OFFICIAL OPENING OF ARMY MUSEUM: Portrait of C.D. Ansell, First Army
Commander-in-Chief, WA, and Chief Warden of the P.K.E. Len Franks, looking at some of the
articles at the Army Museum which are officially opened by Mr. Ansell.
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OUR DEFENCE

Lost in the Political Wilderness

By Sir Colin Hines, OBE, Deputy National President

Australia does not have the ability to defend itself against even a moderate threat. This situation is apparently acceptable to all our political parties in spite of the deteriorating strategic environments in Asia, Africa and Western Europe. But it is not acceptable to the RSL!

The Soviet Union has built the greatest military forces that the world has ever seen and their growth is still increasing. As a high-ranking NATO officer said in Copenhagen in October, 1976, there is no precedent in history for such a build-up of naval and military power where that power was not eventually used.

Russia has shown its aggressive intent by the Soviet – Cuban involvement in various countries in Africa, particularly in the fighting in Angola and Ethiopia.

We sat idly by and watched Hitler build up his Nazi war machine and suffered in World War II because of our apathy at that time! The Nazi war machine was microscopic in size compared to the enormous Soviet Armed Forces.

The Russians have deployed, against the NATO bloc, more than one million troops, 36,500 tanks and about 4,000 aircraft, and they are organised, equipped and trained for a massive pre-emptive attack. They also have a strength of more than 40 divisions facing China!

SOVIET SUBMARINES

The Atlantic Ocean is now prowled by twice as many Soviet submarines as German U-boats in the darkest days of World War II. They are capable of raining havoc with nuclear missiles on far distant continents. Soviet submarines in the Pacific or Indian Oceans can target every major city in Australia with nuclear or conventional missiles.

What help can we expect from our traditional allies, the British and Americans, in the event of a World war?

The Royal Navy is at its smallest size in 80 years! It has not only pulled back East of Suez, but East of Gibraltar. The RAF has been cut back by nearly 90 percent in the last 20 years. The British Army is now smaller than that of Finland, Sweden or Switzerland! We can not expect any help from Britain!

The United States has pulled out of South-East Asia and is withdrawing from South Korea.

In the event of a world war, the United States would be preoccupied with the survival of the United States itself! Australia is of small strategic interest to the United States. In spite of the Anzus Treaty, our defence reliance on the US nuclear umbrella is likely to prove just a passing pipedream.

There is little doubt that, in the event of a world war we will be very much on our own. This view was confirmed by a statement to this effect by the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee in June 1977.

TOTALLY INADEQUATE

Our defence forces and our coastal surveillance capabilities are so inadequate that we can not even detect flotillas of Vietnamese refugees landing on Australian soil.

We can not detect or prevent illegal flights by private aircraft from Australia to East Timor or elsewhere. We can not even prevent the massive passage of vast quantities of drugs that are entering this country.

Probably our most critical defence weakness is our inability to manufacture our defence equipment.

An assessment of our military capabilities is that we can only defend an area that equates in size to the coastline from Manly to Collaroy. We could only do this for a short space of time because of logistics weakness and we could not withstand a nuclear attack.

This frightening lack of defence capability to stand on our own two legs, dwarfs all other political issues into relatively minor categories of short-term significance.

I concede that Mr Malcolm Fraser did make a statement on Security and Foreign Policy in his election speech. However, the impact of his policies was only cosmetic in nature.

The RSL calls for the introduction of a Universal Training Scheme, embracing both men and women. This will not only increase our defence capability, it will also reduce unemployment and stimulate the economy with beneficial side-effects.

Many Australians, both young and old, want to see Universal Training introduced for many reasons. It seems that the politicians are more frightened of this issue than the Australian electorate.
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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Presidents and Secretaries Meet

A Presidents and Secretaries meeting was held on Thursday, February 16, at the hall of the Bassendean — Guildford Sub-Branch. Forty members were present and the WA Branch fielded eight members of the State Executive, including the President and the two Vice-Presidents and the State Secretary.

The Women's Auxiliary of the sub-branch provided an excellent and more-than-adequate supper and a cold beer was available both before and after the meeting.

The agenda covered talks on membership, publicity, State Congress, and Convention, National Congress and Convention and finished with an open forum, during which many and varied questions were answered.

Matters dealt with included the “last Friday in the month lunch meetings,” the publicity being used in the first week in March, the 1978 raffle and the Army Museum, all of which are dealt with in detail elsewhere in this edition. Other topics were:

(a) Liaison Officers: Fifty or more reports of visits to sub-branches have been submitted this year. If your sub-

branch has missed, get in touch with your Liaison Officer — you have been notified who he is — or the State Headquarters.

(b) Group Conferences: Two have been held this year at Narrogin and Perenjori, both with good results. The next will be at Moora in March. Other suggested venues for the near future are — Albany, Kellerberrin, Cunderdin and Bunbury—Busselton.

(c) Honours: Attention was called to the list of honours — Life Memberships, Certificates of Service, Fifty Years Awards etc in the December “Listening Post” and the details of these in the September edition. It is recommended that sub-branches keep these in mind for any deserving members and that action be implemented where appropriate.

(d) Membership Figures: As at February 17, 1978, the membership figures were 5,796. This is the best time of the year to chase members. There are many of last year’s and previous year’s members not yet financial and a much larger number of eligibles who have never joined.

Don’t leave it all to your Membership Officer, hop in now and nab old and new members. Don’t forget Service Members.

The annual subscription is still very low compared to others. The one poor selling-point is that non-members share in the privileges of the members as the RSL helps all ex-Servicemen whether they contribute or not.

Anzac House has brochures entitled “Important Facts About the RSL of Australia” which are a very good talking-point and are free for the asking. Why not use them?

A FAR FLUNG MONUMENT

When Mrs Stella Willis was in Western Australia in August last year, one of her objectives was to re-visit Woodman Point and see the monument erected to her friend Rosa O’Kane by the people of Charters Towers.

Unfortunately, she was unable to make the pilgrimage, but two members of the Returned Sisters’ Sub-branch of the RSL visited the Quarantine Station and were able to take pictures of the memorial to forward to her.

In 1918, Mrs Willis, then Stella Morris, was one of a group of AANS Sisters who left Fremantle on the ss “Wyrema,” bound for a theatre of war.

However, while still at sea, news came of the signing of the Armistice, so that on reaching South Africa the ship was ordered to return to Fremantle, accompanied by an ex-German ship, the “Boonah”.

Unfortunately, while in Durban some of the troops had taken unofficial leave and had come in contact with “Spanish Influenza,” which by that time had become pandemic, and during the return voyage, it was not long before symptoms of the disease became evident.

The “Boonah” was without nursing personnel and the situation became catastrophic. The medical officer went down with the infection, the dispenser was lost overboard and there were deaths and burials at sea.

PLACED IN QUARANTINE

When they reached Fremantle, the ships were placed in quarantine off Woodman Point and the sick were taken ashore by tugs to the hastily constructed hospital.

Members of the AANS from the “Wyrema” were asked to accompany the patients and all volunteered. Among the 20 chosen were Stella Morris and Rosa O’Kane.

The Quarantine Station at Woodman Point was in an isolated spot a few miles south of Fremantle. It was not geared to cope with such an influx of seriously-ill patients.

There was not enough of anything, tents beds, linen, rations, utensils, medicines etc, and in addition the patients from the “Boonah” presented a hygiene problem, for she was not a clean ship. Admissions for the first day numbered 300.

Nursing reinforcements were sent from No. 8 Base Hospital and hastily recruited from civilian reserves. Some of the former had earlier returned from active service in Mesopotamia and other theatres of war and were experienced in nursing in large British hospitals, but to quote one of them: “It was never like this.”

BLANKET OF SECURITY

There was a blanket of security; no one was allowed to communicate with the outside world. Stores, equipment and the pitch-pine coffins were delivered by being thrown from army vehicles as they passed the gates.

The Red Cross Society rose to the occasion, providing comforts and necessities including much needed old linen and pyjamas, done up in bundles ready for use.

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Some of the sailors from the "Boonah" acted as "runners" placing the stores and heavy iron buckets of water on the ward verandahs and outside the tents, while others, masked and gowned, acted as stretcher-bearers.

On admission patients were classified according to the progress of their illness, priority in the small overcrowded wards being given to the more seriously ill.

There were no curative drugs, the treatment was symptomatic and supportive; tepid sponging in an endeavour to reduce temperature, fluids for the all-consuming thirst, ointment for the cracked and swollen lips, and nourishment, fed carefully and slowly according to the tolerance of the patient.

Linseed meal stirred with a stick and boiled in a large bowl over a primus was spread on any old rag to make poultices to relieve that terrible pain and tightness in the chest.

There was little that could be done for the cyanosis, the roupy cough, the delirium and final unconsciousness.

**EERIE QUIET**

In the eerie quiet, disturbed only by the sounds of the sick and the lowered voices of their attendants, it was difficult to reassure and bring some measure of calm to those who realised that for some death would be inevitable.

The masks and gowns worn by those attending the patients gave little protection and before Christmas many, including nurses and medical officers, were ill with the disease. Rosa O'Kane died on December 21, 1918 and was followed by Doris Ridgway, Hilda Williams and A.M. Thompson early in January, 1919.

Along with 30 or more young men who had paid the supreme sacrifice, the sisters were buried with full military honours, the insignia being the scarlet cape and white veil of their Service.

Those of their colleagues who could be spared briefly from their duties formed the Guard of Honour, their gray and scarlet contrasting with the khaki uniforms of the firing party which led the way.

**RELATIVES' WISHES**

When the Australian War Graves Commission was formed, many of those buried at Woodman Point were re-interred in the War Cemetery at Karrakatta, depending on the wishes of their relatives.

The graves of Rosa O'Kane and Hilda Williams are still in the Woodman Point Cemetery, which, to some extent, has reverted to its original bush-land but is dominated by the tall monument, with its inscription "For Valour", erected to the memory of Rosa O'Kane by the people of her home town, Charters Towers, in north Queensland.

Though the Woodman Point epic did not prevent the spread of pneumonic influenza to the civilian population, it served its purpose in providing them with a respite and time to prepare.

The Quarantine Station at Woodman Point is once again very much in the news and its future seems to be in doubt. Today, with its white painted buildings, surrounded by gardens and well-cared-for lawns, it is a very different place from what it was in 1918.

But it is still a grim reminder of man's potential to transmit disease to his fellow man and of the need for eternal vigilance.

V. HOBBES
Retd Sister Sub-branch RSL

References: Members of the AANS who nursed at Woodman Point 1918-1919; Mrs Willis, née Morris; Mrs Douglas, née Butterley and others. Newspaper articles published in "The West Australian", January, 1919; Garden of Remembrance and War Cemetery, Karrakatta; Australian War Graves Commission; Records and cemetery, Woodman's Point.

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**INFLUENZA VICTIM:** The grave of Sister Hilda Williams, another of the influenza victims who died at Woodman Point.

**QUEENSLAND NURSE:** The inscription at the base of the monument erected in memory of Queensland nurse Rosa O'Kane, who died at Woodman Point in 1918.
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SERVICE AND WELFARE FUND

By BILL MELVIN, Welfare Officer

Many readers are not aware of the activities of the RSL Service and Welfare Fund, and it is hoped that this brief report may be of assistance in bringing about a better understanding of the activities and the services available to members.

The section is divided into two parts, headed by the War Compensation Officer and the Welfare Officer, jointly using a typist for clerical assistance.

During 1977, economies were introduced to cut costs and the Welfare Officer activities were reduced to part time. However, the cost of administering the whole section, including grants and assistance, was still in the vicinity of $33,300.

The money for operating the section is obtained from grants from the Anzac Day Trust, Crowning Glory Quest and the Lotteries Commission, together with other donations.

You may well ask: "What is welfare?"

One dictionary states: "Work devoted to the well-being of persons in the community, e.g. aged, sick, poor etc." Another States: "Efforts to make life worth living."

BASED ON BOTH

RSL welfare is based on both these quotations and many others covering a wide range of activities, in an earnest endeavour to give guidance and assistance to meet the needs of all ex-servicemen and women and their dependants.

We take this opportunity to emphasise the word "needs" and "wants".

