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New Chief of the RSL in W.A.

It would be appropriate at this time to present to members a brief account of the background of the new State President, Leonard J. Turner, with regards to private, professional and RSL activities.

Len joined the AIF in 1941 and saw service with the 2/5th Infantry Battalion in the Middle East and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka).

After his discharge from the service in 1946, he continued his accountancy studies, qualifying as an accountant in 1948 and at the same time studying company secretarial practice and costing.

From 1950 to 1968, he was a part-time lecturer for the Department of Technical Education in Accountancy subjects.

In 1949, he was appointed Secretary-Accountant in a WA office stationery and equipment company, later becoming a Director and subsequently Managing-Director in 1966.

Membership of the League has been continuous since 1944, and he has served as a committeeman, Secretary and President in sub-branches — Northam, Carlisle and Millen. He was made a Life Member of the League in 1977.

RAPID RISE

Len joined the State Executive in 1970 and became junior vice-president in 1972 and senior vice-president in 1975. He has held the position of chairman of the finance sub-committee and chairman of the War Veterans' Home Board since 1972, and is also currently chairman of the Anzac House re-development committe.

He has also served on many other sub-committees, namely, Anzac House and Club, RSL shop, service and welfare, staff and State War Memorial.

He has been a delegate to the annual State Congress for many years, and a delegate, representing WA, to the National Congress for five out of the past seven years.
Seasons Greetings

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Xmas Greetings to Kalgoorlie & Boulder R.S.L. Members & Families
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Remembrance Day — 1980

By courtesy of Daily News

It was a time for remembrance at the Mt. Lawley RSL Home yesterday for these two veterans of the Great War — Robert Gribble (90) — left — of the 10th Light Horse and Percy Doyle (94), of the 4th Field Regiment — when they took part in a Remembrance Day ceremony.

At the State War Memorial on Tuesday 11th November at 11.00 a.m. wreaths were laid by the State President of the R.S.L., Government and Civic leaders, Heads of Services, and representatives of Kindred and Unit Associations.

It is the custom of the R.S.L. to appoint a Warden of the State War Memorial each year, alternating between a well-known ex-serviceman in one year, and a prominent citizen who is not a returned serviceman in the next year. This appointment is in recognition of the support given to the services in time of war by the civilian population, and in recognition and appreciation of the community’s support in making possible the erection of the Memorial.

The changing over of the Wardens took place at the Remembrance Day ceremony when this year Dr. H.S. Williams C.B.E., the out-going State Warden handed over to Lt. Commander L.V. Goldsworthy, G.C., D.S.C., G.M. (Ret’d) who became Australia’s most highly decorated naval officer, a mine disposal officer during the second world war renowned for his expertise.

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LISTENING POST, SUMMER, 1980/81 PAGE 3

Resignation of State President

At a special meeting of the State Executive, held on the 15th October 1980, the resignation of Mr. L. Phenna MBE, JP was tendered as State President of the RSL, WA Branch.

He felt that on his appointment as a member of the No. 9 Repatriation board his position as State President would constitute a conflict of interest with his new appointment.

Mr. Phenna was first elected to the State Executive in 1965 and elected Vice President in 1967.

Upon the retirement of Mr. P. Pearson CMG, OBE, JP in 1975 Mr. Phenna was elected State President and has held the position until now.

He has made three official overseas visits for the RSL. April 1976 he toured Korea, with the delegation, to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Korea conflict. The European tour in November 1978 to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the signing of the armistice. On this occasion the touring party visited the battlefields of Gallipoli and France. In April 1980 Len represented the National President at the official opening of “Anzac Corner” in Gan Meirparks at Tel-Aviv in memory of Australian Soldiers who fell during the two wars. He also attended the Anzac Day service in Jerusalem.

Mr. Phenna was succeeded by Len Turner, as State President, when elected by the State Executive on the 15th October 1980.

Christmas Greetings

On behalf of the Polish Ex-Servicemen’s Association in W.A. I extend best wishes for a Merry Christmas and prosperous and peaceful New Year.

Yours sincerely,
K. MILCZAREK
Hon. Secretary
Applications should be lodged direct to:
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covered by the Board. The Account Betting Centre
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meetings until 5 minutes before the advertised starting
time of the last race. On many occasions cash Agencies
close before the end of a race meeting but you can still
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Xmas Greetings
REVIEW TRIBUNAL

The Repatriation Review Tribunal which replaced Pension Appeal Tribunals a little more than a year ago receives and decides applications by members and their dependants which relate to three areas of jurisdiction.

They are refusal by the Repatriation Commission to grant entitlement to War Pension for incapacity or death because these are not deemed to be service related.

The second area deals with the assessment of War Pension for service related incapacity, and the third copes with review of decisions which refuse a Service (as distinct from War) Pension on the grounds that the applicant is not permanently unemployable.

The Tribunal believes that as far as possible an applicant should be told of his rights at each stage of the proceedings following lodgement of an application for review. It also considers an applicant should have sufficient access to the evidence prior to the hearing to prepare his application properly.

To achieve its objectives, the Tribunal now communicates with the applicant on at least two occasions before the application is listed for hearing.

Firstly, it tells the applicant of his right of access and his right to appear and to be represented. Secondly, it asks him to indicate how he intends to exercise these rights by completing an authorisation form. This advice is dispatched as soon as the Tribunal is advised that an application for review has been lodged.

The second communication comes when the Department of Veterans' Affairs prepares copies of the evidence in summary form.

The Tribunal advises the applicant that summaries have been sent as requested and this can be to the applicant in addition to his advocate, so that steps can be taken to obtain further evidence or to prepare a plea aimed at showing the Tribunal the reasons why the decision, the subject of review, should be altered.

Applicants are also advised of their rights to seek reimbursement of costs incurred in obtaining medical reports which result in the Tribunal allowing the application and how to claim costs incurred in attending hearings.

An explanation is also notified about rights to have matters of law and principle decided in courts and when costs for legal expenses can be met.

The League sees the action by the Repatriation Review Tribunal to inform applicants of their rights and expectations as good communication which it endorses.

CHEMICAL SPRAYS

Some RSL sub-branches have carried resolutions revealing their concern at the delay that will occur in determining compensation claims for Vietnam veterans in relation to exposure to herbicides as used in Vietnam.

The National Executive has defined its policy about claims that exposure, to chemicals, used as defoliants, causes disabilities in those exposed to them and also deformities in their offspring.

It believes that an epidemiological study established by the Government in Canberra, which is being carried out by the Commonwealth Institute of Health at Sydney University, is the proper way to establish the effects on Australian veterans who served in Vietnam of any exposure to toxic chemicals such as herbicides.

So that the methodology of the study can be assessed, endorsed or altered, the Government has established an Independent Scientific Advisory Committee, the members of which are nominees of the International Epidemiological Association, the Australian Academy of Science, the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Statistical Society of Australia because of their expertise in the areas to be covered in the study.

Former Minister for Veterans' Affairs Evan Adernann now out of office, felt that an eminent doctor with an ex-service background, who could represent the interests of veterans, should also be on the Committee. For this reason he had invited Sir Edward Dunlop, a surgeon who is famous for his work among prisoners-of-war during the 1939-45 war, to join the Committee.

The League also believes that calls for a judicial enquiry can be met by utilising the present law which permits tests cases to be referred to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal where questions of principle are to be resolved and to the Federal Court of Australia for resolution of questions of law.

PENSION RISES

Australia's 494,000 Repatriation War and Service Pensioners received an increase from November 13. The increases range from $2.20 to $5.85 a week and are based on the 5 per cent rise in the Consumer Price Index for the six months ended June 30, 1980.

The 100 per cent War Pension rate rises from $44.10 to $46.30 a week with proportionate increases to members receiving less than the 100 per cent rate, e.g. a 40 per cent War Pension increases by 88 cents to $18.52 a week.

The TPI War Pension rises by $5.85 to $122.75; the intermediate rate now $80.45 becomes $84.45. Service Pensions rise by $3.05 to $64.10 for single persons and by $2.25 to $53.40 each week for married persons.

The full rises are shown in pension leaflets obtainable at the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

British War Disability Pensioners will receive their rises from November 24. The 100 per cent rate increases from £38 to £44.30 a week. These are British rates. Most allowances also rise.

The British War Widows' rate increases from £30.20 to £35.30. The basic retirement pension for a single person (akin to our Age Pension) rises from £23.20 to £27.15 and for married persons the amount rises from £37.30 to £43.45.

These increases of 16% reflect rises in prices between increases and account for about one quarter of all public expenditure in the UK.
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Blackboy Visited

By W. Gaynor

Members of RSL Executive visited Bellevue recently to meet members of the local Sub-Branch and inspect work carried out at the Blackboy Hill Commemorative site.

Accompanied by Bellevue President, Harry Read and Blackboy Hill Commemorative Site Advisory Committee members Mr. J. Lee and his party were shown over a museum in the foyer of Greenmount Primary School which features old photographs, maps, drawings and articles found on the site of the old camp. The museum had been built up over a number of years inspired by school staff as early as 1965 when the New Greenmount School was opened on the site of the old camp.

The donation of a built in display cabinet placed the many exhibits into order and the cabinet and museum was officially opened and dedicated on Anzac Day 1979 by Rev. Canon L.W. Riley, whose father and Grandfather were closely associated with Blackboy Camp.

At the commemorative site State Executives were shown work carried out to date and Don Barrett Lennard of Bellevue Sub-Branch displayed plans for future development. Interest was shown at current development which has been the subject of recent appeal for funds. New retaining walls and facilities for visitors were outlined and much enthusiasm was shown by all at the proposals.

Shire President of the Shire of Mundaring, Mr. Tom Broz who is also chairman of the Advisory Committee kept a close eye on activities and pledged Councils support for the project in terms of financial assistance by matching appeal donated funds.

At the conclusion of the on-site visit the party moved to the Bellevue Club where visitors were entertained by Bellevue members with the usual hospitality.

Recent Donation to the Blackboy appeal have taken the funds to $2807. Further donations will be gratefully received and should be directed to the Bellevue R.S.L. Branch for transmission to the advisory committee.

The following donations are acknowledged: D. Barrett-$400; Netherlands Ex Servicemen's Assoc $25; Regular Defence Forces Assoc $25; R.A.A. Assoc. $20; Morawa-Guth Sub-Branch $10.

From left to right: Harold Klopper Tres. Bellevue Sub-branch Tom Broz President Mundaring Shire. Harry Read President Bellevue Sub-branch. Mike Hall State Executive.

O.A.M.

Mr. Harold W. Haines, JP of Redcliffe was awarded the medal of the order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June, 1980 for services rendered to the community.

Harold has been a member of the R.S.L. since 1948 and Honourary Secretary of Belmont Sub-Branch for 22 years, a councillor on the City of Belmont for 5 years, also connected with many community organisations in the Belmont area.

The League is very pleased to see that the dedicated members are also concerned for the welfare of the community.

LISTENING POST, SUMMER, 1980/81 PAGE 7
Xmas Greetings from Emma & Staff of the...

