepburn about after his recent illness.

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Dear Members:
For almost 20 years there has been a section in The Listening Post devoted to our R.S.L. activities. We, in W.A., have been most fortunate in this respect, and we are grateful to Mr. E. S. Watt and his staff for the generous space allotted to us, even in the days of stringent paper shortage. And now this month sees The Listening Post published by the R.S.L. from Anzac House. We wish the journal every success and are happy to be associated with it, in this, the first issue. I trust that our auxiliary section will always be a credit to The Listening Post and that the pages will not merely record the work done by the State Executive and the branches but will also reflect the friendly spirit, so characteristic of our R.S.L. organisation. Perhaps, too, these pages may induce others to join us in our service to the League.

Diligent reading of the whole journal every month will acquaint us with all the varied phases of R.S.L. policy and general activity. We require this knowledge if we are going to do our auxiliary work efficiently. Without complete co-operation and understanding we cannot be entirely successful. Before next issue our first post-war exhibition will have taken place in the Town Hall, Perth. The committee are looking forward to a record number of entries in the various sections. Branches with stalls are busy, at present, preparing their wares and hope for brisk business.

It is pleasing to see, from the reports of the annual elections, that quite a number of our younger members have taken office as president or secretary. They may be assured of every assistance from the State Executive, and we hope to welcome them to conference in September.

My kind regards to you all.

MARY S. MCKINLAY, State President, Women's Auxiliary.

McKinlay Shield Competitions

Tenth Round

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Eleventh Round

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AUXILIARY STATE EXECUTIVE

As the annual conference approaches, agenda items are being prepared. We are arranging our first post-war exhibition, which will be held at the Perth Town Hall on Tuesday, August 19. In the evening a social and dance will be held, to which all auxiliary members and their husbands will be welcomed.

Hospital Visiting.—Mrs. Henderson (chairman of the Hospital Visiting Committee) reports visits of the committee to the Royal Perth Hospital. These visits to ex-servicemen are carried out weekly. Bedside visits average over 50 per week.

Hollywood Hospital.—There are two visits weekly by the metropolitan auxiliaries. High tea was taken to the ex-servicemen at Sunset on behalf of the country auxiliaries, who sent the donations for the purpose. Each Digger was presented with a pair of socks.

Mrs. McKinlay visited Claremont Mental Hospital with the Maylands auxiliary, accompanied by Mr. Chappell, newly-appointed State Secretary. Scarborough was also visited by Mesdames McKinlay and Stockin, when the auxiliary conducted a fancy dress ball. The outing was arranged for the patients of the Claremont Mental Hospital by the Swan View-Greenmount auxiliaries. The outing was attended by Mesdames McKinlay, Stockin, Prue, Richardson, Croft, Cullen and Sherlock.

Mrs. Brown (Assistant State Secretary) attended Beverley with Mrs. McKinlay at a rally of the York, Brookton and Pin-gelly auxiliaries. Many other visits were made by the executive officers and numbers of other functions arranged by Gloucester Park auxiliary, English Club (at home), F.U.S.W. and Northam. Kunun-opin is welcomed as a new auxiliary.

The following birthdays were celebrated: Nedlands, Morley Park, Narembeen, at which the State President and representatives from the State Executive were guests. Over £85 has been received from the following country and metropolitan auxiliaries for the various funds in which the auxiliary is interested: Norseman, Trayning-Yelben, Pin-gelly, York, Claremont, Mundaring, Murray Districts, Wickepin and Waroona.

Some good efforts by these auxiliaries, for which many thanks.

Members who do not receive The Listening Post can have a copy posted each month by sending 2/6 with name and address to Mrs. Stockin, State Secretary.

If you have any interesting reports for insertion in the paper, send to Anzac House not later than the 8th of each month.

McKinlay Shield Games.—July 29:
First semi-final to be played at the R.S.L. Hall, Mt. Hawthorn, between Subiaco and South Perth. August 6: Second semi-final, graphite and Mt. Hawthor, in

Personal Items.—Mrs. V. E. Morgan of Dumbleyung, who is at present in England, has received word that her husband who will leave on the “Asturias.”

Mrs. A. Wicks and Trixie, after a short stay in Melbourne, have reached Sydney.

Mrs. E. Graham, President of Narembeen, has received a Certificate of Service for her husband for the “Munich.”

Mrs. Mortimore, Secretary of Narrogin, and County Vice-President, was a guest at the reception to Field-Marshal Montgomery, Incidentally, the State President (Mrs. McKinlay) was presented to the Field-Marshal.

Mrs. Sherlock, Secretary of Subiaco auxiliary, is, unfortunately, in hospital. We wish her a speedy recovery.

BASSENGEAD

The annual meeting was held in the R.S.L. on June 12. Mrs. McKinlay (President) presided over a large attendance. A very interesting address was delivered, and the officers reported a great number of activities and keen interest, and the enrolment of many younger members in the district. Over 40 donations have been given to various institutions during the year. The annual elections resulted in Mrs. Lynch becoming President, Mrs. Anderson, Vice-President, and Mrs. Summerton, Treasurer.

NAREMBEEN

On July 2 the auxiliary celebrated its 12th birthday, which was a great success. Mrs. McKinlay travelled from Perth to attend the function. Office-bearers for the year were elected as follows: President, Mrs. A. J. Graham; Vice-President, Mrs. McColl and Eddy; Secretary, Mrs. R. W. Mortimore; Treasurer, Mrs. H. Daglish.