CONFIDENTIAL

All inquiries to the RSL Service and Welfare Fund are strictly confidential, and with this thought in mind we can only list the number of interviews and visitations carried out by the Welfare Officer during 1977 under general headings:

Employment inquiries 52; family problems 80; legal problems 35; accommodation 46; immigration 29; funerals 57; fringe benefits 59; travel 22; Canteen Trust Fund 26; Repatriation and General Hospital 67; housing and business loans 27; War Veterans' Home 48; defence service homes 47; State Housing Commission 35; plaques and war memorial inquiries 35; British Commonwealth Ex-Services League 36; financial aid given 63; financial referred to other bodies 42.

To conclude the Section's summary of activities, the War Compensation Officer's report will be featured in the next issue.

What's to be done with the Quarantine Station

By PETER ROSENDORFF

Woodman Point Quarantine Station lies half way between busy Fremantle and industrial Kwinana, nestling in about 80 hectares of coastal bushland.

The little-used buildings at the end of a kilometre of single-lane bitumen come under periodical attack. The criticism thrown at the Federal Department of Health over the station is that it costs too much to maintain.

The station's tranquil surroundings hide the cruel fate and personal anguish which have befallen many of its patients. It was built at the turn of the century and little remains of the original buildings.

The main office block is built of limestone blocks, but the surface has been refaced following modernisation.

From the turn of the century to the 1914–18 War the buildings were updated. The station was expanded. Then almost as quickly as work began it stopped.

The armed services regulation grey paint is everywhere.

The interior of the quarantined quarters is clean, beds are made, there are bed lamps, built-in wardrobes — but it is sparse and clinically efficient.

The only sop to home comforts for the patients is a TV set and table-tennis equipment.

They are mostly quarantined for not having valid smallpox or yellow fever vaccination certificates when arriving in Australia from overseas.

WATCHED ALL DAY

They are watched 24 hours a day by nurses working 12-hour shifts. The cost is borne by the shipping or airline company which allowed the person to board their craft or plane to WA.

A sailor who jumps ship and is caught is held in the Woodman Point detention centre until the company flies him home.

One enterprising German sailor jumped ship in Fremantle several years ago and went to the North-West, where he worked for two years with a mining company.

After he had sent all his money back to Germany he gave himself up to the authorities and the shipping company had to fly him back to Germany.

The sailor was feeling on top of the world having had a two year working holiday — all on the company.
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His holiday came to an abrupt end when the shipping company sued him for the cost of his air fare.

This was one of the few lighter sides to the Woodman Point station’s history.

FIRST PATIENT
When the station opened its doors its first patient was a 22-year-old labourer, Thomas Atkins, of High Street, Fremantle, who lived with his parents.

On January 1, 1901, he was admitted with one of the diseases rampant at the time. For the next 21 days he fought the illness and won.

The next three patients admitted with the same disease were not so fortunate.

On January 5, 1901, Ah Chen was found dead of the disease on Wanneroo Road. His body and Messrs Fong and Buckley were brought to the station. Two days later they also were dead.

They were buried in the north-eastern corner of the graveyard of the station. Their bodies were later exhumed and repatriated to their homelands.

The following year bubonic plague swept through Fremantle. The brunt of it, according to records, was borne by the residents of Norfolk Street. Almost every household was affected by the disease.

BIGGEST TEST
It was not until the end of the first World War that the station faced its biggest test. Until then patients suffering from a variety of diseases, including bubonic plague, smallpox and venereal disease, kept the station reasonably busy.

But in 1918–19 the troopships, notably HMT Port Lyttelton and SS Port Sydney, brought home hundreds of troops suffering from Spanish Influenza.

The disease spread quickly throughout the cramped quarters of the ships.

For many it was the last battle they were to fight.

Sister Hilda Williams, who was aboard one of the ships, lost her life and was buried on January 4, 1919. Her headstone in the station’s cemetery is a stark reminder of the vicious disease.

In 1945, four soldiers died from smallpox. Nothing is known about them except that they were the last people to be cremated at the station’s crematorium. Their ashes are believed to be at the Karrakatta War Cemetery.

OUR BREAK OF SMALLPOX
The next big hurdle for the station came in the mid 1950’s when there was an outbreak of smallpox and foot-and-mouth disease in European countries.

It was in that period that George Marsh, the present foreman of the station, joined the staff.

The smallpox outbreak saw a total of 10 nursing staff at the station—a record.

In the early 1950’s the first Italian migrant ships began arriving at Fremantle. Many of the passengers had come from a badly-infected foot-and-mouth area.

George recalled that the quarantine staff had to bring in extra staff to handle the work.

The fumigator, which suspiciously resembles a gas chamber, was being used continuously. Over the years George has fumigated poppy seeds, pig bristles, goat hair, cotton waste, mail bags and infected bedding and laundry.

The smallpox outbreak occurred on the Strathaird and, when the ship docked on August 7, 1954, at Fremantle, 84 people were suffering from the disease.

WOMAN PASSENGER
One of George’s fond memories of the station centres around a woman passenger on the Strathaird who had been quarantined for five weeks.

When the smallpox scare was over, she left the station and went to the South-West, where she broke out in spots.

George shuddered at the thought of having her for another five weeks and reopening the station, but the spots turned out to be chickenpox.

More recently, the station has processed all the Vietnamese who have landed on the WA coast. The Federal Government bore the full cost of the treatment.

The Vietnamese have not presented the State with any health problems. The Assistant Director (Medical) of the Federal Health Department, Dr John Pring, said that the Vietnamese are at sea for several weeks and any disease would be discovered during the journey.

HOLIDAY RESORT
The station has been likened to a seaside holiday resort where the patients can swim, fish or walk along the beach of Cockburn Sound, or play tennis.

Bushwalking is out from now until the end of summer—the duggites are a health hazard.

For George, relaxation is none of these things—“it has to be 103 in the water bag before I go swimming.” He takes off at the weekends for Logue Brook Dam, near Harvey, where he fishes for trout.

Woodman Point is under ever increasing pressure to be moved—but to where, and who is going to pay for the new station?

Official figures on the upkeep of the station are extremely hard to come by, but an estimate on maintenance is $60,000 a year.

A spokesman for the Federal Health Department said that official figures on maintenance had been taken out for many years. These figures had not been maintained and those available were out of date.

With all this in mind, it appears easier and cheaper to maintain what we have.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir: In renewing my membership, I extend thanks to all the Executive and other active workers, who have kept the Association, to the benefit of all ex-servicemen, alive and still existing — against great odds.

The worst offenders are us — ex-servicemen themselves.

The battle for our interests have been so well managed and cared for over so many years — it seems everything is taken for granted, forgetting financial membership is still needed. How true is the RSL statement:— “We never know when we may need the Association”.

We should begin to an awakening that our democratic freedom may be on the verge of a sell-out. Our apathy — “It can’t happen here” — and our disloyalty to our own nation and to our Christian heritage threaten our very civilisation and security.

Then there is the matter of doubtful, disloyal migration, ie “invasion” — who knows if an enemy fifth column is not already well entrenched in Australia?

DESTRUCTIVE FORCE
No two wars begin alike, and a small well-skilled destructive corps could block out our defence before we wake up.

Somehow, realisation must be forced home to members, especially non-members of the RSL, that the RSL is appealing for membership for survival.

It is our own League. We didn’t let our fellowman down in war, and certainly should not be forgetting him now — and in turn — “Forgetting ourselves”.

In all walks of life, each and all should do their duty. It is as simple as that, and this can be an honest duty for you.

It is true, ex-servicemen are diminishing in numbers, so it is most necessary not to diminish in strength. Every available reinforcement is needed and welcome.

We have silent, dangerous enemies in our midst, and our own worst enemy is apathy. So let us wake up before we lose our league and our country. — O.W. STRANG.

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HONOUR FOR THIRTY - NINERS

J.P. (JIM) HALL, of Mt Pleasant, was elected Federal President of the Thirty-niners Association at the bi-annual Federal Conference, held in Adelaide late in January.

Jim has been Federal Vice-President for the past two years and State President from 1970 to 1977 of the WA branch of the Association.

He also has other interests, and is President of the RAAF Sea Association and President of the Boy Scouts’ Association, South Perth.

Jim has been a member of the RSL since World War 2 and is a member of Highgate Sub-Branch, a sub-warden of the State War Memorial for six years and a member of the State Executive since 1975.

F.C. (FRED) PENNELL, of Booragoon, has been State Secretary of the Thirty-niners since 1970 and was elected Federal Treasurer at the same conference in Adelaide.

Fred has an outstanding RSL record, both in NSW and WA, spanning a period of 25 years.

To both these gentlemen we extend our sincere congratulations for their dedication and service to others.

The next Federal Conference will be held in Tasmania in 1980.

RAVENSTHORPE SUB-BRANCH AGAIN ON THE MOVE

Country Vice President Sam Crook and State Secretary Doug Bruce attended a special meeting of ex and new members at Ravenshorpe on 3rd March. With the sterling assistance of Lew Moylan a gathering of 21 men and wives met at the Sports Pavilion to discuss the future of the Sub-Branch.

It was agreed the RSL must be maintained in the area and subsequent to a meeting the following office bearers were duly elected:—

President — Col Bennett, Vice President — Norm Prosser, Secretary — N.L. (Lew) Moylan, Treasurer — John Dean and Trustees — Norm Prosser and Wal Moir.

Mrs Crook & Mrs Bruce also attended and an excellent supper was provided by the ladies.

Mrs Crook gave a short address on the role of the Women’s Auxiliary, which it is hoped, will be formed at a later date.

Tribute was paid to the late Mr Dudley who carried on under difficult conditions for many years.

The next meeting will be held on 4th April. Anyone wishing to contact Lew Moylan may phone him on 38 3045 or write to ‘Topview’ Hopetoun.

THE ALBERT COATES STORY

Anyone wishing to purchase “The Albert Coates Story” is asked to write to the publishers, Hyland Publishing Co. Ltd, 10 Hyland Street, South Yarra, Victoria. 3141.

The book is not available in WA.
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Day and Evening
EUROPE '78
A tour of the Battlefields of Europe
Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of Armistice

REVISIT EUROPE 1978

BOOKING FORM RESERVATIONS

Reservations must be made through Hunts of the Pacific (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. We regret that reservations on this tour may not be made with your Travel Agent. Reservations should be accompanied by the booking form attached and a deposit of $200 per person. A further deposit of $300 (a total of $500) will be required by April 1, 1978, and the balance no later than August 1, 1978. Delay in payment may result in delay in issuing travel documents and/or cancellation of your booking.

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Next of Kin: Name: ......................................................
Address: ................................................................. Phone: .................................................................
Service Details: Unit ....................................................
Theatres of War: ...........................................................
Decorations and Awards: ................................................
Accommodation: [ ] Twin Room [ ] Share Twin Room [ ] Single Room
Signature: ........................................................................ Date: ........................................................................

We enclose herewith $ (200 per person) being deposit on my/our "EUROPE '78" Booking.
Before completing this form please read all the conditions attached. All bookings are accepted only subject to these conditions.

All booking forms when completed should be sent to Hunts of the Pacific (Australia) Pty. Ltd. Suite 401, 4th Floor, 83 York Street, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000 G.P.O. Box 5169. Phone: 290 2700. Representing the Returned Services League of Australia.
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14 - MARCH 1978 - LISTENING POST
NATIONAL R.S.L. CONVENTION IN 1978

Approval has been given for the conduct of a National RSL Convention in Sydney in November, 1978, and the theme for the convention is "The RSL and the Future".

The aim of the convention is to gather together a wide national cross-section of rank and file members of the League, to generate a sense of purpose for the future of the RSL in Australia.

The convention will act as a pilot study to assess the feasibility of conducting future bi-annual RSL conventions in different capital cities.

As host branch, NSW is responsible for planning, financing and conducting all aspects of the convention. The National Secretary is a member of the convention steering committee.

Ansett Airlines is appointed the official carrier, and is responsible for all transport and accommodation requirements for the delegates.

NSW State branch will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by the delegates. Delegates will be required to pay a registration fee in advance to help defray convention expenses.

Overseas delegates are invited to attend, at their own expense, in an observer capacity.

PROGRAMME

The general programme (to be called "RSL Week") will be:

Friday, November 10: Poppy Day Dinner to be organised by the RSL Clubs Association.