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- Karrinyup 446 4767
- Merredin 41 1079
- Mirrabooka Square
  349 0296
- Morley City 276 1566
- Narrogin 81 1659
- Northam 22 1451
- Rockingham 27 1025
- Victoria Park 361 2614
- Whitfords 401 5858
A Christmas Message

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, HIS EXCELLENCY, SIR RICHARD TROWBRIDGE, K.C.V.O.

I send this message in my capacity as Governor-Designate but by the time this issue of "Listening Post" is printed my wife and I will be residents of Western Australia and I shall have been sworn-in as Governor.

Lady Trowbridge and I are very conscious of the responsibilities we have accepted as Her Majesty's Representative in your great State.

I am eager to meet all of you in the Returned Services League and as I have already been presented with my badge and am therefore a member, I shall no doubt do so in due course.

As an ex-serviceman who served alongside Australians in the Pacific in the Second World War and in the Korean War and who has had a lifetime of communications with them, I hold a deep affection and admiration for all the Australian Services. They set standards of which the nation can be proud.

To you all, and to your families, Lady Trowbridge and I extend every good wish for Christmas and for the New Year.

Keep up the good work of the League — work in which I shall join with you as Her Majesty's Representative in Western Australia.

A Christmas Message

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, MR. RON DAVIES

It gives me great pleasure to extend the compliments of the season to members of the Returned Services League and their families throughout the State.

The spirit of goodwill and friendship flourishes during the festive season with many individuals and organisations working to ensure that the less fortunate in the community share in the festivities.

The R.S.L. is one such organisation and its members deserve commendation for that.

But your organisation does not restrict its work to the Christmas season alone. You are working constantly throughout the year to ensure that the needs of returned servicemen and women and their families are never forgotten or neglected.

My involvement with Torchbearers for Legacy has taught me that there is always much to be done in this area and never enough people to do it.

During my war service, I was constantly amazed at what those of us in the R.A.A.F. could achieve when we worked together and what the Australian community as a whole could do in the face of a threat.

If the whole community functioned this way when the country is not at risk and if the goodwill, friendship and compassion that abound during this time of year were manifested throughout the year, then the burden carried by organisations like the R.S.L. would be lightened considerably.

I congratulate your organisation on another year of achievement and wish you all a happy Christmas with health, happiness and prosperity in the new year.
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Repatriation Benefits Extended

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Mr. Evan Adermann, recently gave further details of the increases and extensions in Repatriation Benefits for entitled veterans and dependants announced by the Treasurer in the 1980-81 Budget Speech.

Disregarding of disability pension for fringe benefit entitlement

From January 1, 1981, one half of any disability pension will be disregarded when considering a veterans’ income for the purpose of determining entitlement for fringe benefits. This will bring assessment for fringe benefit entitlement into line with assessment for Service Pension entitlement, for which half of any disability pension is already disregarded.

Free medical treatment for POW mariners and others

From November 13, 1980, Australian mariners who were prisoners-of-war and veterans with service-related amputation or loss of vision in one eye, who do not qualify on other grounds, will, subject to certain qualifications, be eligible for free medical treatment for all conditions whether or not related to the veteran’s service or, in the case of an Australian mariner, to a “war injury”.

Temporary Incapacity Allowance

From November 1, 1980, a veteran whose stay in hospital, together with post-hospital convalescence or other treatment on a full-time basis after hospitalisation for a service-related disability which in total exceeds 28 days, will be entitled to a Temporary Incapacity Allowance. The maximum rate of this allowance is equal to the Special Rate (T & Ph) Pension, less any disability pension being received by the veteran.

Increase in pension rates for Papua New Guinea pensioners and dependants

From the first pay day in November, monthly pension rates for Papua New Guinea veterans and their dependants will increase as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>New Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Totally incapacitated veteran</td>
<td>$44.30 a month $160.05 a month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widow of veteran</td>
<td>$25.70 a month $100.85 a month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependant under 16 years of age</td>
<td>$ 5.15 a month $17.95 a month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This increase will bring the total incapacity pension up to the related secondary urban wage in Papua New Guinea.

Other Benefit Increases

The following Repatriation benefits will increase from November 13, 1980.

Increases in additions to pension for amputations or loss of vision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>New Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One leg amputated above the knee</td>
<td>$9.20 25.80 weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One arm amputated and one eye destroyed</td>
<td>$5.35 15.00 weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One leg amputated and one eye destroyed</td>
<td>$5.35 15.00 weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One leg amputated above the knee</td>
<td>$2.65 7.45 weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One leg amputated below the knee</td>
<td>$1.40 3.95 weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One arm amputated above the elbow</td>
<td>$2.65 7.45 weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One arm amputated below the elbow</td>
<td>$1.40 3.95 weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of vision in one eye</td>
<td>$2.05 5.80 weekly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clothing Allowance

| High rate | 0.15 1.65 weekly |
| Medium rate | 0.10 1.10 weekly |
| Low rate | 0.05 0.80 weekly |

Orphan’s Pension

| No parents | $2.60 27.60 weekly |
| One parent | $1.30 13.80 weekly |

Attendant’s Allowance

| High rate | 3.65 38.65 weekly |
| Low rate | 1.82 19.32 weekly |

Two other increases will apply from November 1, 1980.

They are:

Recreation Transport Allowance

| High rate | 4.00 44.00 monthly |
| Low rate | 2.00 22.00 monthly |

Gift Car Maintenance Allowance

| 48.00 528.00 annually |

Soldiers’ Children Education Scheme Allowances

Increases will apply from January 8, 1981

Living at home

| 12-14 years | 1.30 5.00 weekly |
| 14-16 years | 1.45 7.00 weekly |
| 16-18 years | 2.85 15.00 weekly |

Living away from home

| 12-14 years | 2.85 15.00 weekly |
| 14-16 years | 2.85 15.00 weekly |
| 16-18 years | 6.20 25.00 weekly |

Sub-branch formed in Kambalda

At a meeting of the State Executive held on Wednesday, October 15, an application for the formation of a sub-branch at Kambalda was authorised.

The president of the new sub-branch is S. Grant, 13 Redwood Street, Kambalda West, 6444 (phone: Kal 27 1005) and the secretary is S. Cox, 11 Callitris Road, Kambalda West 6444.

Meetings will be held on the first Thursday each month at the Army Reserve Depot, Santalum Street, Kambalda West at 8 p.m.

The State Executive congratulate the ex-servicemen and women of Kambalda for taking this important step.

An invitation is extended to all ex-servicemen and women of Kambalda to join the new sub-branch.

The RSL still has an important task ahead for many years to come—especially in the field of welfare.
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RSL Calls for Investigation

A recent finding by a United States Federal Court, the first of its kind, delivered earlier this year found that dioxin was the most acutely toxic substance yet synthesised by man.

This was revealed during the course of the ongoing study of chemical sprays used in Vietnam being undertaken by the Returned Services League. As a result of this, the RSL now calls upon all Governments in Australia to investigate the use of any chemical substance containing dioxin.

The National President of the RSL Sir William Keys said the information concerning dioxin was revealed during the course of the League's study of legal action being undertaken in the United States. This monitoring would continue at least until the Federal Court in the United States had determined whether the Class or Group Action could proceed.

In addition the League would monitor closely the epidemiological study being undertaken by the Government and called for periodical reports on the progress of the study.

Sir William said that the delay in progress with this investigation was causing some concern and, though the RSL recognised the immense complexity of the task involved, it was of the greatest importance that work should proceed at the earliest possible time and that there should be regular progress reports coming from the enquiry.

CO-OPERATION NEEDED

The RSL urged all Vietnam veterans to co-operate in the fullest possible way with the study.

Sir William said the RSL was pursuing individual cases through the Repatriation system. Under the new appeal structure, applicants could take their cases right through to the High Court and in this way precedence could be established for the rewarding of benefits and treatment which could be subsequently used by lower levels of decision making process.

Sir William said that the whole matter of chemical sprays used in Vietnam was a complex and highly emotional one and it was essential that the issues involved should be resolved as quickly as possible to relieve the minds of many young people who were worried about the possible consequences involved with exposure to the chemical.

He said the League had already spent many thousands of dollars to ensure that the necessary assistance was made available to Vietnam veterans and would continue to actively represent their interests until the issues had been clarified.

He said one other matter was urgent.

As a result of advice it had received from its National Solicitor, the League wished to warn all Australian ex-servicemen who served in Vietnam and either were or might be involved in the proceedings in America or in Australia that if they fail they may very well have a substantial liability as to legal costs.

All such servicemen are therefore, advised that they should seek the advice of their own lawyers forthwith.

The following motion “that this Congress wants to know why it will take so long to complete the enquiry into the ill effects of chemical sprays and believes there should be periodic reports for the duration of the enquiry” was put forward by Tasmania and carried as amended.

It was further carried: “That the Resolutions adopted by the Extraordinary Meeting of National Executive on Sunday, 7 September be adopted:

1. That the League, through its National Solicitor, continue to monitor the proceedings presently being conducted in New York State by Messrs Yannaccone and others.
2. That such monitoring continue up and until those proceedings are certified as a class action or refused class certification.
3. That the question of further monitoring after either of the events occurring as in (2) above, be then received by the National Executive.
4. That the individual actions being conducted by Messrs Ashcraft and Gere be watched by the National Solicitor up and until either of the events occurring as in (2) and then reviewed by the National Executive.
5. That the proceedings in the Brisbane Registry of the High Court of Australia instituted by McMillan on behalf of his clients be watched by the National Solicitor.
6. That the League not (nor any of its branches or sub-branches) provide any further financial assistance, by way of legal costs or any indemnification in respect thereof, to or on behalf of any Vietnam veteran or any dependant or former dependant thereof in relation to the use of herbicides in Vietnam, without the express permission (obtained beforehand) of the National Executive given at a duly convened meeting thereof and not otherwise.
7. That no branch or sub-branch of the League participate in any legal proceedings (either directly or indirectly) involving a Vietnam veteran or his dependants in relation to the use of herbicides in Vietnam without the express permission (obtained beforehand) of the National Executive given at a duly convened meeting thereof and not otherwise.
8. That any branch or sub-branch participating (either directly or indirectly) in any legal proceedings referred to in (7) above cease doing so forthwith.
9. That each branch and sub-branch of the League be and is hereby instructed to take all necessary action to ensure that any Vietnam veteran prosecutes to the full any claim he may have under the Repatriation Act and provide every possible assistance to him in so doing.
10. That the League:
   (a) continue to support the epidemiological study embarked upon by the Commonwealth Government; (b) closely monitor that study throughout; (c) instruct its Branches, sub-branches and all its members to co-operate fully with the team of persons conducting that study; and (d) make every endeavour to have the Repatriation Act amended to include coverage for those persons mentioned in paragraphs 16 and 17 of Part A hereof for any condition suffered by them if the epidemiological study indicates that there is a reasonably acceptable nexus between that condition and the use in Vietnam of any of the herbicides referred to in paragraph 2 of Part A and in paragraph 8 of Part C; (e) obtain regular reports from the Minister of Veterans' Affairs or his Department as to progress of the said study.”
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Our comrades have fallen in the meadows of Europe, in the deserts of Africa, in the waters of the seven seas and in steaming jungles across Asia and the Pacific Region.