SWANBOURNE

The officers for the year were elected as follows: Mrs. Young, President; Mrs. Costigan, Secretary; and Mrs. Weir, Treasurer. The dance held to follow was whirled and, although it was early in the evening, the Auxiliary decided to arrange some other social function instead. Members missed the monthly sporting engagement with the sub-branch, which has been held in absence.

SWAN VIEW-GREENMOUNT

The auxiliary joined with the Mundaring members on June 22 to entertain to lunch and afternoon tea a number of patients from Claremont. Representatives from the State Executive were present. Several successful dances have been held and arrangements are in hand for the Show in October. Mrs. Paton, one of our old members, is, unfortunately, ill in hospital. We wish her a speedy recovery.

WEST LEEDERVILLE-WEMBLEY-FLOREAT PARK

The 25th anniversary was celebrated in the Leederville Town Hall on June 6. Mrs. McKinlay (State President) and most of the foundation members were present. Other guests were: The sub-branch president, Mr. Nimmo, M.L.C., and secretary, Mr. J. Beer, and other representatives from other auxiliaries, who were pleased to welcome members from other auxiliaries. Hollywood Hospital was visited on June 10.

ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICESMEN. Rates: £1/1/- Per Annum

A.S.C. EX-SERVICESMEN’S ASSOCIATION—A.H. Hall, corner PRINCIPAL STREET and Commercial Building, Perth (8 p.m.); President: Lieut-Colonel C. E. Jones, A.D.S., Director of Artillery, Perth. Secretary: W. F. Eley, Perth Roller Flour Mills, Perth. President: Mrs. A. J. Graham; Vice-President: Mrs. Mi. Waish; Secretary: Mr. H. Hooper.

EX-MACHINE GUNNERS’ ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, 53th Street, Perth; 1st Friday each month; President: Mr. H. M. Gledhill; Treasurer: Mr. B. A. St. Clair, 9 Gladstone Avenue, South Perth.

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (W.A. AREA)—R.A.A.F. Reunions, National House, William Street, Perth, 4th Thursday each month; President: A. G. Smith, Flat 21, 21 Vickers Flats, Mill Street, Perth. Secretary: C. G. C. Blyth, Box 1255, G.P.O., Perth. Phone B 5905.

ARTILLERY COMRADES—Anzac House, 5th Friday each month at 6 p.m.; President: H. M. L. Miller, 49 Gladstone Avenue, South Perth. Treasurer: A. T. Plumb, 407 William Street, Perth.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS ASSOCIATION of W.A.—Meetings as notified; President: J. R. Roberts, Parliament House, Perth (3rd Thursday each month); Treasurer: Mr. J. T. Smith. Secretary: Commercial Bank Chambers, 42 St. George’s Terrace, Perth (B 7261).

EX-MACHINE GUNNERS’ ASSOCIATION—Gregory’s, 22 King Street, Perth; President: Anzac House, Perth; 1st Friday each month; President: Mr. T. S. M. Cotton, “C” Parker and Parker. Treasurer: Howard Street. Secretary: H. E. Everett, 156 Suburban Road, South Perth.

FEDERATED T. B. SAILORS, SOLDIERS & AIRMEN’S ASSOCIATION (W.A. Branch)—2nd Floor, Wellington Buildings, 188 Williams Street, Perth; President: J. H. Hatcher, 13 Princess Road, Nedlands; Secretary: J. T. Plumb, 407 William Street, Perth.

MEDICAL ARMY UNITS ASSOCIATION—Room 53, 5th Floor, Gledhill Buildings, Perth; Quarterly, President: Dr. C. H. Leedham; Chairman: W. G. Brick, Holden Road, Royston Park; Secretary: H. W. Rigg, 26 Elizabeth Street, North Perth; Phone B 8734.

PARTIALLY BLINDDED SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (W.A. Branch)—Room 53, 5th Floor, Gledhill Buildings, Perth, 1st Thursday of each month; President: Mr. R. S. G. Hare, 41 Moorgate Road, West Perth; Secretary: J. Mackay, 51 Ray Street, Nedlands.

PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION—Flinders Building, 3rd Floor, 122 Murray Street, Perth; President: Mrs. H. J. Armstrong; Secretary: Mrs. S. B. M. Street, East Perth.

SOUTH AFRICAN AND IMPERIAL VETERANS’ ASSOCIATION—Monash House, cnr. Hay & King Streets; 3rd Monday in each month; President: M. T. Raine, 539 Hay Street, Perth; Secretary: G. Gumprecht, 539 Hay Street, Perth.

THE IMPERIAL EX-SERVICE SURREY (W.A.)—President: J. T. Smith, 72 Murray Avenue, West Perth; Secretary: J. G. Fleming, 2 Murray Avenue, Nedlands.

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN BLINDDED SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, 5th Floor, Gledhill Buildings, Perth; President: W. M. Spence; Secretary: R. H. C. Holcombe, 35 Stanley Street, Nedlands. Phone W 1772.

TAPERLY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION—Room 53, 5th Floor, Gledhill Buildings, Perth; 2nd Tuesday in each month; President: Mr. R. S. C. Hare, 41 Moorgate Road, West Perth; Secretary: C. C. Rigg, 28 Elizabeth Street, North Perth (B 8734); Treasurer: Chas. C. Walker, 124 Wolcott Street, Mt. Lawley.

July 1947
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