Saturday, November 11: Morning Displays by youth clubs in Martin Place; Armistice Day Service at the Cenotaph.

Sunday, November 12: Church services in morning; 8 pm joint services concert in the Opera House and official opening of the RSL National Convention.

Monday, November 13: First working session, am; pm, association national reunions to be arranged.

Tuesday, November 14: Second working session.

Wednesday, November 15: Third working session.

Thursday, November 16: Tourist and social activities in Sydney and the surrounding countryside.

The convention will be opened by a member of the Royal Family or by the Governor General.

WORKING SESSIONS: The aim of the League working session is to make recommendations on specific subjects that could assist National Congress to frame RSL policies for the future.

A "Call for Papers" in now issued to each State branch to enable selection and co-ordination of a suitable agenda for the working sessions.

The initial requirement will be submission of written digests of proposed topics from each State branch for presentation and discussion at the convention, together with proposed recommendations. These should reach National HQ by December 1, 1977.

Suitable digests will be selected by the agenda committee and the author will be asked to submit his written paper prior to the convention.

All selected papers will be printed in a book form and will be available for sale at the end of the convention. The proposed recommendations will be included in an agenda for the conference.

In the working sessions, each author will present his paper and proposed recommendations to the convention. This will be followed by debate and voting on the recommendations. It is preferred that selected authors should not hold senior office in the League.

It is not proposed that the convention committee should nominate the agenda at this stage. It is desirable that the topics be selected from submissions to the agenda committee from grass-root levels in each State branch.

Some possible suggestions for agenda topics could be:

(a) How can the RSL meet the growing welfare needs in the years ahead?
(b) Membership alternatives in the years ahead.
(c) A call to the nation on defence and security.
(d) Youth involvement.
(e) Clubs.
(f) The RSL should ensure that our ethnic groups receive more acceptance and assistance from the Australian population. What ethnic policies should the RSL adopt to pursue these objectives?
(g) Communications.

TRADE EXHIBITION

A trade exhibition will be conducted in conjunction with the convention to enable commercial distributors of club equipment, fittings, etc. to display their products.

The programme for the Trade Exhibition will be:

Monday, November 13: Stands and equipment installed for trade display.

Tuesday, November 14: Trade exhibition open from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Thursday, November 16: Trade exhibition dismantled.

WOMENS PROGRAMMES

Wives of RSL delegates are invited to visit Sydney during Convention Week, and appropriate tours, entertainment etc. will be arranged for them.

The Women's Auxiliary is invited to conduct a National Convention and, if required, the Paddington Town Hall will be booked for this occasion on Thursday, November 16, 1978.

The selected venue for the convention is the Paddington Town Hall.

The Trade Exhibition will be held in the Paddington/Woollahra RSL Club.

LISTENING POST—MARCH 1978—15
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Fully Self-contained Unit Accommodation with Ample Parking Area

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Phone: (099) 21 3422
REVISIT EUROPE 1978

This tour, which will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Armistice at the end of the First World War and Remembrance Day November 11, is expected to be most successful, and the objective is at least 120 bookings.

I would ask all State branches for the maximum possible effort to ensure that the result is an outstanding one, from a commemorative point of view, from a diplomatic point of view, and from a financial point of view, as far as the League is concerned.

THE ANSETT GROUP ARE PROUD TO HAVE BEEN SELECTED AS OFFICIAL CARRIERS FOR THIS CONVENTION. THE AIRFARE FROM PERTH TO SYDNEY AND RETURN IS:

NORMAL - $409.60; GROUP - $368.60

OR YOU CAN TRAVEL IN A GROUP WITH ANSETT-PIONEER, USING "AUSSIEPASS"

Aussiepass is a new idea in coach travel. It comes to you from Ansett-Pioneer, Australia's great national coachline.

For only $195.00, Aussiepass offers you unlimited miles of travel over a 35 day period. Or for $275.00 you can purchase the two months unlimited travel pass. You travel on Ansett-Pioneer Express coaches or Ansett-Pioneer nominated coachlines.

In 35 days or two months, you can see a lot of Australia. You can get to the Red Centre, to the Top End, to the tropical north . . . or even as far east as Surfers Paradise, Cairns etc.

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Your Ansett-Pioneer Express Coach is smooth, quiet, and safety serviced before every trip.

The temperature inside is a constant 22 degrees celsius, thanks to climate control air-conditioning. The seats are aircraft style. They're foam padded, fully adjustable, with individual reading lights and footrests for added comfort. You travel along seeing Australia as it should be seen. From the road.

Through big, tinted, non-glare panoramic windows.

You ride with highly trained Coach Captains. They are sure and reliable, highly trained . . . experts.

Each one has been through the comprehensive Ansett-Pioneer Coach Captain Training Course.

Each one is physically fit. He's put through regular stringent medical tests by the Ansett Company doctor.

Above all, he knows his highway . . . its history and highlights. He'll give you an interesting factual commentary on the way.

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES MEMBERS WHO ARE CONSIDERING ATTENDING THE CONVENTION ARE REQUESTED TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING FORM.

A CONVENTION BROCHURE WILL BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS ALL DETAILS HAVE BEEN FINALISED.

ACCOMMODATION

Block bookings are being held at the following hotels.

TELFORD LODGE MOTOR INN, OXFORD STREET, BONDI JUNCTION.
Single: $19.50; Twin: $22.50; Triple: $24.50.
KOALA MOTOR INN, OXFORD STREET, DARLING-HURST.
Single: $24.50; Twin $29.50; Family Room: $31.50 (4 additional adult, 2 additional child).
GAZEBO HOTEL, ELIZABETH BAY ROAD, KINGS CROSS
Single: $25.00; Twin: $29.50; Triple: $32.00.
BOULEVARD HOTEL, WILLIAM STREET, SYDNEY.
Single: $29.00; Twin: $37.00; Triple: $43.00.

Convention Secretary,
ANZAC HOUSE,
BOX C 128, G.P.O.
PERTH. W.A. 6001.

Please Print

Name: 
Address: 

I will require transport arrangements 
Air Coach

I have private transport [ ]
I will also require accommodation in Sydney [ ]

Tick if appropriate without obligation at this stage.

Tour leader, Maj-General Sir William Retshauge, has recently returned from an overseas trip, at which time he took the opportunity to do what amounted to a reconnaissance of the route the tour will take next year.

He will be speaking to Congress on this matter but has informed the headquarters that the whole project is most exciting and one which can be outstandingly successful.

This tour is similar in its significance to the tours commemorating various anniversaries of the Landings on Gallipoli, and I ask that we get the wholehearted and enthusiastic support of all State branches.

LISTENING POST -- MARCH 1978 -- 17
Best Wishes to all ....... 

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(MICK and MARION) 

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"REUNION FOR PEACE"
IN THE PHILIPPINES

PRICE: $795.00
DATE OF DEPARTURE: OCTOBER, 1978 (Exact date to be advised)
LENGTH OF TOUR: 11 DAYS
PLACES TO BE VISITED: TO BE ADVISED LATER
TOUR LEADER: SIR ASHER JOEL, KBE, MLC.

This programme has been launched by the Philippines Government, and is a proposal containing a most attractive air fare arrangement under which a return fare can be obtained for the cost of a single fare.

Basically, it is hoped to organise a group to be in the Philippines over ten days in early April, 1978, and to be in the area of Corregidor and Bataan Thursday on April 6, to commemorate the Battle of Bataan.

It is essential that the leader of a touring Party like this should be somebody who has been prominently identified with the Australian participation in the Philippine campaigns and who can personally attract a number of members to join the group.

Sir Asher JOEL, who has been prominently associated with the RSL for many years, has been selected for this position.

BOOKING FORM

RESERVATIONS

Reservations must be made through Hunts of the Pacific (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. and should be accompanied by the booking form by mid December.

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Service Details: Unit ......................................

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Decorations and Awards: ...................................

Signature: .....................................................

Date: ..........................................................

Please send full details of Tour.

All booking forms when completed should be sent to Hunts of the Pacific (Australia) Pty. Ltd., Suite 401, 4th Floor, 83 York Street, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000 G.P.O. Box 5169. Phone: 290 2700. Representing the Returned Services League of Australia.
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PENSION DELAYS CAUSE CONCERN

"Hello. Can you help me please?"

"Yes, surely, that's what we are here for."

"Well, it's like this. I put in for a pension about three months ago and all I've had back is a letter acknowledging my application. What's going on?"

The foregoing is typical of many calls received by me at RSL headquarters. Some who attend personally at the office give identical information.

In 1977, the League expressed concern at what it felt were unreasonable delays in the processing of applications for pensions.

Instances were recorded where there was a time lapse of between four and six months from the date of application to finalisation.

This concern was conveyed to the Minister, who replied on January 27 as follows:—

"You will recall that I advised in my letter of December 13, 1977, time taken to process applications for benefits increased because of the requirement for determining authorities to give reasons for their decisions and because of difficulties in obtaining the services of medical officers.

SANDWICH LUNCHES

The RSL has arranged a series of six "Sandwich Lunches" for members and their friends at Anzac House, 4 Sherwood Court, as follows:—

Friday, April, 28: Special guest — Air Commodore S. DALLYWATER, OBE, Director of the 150th Anniversary Celebrations "Way '79."

Friday, May, 26: Mrs JESS DUNCAN, Executive Director WA Division of Australian Red Cross Society. "Red Cross in a changing world."

Friday, June, 30: Air Marshall Sir VALSTON HancoCK, KBE, CB, DFC, President Australian Defence Association.

Friday, July, 28: Mrs FRANK STATHAM (nee Vivienne Bullwinkel) MBE, ARRC, ED, FNM, Dip, NA, FCNA. "Experience"

Friday, August, 25: The Hon. F.C. CHANEY, CBE, AFC. "Looking Back."

Friday, September, 29: Air Commodore J.W. Hubble, CBE, DSO, AFC, Officer commanding RAAF Base, Pearce.

Drinks and fellowship at Anzac Club, noon — 1 pm; lunch (Sandwiches and tea) 1 p.m. — cost $1.00; Guest speaker 1.20 — 1.40 p.m.

To assist with Catering please advise Mr Melvin at Anzac House (Tel: 325 9799) or Mrs J. Dowson (384 6712). Non-member friends are welcome.

IN THE HONOURS LIST

Congratulations are in order for those members of the RSL who were recently honoured by Her Majesty, The Queen:

Sir Ernest Lee-Steere (Lord Mayor of Perth); Miss Margaret Ellen Beard, Order of Australia AM of South Perth; Aubrey C. Burns, Order of Australia OAM of Geraldton; Thomas A. Hartrey, MBE, of Boulder; Francis S. Terry, BEM, of Balcatta.

PERTH'S FIRST ARMY MUSEUM OPENED

Brigadier W.D. Jamieson, Army Commander in Western Australia, recently opened Perth's first Army Museum on Sunday. It is located at "Dilhorn" a house on the corner of Lord and Bulwer Streets, that was built in 1897 by Sir William Lotton and purchased by the Army in 1952.

In his opening address, Brigadier Jamieson traced the early beginnings of the settlement in WA, and the role played by the military, to the units that fought in the Boer War, Great War and World War 2.

Some of these well-known units included the 11th, 28th and 16th Battalions and 10 Light Horse Regiment.

He added that, with the passing of time, priceless relics of the War years had been lost, or had gone into private collections or to the Eastern States.

The aim of the Museum is to retain and display these relics for the general pleasure of the public of WA and visitors to our State.

The committee, which has been set-up to administer the Museum, would like to hear from people possessing papers, records or relics.

MUSEUM

Items of military memorabilia are still required. There are masses of material scattered through the homes of old Diggers which could well include the very things for which the museum is looking.

Books, badges, colour-patches, weapons, bits of uniforms or equipment, souvenir items, photos, certificates, papers, even what may appear to be a minor item may well be the piece to complete a display or the key to explain a picture.