This proud tradition of sacrifice and service lives on and is evidenced today by dedication to maintaining operational readiness at the highest possible level.

As the RAAF enters its Diamond Jubilee, we reflect upon the past with pride and we anticipate the future with confidence and with optimism.

Diamond Jubilee wines were selected as one way in which the celebration could be extended to RAAF personnel throughout the world and to many friends across the nation.

Through the generosity of Tyrrells Vineyards and Fernhill Winery, a donation to the RAAF Women's Association from Diamond Jubilee wines sold will help to educate a substantial and increasing number of our deceased comrades' children.

All servicemen are asked to give their patronage to these wine companies. — Air Vice-Marshall H.K. Parker

Changes in Defence Service Homes Act

In amendments to the Defence Service Homes Act and policy changes in its administration there have been significant improvements made for the benefit of Defence Service Homes owners and prospective applicants.

It is difficult to list the changes in priority order, as the changes which may be for the benefit of one need not necessarily benefit another.

Included are an increase in the maximum loan available to $25,000; a reduction in the waiting period for finance to assist in the purchase of a home; the introduction of freedom of choice insofar as the choice of a Defence Service Home owner's insurer is concerned; and the value to loan ratio - insofar as the amount of a home loan is concerned.

The maximum of $25,000 is now structured in three parts. The first part, $12,000, bears interest at 3.75%; the second part, the next $3,000, bears interest at 7.25%; and the next $10,000 or part thereof bears interest at 10%.

The repayment of $25,000 over the usual term of 32 years is at the rate of $160.75 per month.

All, or part of the increase may be available to eligible persons to assist in the provision of extra essential accommodation (generally restricted to sleeping accommodation) or for the original installation of essential services such as sewerage, hot water installation etc.

All additional advance applications lodged subsequent to August 19, 1980 attract interest at the rate of 10%.

Though there is still a waiting period for finance in connection with the purchase of a home, either new or previously occupied, this has been reduced from 14 months to ten months.

There is no waiting period for finance in connection with the erection of a home on an applicant's own land.

Policy now permits the Corporation a measure of discretion as the source of a purchaser's deposit money is concerned, and previous restrictive conditions existing in the past have been made more flexible.

Interested prospective applicants should not be deterred from seeking further information on these matters direct from the Corporation. Information obtained from other sources is not always reliable.

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Notes from Harvey District Sub-branch

by Dick O'Grady, Hon. Secretary

Brunswick Sub-Branch officers met recently to approve amalgamation with Harvey. Reconstruction of the Memorial Arch, dismantled following damage from a cattle truck some time ago, will be a priority responsibility. A simpler design has been agreed to, with a pair of jarrah columns, selected by Bob Harnett, replacing the former iron pillars.

The Memorial will be returned to the old site between the Brunswick Hall and the Post Office, where it stood before it was moved to the showground entrance.

The presentation by President Iven Manning to Les Woodcock, of Yarloop, of a certificate for 50 years membership of the League, awarded by National Headquarters, was the occasion of a most successful get-together of Harvey District members from the three former sub-branches now amalgamated, Brunswick, Harvey and Yarloop.

Les joined the League in 1919, and was made a life subscriber in 1975. Since Yarloop merged with Harvey, Les has travelled regularly to Harvey for meetings and functions.

After serving on Gallipoli (28 Bn.), Les was in France with 2nd Australian Div. (7 I.B.). His sole momento of those times has been an air-raid warning whistle which he was using on a sombre occasion when a Hun fished tail raid wiped out a group of his comrades moving along the Armentieres Road.

Les displays his certificate in company with his Yarloop coobber, Steve Jovanovich. Steve served with the US Army after escaping into Switzerland from a camp for Yugoslav P.O.W.s in Germany.

The occasion was also marked by appreciation by those present of John Warburton's (2/11 Bn.) Greek Certificate. The Greek Consul had sent John's certificate along on learning that John had missed the Presentation Ceremony at Margaret River, notification not having reached him in time due to change of address.

The Geraldton Shield, for which small country sub-branches compete, is back on display at the Harvey War Memorial Library after 12 months at Northampton. Harvey District battles to maintain 75 financial members.

A recent sad loss was that of former secretary, Arthur Spurge, Merchant Navy, 1914 - 1918. Arthur worked hard for ex-servicemen's interests during and following the World War, and words spoken in tribute by the sub-branch President were conveyed in a letter of condolence to Mrs. Marj Spurge. Arthur's father, C.H. Spurge, was Harvey's second President in 1920.

President Iven has already made several appearances at meetings and functions further south since his election as south-west Regional Country Vice-president, and other country sub-branches will have an opportunity to take advantage of Iven's long experience in ex-service matters.

A Christmas Message

FROM MR. C.J. WILLIAMS, AM ED DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

I would like to express a sincere wish to all my friends who with me are proud to wear the badge of the Returned Services League. May this Christmas be a happy one for you and your families and may 1981 prove to be a healthy and prosperous New Year for you all. I am joined in these wishes by all members of the staff of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, including the staff at the Repatriation General Hospital, Hollywood.

Much has been done to improve the facilities at Hollywood Hospital during the past year, and a great deal of work has already been planned for the coming years, so that if you should be unfortunate enough to have to go into hospital I sincerely hope you will find your stay at Hollywood to be a successful and comfortable one.

I am grateful to the State President, the Executive and the State Secretary of the League for their great help to departmental officers and myself, especially because through their efforts we have together been able to help so many ex-servicemen and women. Be assured that we in the Department are always happy to do whatever we can to provide you with the facilities and benefits which are available under the Repatriation Act.

Harvey president Iven Manning presents the 50 years membership Certificate to Les Woodcock.

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LISTENING POST, SUMMER, 1980/81 PAGE 17
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That time of the Year again

By JOY FORD (State President)

It's that time of the year again when Executive members pack and deliver our Christmas Cheer parcels to the 35 hospitals and homes visited during the year. We all enjoy this so much, especially when we see the delight of the recipient, often his only Christmas gift. Thank you, Auxiliaries, for your generous support to this Fund.

It has been a busy year for Auxiliaries and Executive. The donations to our funds show that the Auxiliaries have worked hard at their fund-raising, not always easy in some country areas where drought has affected the district.

Keep up the good work, your support is so necessary if we are to continue our task of caring for our ex-servicemen and women. Their hospital visits each month keeps the Executive girls busy, as well as attending functions and other chores required by Executive.

Since my last report, Mrs. Bettridge, Mrs. Minson and I attended the Salvation Army "At Home" on August 7, and Mrs. Rolfe and Mrs. Adams visited the Katanning Auxiliary for their meeting on August 13.

FUNG HOSPITALITY
- Cockburn Auxiliary held their Fun and Friendship Day on August 19 and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the games and hospitality. Mrs. Preedy and Mrs. Baker attended the Laurel Club function on September 4.
- By the reports received the Belmont Auxiliary "Birthday Party" was a most enjoyable one. Mrs. Rolfe represented me there as I was in Canberra.
- On September 16, Mesdames Rolfe, Holder, Ryniker and McPartland drove to Pinjarra as guests of the Murray Districts Auxiliary to their "Birthday Luncheon" and were given some beautiful lap rugs made by the Auxiliary members. These were passed on to the holding centre at the War Veterans' Home, where they are greatly appreciated.
- I attended the Lake Grace Group Conference with the League on September 10. It was disappointing that more sub-branches did not attend, but I was able to meet the Lake Grace Auxiliary girls, who did the catering for the Conference, also Mrs. Moylan of the Ravensthorpe Auxiliary.
- Victoria Park Auxiliary held their Birthday Party on September 27 and had as their guests Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Ryniker.
- George and I were among those who enjoyed the hospitality of the Bassendean-Guildford sub-branch and Auxiliary on September 28. It was nice meeting old friends again.
- On October 10, Sully and I travelled by rail to Bunbury to attend the Auxiliary Dinner and meeting. We were both pleased to meet the members of the Auxiliary and sub-branch again.
- Millet and Victoria Park Auxiliaries held a Fun and Friendship day on October 19 and this was another good day which I will tell you all about in the next issue.
- My visit to Canberra as the Auxiliaries' representative to the National Congress was both interesting and rewarding, my full report accompanies these notes.
- May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support to your Auxiliary and to wish you and yours a very merry Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year.
- Until next time, take care.

National Congress Report

By JOY FORD

On September 6, I left Perth with Doug and Mrs. Bruce on a flight to Canberra as the representative of the RSL Women's Auxiliaries to the RSL National Congress. An invitation to attend as observers had been received by all States and it had been suggested that the representatives meet to consider forming a national body of the RSL Women's Auxiliaries.

On Sunday night, those attending the National Congress were guests of the Woden RSL and Bowling Club for an evening meal. It was here that we all met together for the first time. Those present were Mrs. P. Wild (SA), Mrs. P. Stewart (NSW), Mrs. J. Strachan, Mrs. M. Curran (VIC), Mrs. K. Ross, Mrs. M. Kays (TAS), Mrs. B. Elcoate (QLD) and myself (WA).

The evening was most enjoyable, finishing with a sing-song around the piano.

A brief wreath-laying ceremony was held at the National War Memorial the following morning; before the official opening of Congress by the Governor General, Sir Zelman Cowen, in the Becker Hall of the Academy of Science.

Congress sessions were held at National Leagues' Headquar ters, and began after the opening.

These were attended by us all, and found most interesting. After lunch on Monday, we all met in an adjacent room to hold our meeting, which was chaired by Mr. D. Saul (NSW).

FULL DISCUSSION
Following a full discussion, with each State putting forward their views on the subject of forming a national body of the Women's Auxiliaries, it was found that each State had differences in their Constitutions, finance and State bodies.

The main concern of each State was the financing aspects of a national body and the maintaining of extra officers and cost of travelling.

It was therefore resolved that at this stage it would not be in the best interests of the Women's Auxiliaries of Australia to form a national body — but, as all of us felt that there was much benefit gained by attending National Congress, we recommended that an invitation be extended to each State.
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each year to enable each State President or her representative to attend, when possible, as an observer.

The following day we again attended Congress before leaving for Government House for a reception at midday. After meeting His Excellency and Lady Cowen, we entered a very beautifully-furnished reception room, where we were served drinks and savouries.

In the afternoon, I and some of the other ladies visited the War Veterans’ Home in Lynham. This is quite small compared with ours, built with the bedrooms, recreational room, dining and kitchen all under the one roof.

NEAT, CLEAN

It was very neat and clean, and, chatting to some of the residents, we found them to be very happy there. Additions are to be built in the future and in time it will be quite large.

Rain had started by the time we left that evening for a reception at the South African Embassy and as our bus driver was reluctant to take the bus into the grounds we had to sprint up the long driveway in drizzly rain.

We were welcomed by the Ambassador and Mrs. Oxley and enjoyed the refreshments served to us in a large reception room rather quietly furnished with some South African carvings.

Next day was bright and sunny, and again we sat in at Congress to listen to the debate on Agenda Items and to hear some very interesting speakers on matters concerning ex-servicemen and women and the defence of our Country.