Have a look at what your home, workshop or Sub-Branch hall may have to offer, then ring or write to the Secretary, Major R. Hinde, 16 RWAR Drill Hall, Canning Highway, Victoria Park. Phone: 361 1643.
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  Shorthand (Pitman & Gregg), Typing, Bookkeeping,
  Machines, Switchboards, Reception

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  ★ Produces proficient skills ★ Allows you to work at your own pace

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Perth, 6000

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Complete Removal Service

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Phone: 62 1544

After Hours: 277 1462
REDUCTION IN DELAYS

"Nevertheless, delays in the processing of applications for benefits, in particular service pensions, have been reduced considerably during the past few months.

"This reduction has resulted from streamlining procedures. New arrangements have also been developed to improve customer service and to achieve the maximum use of staff resources."

In the knowledge that hardship may develop through loss of income due to cessation of employment and before receiving the first pension cheque it is wise to plan ahead applying for the service pension.

If a veteran plans to retire at age 60 and the question of eligibility for the service pension is never in doubt, it is suggested that the appropriate forms be obtained, completed and lodged with the Department of Veterans' Affairs approximately one or two months before retiring.

There is a lot of paper-work to be done within the department and the time lapse may be shortened in this way.

With regard to disability pensions, there is even more administrative detail involved. There is no way in which the veteran can short circuit the existing system. As most members are aware this involves three stages:

1. Consideration by the Repatriation Board
2. If rejected by the Board, the veteran has the right of appeal to the Repatriation Commission
3. Should the Commission reject the appeal, there is right of access to an Appeals Tribunal.

If a member feels that there has been an unduly long delay, contact me at the RSL office and every effort will be made to expedite the application. — JIM GIBLETT (War Compensation Officer).

Retracing The Death March Road

Chairman of "Z" Special Force Australia Inc. well-known professional diver Jack Sue will head a party of ex-servicemen, women and relatives to Sabah — wartime British North Borneo — leaving Perth and Melbourne towards the end of June.

The safari will fly to Sandakan, where the site of the former POW Compound will be inspected before leaving by coach to traverse the death march route over which a road has today been constructed.

The infamous death marches commenced on January 28, 1945, and saw more than 1,800 Australian POW set out from Sandakan on the north-east coast of BNB for Ranua, 160 miles to the west. Only six survived!!!

Mr Sue said that Association secretary Keith Scarff, of Rockingham, well-known furniture businessman and assessor, would accompany the party to assist in the management of the operation, which at this early stage has attracted a lot of interest Australia-wide.

Both Jack and Keith have, over the last ten years, travelled extensively throughout Australia and the Pacific to attend ex-servicemen's re-unions and to visit old battle grounds.

The "Back to Borneo" safari, which could number as many as 40, would be away for a period of 16 to 18 days, during which time visits to cemeteries, and other places of tourist interest have been arranged.

WREATH-LAYING

At Kota Kinabalu — formerly Jesselton — the party will locate and lay a wreath on the grave of Jack Sue's party leader Maj Gort Chester DSO, MC.

The former coffee-planter and leader of operation "Agas" (Malay for "sandfly") one of the most successful "Z" organizations to operate behind Japanese lines in BNB, with Jack Sue, Sgt A. ("Skeet") Hywood of Whyalla, SA, and four others, was landed by American submarine between two Japanese naval stations just north of Sandakan.

Among the many assignments the party had to complete was the locating of the Australian POWs who had been shipped out from Changi Prison, Singapore, to build an airstrip for the Japanese Emperor. Both men were awarded the DCM in recognition of their services.

From Kota Kinabalu, the safari will travel by train down the railway line following the west coast through territory which saw bitter fighting by both Australian and Japanese troops.

It was in this area that the West Australian 2/32 operated with considerable success and distinction and with other fine units, plus air and naval support, fought their way north from the initial beach landings at Labuan.

WARTIME MASCOT

The 2/32 have left their legacies in BNB in various charitable forms. Wartime unit mascot 10-year-old Francis Lok was one of those assisted by this unit who immediately after hostilities, raised funds to send young Francis to school in BNB.

At the conclusion of his studies, he was assisted in the setting-up of his own agency business which is today a fine business organisation.

He frequently co-ordinates his visits to Perth with Anzac Days and marches with great pride with his former unit. His children attend Christchurch Grammar School, Perth, the headmaster of which, oddly enough, is former "Z" Special Force lecturer in espionage Capt Peter Moyes.

After stops along the line at interesting points, including the Papar Bridge, a never-ending headache to the allies, which miraculously survived the daily bombings of the 5th, US Air Force and the RAAF, a couple of days will be spent at Labuan Island which is remembered by most as little more than a pile of rubble.

Today, Victoria Town is a modern place by Sabah standards and a duty free port which will delight all and particularly the ladies in the entourage.

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SINGAPORE CEREMONY

On July 7, the day on which “Z” men in Australia commemorate the beheading of their ten Operation “Rimau” (Malay for “tiger”) comrades, wreaths will be laid at a ceremony in Singapore.

A letter of welcome has been received from Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, and this is the first time that an official Australian party has laid wreaths at Kranji War Cemetery for “The Heroes.”

Referred to by the Japanese Military Court as the “heroes of a forlorn cause” they were part of a 22 man force that attempted to infiltrate Singapore Harbour to repeat the dose handed out 12 months earlier when Operation “Jaywick” and the famous small ship Krait sank more than 40,000 tons of Japanese shipping in the harbour.

Circulars from National Headquarters

Dear Sir,

Following the National Executive meeting in December, a submission was made to the Minister for Immigration & Ethnic Affairs, concerning the screening procedure for refugees. The Minister has now replied, and a copy of his letter is attached hereto.

Yours faithfully,

A.G.W. KEYS,
National Secretary.

“I am writing again in response to your letter of 13th December 1977, advising me of a resolution passed by the National Executive of The Returned Services League concerning the arrival of Indo-Chinese refugees on our northern shores.

I can assure you that screening procedures for people arriving in these circumstances are strict and thorough. The boats are initially moored away from wharves and boarded by health and quarantine officers. Everyone on board is medically examined and all goods are subjected to stringent quarantine requirements including, where necessary, destruction. The people themselves are granted temporary entry permits and during the period of their initial stay in Australia they are re-interviewed in depth to make certain that they are bona fide refugees and suitable people to join the Australian community.

The Government’s approach, however, is to remove the need for refugees to try to enter Australia by boat. To this end, a team of experienced Immigration officers has been sent to the Malaysia/Singapore region to process boat refugees who would otherwise have tried to reach Australia by sea. Some 1,100 of these refugees have already been flown to Australia and the operation is continuing. There is every indication that the presence of my Department’s officers in the region is having the desired effect of deterring those refugees accessible to the team from sailing to Australia.

An additional move by the Government is an increase in the surveillance of our northern approaches for both coast-
line and deep-sea patrols by boats and tracker aircraft. These patrols operate daily and, considering the difficulties inherent in locating small wooden-hulled fishing vessels, our experience indicates that the surveillance programme has been quite successful in intercepting boats as they approach Australia.

The Government is naturally concerned that people should not be allowed to land illegally on our shores and you may be assured that we are taking all possible action to prevent this.

In the event that boats do arrive here, we shall continue to take every precaution to ensure that the health, safety and security of the Australian people and Australian livestock and agricultural industries are not impaired.”

Dear Sir,

Re: Position of Minister for Veterans’ Affairs

Following press speculation that a separate Minister might not be appointed to the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, a letter setting out the League’s concern was forwarded to the Prime Minister. A copy of the P.M.’s reply is attached hereto.

Subsequently, the National President and the National Secretary called on the Prime Minister and discussed the matter at length, when it was revealed that consideration of the position would be kept under review.

Yours faithfully,

A.G.W. KEYS,
National Secretary.

“Further to your letter of 22nd December, 1977 and our discussions on 3rd February, 1978, I am writing concerning the Veterans’ Affairs portfolio.

As you know, it has been decided that, for the time being, Mr Garland will continue to be Minister for Veterans’ Affairs as well as Minister for Special Trade Representations.

This decision does not mean, of course, any diminution in the Government’s interest in the welfare of those who made sacrifices in the defence of our country. The Government’s policies on veterans affairs will continue to be administered effectively and the excellent relationship which the Department, the Minister and the Government has established with veterans and their organisations will continue. The Department of Veterans’ Affairs will continue as a separate organisation in its present form.

LISTENING POST – MARCH 1978 – 25
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On the occasions when Mr Garland, in his capacity as Minister for Special Trade Representations, is absent overseas, Senator Durack will normally be the Minister to act in the Veterans’ Affairs portfolio, Senator Durack, as a recent former holder of this portfolio, is fully conversant with the issues of the portfolio.”

SIGNED: MALCOLM FRASER

Dear Sir,

Re: Medibank levies

A submission on the above matter was forwarded to the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, who in turn, referred it to the Treasurer. The following advice has been received from the Treasurer.

Yours faithfully,

A.G.W. KEYS,
National Secretary.

“...The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, the Hon. R.V. Garland, M.P., has referred to me a resolution of the 62nd National Congress of the Returned Services League. The resolution requested the Government to implement the recommendation of Mr Justice Toose with respect to payment of the Medibank levy proportionately to the assessed rate of the veteran’s disability pension.

At the outset, I would mention that people who are entitled to medical and hospital treatment at the expense of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs for specific disabilities only have not lost that entitlement under the present arrangements. However, as was the case in pre-Medibank days, they are responsible for the cost of health care for disabilities not related to their service in the Forces. Like any other citizen, such veterans have the option of taking private insurance cover for those health care costs for which they are responsible or retaining their entitlement to Standard Medibank benefits in respect of those costs and being liable for levy if their taxable income is of a sufficient amount to attract levy.

As you are aware, concessions in respect of the levy have been granted to Repatriation beneficiaries, including disability pensioners at the 100% General Rate, who are entitled to medical and hospital treatment at the expense of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs for all conditions. These concessions were decided upon by the Government after long and earnest thought on the matter and represent the extent to which the Government found it practicable, at the time the levy arrangements were being framed, to grant relief in respect of the levy to Repatriation beneficiaries. However, you may be assured that the resolution of the Congress will be given careful consideration when the health insurance levy provisions of the income tax law are next under review.”

SIGNED: JOHN HOWARD,
TREASURER.

AN INVITATION

Third Annual Ladies Congress Luncheon

A luncheon for the wives of Delegates to State Congress and any other interested ladies will be held at the Gateway Inn, Functions Rooms, 1st Floor, 10 Irwin Street, Perth, on SATURDAY, 20th May, 1978 at 12.30 p.m.

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NEWS FROM THE SOUTH

Kojonup Sub-Branch

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1977

I would like to report on another very successful year for our Sub-Branch. Our membership rose from 82 financial members in 1976 to 102 in 1977. We welcome the service members to our ranks in addition to several ordinary members. Our Sub-Branch was awarded a membership pennant at congress.

The family dances each month are very well patronized, and much enjoyed by young and old; our thanks to the band and to our colleagues in running this fixture.

Our Anzac Day march and service were very well attended, — the Salvation Army Band again led the parade and provided the music and buglers for the service. The Reverend Canon Arrantash gave the address.

An official Memorial Service was held in Saint Mary’s church, to which our Sub-Branch was invited to parade; I would like to record our appreciation to the Ministers’ fraternal for arranging this impressive occasion.

Very good services were held at Kojonup High School, Saint Bernard’s Convent, and Glenorchy School, for their Anzac commemoration day; our Sub-Branch arranged groups of members to be present at each school.

As time passes, the care and maintenance of local memorials becomes a matter of concern; in discussion with the Kojonup Shire Council they have offered to look after the Muradup Memorial on this basis: we appreciate this and value their assistance.

We have placed memorial books in War Veterans’ Home Library, in honour of our members who have passed on during the year: Namely — R.L. Lewis, J.E.H. Robinson, A.R. Cooper, M.L. Davies. During this financial year, with the help of the Women’s Auxiliary, another piano was purchased, the old green chairs replaced, the annexes painted, and the lettering on the foundation stone repainted.

After many years of service, Mrs Emmie Masters asked to be relieved of the hall cleaning. Applications were called for, 3 applications were received, — Mrs Chomel was appointed and is doing a good job.

The senior Vice-President represented HOS at our Annual Reunion Dinner on November, 12th, also Mrs Holder and Mrs Sullivan representing Women’s Auxiliary HOS, Councillor Harrison and Mrs Harrison, Canon and Mrs Arrantash, and Miss Burvill were special guests. There was a good attendance from local service clubs, and many friends from neighbouring Sub-Branches. 103 people sat down to a most enjoyable meal provided by our Women’s Auxiliary, and served by the uniting Church’s Ladies Guild.