After lunch the delegates received and accepted the minutes of our meeting and expressed their pleasure in our attendance at their Congress, the first time it had ever been done.

In the evening, we all attended a Reception at Parliament House by the then, Minister of State for Veterans’ Affairs Evan Ademan and Mrs. Ademan.

The large entrance hall proved most interesting with its portraits of Prime Ministers and historical data. The view from the front steps of Canberra at night is really beautiful and most buildings are floodlit.

SPECIAL MEETINGS

As Congress had finished except for some special meetings we were able to join the other ladies at a lunchon given by Lady Keys at “Glenlea” on Thursday. This was a bus trip through Queanbeyan, nearly to Captains Flats to a farm. Here we were able to meet the wives of the delegates, and enjoy a lovely lunch in beautiful surroundings.

In the evening, we were all guests of the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea and Mrs. Ha Jong Yoon at the Korean Embassy. Here we were again warmly welcomed into a pleasant reception room where two huge beautifully-embroidered screens decorated two walls of the room and the Korean ladies were in their national dress.

After the drinks and tasty goodies to eat we were shown a film of the Miss World Quest in Korea.

From there on, each of us returned home. I arrived back with Mr. and Mrs. Phenna and Mr. and Mrs. Turner early Saturday morning.

Though I attended most sessions of Congress, I did manage to see a little bit of Canberra in between times. It is a very clean city, with streets lined with trees. The prunus trees, which predominate, were all out in blossom making a lovely sight.

I would like to thank the Auxiliaries for nominating me to attend this important meeting as their representative and I am deeply conscious of their confidence in me.

It was very rewarding, both in the discussions with the other representatives and in the attendance of the sessions of Congress. I feel we all benefited from it all.

New Service Members for Taxation Sub-branch

Photo by Courtesy of DAILY NEWS

The Taxation Sub-Branch welcomes their two new Service Members, Julie Debnam (left) and Gwen Bolitho (right). Shown assisting on Poppy Day and collecting a donation from Norm Healy, State Executive member.

Thank You, Ladies

On Wednesday’s, the ladies visit us here. With very good will, and very good cheer. 
They fill all our innards so well, never fear, With lovely fresh buttered scones.

It’s such a nice treat when we come here to eat, On wobbly old legs and weary old feet, Our spirits arise to a heart-thrilling beat. When we see those fresh buttered scones.

So thank you, dear ladies, for your very kind thought To help us old-timers, and do it for nought, If fills us with pleasure to know you have bought— Those beautiful well-buttered scones.

“RINGNECK”

The above little poem was written by a resident of the War Veterans’ Home in Mt. Lawley in appreciation of the morning and afternoon teas taken by the Auxiliaries and Executive to the Home.
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NORTH
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"AGENT ORANGE" IS OUT, "CHEMICAL SPRAYS" IS IN

At a Special National Executive Meeting held on 7 September, it was decided to drop the terms "Agent Orange" or "Chemical Herbicides" because there were far more sprays used than the Orange one plus the fact that insecticides are included in the list of chemicals used in Vietnam.

"Chemical Sprays" covers the lot. At the same Meeting, it was agreed that the RSL (its Branches or Sub-Branches) shall not provide any further assistance financially to any Vietnam veteran or dependant without the express permission of the National Executive.

However, each and every Sub-Branch or Branch is instructed to take all necessary action to ensure that any Vietnam veteran prosecutes to the full any claim he may have under the Repatriation Act.

One of the comments made by the National Solicitor at this Meeting was that "Dioxin" was the most deadly poison yet made by man. One drop of the stuff is 70,000 times more deadly than one drop of cyanide. Not a pleasant thought.

Some urgent advice was offered to all Australians who served in Vietnam and were or might be involved in proceedings in American or Australian Courts, that if they fail, they may very well be up for substantial legal costs.

His advice - consult their own lawyers.

A SENSE OF NATIONALISM

The June issue of NATIONAL DIGEST said that if it hadn't been for "THE SULLIVANS", young Australia would be unaware that our troops also helped in WWII. Congress supports this view. "That the RSL and other affiliated bodies approach TV and radio media in a venture to apprise the children of Australia today with a sense of nationality and the history of their country both in peace and war. That episodes and segments on Australia of perhaps two or three times a week, off-setting canned programs of American -dominance in all war & peace dramas. Some suggested topics would be "Australian Day", how it originated, what it means, repatriation benefits and activities. Legacy and other facets of service and RSL activities."

That Motion was Carried.

BILL AND BOB AND BILL

The meeting between Sir William Keys and Maj. Gen. Sir William Refshauge with R.J.L. Hawke, Esq., held recently in Melbourne, was a friendly one and was on a first-name basis. The item under discussion was Youth Development, a subject that has concerned the RSL for some time.

During the many meetings that the Refshauge Committee on Youth Development has had, it was evident that when young Australians applied for their first job, the opening question put to the applicant was, "what job experience have you had?" No experience, no job and vice versa.

The result of the meeting that the two Sir Williams had with Bob/Hawke will be included in the Minutes of the Report by the Committee to National Congress.

THE FOVANT BADGES

In the July issue of NATIONAL DIGEST, there was an article on the Fovant badges that are carved in the chalk cliffs near Salisbury.

The punch line was that the Fovant Badge Society would be happy to receive any donations that would go towards the cost of the maintenance of the badges. National Executive decided to make an annual grant of $100.

AN UNUSUAL VISITOR

On 20 May 1941, the German Airborne Division commenced the airdrop on Crete. The 2nd Parachute Regiment was allotted to the Rethymon area, one of the members of this Regiment was Cpl. Kurt Pfannkuch who was promptly taken P.O.W.

On the sixth day Kurt was released and then he started taking P.O.W.'s. When the dust had settled on the war on the Rethymon area, Kurt found the remains of an Australian Post Office and put the letters in his pocket. They travelled with him to the Russian Front and later to the Western Front.

In October 1978 he learned that Sir William Refshauge's Group were being entertained by the Afrika Corps at the Hofbrauhaus in Munchen, where those 1941 letters were delivered to a member of the Group. The letters were eventually delivered to the addresses in NSW.

Kurt was recently on a private visit to Australia and New Zealand and took the opportunity of meeting some of those who had written the letters.

During the Canberra segment of his trip he met members of the National Congress and had lunch with them. Altogether he spent about a month in Australia and New Zealand and when he left he said that during his stay, his English had improved greatly.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES AT CONGRESS

For the first time, Ladies Auxiliaries sat in on Congress as Observers. All States were represented and during the first day of Congress, they held a meeting amongst themselves. It was decided that, at this stage, it would not be in the best interests of the Auxiliaries to form a national body, the main reason being costs.

However they did express the opinion that there was much advantage to be gained by them attending Congress and asked that each State President (or her representative) be invited annually to attend Congress in an observing capacity.

SALE OF HERCULES AIRCRAFT

General Vincent, the RSL advisor on Defence matters, recently criticised the Government policy of selling off our ageing Herrs. He pointed out that some other countries don't earn a few lousy-dollars by selling obsolescent war-like stores, they put them in moth-balls.

In the States for instance, they pick a nice dry desert (tautology?) and leave the aircraft there. Dry deserts are something that Australia has plenty of. And what's more, you can't go into the nearest Woolies store and ask for a couple of dozen brand-new Herrs.

OFFICIAL HISTORIES OF VIETNAM AND MALAYAN CAMPAIGNS

The League is to add its weight to the approach made by the Australian War Memorial to the Government to have written the official histories of these campaigns.

We that are left grow old and a transfer to That Big Parade Ground in the Sky means that part of the history goes too.

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1981 DEFENCE PAPER

The Defence paper starts off with this comment:

In the Middle East Russia has invaded Afghanistan and has strengthened her military position in both Ethiopia and South Yemen. Soviet units are now poised on the borders of Iran and Pakistan and are looking towards Indian Ocean outlets. In a matter of hours the Soviet could place a stranglehold on the oil fields of the M.E.

The instability of Africa and South America continues to offer fertile fields for Russian diplomatic manoeuvring. In north East Asia the Republic of Korea is riding out the tensions created by the recent uprisings in Kwanju but the situation remains extremely sensitive.

In South East Asia the Soviet has exerted new influence in Indo China through its military alliance with Vietnam. Kampuchea is now for all practical purposes, a Soviet satellite and Vietnam has sent troops into Thailand.

Russia is developing its bases at Cambran Bay, Danang and Saigon. Close to Australia she has increased her forces and her military establishments in the Indian Ocean region. This scenario portrays a significant strengthening in Russia's global strategic position.

And yet some sections of the community say that we are spending far too much on defence and that we will get 15 years notice of World War III.

Read the above extract again!

THE RSL CHALLENGE TROPHY

General G.L. Maitland AO OBE ED of the Reserve Branch of the Army has advised that the RSL Challenge Trophy has been won this year by 51 Independent Rifle Company, The Royal Queensland Regiment. Less than 30 points separated the first three places.

The 51st came in with 1187 points, then came 42 Battalion (QLD) with 1180 and in third place came 17 Battalion (NSW) with 1150 points.

EXPENDITURE ON COMMUNITY & WELFARE PROJECTS

In the RSL Report to the 21st Conference of the B.C.E.L. that was held in Ottawa from 29 September to 4 October, is a table listing the expenditure made over the last three years in the field of overseas aid. It amounts to quite a few takers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malaysian &amp; Singaporean Family Adoption</td>
<td>A$24,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNG Contingency Fund</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNG Secondary School Scholarships</td>
<td>8,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji &amp; PNG Doctors’ Programme</td>
<td>11,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant to Singapore Ex- Services Association</td>
<td>2,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welfare Assistance to Sabah</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Awards — PNG</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas Visitors’ Programme</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.C.E.L. Welfare Fund</td>
<td>4,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.C.E.L. Capitation Fees</td>
<td>23,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Expenses to Ottawa</td>
<td>7,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance to Affiliated Bodies to Attend</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ottawa Conference</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitors from Philippines &amp; Indonesia</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships to Indonesia, Taiwan &amp; Philippines</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Scheme — Korea &amp; Indonesia</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership of World Veterans’ Federation &amp;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federation of Korean War Vets</td>
<td>1,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A$88,196</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And that is where some of your money goes.

AUSTRALIA'S HERITAGE

Over the years the RSL has campaigned vigorously for a proper recognition and preservation of the heritage and traditions that have been built up in Australia since the Nation’s establishment, almost two hundred years ago.

Respect for and greater use of the Flag as a symbol of national unity has been encouraged.

Governments and Education Departments have been urged to inform the students more fully on the great achievements of the men and women who built and protected the Nation and the sacrifices that were made to give us the sort of community we have in Australia today.

We should not hesitate to speak of patriotism and loyalty and devotion to duty. Rather, we should strive to bring them back as words to be used and standards to be achieved.

DATES FOR PEACEKEEPING FORCES

Former members of the various peacekeeping forces that have been raised since the end of WW2, are eligible for League membership. It is not possible to be absolutely conclusive in many areas of the exact dates. Applications should be dealt with by a process of examining individual situations as they arise.

Applicants should be asked the date and the place(s) in which they served and if any doubt exists, the applications should be referred to National Executive for a determination.

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Cake and Old Ale
Christmas Cheer for Chelsea

Each year, the State Branches of the R.S.L. take it in turn to supply the Royal Hospital, Chelsea with the traditional Christmas Cheer. This year it is W.A.'s turn.

All arrangements are made by courtesy of the Agent-General for W.A. in London. It is understood that the Royal Hospital Chelsea in London, has accepted the invitation to be present.

In his scarlet jacket with the gold braid, and all his war service medals, Pat Nolan is an impressive sight.

He has been turning many heads in Perth, where people are unfamiliar with his uniform.

Pat is a Chelsea Pensioner — something else with which few Australians are familiar.

He and about 420 other British Commonwealth ex-service men make up the complement of Chelsea Pensioners at the Royal Hospital Chelsea in London.

(King Charles II set up the hospital almost 300 years ago for bachelors and widowers who had fought for Britain).

Pat is on a seven-week holiday, visiting his daughter in Perth on his first trip to Australia since the end of the World War.

He said plenty of veterans at the Returned Services League and the Royal Australian Navy had memories to share with him.

“I've come across several relatives of other Chelsea Pensioners while I've been in Perth,” he said.

“There are quite a few pensioners from Australia and New Zealand in the hospital.”

Gibraltar and Singapore are only two of the places at which he was stationed in his 32-year army career.

He left the army in 1967 as a Battery Quarter Master Sergeant.

Cliff Sadlier V.C. Memorial Park

The late Cliff Sadlier, a Subiaco resident who won a Victoria Cross during the Great War, was honoured recently when the Daglish Basin Reserve was re-named in his honour.

A plaque mounted in a block of limestone carries a brief description of the citation.

The plaque was unveiled by Mrs. Alice Rawlings, formerly Mrs. Sadlier, assisted by Subiaco Mayor Richard Diggins.

The Reserve was dedicated by Canon Rich, who said that Cliff Sadlier's valour, integrity and determination were recognised, and would be remembered by all people who used the park or passed it by.

Lieutenant Clifford William King Sadlier was a member of the 51st Australian Infantry Battalion, AIF, and awarded the Victoria Cross during action on April 24 - 25, 1918, at Villers-Bretonneux, France.

CITATION: For conspicuous bravery during a counter-attack by his battalion on strong enemy positions, Lieut. Sadlier's platoon, which was on the left of the battalion, had to advance through a wood where a strong enemy machine-gun post caused casualties and prevented the platoon from advancing.

Though wounded himself, he at once collected his bombing section, led them against the machine-guns, and succeeded in killing the crews and capturing two of the guns. By this time Lieutenant Sadlier's party were all casualties, and he alone attacked a third enemy machine-gun with his revolver, killing the crew of four and taking the gun. In doing so, he was again wounded.

The very gallant conduct of this officer was the means of clearing the flank, and allowing the battalion to move forward, thereby saving a most critical situation. His coolness and utter disregard of danger inspired all.

LISTENING POST, SUMMER, 1980/81 PAGE 29
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Scarborough wins shield

The Scarborough High School army cadet unit has won the AMP Efficiency Shield for the second time in three years. It competed against 15 other units from as far afield as Geraldton for the shield, the most sought-after trophy in the cadet system.

The contest took place in August at the Group Five annual camp at Northam.

Scarborough High School's senior cadet, under-officer Michael Taylor (pictured holding the trophy) said the unit deserved to win. "Every cadet in the unit tried his hardest for the entire camp," he said.

In three years of competition under the new cadet scheme, Scarborough won the trophy in 1978, again this year and was runner-up in 1979.

The commanding officer, Captain Ian Teasdale, said today's cadet scheme was much different from the strictly army-orientated course of some years ago.

Though strongly disciplined, it was designed to encourage youth initiative and leadership and to provide an out-of-school activity for boys aged from 13 to 17.

There were about 1700 boys in cadet units in WA.

A group of officers ran each unit, but the cadets were responsible for the planning and training.

It was more a self-help organisation which relied on local business houses and groups such as the Returned Services League for support.

Scarborough was the only unit in the State to specialise in rescue training and the cliff descent art of rappelling in readiness for civil emergencies.

Other activities included canoeing, bush survival and basic military training.

Although it is well-known the RSL supports the Cadet movement to the fullest, the North Beach sub-branch have really supported tremendously this group over the three years they have been operating.

They attend their functions and frequently write in support of their activities.

Sincere thanks are due to the President Merv Hall, Secretary Frank Vicary and all members. And North Beach sub-branch is deserving of the highest praise for its interest in and practical support of the Cadet movement.

“Skinny Mac”

By S.L. Thomson

The biggest character I have met was McLachlin, one-time private of the 28th Bn., 1st AIF. He worked in Newdegate and was known as “Skinny Mac”.

I remember when Col. Collett came to Newdegate, he asked me if I knew “A McLachlin”. “No”, I said.

“I believe he is known as “Skinny Mac”, said the Colonel.

“Gosh,” I said, “Everyone knows Skinny Mac well”.

“Skinny” was shot in the stomach at Flers in November 1916 (and my own brother was killed there).

He was patched up by the Germans, then was put to work in the salt mines.

After the War, he worked in Newdegate and farther out, and more than once walked in 40 to 50 miles when feeling dry.

He was working for me root-picking one time and was missing from his tent. After much searching in the timber, I went up to the main gate and, after rain, saw his tracks going through.

Ten miles was no worry to Skinny. He would stop in town for a few days, then go out. One day he was sitting in the bar and I said to the publican: “Give Skinny a drink”.

“No on your life” the publican said. “Skinny is on the dog act until four o’clock”. “Skinny” was able to have his drink at four, not before.

When thinking of going back to the job he would borrow five, shillings from each of us, for a final fling, but as soon as he came back to town he would pay us back.

When his time came, and he passed on, the president of the RSL came up to me and says: “Skinny has died, and the Commonwealth will grant only a certain amount for burial, we need another 20 pounds.”

Within an hour we got the 20 pounds, at a pound each, no trouble. It did not matter whether the donors were returned men or not. They gave to give “Skinny” a decent burial.

Oh, what a man.

Geraldine Smith honoured

At a recent meeting of the Returned Ex-Servicewomen’s Sub-branch, the immediate past president of the League, Mr. P. Pearson, presented a Certificate of Service to the past Hon. Secretary, Miss Geraldine Smith.

Miss Smith held that position from 1970 until the annual general meeting of this year when she did not stand for re-election.

She has been a tower of strength to a number of presidents and has rendered many services to the sub-branch and to the League.

We were very reluctant to accept her resignation but she has earned a respite, and we still have the benefit of her advice as she is still an active member in the sub-branch.

The presentation was a pleasant end to our meeting and everyone enjoyed the special supper which followed this function.

The sub-branch takes this opportunity of wishing all members a happy festive season and a peaceful and rewarding 1981.
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**GOLDEN GIRL QUEST**

A total of more than $1,550 was raised in support of the candidature of Miss Peta McConkey of Geraldton in the Girl of the Golden West Quest.

She was sponsored by the Geraldton Sub-Branch of the RSL and was supported in her money-raising efforts by the Geraldton Women's Auxiliary; the Northampton, Mount Magnet and Coolgardie Forest Sub-Branches; and Geraldton Torchbearers for Legacy.

Peta McConkey, aged 18, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Neville McConkey of Catherine Street, Bluff Point, agreed to enter the quest because the proceeds will help two worthy causes — the War Veterans' Home Fund and Torchbearers for Legacy.

Miss McConkey is a telephone-station-receptionist for the Medical Group at the Regional Health Centre in Shenton Street.

Her interests include netball, basketball, travelling and swimming.

The Girl of the Golden West Quest has taken the place of the Crownings Glory Quest which attracted 578 candidates during the past 21 years and raised more than $287,000.

— B.J.B.

**ALMOST POPPY RECORD**

An almost record amount of more than $600 resulted from the sale of Remembrance Poppies at Geraldton on Friday, November 7.

A spokesman for the Geraldton Sub-Branch of the Returned Services League said that the exact amount was $601.64.

This was $24.34 more than last year and only $3 below the record figure of slightly more than $604, registered in 1978.

The profit from the sale of poppies will be shared by RSL State Headquarters and the Geraldton Sub-Branch's Amelioration Account.

Although the Poppy Street Appeal was held on the Friday because Friday is the day set aside for Street Appeals, Remembrance Day is November 11th. Consequently, with the co-operation of the Road Traffic Authority, traffic was brought to a halt “at the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month” in central Marine Terrace for the sounding of the LAST POST and REVELLE and the observance of two minutes’ silence.

Two members of the Geraldton Town Band, Bugler John Cartwright and drummer Bert Gummery, officiated at this ceremony.

Known as Armistice Day prior to the World War, Remembrance Day marks the signing of the Armistice at the end of the Great War.

— B.J.B.

**WAR GRAVES PILGRIMAGE**

A member of the State Executive of the Returned Services League, Mr. Norman Healy, joined members of the Geraldton Sub-Branch in their annual pilgrimage to the War Cemetery on November 9 — the nearest Sunday to Remembrance Day, November 11.

Fresh flowers and Remembrance Poppies were placed on the graves of 83 servicemen and women who were killed or died in the Geraldton area during the World War.

Forty-two of the graves are of RAAF personnel, including 22 airmen killed in four separate accidents in the one year near Geraldton's three wartime airfields used by the Number Four Service Flying Training School.

Others honoured by the pilgrimage included 16 army men from New South Wales, 15 from Western Australia, nine from Victoria and one from Queensland.

A simple wreath-laying ceremony was held at the War Cemetery Memorial, with Mr. Norman Healy of the State Executive and the Sub-Branch President, Mr. Graham Till, laying the wreath and Mr. Till reciting the “Lest We Forget” ode.

RSL members also placed fresh flowers and Remembrance Poppies on the graves of ex-servicemen in the adjoining cemetery at Utakarra.

The fresh flowers were provided by Mrs. Marj McMahon of Geraldton and the Northampton Netball Association — the last mentioned flowers having been used at the reunion dinner of the Northampton RSL Sub-Branch the previous night.

The Pilgrimage was followed by the Diggers’ annual luncheon hosted by the RSL Women’s Auxiliary. The two oldest Diggers in attendance were Mr. Bert Lock and Mr. Jock McAslan, both aged 90 of Geraldton.

— B.J.B.

**The Polish Ex-Servicemen’s Association News**

by W. Gorski

As an outcome of the annual general meeting, held in the Polish House on 14 September 1980, Mr. J. Redziejowski, M.C. (tel. 361 6294), was re-elected President and the new Hon. Secretary is Mr. K. Milczarek (tel. 271 7238). Mr. Redziejowski, better known as ‘George’, is the foundation President of the W.A. Sub-Branch of the Polish Ex-Servicemen’s Association which, in 1981, will celebrate its 25th Anniversary.

Members are following the recent wave of strikes in Poland with both keen interest and a measure of anxiety. Collections were made amongst Polish communities, throughout the world, to assist the striking workers in Poland who are making a courageous stand to win for themselves what in Western Democracies would be regarded as no more than a modicum of human rights.