At the time of writing, Mr Knotts, a plumber from Albany, has taken over the deep sewerage contract from the original tenderer, and has almost completed this long — awaited improvement.

To my fellow members, my Vice-President and Secretary, and to all the public of Kojonup and the surrounding districts, I wish to express, my thanks for your help and support in a busy, and I think, very satisfactory year.

J. Cartwright, President.

Busy Geraldton Sub-Branch

A busy and successful year was reported by Mr Ernie Gleed at the Annual General Meeting of the Geraldton Sub-Branch of the Returned Services League.

A highlight of the year was the winning of the Collett Cup for the 14th time as the outstanding country Sub-Branch in Western Australia. This Award is based not only on the work for the benefit of ex-servicemen and their dependants but also on service to the community generally.

Mr Ernie Gleed was elected President after acting in that capacity following the departure of Mr Stan Moore for Perth.

Mr Graham Till did not seek re-election as Secretary-Treasurer because of pressure of work, and a former Secretary, Mr Arthur Walker, agreed to be Secretary. Mr Till was elected to the Committee, and a Treasurer will be appointed later.

Other RSL Officers include the Senior Vice-President and Membership Officer, Mr John Troode; Junior Vice-President, Mr Ernie Wick; Repatriation Officer, Mr Bill Cunningham; Hospital Visitor, Mr Clem Burns and Publicity Officer, Mr B.J. (Peter) Barden.

The Sub-Branch decided to again adopt a Ward-of-Legacy by paying $50 and also to donate $50 to the War Memorial Fund. — B.J.B.

Geraldton Sub-Branch

Women R.S.L. Members

There were two women ‘Service’ members at the Annual General Meeting of the Geraldton Sub-Branch of the Returned Services League — Mrs Stella Gleed, wife of the new President, and Mrs Dulcie Brogan.

Mrs Brogan volunteered to contact hairdressers with a view to obtaining a candidate for the Miss Crowning Glory Quest which last year raised $33,500 for Legacy and the War Veterans’ Home.

A former Sub-Branch President, Mr Clem Burns was congratulated on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia — O.A.M. — in the Australia Day Honours List, for service to the community and to ex-servicemen.

An R.S.L. Life Member, Mr Bert Lock who will be 88 in April and who has been a member of this organisation for 58 years, again chaired the Annual Meeting of both the Sub-Branch and the Women’s Auxiliary, for the election of officers.

Both the retiring President of the Auxiliary, Mrs Trythena Ashplant, and the retiring Secretary — her daughter, Mrs Eadie Rogers — were unanimously re-elected. They have both held office for some years.

Other officers include the Senior-Vice President Mrs Joy Mountain; Junior Vice-President, Mrs Esme Otway; and Treasurer, Mrs Betty Meginess.

The Geraldton Auxiliary received the Country Cup for the best country Auxiliary of the year — for the 15th time — B.J.B.

LISTENING POST — MARCH 1978 — 29
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REPORT FROM MARBLE BAR SUB-BRANCH

By Piri Smith

After a full year of hibernation the Marble Bar Sub-Branch is back on the map. You may not have heard much about our activities, but we have been busy. To begin, we had to gather our members together, as usual our boys are all over the place, for example, we have one member living in Canberra who is still faithful to us. Have made a considerable effort to get service members and explain the idea behind the R.S.L. We have managed to enroll 4 so far and are optimistic of finding more next year.

To begin the year, our main problem was — and it was a problem — to find office bearers. We do miss our Wally Nichols all the time, but that was the time we missed him most. After a number of, I can’t, I won’t, why don’t you etc. duly elected were: Miss Piri Smith as President and Frank Welsh as Secretary/Treasurer, and a mighty good and hard-working man our Secretary is.

Our ANZAC DAY was celebrated, with a short, solemn, but surprisingly well attended Dawn Service only. After the Service a Rum and Coffee invitation from the Manager of the Ironclad Hotel (one of our boys) was much appreciated.

During the year we have held 8 meetings, average attendance 7 is considered good. Our total membership being 16, (10 regular, 2 life and 4 service members). Our meetings were held at different members homes, were lively, business-like and usually short. I think this will bear it out, that our Sub-Branch is slightly different, after our meetings we sat around with cups of tea or coffee, for an hour or so chit-chat. YES, I mean cups of tea and the surprising thing is, that even those of our boys who are known to be rather fond of a slightly stronger beverage, have always enjoyed it.

REMEMBRANCE DAY saw once again an unusual number of people gathered at our brand new Flag-pole, for the Service. Our Poppy Sales were: 150 ordered and 150 sold.

We have not done any fund raising this year, we are by no means rich, but have managed to donate $150 to the War Veterans’ Home, Mt Lawley and $50 to our local Kindergarten.

The 4th of December was our last meeting for the year with a very good attendance. All our members who are living in Marble Bar were present. After the meeting when wives, (and in one case, husband joined us), we had a very pleasant evening at the charming home of Mr and Mrs Mort Lockyer, we had supper and, oh yes, we did have beer on this occasion.

Our Sub-Branch will not have a meeting now until about March next year, as usual — it is too hot, a number of people are going on holidays, but any business arising, office bearers will attend to. Yes, you charming people, even if it is hot, from 1st January you may start paying your subs.

To all who had the patience to read this to the end, and to your families, we here in Marble Bar wish you all the very best for 1978.
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32 – MARCH 1978 – LISTENING POST
A well-attended gathering of supporters of the Crowning Glory Quest, was held at the War Veterans’ Home on Tuesday, December 22, to hear Lady Kyle launch the Quest for the personality girl with a fine head of hair, married or single, to win the title of “Miss Crowning Glory 1978”.

Lady Kyle, on behalf of the RSL and Legacy in WA, thanked all those organisations and people who have, by their generosity, made the conduct of the Quest possible and she also congratulated the young women who took part in last year’s Quest on the success of their fund-raising.

It is worthwhile recording that to date, the Quest has raised $233,600 for distribution to the War Veterans’ Home and Legacy. This is a great achievement for the candidates and the committees who sponsored and encouraged them.

Entry forms are available from RSL Headquarters or Torchbearers for Legacy in WA (Inc), 2 William Street, Perth, for the new Quest.

The Sunday Times and Swan Television and Radio Broadcasters have again agreed to promote the Quest, and this has made it possible for the following prize list to be offered to would-be candidates:

**Miss Crowning Glory**

**Personality Girl with a fine head of hair.**

1. A CTC Line cruise for two to Singapore and return ................................................................. $1804.00
   Hotel accommodation ........................................... 250.00
   A fashion wardrobe from Boans Ltd .................. 200.00
   A new savings account with the Commonwealth Banking Corporation .......... 200.00
   An open order for jewellery from J.R. Wallace & Co., of Piccadilly Arcade ........ 100.00
   Silhouette (Figure Form International) six months membership ................ 90.00
   Hairdressing by Josephine Margaret Hair Research Centre.......................... 50.00
   A “Carmen 18 Roller Hairsetter” ........................................ 39.50
   ................................................................. $2733.50

**Miss Charity Princess**

Quest’s top fund-raiser

2. A Matway Travel APEF ticket to London and return minimum 21 days and maximum stay of up to nine months ....... no stop-off ............... $ 800.00
   Hotel accommodation ........................................... 250.00
   Spending money ................................................... 200.00
   A wardrobe of clothes from Boans Ltd .................. 150.00

**Girl of the Golden West**

Quest’s top fund-raiser living outside the metropolitan area.

3. A first class return flight for two to Melbourne, flying Ansett Airlines of Australia .................. $ 815.00
   Accommodation for two, for one week at the Southern Cross Continental Hotel, Melbourne .................. $ 266.00
   Unlimited sightseeing with Ansett Pioneer in Melbourne .................. 148.00
   A Hitachi automatic washing machine .................. 319.00
   An open order for jewellery from J.R. Wallace & Co., Jewellers of Piccadilly Arcade .................. 100.00
   Cosmetic by Mary Quant .................. 50.00
   A “Carmen” 18 Roller Hairsetter .................. 39.50
   ................................................................. $1737.50

**Special Award of Merit**

To be awarded at the discretion of the Committee.

4. An MMA return trip with the right to stop-off en-route to Darwin .................. $ 449.20
   A Key Personnel six months secretarial course .................. 800.00
   Spending money ................................................... 100.00
   A portable typewriter by Gliddon & Co Pty, Ltd .................. 120.00
   An open order for jewellery from J.R. Wallace & Co., Jewellers of Piccadilly Arcade .................. 50.00
   Cosmetics by Mary Quant .................. 50.00
   ................................................................. $1569.20

**Special Award of Merit**

To be awarded at the discretion of the Committee.

5. An MMA return trip with the right of stop-off en-route to Darwin .................. $ 449.20
   A Key Personnel six months secretarial course .................. 800.00
   Spending money ................................................... 100.00
   A department and modelling course with
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An open order for jewellery from J.R. Wallace & Co, Jewellers of Piccadilly Arcade .......................................................... 50.00
$1609.20

The Joint Committee is most grateful for the generous, continued help, so willingly given by those associated in the magnificent prize list and it is up to us all now — to justify their generosity by encouraging and, if possible, sponsoring — as many candidates as possible.

The need for this Quest is greater now than ever.

Please address inquiries to: The Hon Secretary, Crowning Glory Quest, GPO Box N1087, Perth, WA, 6001, or phone 321.9322.

Good Year for Albany R.S.L.

The outgoing president of the Albany RSL sub-branch, W.E. Cake, did not seek re-election at the annual general meeting after many years of service, and Les Mouchemore was elected the new president.

There were 27 members in attendance at the annual general meeting and main office bearers for 1978 are, president Les Mouchemore, vice-president Harry Riggs, secretary I. Caddy and treasurer W. Smith.

Following is the report of Mr Cake:

"I thank all members for their assistance and attendance at branch meetings throughout 1977. Your co-operation and ever willing help made my period of office a stimulating and rewarding effort.

"I have every confidence this will continue, thus ensuring an equally harmonious term for the incoming president.

"To enable this organisation to continue benefits for ex-service personnel and prevent erosion of those already in existence, membership must be built up. The urgency of this matter is serious in another direction. As the years roll on, numbers of hard working and active members are with us no longer.

NUMBERS COUNT

"In the present political atmosphere where decisions for the future are made, it is numbers that count.

"Last year marked the 60th anniversary of our sub-branch. Coincidentally, this fell on Albany's 150th birthday celebration year.

"To celebrate this historic occasion, special efforts to organise Anzac Day were put into operation, resulting in one of the best attended dawn service and march past ever held.

"Another special occasion, the annual pilgrimage, took place on October 29-30. It commenced by service and wreath laying at the Nurses Memorial Gardens.

"The 60th Anniversary dinner, pilgrimage and wreath laying were held on October 30. Guests were returned nurses, members of the 10th Light Horse and Gallipoli Legion.

"Thanks are due to Town of Albany for providing a civic reception for visitors and officials after Anzac Day and the pilgrimage ceremony.

"Frank Gomm, although suffering indifferent health, is still one of our chief mainstays, his knowledge and advice being greatly appreciated by all members.

"We all know about the Frank Gomm Bowls, this popular day being now an annual event.

MANY COMMITMENTS

"Notwithstanding his many commitments, Frank spent several evenings addressing a packed hall of Boy Scouts, on the origin and meaning of Anzac where he almost met his match — at question time.

"Women's Auxiliary continued working hard, holding a cabaret ball, fund raising in many ways, and providing refreshments after meetings. Their representatives joined ours for Albany's celebration Sunday.

"Sale of poppies on Remembrance Day was an all time record, even though we had least number of collectors ever. Special credit must go to Wally Bocien for his non-stop effort.

"Visiting repatriation officers were kept busy, over 30 interviews having been held during their visit.

"Five adjoining sub-branch dinners were attended by our branch representatives and wives during the year.

"Last year saw completion of stone wall at the memorial. This was made possible by our donation of $500. We have also sent $50 to State war memorial fund.

MEMORIALS, PLAQUES

"It appears there are 57 types of memorials, plaques etc, in Albany so together with other service groups, we donate $50 annually towards their upkeep.

"Another popular decision made during the year was the provision of a free taxi service, to allow senior members to attend meetings.

"Among various community services are our annual scholarship, plus an extra one of $150 for Albany's sesquicentenary, Presentation of shields for inter school sports, RSL, soap box event, King of the Mountain, etc, were also held.

"In conclusion, I would like to pay tribute to Ray Ridgeway. This year, his twentieth as treasurer, ill health has caused him to resign from our executive. A big thank you from every member for an outstanding performance.

"Credit is also due to our secretary, vice-presidents and committees for pulling their weight through such a busy year.

"Stan Thompson, Citizen of the Year, memorial warden, a ray of sunshine to those in hospital. Ken Daniel, parade marshal, and organiser of the pilgrimage, to them go our thanks.

"Alf Summer once again conducted a successful Melbourne Cup sweep for our hall committee.

"All in all a year of considerable accomplishment ranging from sub-branch level to promotion of the Albany area."
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W.A. R.S.L. Bowls Section

By: E.W. Newton, Secretary

12th NATIONAL R.S.L. LAWN BOWLS CARNIVAL

The W.A. R.S.L. bowls section has been accorded the privilege of conducting the 12th National R.S.L. Lawn Bowls carnival in Western Australia from 26th December to 6th January, 1979.

Although this period was originally allocated to Queensland, that state agreed to forgo its turn so that we in W.A. could conduct the national fours as one of the first sporting fixtures in our 150th Anniversary year - 1979.

In the 11 years that these carnivals have been conducted each host state has achieved an exceedingly high degree of hospitality, and whilst we in this state cannot hope to match "the large and luxurious bowling clubs in other parts of Australia, we hope to be able to extend the same high degree of hospitality and efficiency to our visitors, of which we estimate there will be 500 bowlers.

The carnival is expected to cost in the region of $15,000 and donations from members will be gratefully accepted.

The writer has been appointed national secretary/treasurer and will be pleased to supply any further information required. Telephone: 349 2791.

We hope that you will give serious consideration to assisting us and supply a cut-out slip for your convenience.

E.W. NEWTON,
National Secretary R.S.L. Lawn Bowls Carnival,
Box 138 P.O.
Bayswater, W.A. 6053

Dear Sir,
Please find enclosed $ ........ donation towards costs of National Bowls Carnival to be held in Perth 26th December - 6th January, 1979.

Receipt to: ..................................................

FRANK PLAYS FATHER CHRISTMAS

Once again the RSL Great Southern Bowls carnival at Albany was a great success, due primarily to the tremendous energy, enthusiasm and generosity of Frank Gomm, the big fisherman. As Eddie Nicholls put it so nicely — Frank plays Father Xmas about this time every year.

Twenty-two teams took part, including players from Katanning, Kojonup, Denmark, Wagin, Broomehill and Frankland.

National president Len Preedy and National secretary Ern Newton, past National president and patron of WA RSL Bowls, and committee member Ken Marshall made the trip and played together.

Others from the metropolitan area were Stan Bennett (Wembley), Allan Ball (Doubleview), and a team from Gosnells which included Peter Dawson who won the first club singles championship at Yokine way back in the early 1960's.

The section gained nine new members and three female associate members, plus a lot of promised support for the Morrie Crewe perpetual Fours, to be played Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday April 22 and 23.

There are five games in all, open to all financial RSL members who are members of a bowling club affiliated with the RWABA.

But, they need not be members of the Bowls Section (though we would like them to be).

Entry fee $10 per team. Entries close on April 10, with Ern Newton, Box 138 PO Bayswater.

The section pairs championship will be played on Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday, May 6 and 7. It is restricted to financial members of the WA RSL BOWLS SECTION.

Entry fee $2 per player. Entries close on April 24, with Ern Newton (address as above).

The section triples championship will be played on Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday, May 20 and 21. Conditions as for pairs. Entries close with Ern Newton on May 8.

National President
R.S.L. Bowls
Len Preedy

National Secretary/Treasurer
Ern Newton

Past National President
Morrie Crews'

Frank Gomm
Country Liaison Officer RSL

LISTENING POST - MARCH 1978 - 37
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Here we are at the beginning of a new year, another busy year for Auxiliaries. Remember, we are needed more each year by our sick and aged ex-servicemen and women, so your continued interest and support of your Auxiliary is so important.

We had our usual busy period during November and December with parties etc and the packing and delivery of our Christmas Cheer parcels to the ex-servicemen and women in the 21 hospitals and homes.

Thanks go to the Auxiliaries for their generous donations to this fund, thus enabling us to bring a cheery word and small gift to, quite often, a lonely person.

Remembrance Day, November 11 was the start of a very enjoyable weekend for me. I was privileged to lay the Auxiliaries’ wreath at the State War Memorial and then, with Mr and Mrs Phenna, travelled to Coorow to attend the Coorow Waddi Forest Sub-Branch dinner.

The following day, we drove to Northampton for the sub-branch and auxiliary dinner. It was the first time that I had visited this district and I was so pleased to meet personally, the members of the Auxiliary and to sit and discuss Auxiliary matters with them. On the Sunday, we went back to Geraldton, where I visited the War Veterans’ Home and was impressed by the enthusiasm there. In time, when it is fully developed, it will be something to be proud of.

PILGRIMAGE

I also took part in the annual pilgrimage to the Utakarra War Cemetery. This was a memorable experience, the simple wreath-laying service at the Memorial, and the sudden blaze of colour against the grey when the flowers of Remembrance were lain.

At Birdwood House, we attended the Diggers Luncheon, given by the Auxiliary, and congratulated the Auxiliary on their donation to the local War Veterans’ Home. My sincere thanks to you all for your welcome and hospitality.

Members of Executive attended the service at the War Veterans’ Home on November 11 and Mrs Rolfe and Mrs Sullivan were guests at the Kojonup Sub-Branch and Auxiliary annual dinner on November 12.

While Mr Ford and I were attending the Narrogin Sub-Branch and Auxiliary Annual Reunion on November 19, Mrs Rolfe and Mrs Holder attended the Murray Districts Social, where they were pleased to see Mrs Symington again and to say thank you for the work she did on Executive before her retirement owing to illness.

50TH BIRTHDAY

Mrs Holder and Mrs Rolfe were among the guests who helped the Quairading Auxiliary celebrate their 50th Anniversary. Congratulations, Quairading, for 50 years of service to the League, may you continue for many years to come.

Mrs and Mrs Johnson attended the Mandurah Auxiliary at their Annual Dinner on November 26. Mrs Johnson had great pleasure in presenting Mrs Archer with a Life Membership and Certificates of Service to Mrs Bateman and Mrs Tanner.

During December, Executive members enjoyed the hospitality of numerous organisations, and we thank them for their invitation and wish them all a happy and prosperous New Year.

The 1978 Miss Crowning Glory Quest was launched on December 20, and it is hoped that there will be a record number of entrants this year. The funds raised are divided between the War Veterans’ Home and Legacy, so interest can be shown by sub-branches and auxiliaries by sponsoring an entrant.

Mrs Lowe and her husband are off to Tasmania in February for a holiday and will say “Hello” to a number of the Tasmanian visitors to our last Conference. Have a happy time, Madge and Norm.

Until next time, best wishes to all. — Joy Ford (State President).

ANZAC DAY ARRANGEMENTS

The customary Dawn Ceremony will be conducted at the State War Memorial, King’s Park on Tuesday 25th April, 1978.

Official Wreath Bearers will assemble on the roadway below the Floral Clock at 5.40 a.m.

Positions will then be arranged by the Parade Marshal.

The Column will move off to State War Memorial at 5.58 a.m. led by Buglers and Drummers.

The ‘STILL’ will be sounded when the head of the column halts in front of the Memorial.

Official wreaths will then be laid followed by those of Kindred and Unit Associations.

During the playing of the ‘LAST POST’, flags will be broken, lowered and then raised to half mast.

‘SILENCE’ followed by ‘GUNFIRE’ then ‘REVEILLE’ when the flags will be raised to mast head.

Private wreaths will then be laid.

PARADE AND COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

PERTH ESPALANADE

The order of march for the parade will be posted to all Kindred and Unit Associations as soon as possible and published in the Sunday Times on 23rd April.

The double page will appear in the West Australian on Monday 24th April.

Markers will be called at 9.45 a.m., fall in at 10 a.m. and march off at 10.15 a.m.

The Service commences at 11 a.m.
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Whats New On the Pension Scene?

By Jim Giblett War Compensation Officer.

The changes foreshadowed in the Budget speech by the Treasurer were not made during the last session of the national parliament. The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Mr R.V. Garland, announced in October that, following representation by the Federated T.B. Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen’s Association, there would be a delay in introducing the amending legislation.

PENSION INCREASES
Took effect on November 3. There is insufficient space to list them all.

Pension increases took effect on November 3. There is insufficient space to list them all.

For example: TPI increases from $90.15 per week to $94.40, intermediate from $62.10 to $65.00, 10 percent from $3.41 to $3.57, 50 percent from $17.03 to $17.83, 100 percent from $34.06 to $35.65.

SERVICE PENSIONS: Single veteran pensions rose from $47.30 and the married from $39.25 to 41.10 each.

From the number of enquiries received at the League office, it is apparent that there is confusion in the minds of many veterans concerning two types of pensions.

The disability pension is a form of compensation, granted for a service-related condition.

The service pension is nothing more than the old-age pension, except that it is made available five years earlier to veterans, than is the case for non-serving citizens. The major advantages of the service pension are the fringe benefits, particularly in the area of medical facilities.

A veteran who is already receiving a disability pension is eligible for the service pension when he/she reaches the required age.

Enquiries regarding pensions should be made direct to the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, 11 William Street, Perth. (Phone: 321 0131).

NEW PROVISIONS
Pulmonary Tuberculosis, as with other pensionable disabilities, will have to be service-related to attract war pension but entitlements already granted for TB will continue with some variation.

Previously the law provided for a war pension for life at no less than the 100% war pension rate. Each grant in force will be reviewed and the degree of disablement assessed but the pension will be “frozen” at the cash level of the 100% rate at the time of the review.

This means as the 100% rate rises from time to time present beneficiaries will not receive a rise and their entitlement to free treatment for non war related disabilities will be withdrawn as will their entitlement to exemption from the Health Insurance (Medibank) levy.

Service Pension eligibility for TB will no longer be available. Treatment for ex-servicemen suffering TB in the Repatriation system will continue to be available.

MEDICAL SUSTENANCE
A Loss of Earnings Allowance replaces Sustenance Allowance for Repatriation patients. The new allowance, which is at the TPI war pension level, is subject to actual loss of earnings because of treatment for war disabilities and is reduced by any disability pension already payable.

Safeguards exist for members who might use up their normal annual sick leave because of war disabilities and then suffer loss of earnings when absent from work for non war caused disabilities.

The Loss of Earnings Allowance will be payable under such circumstances upon the production of appropriate evidence.

HOME LOANS
Loans for eligible persons continue at the maximum rate of $15,000 and interest charged remains at 3.75% pa on loans up to $12,000 and 7.25% on amounts between $12,001 and $15,000.

Members of the Defence Forces now are eligible on completion of 3 years’ continuous full time service will be separated from those commencing service on 16th August who will qualify for Defence Service Loans on completion of 6 years’ service subject to a commitment to render further service.

The Defence Service Homes Corporation will progressively withdraw from land development and building activities and will become a lending authority only.

Applications for loans will now cost the applicant $75,000 and for those rare cases qualifying for an additional loan an application fee of $50,00 is payable.

Preference for Defence Service Home Loans will be given to those with war service over those whose eligibility is based only on peacetime service.

Representations by the RSL for the maximum loan of $15,000 to be increased was considered by the Government which decided in the present situation it was unable to agree.

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TOUR OF BATLE FIELDS

The timetable for the tour is as follows:

OCTOBER, 1978
FRIDAY 13: This afternoon we leave Australia aboard our Qantas flight for Athens. (Passengers from other States connect by domestic carrier, Perth passengers fly direct through Singapore.)