Readers of the last issue of the Listening Post were reminded, in an article by J. Redziejowski, of mass murders of some 15000 captured Polish officers, perpetrated by the Soviets in the spring of 1940. Mass graves of more than 4000 of them were discovered by the invading Germans in the wooded area called Kattyń, near Smolensk, in USSR. The crime and its perpetrators have never been put on trial but to ensure that this unforgivable act is not forgotten too soon commemorative monuments have been erected, by the Polish communities, in a number of free countries. The latest one was officially unveiled in Essendon in Victoria on 14 September 1980. The unveiling was performed by His Lordship Bishop S. Wesoły of Rome, in the presence of official representative of the R.A.N., Australian Army, R.A.A.F. and numerous ex-service organisations.

**Come events:**

1. The traditional Polish Christmas ‘Greetings’ Evening (Oplatek) has been arranged for 6 December 1980, at the Polish House, at 8 p.m.
2. New Year’s Eve dance, at Bayswater Shire Council Hall (9, Slade St., Bayswater).
3. Events to commemorate the 25th anniversary are in preparation.

(Full details of all events from the Hon. Secretary.)
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POLISH UNIFORMS

Three Polish Army uniforms were presented to Ryszard Frackiewicz, on Wednesday, September 24. They were received on behalf of the War Memorial by Sir William Keys, a member of the War Memorial’s Council and National President of the Returned Services League.

Two of the uniforms, from the World War, were faithfully recreated in Poland specially for the Memorial. This followed a visit to the Memorial at the end of 1978 by Polish Foreign Minister Emil Wojtazek, and his promise to supply Polish uniforms to help to fill gaps in the War Memorial’s collection.

As original World War uniforms could not be obtained, the help of the Polish Department of Defence and the National Museum of the Army was sought to recreate the original materials and cut them to the original patterns.

The soldier’s field uniform of 1939 is a copy of that worn when the Polish Army fought to stop the Germans after the invasion on September 1.

This invasion started the World War, as Britain (honouring her pledges), Australia and New Zealand declared war on Germany on September 3.

Warsaw fell to the Germans on October 27, but Polish Army units continued resistance into October. Guerilla groups maintained the fight until the end of the German Occupation in 1945.

CLOSER LINKS

The second uniform has even closer links with Australia’s involvement in the war, being the desert uniform of a soldier in the Carpathian Brigade. This Brigade, formed in Syria in 1940 and composed mainly of escaped soldiers, took part from August, 1941, in the siege of Tobruk (April - December 1941).

Many enduring friendships were formed between these soldiers and the Australians as they lived and fought alongside each other. This uniform is also a faithful copy, but the forage cap and canvas belt are original.

The third uniform is that of a corporal in the present Polish Army, together with a “Perfect Soldier” badge and the lanyard of the “Socialist Service Squad”.

It is planned to include these uniforms in re-organised displays following the extension and upgrading of the galleries, beginning this year.

Special Listening Post

It is the intention of the Listening Post Committee to print a special issue of this publication to commemorate the opening of the new Anzac House. To enable us to do so, we will need the assistance of members, friends, sub-branches and business houses with photos, articles and sponsorship. As we hope to have colour supplements, it will make the issue one of interest for the future.

If you can assist, please post items or donations to: Special Listening Post, Returned Services League G.P.O. Box C128 PERTH. W.A. 6001 or bring to Anzac House, 4 Sherwood Court, Perth.

M.C. (Mike) HALL Chairman – Listening Post Committee

THE RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

TO COMMEMORATE THE 33RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE RETURNED EX-SERVICEWOMEN’S SUB-BRANCH

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on FRIDAY 13th MARCH, 1981 at 12.15 p.m.

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NET PROCEEDS TOWARDS RESTORATION FUND OF THE STATE WAR MEMORIAL AND FURNISHINGS OF NEW ANZAC HOUSE

APPLICATION FOR TICKETS

Mrs. J. Willis, Ticket Secretary, Returned Ex-Service Women’s Sub-Branch, 224 9th Avenue, INGLEWOOD, W.A: 6052

* I wish to apply for tickets at $13.50 each for the LUNCHEON to be held at the SHERATON-PERTH HOTEL on FRIDAY 13th MARCH, 1981 and enclose $..

NAME: ..................................................

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*A stamped addressed envelope would be appreciated.

LISTENING POST, SUMMER, 1980/81 PAGE 35
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Youth of Year Award

By Jack Wagland, Secretary

Twenty young people were nominated for this year’s Youth of the Year Award, organised by the Bayswater-Meltham, RSL. This was a bigger number than last year and indicates the growing interest in the award.

The work put in by young people often goes unrecognised and unrecognised and this is one time of the year when the district can show its appreciation.

The more entrants there are, even though they cannot all win, the more the public generally will realise how much is owed to young people.

The young people nominated must be under 21 and must be involved in youth, community or sport in the Shire.

Work and involvement are what will count with the judges rather than individual ability.

PRESENTATION BALL

The winner, John MacFarlane was announced at the Presentation Ball at the Bayswater Town Hall on Saturday, November 1st.

The evening started with dancing to the Eric Pearce Band at 8 p.m. and the presentation took place at 9 p.m. After that there was a supper and more dancing until 1 a.m.

Radio announcer Roger Howe from 6KY, who lives locally, was the compere for the evening.

RSL TOUR OF EUROPE — 1981

‘RETURN TO CRETE’

An official R.S.L. Tour of Europe to Greece, Crete and the Middle East has been planned for departure May 15 to June 25, 1981, with optional tours available to the U.K. and Ireland.

The Tour Leader, recently announced is Mr. Robert Greig Hicks, AM MBE, who is Country Vice President of the RSL in Victoria. He saw service in both Greece and Crete in World War II, in the Provost Corps.

Also, accompanying the Tour Party in an official capacity will be Dr. David Graham, MBE, a dedicated doctor from Yass, NSW will be travelling as Tour Doctor.

The RSL party which will leave for Greece on May 15, will fly direct to Athens where members will board a luxury liner for a seven-day cruise of the Mediterranean. They will visit places well known to diggers who served in the Middle East in World War II including Cairo and El Alamein. Then will come ‘what’ promises to be an unforgettable week on Crete. The tourists will then return home or continue on a four-week coach journey through some of Europe’s most fascinating countries — Greece, Yugoslavia, Italy, Austria and Germany.

Additional information —

Mr. Bob Leonard, B.E.M.,
Honorary Publicity Officer,
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341 George Street,
Sydney, N.S.W. 2000

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MEMORIAL RELOCATED

The Wanneroo war memorial, formerly in front of the townsite branch library, in Wanneroo Road, has been relocated.

The proposal to re-locate the memorial came about because of big Anzac Day parades in recent years. Last year more than 500 people attended the service.

The shire council is leasing out the old shire administration centre to private enterprise.

But it was not proposed to move the memorial to the new administration site at Joondalup.

The Wanneroo RSL requested that the memorial remained in the townsite and the council agreed to move the memorial to a new site across the road in front of the shire hall.

The state secretary of the RSL, Doug Bruce, said the branch was happy with the new site, which would accommodate big crowds at Anzac Day services.

A re-dedication ceremony was arranged for Remembrance Sunday, November 9, at the new site.

Photo by courtesy of Daily News

The WA secretary of the RSL, Doug Bruce, Wanneroo Shire president, Charles Searson, and president of the Wanneroo RSL sub-branch, Sid Hill, at the memorial site.
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Nautical News
The HMAS Melbourne was 25 years of age on October 25, 1980 and to celebrate the Silver Jubilee a book has been produced to cover the history of the carrier from its launching to the present day.
A print of the Melbourne is available at a cost of $3.50 and the book also at $3.50 (plus 30 cents each for packing and postage).
If there is only a limited number anyone interested in purchasing a print and book is to write direct to:
NAUTICAL PRESS
P.O. Box 323, Rockdale, Sydney, 2216

GIRL ARMY CADETS
For the first time, a number of girls will be admitted next year to the Army Cadet Unit of Patrick's College at Geraldton.
Geraldton Sub-Branch President Graham Till told members at the October meeting that the OC of the Cadet Unit, Capt. Peter Sherwood, had reported this development at an Officer's Dinner after the annual march-out parade. The local unit will be permitted to enrol 20 girls.
The 120 boys in the Unit now include 25 boys from Geraldton Senior High School whose Cadet Unit was disbanded when the Federal Government withdrew financial support in 1975. The High School boys joined the Unit this year. - B.J.B.

Special Invitation
AN INVITATION IS EXTENDED TO ALL EX-SERVICEWOMEN AND FRIENDS TO ATTEND AN AFTERNOON TEA AT THE FREMANTLE SAILING CLUB “SUCCESS HARBOUR” MARINE TERRACE, FREMANTLE at
2.30 P.M. ON MONDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY 1981

THE RETURNED EX-SERVICEWOMEN'S SUB-BRANCH SPECIAL
33rd Anniversary Luncheon Committee
(to be held on 13.3.81)
having organised this informal gathering in the beautiful new Fremantle Sailing Club overlooking Success Harbour

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NET PROCEEDS TOWARDS RESTORATION FUND OF THE STATE WAR MEMORIAL AND FURNISHINGS OF NEW ANZAC HOUSE

VALE REGINALD MILEY
A memorial service for the late Rev. Reginald L.M. Miley was held at St. George's Cathedral, Perth, on Tuesday, August 5, 1980 — a few days after his passing. Bishop Brian McDonald gave details of his career.
Reg was employed in various occupations prior to engaging in Ministerial duties of the Anglican Church. He was ordained in 1936. He completed his schooling at the Christ Church Grammar School. He met and married his wife, Maud, in Norham.

After serving as a Chaplain in the AIF from 1943 to 1946, he served his Church in country areas until his appointment to the Church of St. Michael and All Angels in Cannington, where he spent many years before his retirement.

He then continued ministerial duties, relieving mostly at RGH Hollywood, Fremantle Hospital and St. John of God, Subiaco.

Reg was a member of Canning Districts Sub-Branch, and took part every year in the Canning Parade. Together with fellow-clergy from other denominations, he conducted the Anzac Day Service at the War Memorial at the corner of Albany Highway and Manning Road, Cannington. He regularly attended the main service in Perth.

M. POWELL
Hon. Secretary, Canning Districts Sub-Branch

“WE FIND AND DESTROY”
By PETER ALEXANDER
The 458 Squadron Council announces re-publication of the above book.
It is the history of 458 Squadron RAAF which served, in World War II, in Bomber Command and in the Mediterranean Area, with great operational success — against German-occupied Europe and Rommel in North Africa.

This is the 2nd Edition (the first was published in 1959 and has long been out of print).

Printed by Southwood Press Sydney, hard back with many illustrations, 290 pages.

Priced at $18.00. Available to Air Force Stations and Messes, and to Branches and Sub-Branches, post free, from the Squadron Council, GPO Box 5289, Sydney.

The Author served with the squadron during World War II and has continued his close connection with the Squadron members.