SATURDAY 14: Early this morning we arrive in the Greek capital and we are met upon arrival. After finishing customs and immigration formalities, we will be taken to the overseas terminal at Piraeus. At 9 a.m. our cruise ship departs from Piraeus. All day at sea cruising in the Aegean before arriving at the Turkish port of Izmir, early this evening.

SUNDAY 15: All day at leisure in Izmir. A programme of optional sight-seeing will be arranged for our benefit during the stay. At 8 p.m. we say farewell to Izmir. After departure, a cocktail party will be held in one of the ship's lounges hosted by the Tour Operator.

MONDAY 16: Early this morning we arrive at Eceabat. During our stay here we will visit Sedd El Bahr (Turkish Memorial), Kritchia (collection of war relics), Lone Pine (Australia Memorial), Chunuk Bair (New Zealand Memorial) and Anzac Cove. This evening we will leave Eceabat on our return to Piraeus.

TUESDAY 17: on arrival at Piraeus, we will be met and transferred to our Athens hotel. Remainder of the day at leisure.

WEDNESDAY 18: Morning at leisure in Athens. In the afternoon we will be collected at our hotel and taken to Patras via the Corinth Canal. On arrival we will join our ship which will take us across the southern Adriatic to Italy. Depart Patras this evening.

THURSDAY 19: All day at sea. We have short stops at Corfu and Igoumenitsa. Early this evening we arrive at Brindisi, where after completing customs and immigration formalities we will be taken to our hotel.

FRIDAY 20: Today we travel across southern Italy to Rome. En route we have a short stop at Alberobello with its famous cone-shaped houses.

SATURDAY 21: Morning at leisure in Rome. In the afternoon an introductory sight-seeing tour of Rome includes the Colosseum, the Forum, the Spanish Steps and much more. This evening we invite you to be our guests at a typical luxury Italian restaurant.

SUNDAY 22: All day at leisure in Rome. Today we offer you two interesting optional sight-seeing tours (at a small extra charge).
(a) First optional tour takes us down the Auto Strada del Sole to Naples for sight-seeing before continuing to Pompeii, possibly the best preserved of all Roman cities buried by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 AD.
(b) The second tour offers us the opportunity to visit the Vatican City including St Peter’s, the Vatican Museum and, of course, the Sistine Chapel.

MONDAY 23: We leave Rome and travel to Florence via the city of St Francis of Assisi. This afternoon an introductory sight-seeing tour of Florence includes the Accademia (housing Michelangelo’s ‘David’), the Ponte Vecchio, the Piazza Signoria and possibly the finest collection of Renaissance art in the world at the Ufizzi Gallery.

TUESDAY 24: Morning at leisure in Florence for further individual sight-seeing and shopping. This afternoon we leave Florence and head northwards again for Venice. On arrival we will be at leisure.

WEDNESDAY 25: This morning a brief tour on foot takes us to St Mark’s Square, the Basilica of St Mark, the Doge’s Palace and the Bridge of Sighs. Afternoon at leisure (we recommend during this time you visit the Island of Murano, famous for its Venetian glass blowers.)

THURSDAY 26: We travel through the Plane Valley to the fashionable mountain resort of Cortina. Continuing north we climb over the spectacular Brenner Pass and enter the Austrian Tyrol. Our destination this evening, is the site of the 1976 winter Olympics – Innsbruck.

FRIDAY 27: All day at leisure in Innsbruck.

SATURDAY 28: This morning we make the short journey from Innsbruck to Munich, the capital of Bavaria. The afternoon is at leisure before this evening we are entertained in one of Munich’s famous beer hails by the Afrika Korps.

SUNDAY 29: At leisure in Munich. We offer you an optional tour (again at a slight extra cost), to the German concentration camp at Dachau.

MONDAY 30: We travel on one of Germany’s autobahns from Munich to Stuttgart, where we will be dropped at our hotel. Afternoon at leisure. In the evening we will be entertained at a civic reception by Manfred Rommel the Mayor of Stuttgart.

TUESDAY 31: At leisure in Stuttgart. An optional tour today takes us to Nuremberg for sight-seeing. There is an extra charge for this tour.

NOVEMBER
WEDNESDAY 1: We leave Stuttgart on our way to Heidelberg, city of the “Student Prince”, where we have lunch before proceeding this afternoon to Dusseldorf.

THURSDAY 2: This morning is at leisure in Dusseldorf for individual sight-seeing and exploration. At lunchtime we will again be entertained by the Afrika Korps. After lunch we continue on the short journey from Dusseldorf to Arnhem.

FRIDAY 3: This morning’s sight-seeing takes us to the Airborne Museum where we see an interesting history of the War. We take lunch at the Kroller Muller Restaurant where we are able to look at the Van Gogh collection. Afternoon at leisure.

SATURDAY 4: Depart Arnhem this morning for Amsterdam. Afternoon at leisure.

SUNDAY 5: A full day tour of Holland includes a cruise along the canals of Amsterdam, a visit to the Rijksmuseum (housing Rembrandt’s “Night Watch”), the Europort at Rotterdam and the famous Delft pottery factory as well as other interesting rural sights.

MONDAY 6: We travel across the border to Brussels. This afternoon we take a brief look at Brussels, visiting the gold-leafed Grand Place, as well as much more. Remainder of the day at leisure.
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TUESDAY 7: Morning at leisure in Brussels. This afternoon we leave Brussels for Ypres. On arrival at Ypres you will be at leisure until this evening when we will attend the nightly Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate.

WEDNESDAY 8: Full day sight-seeing takes us to the battle fields of Flanders, including Passchendaele, Polygon Wood, Tyne Cot and Sanctuary Wood.

THURSDAY 9: At leisure. Coaches are available for visiting the various memorials in this locality.

FRIDAY 10: We travel from Ypres to Amiens. The route takes us via Lijssenthoek and Hazebrouck where from October, 1914 to September 1917, the CCS was stationed until enemy shelling rendered it unsafe for hospitals. Also en route, a brief visit to Dunkirk.

SATURDAY 11: See separate itinerary.

SUNDAY 12: We will attend a church parade at Amiens Cathedral. Afterwards a picnic lunch will be included in the grounds of the school of Villers Brettoneux. Afternoon at leisure, again our coaches are at our disposal for sight-seeing in the area.

MONDAY 13: Morning at leisure. This afternoon we leave Amiens for Rouen.

TUESDAY 14: Morning sight-seeing in this historical city before this afternoon we continue to Caen, which is the intellectual, agricultural and industrial centre of Normandy.

WEDNESDAY 15: Depart Caen. We visit the Normandy beaches, Omaha and Utah, before continuing to Paris.

THURSDAY 16: A late start this morning. At 11 a.m. a memorial wreath will be laid at the Arc de Triomphe, followed by lunch at a typical Parisian restaurant. This afternoon a sight-seeing tour is made of the main points of interest. Visits will be made to the Opera, the Madeleine, the Cathedral at Notre Dame, the Champs d’Elysees and the Eiffel Tower. This evening at leisure.

FRIDAY 17: At leisure for shopping or additional sight-seeing. We recommend that during this time you do not miss a visit to the Louvre, housing amongst other works of art, the Venus de Milo, Winged Victory, and, of course, the Mona Lisa. Late this afternoon we will leave Paris for London. On arrival we will be transferred to our hotel.

SATURDAY 18: A short tour of the West End. Visits will be made to the Embankment, Cleopatra’s Needle, Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus and Hyde Park Corner. Afternoon at leisure. This evening we invite you to be our guests at a Tudor Banquet in one of London’s famous Elizabeth restaurants.

SUNDAY 19 and MONDAY 20: At leisure in London.

TUESDAY 21: All day at leisure. This evening a farewell dinner in the hotel is hosted for us by the RSL of Australia.

WEDNESDAY 22: Morning at leisure. This afternoon we transfer to the airport to connect with our Qantas flight for Singapore.

THURSDAY 23: All day in flight. Arrive in Singapore early this evening. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

FRIDAY 24: At leisure in Singapore for duty-free shopping, sight-seeing or just for relaxing in your hotel’s magnificent grounds. Early this evening transfer to the airport to connect with your Qantas flight for Sydney.

SATURDAY 25: Arrive Sydney. (Passengers for interstate fly direct. Passengers for Perth fly direct from Singapore.)

TOUR LEADER

The leader of the Europe ’78 tour to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of First World War Armistice which will fall on November 11, 1978, will be Major-General Sir William Refshauge, CBE.

Sir William, who joined the CMF before the Second World War, enlisted in the AIF in 1939, and in the following six years saw active service in the Middle East including Libya, Greece, Crete and Syria, Ceylon, New Guinea and Borneo.

He was Director-General of Army Medical Services from 1955 to 1960 and was then appointed Director-General of Health for the Commonwealth of Australia, a position he held until 1973.

In that year he resigned to become Secretary-General of the World Medical Association. He retired in 1976 and resided in Canberra.

In 1971, he was president of the 24th World Health Assembly, and in 1972 was a member of the Australian delegation to the United Nations Conference on the Environment at Stockholm.

He is a national trustee of the RSL of Australia, and is the only Australian to be concurrently a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, and a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

He is a Life Member of the RSL, was awarded the OBE in 1974, and during the Second World War was mentioned in despatches four times.

In 1959, he was elevated to Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) and in 1966 was made a Knight Bachelor.

Whilst being a very distinguished soldier, Sir William has a reputation for being a “soldier’s General”. He will be joined on tour by his charming wife, Helen.

R.S.L. CONCERT

The 5 Military District Band, under the baton of Capt Colin Harper will present a ‘Diggers Concert’ in the Perth concert hall on Saturday 29th April. Also on Friday 9th June the 5th Military District Band together with the Central RAN Band from Victoria will present a combined concert at the Perth Concert Hall.

As these concerts are presented to assist the League your support is requested.

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A VERY SIGNIFICANT INDICATION

By Sir Colin Hines, OBE.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING OF THE RSL

During the year, the Committee held a number of meetings and discussions and had the advantage of information of various kinds being supplied by State Branches.

I must report, however, that some State branches have been unduly parochial in their attitude and less than helpful to the committee in discharging its responsibilities from a national point of view.

At the outset, a major decision by the Committee was that the only way in which the future of the League could be examined objectively would be with the assistance of a wide cross-section of the views of members.

The Committee was fully aware that not infrequently, opinions at different levels of the leadership within the RSL varied from that of the grass-roots membership.

It was therefore, in the opinion of the Committee, imperative that it should have the opinion of as wide a cross-section of the RSL community as possible.

QUESTIONNAIRE

With this in mind, a questionnaire was distributed in different ways by a number of State branches. I emphasise that the response from State branches varied slightly as, too, did the way in which the questions were framed.

The response to the questionnaire cannot therefore be regarded as a truly scientific assessment of members’ views.

It still remains however, a very significant indicator to the attitudes that exist, and more importantly perhaps the trends that are developing:

1. The Questionnaire: In reporting on the questionnaire to you, I must point out that though, numerically, the response was only small, it still represented something like 2 percent of the total membership.

It should be remembered that opinion polls are carried out with a far smaller percentage than this of the total community and have proved to be a remarkably accurate indicator of what the electorate is thinking.

It also should be remembered that it is the member who is interested, involved and enthusiastic, who responds to questionnaires of this kind.

It is not unreasonable, therefore, that the Committee and ultimately the National Congress should respond in a positive way to the results of such a sampling.

In one State branch, the opinions not only of members, but also of sub-branches and district councils were sought, and the variation between the view expressed by the sub-branch and district council executive and that of the members is significant.

In this report then, let me first of all give you a quick resume of the sum total of the response we have had to the questionnaire throughout the Commonwealth.

In preparing this summary, the Committee has confined itself to the response to the major questions asked.

Approximately 5,000 members replied to the questionnaire.

a) Widening of membership: About 75 percent of those who replied were in favour of widening membership to include all those who had volunteered for service overseas. This, I might say, is in marked contrast to the decisions reached by the majority of State congresses.

The Committee notes that, in Victoria and SA, there is mounting pressure for early action to widen ordinary membership. A supplementary question to this dealt with Service Membership and was asked only in NSW.

In response to this question, 867 members were in favour of Service Membership and 149 opposed it — a massive 90 percent support.

To a degree, this reflected the total vote of the last NSW State Congress which gave a clear simple majority to the adoption of Service Membership.

b) Family participation: This question was asked in only three States — Victoria, SA and WA.

In SA and WA, about 85 percent of those canvassed wanted families to participate more in RSL activities. In Victoria, the vote was fairly evenly divided. However, as against this, the Victorian State branch voted by 617 to 280 for a “Sons and Daughters” auxiliary.

In general, one could say that members were in favour of RSL families participating more in the activities of the League.

c) Change of Name: In both SA and Wa, there was a vote in favour of a change of name if this were necessary following any broadening of membership.

In Victoria, there was a vote against this proposal and I feel confident that, Australia-wide, this would not gain support.

The name “Returned Services League” has an historic connotation and it would seem to be rather a retrograde step to change. After all, it is not necessary for the name to accurately reflect the style and characteristics of the members. There are many organisations with names that are used for a variety of purposes not necessarily to portray the nature of the membership of that organisation.

So it is with the RSL. At this stage it would seem unwise, in both a sentimental and an historical sense, to consider changing the name.

d) Policy on law and order: On this proposal there was an across-the-board massive 90 percent favour of the RSL being interested and involved, and this suggests that the League’s moves on drugs, on violence in strikes and on civil disruption and demonstrations is solidly backed by members.

e) Defence and Foreign Affairs: Similarly, about 90 percent were in favour of the League’s involvement in...
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The use of the more sophisticated means of any degree of support.

A minority view was that the image of the League was to some extent affected by defence issues and tended to make us look at right-wing militaristic organisation. In the main, however, the support for the announced policies of the RSL was substantial.

f) International contacts: Proof of the members' desire to ensure that the RSL continued with forward-looking policies was the support given to the initiatives that have already been taken to maintain and develop international contacts.

Here again, something like a 90 percent majority of members supported the initiatives being taken by the National Executive and the contacts we have developed.

This, I think, augurs well for our desire that the RSL should be a forward-looking organisation and should continue to make a valuable contribution to matters of importance to Australia in the future.

g) International aid: While members generally supported with enthusiasm the International Aid programme of the RSL, there was a mixed response to the proposal that this should be increased.

In some States, only a little more than 50 percent favoured an increase in overseas aid however, this did increase in one or two States, notably Victoria and NSW to something like 80 percent.

h) Youth activities: The RSL's work amongst the youth of the nation received almost universal support and something like 90 percent of those who replied favoured the League's greater involvement with youth activities.

It seems to suggest that we should be exploring very actively ways in which we can be more closely identified with those undertakings that will involve young people.

i) The League's image: On average, only about 50 percent of those canvassed were satisfied with the League's image.

A very great number, in some States a majority, felt that much more needed to be done to get the League's message across and to ensure that the League's views and policies were properly understood in the community.

The general view expressed was that much more needed to be done to ensure that an accurate picture of the League and all it stood for was presented in the media.

j) Communications: A solid majority of up to 85 percent recognised the need to improve communications within the RSL, and were generally in favour of a national newsletter and any other means whereby the League's message could, at modest cost, be distributed to members.

The use of the more sophisticated means of communications, such as a newspaper and films, did not gain any degree of support.

**ASSESSMENT OF QUESTIONNAIRE**

The impression gained from the response to the questionnaire was an interesting blend of progressive and conservative viewpoints. Established policies continue to receive wholehearted support.

New initiatives in the international sphere were popular and were seen to be necessary at this time in Australia's history and as making a worthwhile contribution to overall national requirements.

Work amongst the youth of the community was considered to be of great importance. It was recognised that communications and the image of the League needed to be improved.

The response to the question on membership was most enlightening. A solid majority of the ordinary members who responded supported the concept of widening ordinary membership.

In NSW where the views of State councillors and sub-branches were also obtained, the views of members were often at variance with the view of those in executive positions.

I think this underlines a problem that we have all been aware of, that all too frequently, those in official positions tend to be rather more conservative in their attitudes than those who constitute the bulk of our members.

The National Executive should now study the result of this initial questionnaire and determine the next move. We have been given certain fairly clear indicators.

In some respects, they are not conclusive enough, and before any firm decisions are taken, a more accurate survey would have to be completed.

The indications, however, are there, and they will be most helpful to the Committee in its further consideration of the question of the League's future.

**SERVICE MEMBERSHIP**

As Service Membership had been adopted by National Congress as a matter of policy and has been implemented in five of the eight States branches, it was only included as a section of the questionnaire in NSW.

In view of the rejection of Service Membership by the State Congress, the results of the survey by the means of the questionnaire were interesting.

Of those individuals who answered, 867 were in favour of Service Membership, with only 149 opposing it— an overwhelming majority.

This vote endorses the decision of the NSW State Congress which was held in July, when a substantial majority of those present voted in favour of Service Membership.

At that time, however, the majority was not a clear two-thirds, which would have been needed if the NSW constitution was to be successfully amended.

Subsequently, the National Solicitor has indicated that a simple majority would have been sufficient to introduce Service Membership in that state.

However, for internal political reasons, it would be unwise to enforce a change in the decision that was announced at the State Congress.

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The results of both the questionnaire and the voting at State Congress however, indicate that Service Membership can be very successfully introduced into NSW, perhaps next year. In those States where it has been introduced, solid progress is being made, and the numbers are coming in. Indeed, if it had not been for the 10,000 or so Service Members who came into the League in 1976, the League's Australia-wide loss of membership for that year, would have been about 12,000.

As it was, it was only approximately 2,000. All this means, of course, that Service Membership can succeed if it is promoted accurately.

With this in mind, the Committee urges State branches to push ahead as rapidly as possible with the implementation of Service Membership and urges State branch officials to take whatever action is necessary to ensure that the recruiting campaign is prosecuted vigorously.

**LEAGUE, LEISURE AND TRAVEL**

While the Committee has not studied the operations of League Leisure and Travel Pty Ltd in any great detail, it is apparent that undertakings of this kind will greatly assist the League in two ways.

Firstly, in improving services to members, and secondly, to providing an alternative source of income other than that which is derived from the membership fee.

It is apparent from the reports tabled at this Congress by the National President and by the chairman of League, Leisure and Travel Pty Ltd, that promising progress has been made.

Here again, the Committee urges all State branches to assist the Committee in every way they possibly can.

It is clear that if the League is to progress, then new ideas such as League, Leisure and Travel must be examined if considered viable, introduced and then promoted as vigorously as possible.

We should keep in mind that an organisation the size of the RSL can do almost anything it sets its mind to. It is merely that determination to make an effort and to get the job done that is needed to carry any undertaking through to a successful conclusion.

**NATIONAL CONVENTION**

Another new concept which has been endorsed by the National Executive is the National Convention, to be held in Sydney, to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Remembrance Day in November next year.

The idea is that this will be the largest gathering of members of the League ever held in Australia. We want it to be a representative gathering, with members coming from all States and all Services, including most importantly, the Women's Services.

The committee that was established for the purpose of making recommendations on the organisation of the convention will be reporting to the National Executive.

As chairman of that committee, I am most optimistic about the outcome. We believe that it will be a first class means by which the opinion of a wide-cross section of the membership of the League can be directly canvassed and opinions sought on a wide range of subjects.

It will be a splendid opportunity for example, to test opinions on broadening membership, alternative forms of membership, other means of financing the League's operations, our work with youth and opinions on such matters as defence, foreign affairs and security.

Just as importantly, this will be a means of stimulating our members' interest in the whole range of RSL activities and giving many things a new lease of life.

As with League, Leisure and Travel, this is another undertaking which can inject new interests and new enthusiasm into the League's operations. We would urge all State branches to vigorously support the concept of the National Convention and to ensure that we have the broadest and most representative cross section of members gathered together in Sydney next year.

**CONCLUSIONS**

I am obliged to say that the work of the Committee has not progressed as far as we would have liked. At this stage, however, before further investigation is undertaken, we can confidently report a number of conclusions. These are as follows:

1. The average member tends to rather more adventurous in relation to things such as membership of the RSL than most sub-branch and State branch officials.

This suggests that we can be examining the question of membership and alternative forms of membership rather more boldly than we might have believed possible.

Having said that, however, I would also say that this point needs to be clarified and confirmed by further opinion polls in States where they have not been held, and then implemented in such a way that it has the support of all State congresses.

2. The National Executive and the State councils of the League generally have the support of members in an approach to national policies such as defence, and foreign affairs.

The attitudes expressed by the League's leaders on various occasions are in the main supported and our members are just as concerned as we are about inadequate defence preparedness and foreign policy initiatives that do not seem to be in the best interests of Australia and its allies.

3. There is strong backing for an expansion of our youth work and for the contact we are making with veterans' organisations in other countries.

Both of these matters are seen to be areas of very legitimate and potentially valuable work for the RSL.

There is strong support for international aid but only marginal support for expanding the amount of finance devoted to the work of the Jubilee Commemorative Fund.

4. Communications must be improved. Members do not favour expensive or sophisticated means of communications but they do welcome the introduction of a national newsletter and want to be better informed on the work the League is undertaking in many different directions.

It is clear from comments made on such things as the Jubilee Commemorative Fund, that a large number of members are not aware of all the League is doing in...
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Section 53 contains prohibitions from doing any of the following in connexion with the supply of goods or services, or an advertisement for them:
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this field.
As the activities of the Jubilee Fund are contained in
an annual report, and this is distributed to State
Branches, it must be assumed that the reports are not
read widely within the sub-branches.
All of this suggests that every method must be examin-
ed by which communications within the organisation
can be improved. National newsletters are well received
and should be continued.
Every opportunity should be taken to develop useful
contacts with representatives of the media. We should
examine new policies and ensure that our involvement
in these new policies is well publicised.

1979 NATIONAL CONGRESS
FOR PERTH

National Congress 1979 will be held in Perth in conjunction
with the 150th Anniversary celebrations of the state.
Extensive arrangements have already been made and mem-
bers will have the opportunity of entertaining our guests from
other states and will look forward to showing them something
of the progress in the state since the last national congress held

At the Annual General meeting of the R.S.L. Victoria Park
Sub-Branch, the Pension’s Officer, Mr Charles J. McIntosh
intimated that he did not wish to carry on full time in that
capacity.
Mr McIntosh, who is in his eighty-fifth year, has been
officiating as Pension’s Officer, not only in the Sub-Branch,
but also in the 44th BN. Association in W.A. for a
considerable number of years.
He is the holder of the R.S.L. Certificate of 50 years
membership.
He was made a member of the Legion of Frontiersmen
of the Commonwealth in 1975.
In January, 1976 he was awarded the Australian Medal of
Merit and, in July, 1977 he was elected an Honorary Life
Member of the Legion.
These awards were conferred on him by the Legion for his
work in conjunction with Major Rex Carter, Canberra, in comp-
ing a history of the 44th Battalion during the 1914–18
Great War.

A SOUVENIR OF 1941
FOR PTE PURSS

Australian-born Mrs Catherine Morgan, who lives in the
Perth suburb of Forrestfield, has just returned from her old
home city of Graz with a photograph album that an Aus-
tralian soldier left behind on Crete in 1941.

Mrs Morgan said the album was found by her cousin Franz
Musil, then a member of the German forces that successfully
invaded Crete during World War II. He had kept it for 36
years.

The album, containing photographs apparently taken in
Australia, Britain and Palestine (now Israel) bore the name of
Private L. W. Purss, NX4897, C. Company, 2/3 Battalion, AIF.

Mrs Morgan came here 22 years ago and is now a naturaliz-
ed Australian. She would like to return the album to Mr Purss
or to his family.


FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS THE AUDIT WAS NOT COMPLETED BY THE TIME
THIS ISSUE WENT TO PRINT THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS OF THE LEAGUE WILL BE POSTED TO
ALL SUB-BRANCHES PRIOR TO STATE CONGRESS
AND COPIES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR DELEGATES
AT CONGRESS.

LISTENING POST – MARCH 1978 – 53
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<th>E. Gould (President) P.O. Box 249 BROOME 6725.</th>
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<td>097-21-2773.</td>
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<td>CAPEL:</td>
<td>M. Powell, P.O. Box 74, CANNINGTON, 6107.</td>
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<td>326-3502.</td>
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<td>S. Armitage, 96 Mitchell St Cunderdin, 6407.</td>
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