The book has several appendices including a list of known names of personnel who served on the Squadron.

The book now includes a “Post-War” chapter showing what happened to the men in the long post-war years.

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LISTENING POST, SUMMER, 1980/81 PAGE 39
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PAGE 40 - LISTENING POST, SUMMER, 1980/81
Capt. Harper to leave W.A.

Capt. Colin Harper (48), director of music for the army band in Western Australia, will move to Brisbane.

He will be promoted to the rank of major.

His last appearance at the Perth Concert Hall, where the band has become a regular attraction, will be at a concert in aid of Legacy on November 21.

Capt. Harper has been in Perth for nine years, eight of them as director of music of the 6th Military District band.

In that time the band has played throughout the State, concentrating especially on the North and North-West, where it has performed everything from jazz sessions at barbecue areas to music workshops in school halls.

Capt. Harper, who has just over six years to run before reaching the mandatory retiring age for officers below the rank of general cannot be promoted higher as the director of music of a B-class band such as the 34-member army band in WA.

Brisbane has a A-class band of 40 musicians, which is entitled to a major as director of music.

The RSL is deeply appreciative of the co-operation so willingly given by Capt. Harper, and all members of the 5 MD Band, not only to ex-service organisations but the community in general.

---

"BLOOD ON THE RISING SUN"

From Outram Gaol you went to Changi for a rest.
A true story of degradation and the strength of the human spirit.

By JOHN McGREGOR — $4.95 at Newsagents

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VALE "BERT" CARO

Lieut-Colonel Albert "Bert" Caro, died suddenly in Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital on Thursday, 16th October, 1980.

Commanding officer of the 2/16th Battalion of the A.I.F. in the World War, Colonel Caro became a Marshal for the Anzac Day and Remembrance Day Ceremonies in 1945; and was Chief Marshal for these Ceremonies since 1975, organising service groups for the Anzac Day Parade and the Order of Wreath-Laying at the State War Memorial.

A highly respected citizen and devoted worker for ex-servicemen and women, a past President of the Nedlands Sub-Branch, he will be sadly missed by the League and his many friends.

Sincere sympathy is extended to his widow and son.

LAUREL CLUB

There is a new club at Geraldton — the Laurel Club — for Legacy widows.

Mrs. Beth Ewing is president, Mrs. Mary Hasleby is secretary, and Mrs. Pat Heelan is treasurer.

The new club meets at Birdwood House on the first Monday of the month at 8 p.m. — B.J.B.

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PLAQUE FOR WAR MEMORIAL

On Sunday, November 9, at 2.30 p.m. the Bayswater-Meltham R.S.L. Sub-Branch, in co-operation with the Shire of Bayswater, dedicated a plaque for all servicemen who gave their lives in conflicts between 1939 and 1972.

This period covers from the Second World War until the end of the Vietnam conflict.

The plaque was placed on the War Memorial in Halliday Park, for the unveiling and dedication ceremony.

The unveiling was carried out by the President of the Bayswater-Meltham R.S.L. Sub-Branch and the dedication by three local clergymen.

The 5th Military District Band was in attendance and there was a mounted guard.

Wreaths were laid by members of the official party, and following this the general public were invited to lay wreaths.

J. WAGLAND

LIFEPAK DONATIONS

At Geraldton on October 13, the president of the Women's Auxiliary, Mrs. Trythena Ashplant, presented a representative of the Lions' Club, Norm Lovelock, with a cheque for $100.

It will go towards the cost of a Lifepak portable cardiac care system that the Club bought for the Geraldton Sub-Centre of the Saint John Ambulance Association at a cost of $8,000.

Mr. Lovelock said the Club was still trying to raise money to pay for the first Lifepak, and would be approaching business houses in an endeavour to provide another.

The Auxiliary made the donation of $100 after Mr. Lovelock, and another Club member, Neville McNell, had shown a video-tape on the use of the portable Life-ak when a man playing golf suffered a heart attack. The video-tape was shown at Birdwood House, immediately before the monthly meetings of the Sub-Branch and the Auxiliary.

The Sub-Branch also decided to donate $100 to the Club, towards the cost of the Lifepak — this amount including $46 contributed by members at the October meeting.

Mrs. Ashplant presented the Sub-Branch with a cheque for $114 towards the candidature of the Geraldton entrant in the "Girl of the Golden West Quest", Peta McConkey. The proceeds of the Quest will go to the War Veterans' Home Fund and Trenchbearers for Legacy. — B.J.B.

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LISTENING POST, SUMMER, 1980/81 PAGE 41
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![Image of a cartoon character]
Dear Sir,

PAMPHLET ON NATIONAL HERITAGE AND TRADITIONS

The following Motion:

"That the National Executive of the RSL approach the Department of Defence to issue a pamphlet on our National Heritage and military and air force traditions for issue to all recruits similarly to the booklet supplied by the RAN to Navy personnel on enlistment (Chapter 10, Vol. 11: ABR 27) and that all recruits be lectured on our heritage and military traditions."

VICTORIA

was discussed at the June 1980 National Executive Meeting, item 4(a) page 32 of the Minutes and referred to the Minister for Defence whose comments are attached.

Yours faithfully,
KEN G. SCHULTZ
National Secretary

"I refer to your letter of 10 July 1980 in which you requested that my Department consider the issue of a pamphlet to all enlistees covering our national heritage and Service traditions and the inclusion of lectures on the subject in the respective syllabi of training.

I agree that emphasis should be placed on this aspect of recruit training. Following receipt of your letter I have had enquiries made and I am satisfied that each Service is meeting its obligations in this respect. It goes without saying that the Services are proud of their heritage and traditions and take pains to demonstrate them and keep them alive."

"Specific efforts are made at the recruit level where lectures, supported by films and printed material, are conducted on a range of subjects associated with military tradition; subjects such as the origin, history, role and customs of the Services, the nature of discipline, the importance of morale and the need for a defence force and its place in society are examples. The need for single Service publication of a tri-Service pamphlet has been considered but in view of the comprehensive nature of the introductory lectures and associated material already provided I believe the expense of additional publications cannot be justified.

Thank you and the League for your interest in this matter. I can reassure you that recruits of the three Services are receiving the desired level of training in the areas you have raised."

(SIGNED) D.J. KILLEN

NUCLEAR VETERANS' ASSOCIATION MEDICAL OFFICERS AWARENESS OF EXPOSURE

Item 2(xiii) of the June 1980 National Executive Meeting Minutes resolved:

"That the RSL should support the Nuclear Veterans' Association in principle and continue to liaise with them and offer any assistance that was appropriate," which resulted in an approach to the Department of Veterans' Affairs concerning the awareness among the Medical profession to the possible exposure to radiation, of a patient.

Two questionnaires, received from the above Association were forwarded to the Department which was asked to comment on the feasibility of these questionnaires being circulated to L.M.O.'s.

The Department's reply is attached for information.

Yours faithfully,
KEN G. SCHULTZ
National Secretary

"Thank you for your letter concerning the pro forma questionnaires prepared by the Australian Nuclear Veterans' Association. You have asked whether the questionnaires might be distributed to Repatriation Local Medical Officers. Whilst I would very much like to help with our Local Medical Officers, I could only ask them to co-operate in your proposal if this task could be related directly or significantly to the Repatriation system."

"As you know, the Department has responsibility for a very small number of individuals who may have been affected by radiation whilst prisoners of war in Japan. However, the Australian Nuclear Veterans' Association is quite obviously interested in personnel involved in the tests at Maralinga, Monte Bello and other places in the post-war years and before the period when Veterans' Affairs was given any responsibility for serving members under the terms of section 10 of the Repatriation Act. This section was introduced in 1973.

With the heavy demands that are on Local Medical Officers for matters which relate to veterans for whom we are responsible, I feel that we cannot move outside this area of responsibility in asking Local Medical Officers to do anything extra as it could be at the expense of the many other tasks which we ask them to perform.

My only suggestion is that when members of the Australian Nuclear Veterans' Association go along for an examination they might ask their doctors to fill in this form for them if they wish to pursue a claim against the Government.

As to the handling of claims about the effects of nuclear exposure in the post-war period, this is being handled in the first instance by the Minister for National Development and Energy and anyone who feels that they have any disability in relation to this should put their claim to that Minister for his consideration."

(SIGNED) R. KINGSLAND

Dear Sir,

PRESERVATION OF H.M.A.S. DIAMANTINA

Further to circular No. 56/80 of 17 June 1980 I attach the comments of the Minister for Administrative Services for information.

Yours faithfully,
KEN G. SCHULTZ
National Secretary

"I refer to your letter of 7 April 1980 to my colleague the Hon. D.J. Killen, M.P., Minister for Defence, concerning the preservation of the former HMAS Diamantina.
You will be pleased to learn that the former frigate is being given to the Queensland Maritime Museum Association. Arrangements are in hand for the transfer of ownership of the vessel which, after some restoration work, will be put on display in the Brisbane area.

(SIGNED) J.E. McLEAY

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS RESTORATION OF 100% DISABILITY PENSION

Sir William Keys made a further approach to the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs early in July 1980 for the restoration of the 100% Disability Pension for T.B. sufferers. The Minister’s reply is attached for information.

Yours faithfully,

KEN G. SCHULTZ
National Secretary

“I refer to your letter concerning the amendments to Repatriation legislation affecting veterans receiving pensions in respect of pulmonary tuberculosis.

As you are aware, Repatriation legislation relating to pulmonary tuberculosis was amended in 1978 but only after very careful consideration of the whole issue and discussions with many interested parties. Put simply, the Government could no longer see sufficiently grounds for continuing different provisions for T.B. than those applying in respect of other disabilities which are assessed on the basis of actual incapacity.

Following representations from a number of ex-service organisations and individuals, the Government re-considered the position of veterans in receipt of pensions for pulmonary tuberculosis and in the 1979-80 Budget restored full, free medical treatment to all veterans who had received pensions for T.B. prior to 2 November 1978. The Government is convinced that its policy in respect of these veterans remains relatively generous and is reasonable and equitable and has no plans to alter its position in the matter of assessment of these veterans’ pensions.”

“I have met with representatives of the Federated T.B. Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen’s Association on a number of occasions, the latest being on 13 May 1980. At this meeting, the Association raised the matter of restoration of disability pensions for T.B. to the actual cash level of the 100% General Rate pension. On 30 May 1980 the Association was advised that I could not support the proposition. I have also received a number of representations from Members of Parliament and a further letter from the Association and I have replied to all in similar terms.”

(SIGNED) EVAN ADERMANN

Dear Sir,

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF FREEHOLD LAND – STATISTICS

Item 196 page 56 of the 64th National Congress Minutes carried the following resolution:

“That the Australian Government be asked to allocate funds to the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the purpose of collecting information and releasing statistics on foreign ownership and control of freehold land in Australia.”

QUEENSLAND

which was represented to the Attorney-General and referred to the Treasury, whose reply is attached.

Yours faithfully,

KEN G. SCHULTZ
National Secretary

“The Attorney-General has referred to us for reply the suggestion raised in your letter of 5 February 1980 to him regarding the collection of information and release of statistics on foreign ownership and control of freehold land in Australia. You mentioned that the suggestion arose from the League’s 64th National Congress.

The Treasurer has received previous suggestions from the League, both from its National Headquarters and some of its branches, concerning foreign investment in Australian land and the question of a resumption of the collection of statistics on foreign ownership.

The Government’s general attitude to foreign investment in Australian real estate and rural land was explained to the former National Secretary in letters from the Prime Minister and the Treasurer in March and August 1978.”

“The question of collecting statistics of ownership has also been raised by branches of the League. In response to representations made by the Barcaldine Sub-Branch in 1979 the Treasurer advised that in 1978 the Statistician had found it necessary to discontinue all foreign participation studies in view of the prevailing statistical priorities and resource constraints, and that the suggestion for a resumption of the collection and release of statistics on foreign ownership of freehold land in Australia needed to be considered against other demands for additional statistical information.

In the light of your recent suggestion, we have contacted the Australian Statistician again and he has confirmed that these priorities and constraints remain basically unchanged. He has advised that if it were possible again to make resources available for foreign participation studies it is likely that certain other industries and activities would have priority over foreign ownership and control of freehold land. This assessment stems largely from a recognition of very substantial measurement problems and considerable costs of conducting an appropriate study of freehold land in Australia and in no way reflects a lack of appreciation of the importance of such statistics.

I am enclosing for your information a copy of the booklet “Your Investment in Australia”, which sets out the Government’s foreign investment policy and other related information.

Should you have a need for any further information, I would be happy to try to assist you.”

(SIGNED) E.G. CORSSING
Acting First Assistant Secretary.

INFORMATION WANTED
ANYONE KNOWING THE WHEREABOUTS OF WING COMMANDER R.B. HEALEY, DSO, DFC, PLEASE ADVISE THIS HEADQUARTERS ON 325 9799.
STAN WILLIAMS —
50 Year Service Award

On Thursday, August 21, 1980, the writer of this article had the great honour and distinct pleasure — on behalf of the League, the WA Branch, and the Glen Forrest Sub-branch (and all the other sub-branches of which the recipient has been a member) of presenting Stan Williams with his 50-year award.

Stan, with his 11th Battalion mates, was in that landing which took place in the early hours of Sunday, April 25, 1915. He was wounded at Gallipoli and repatriated to Australia in 1916 when he joined the Returned Soldiers Association of WA.

In 1919, at the founding of the New Commission and the Returned Services League, the RSA of WA merged into the national body.

Since then he has been a member of these sub-branches: West Perth, Applecross (which he helped to found), Mundaring and Districts (President for some years and twice awarded certificates of service), Darlington, Glen Forrest and now on transfer to Maylands.

For most of the post-World War years, Stan was a well-known and popular resident of Darlington, and a member of the local cricket and tennis clubs.

Stan, we salute you.

ARTHUR JOHNSON
President, Glen Forrest Sub-Branch

But Westward Look

There was great excitement at the September Meeting of the Returned Sisters’ Sub-Branch when one of their members, Miss Vicki Hobbs, told of the completion of 10 years’ work, with the coming launching of her book — “But Westward Look”.

It is the history of nursing in Western Australia from 1829 to 1979, and involved much research, and long hours spent fitting together the bits of information she had gleaned.

She tramped through the old East Perth Cemetery, to pick up dates from headstones, and then traced and visited relatives armed with her tape-recorder. She visited the archives and all available channels to get the details she needed.

It was a labour of love, which reached its culmination when she transferred all her rights to the book to the West Australian branch of the Royal Australian Nursing Federation. At the launching of the book by Mrs. Nita Pannell at the Nurses’ Memorial Centre in September, Miss Hobbs was given a standing ovation by her friends and colleagues, and autographed 150 copies in 30 minutes.

The book, published by the University of Western Australia Press, is now available from book shops, and the first edition well on the way to being sold out.

The very apt title is taken from a poem by A.H. Clough, beginning with the lines “Say not the struggle naught availeth” — Mary F. Lindsay, Honorary Secretary, Returned Sisters’ Sub-Branch, 1/122 Petra Street, Bicton 6157

New Minister for Veteran’s Affairs

SENATOR THE HON. ANTHONY JOHN MESSNER

Senator Messner was sworn in as Minister for Veterans’ Affairs on 3 November, 1980.

Since election to the Senate he has pursued particular matters relating to small business, the economy, problems of industry the exploitation and development of natural resources. Particularly interested in the steel industry, motor vehicle and heavy engineering industries and the activities of government regulatory agencies such as Trade Practices Commission and Industries Assistance Commission.

SENATOR MESSNER, Aged 41 years, was elected to the Senate in December 1975 and re-elected in December 1977.

Prison Camp Mail

To: The Editor,

Dear Sir,

Some years ago, readers of several regimental magazines helped me with a piece of research on which I am engaged in my spare time. As a direct result of their kindness and interest, I have assembled a vast amount of information, much of which has not previously been recorded.

However, the task I have set myself is a daunting one and further help would now be much appreciated, particularly as I have rather ground to a halt.

I am a member of the ‘Forces Postal History Society’ and am making a study of the mail that passed from and to POWs/civilian internees in the two world wars. I am particularly interested in the Japanese camps of World War II and was recently awarded a top national postal history award for an illustrated study of POW and civilian internees mail.

Briefly, what I am seeking is:
(a) general background information on each of the camps
(b) information re postal facilities
(c) postal items both in and out of the camps — preferably not badly creased or folded — such as envelopes (not necessarily the actual letters!), Red Cross cards, air letters, postcards, notification of capture and release, telegrams, aerial leaflets and the like.

If any of your readers can assist in any way, however small, I should be delighted to hear from them.

Yours faithfully,

R.E. HURST
(RAEC Centre, Wilton Park, Beaconsfield, Bucks, United Kingdom)

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Telephone: 271 6037

LISTENING POST, SUMMER, 1980/81  PAGE 45
NORTHAMPTON RSL REUNION

The work of the Northampton Sub-Branch of the Returned Services League was praised by speakers at the annual reunion dinner on November 8.

A highlight of the past year was Northampton's effort in winning the Merv Williams Trophy for the Sub-Branch raising the most money for the War Veterans' Home Fund, on a membership basis.

The toast to the League was proposed by the Sub-Branch President, Mr. Robert Mitchell, with Senior State Executive member, Mr. Norman Healy, responding.

Mr. Ian Robinson proposed the toast to the Visitors, to which the President of the Geraldton Sub-Branch, Mr. Graham Till, replied, supported by Mr. Merv Williams of the Coorow-Waddi Forest Branch — a former State Executive member.

While in the Geraldton area, Mr. Williams presented Mr. Tom Willis of Geraldton with a Certificate to mark 50 years of unbroken financial membership of the RSL. The presentation was made at his home because he is not enjoying good health.

Mr. Willis farmed in the Yandanooka area of the Minganew district before retiring to Geraldton some years ago. — B.J.B.

St. Brigid’s says ‘Thanks’

Mr. D.H. Bruce,

Dear Sir,

This letter is to express our gratitude for materials and information received from you. We appreciate the trouble that you went to, to supply such a wide range of information.

It was most helpful for the assembly we prepared for Remembrance Day, November 11.

On behalf of years 4, 5, 6 and 7, I thank you.

Yours sincerely,

DEBORAH YEO

(Photo courtesy of RAADF, Pearce).

J.P. Hall, BEM, Snr. Vice-President of the RSL in WA, presents the RSL Prize to Cadet W.G. Potts at the 109.Pilot's course at RAAF Base, Pearce, on September 18. The Prize is for the Cadet showing the highest quality of leadership.

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Secretary, W.H.P. Hood, 93 Guildford Rd, Mt. Lawley, 6050,
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President: E.W. Wallin, 69 Constance St, Nollamara, 6061.
Tel. 349 1409. Secretary: C.J. McPherson, 34 Harold St,
Dianella 6062. Tel. 276 2313. Treasurer: R.D. Hampson,
7 View St, Dianella 6062. Tel. 276 9715. Meetings Anzac
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THIRTY-NINERS' ASSOCIATION
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information contact either J.P. Hall, President, 173 The
Esplanade, Mt. Pleasant. Tel. 364 7776. Secretary, F.C.
Pennell, 21 Siddons Way; Booragoon. 364 1097; Treasurer,
J. Todd, 4 Shearer St, Myaree 330 3936.

11th & 2/11th AIF BNS ASSOCIATION
President: W.T. Scott, 250 Corinthian Rd, Riverton., Tel.
457 4920 or 335 4311. Secretary: C. Wragg, 18 Hubert Rd,
Maylands. 6051. Tel. 271 3423. Committee meets 3rd
Wednesday every month Anzac Club. (4 Sherwood-Crt.)
Annual Reunion to be advertised.

MIDDLE EAST VAD ASSOCIATION WA
President: Mrs. R.E. Kneebone, 100 Reynolds Rd, Mt.
Pleasant 6153 Tel. 364-3311; Secretary: Mrs. Peg Payne,
11 Hurlingham Road, South Perth 6151. Tel. 367 1305.
Meetings as called. Annual Reunion nearest Saturday to
November 23.

RAE ASSOCIATION
Meets 2nd Sunday March, June, September and November
at WACA ground. Secretary: T.R. Beard. Tel. 450 3951.

10th LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION AIF
Meets Fourth Friday in March, August and November at
2.00 pm Anzac Club. President: R. Caporn, Flat 10, W.V.H.
51 Alexander Drive, Mt. Lawley. Tel. 271 7049. Secretary &
Treasurer: R.W. Byrne, 2 Birdwood Rd, Melville, 6165. Tel.
330 2595; Jack Syme, 28 Marquis St, Bentley. Tel. 4582946.

48th BATTALION ASSOCIATION
President: D. MacLean, 75 Riverview Terrace, Mt. Pleasant,
6153. Tel. 364 1153. Secretary: S.G. Power, 113B "Wandana"
Subiaco, 6008. Tel. 381 6208 Ast and Sec Secretary: J. H.
Eason, 5 Lanark St, Mt. Lawley 6060. Tel. 271 2929. Meetings
held imperial Hotel, Wellington St, Perth when called.

2/28th BATTALION — 24th ANTI-TANK COY
President: F.J. Moss, 16 Oxliffe St, Doubleview 6018.
Tel. 446 1560. Annual Reunion Show Week. Secretary:
W.A. Carlton 190 Coode St, Como 6152. Tel. 367 4016.

LIMBLES SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION
("Wingies and Stumpies"). President: E.P. (Pat) Odgers.
Secretary: C.C. Brown, Room 36, 1095 Hay St, West Perth.
Tel. 321 5888. Meetings first Thursday each month except
January.

28th BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION
Meets Anzac Club (Visitors Room) 2nd Tuesday in month
2.00 p.m. Reunion Tuesday of Show week. President E.
Waller 27 Beagle St, Mosman PK. 6012. Secretary R.T. Boyes,
84 'Cressleigh' 31 Williams Rd. Hollywood, 6009. 386 7022.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC. (WA
SECTION) CITY OF PERTH SUB-SECTION
Meets fourth Tuesday of each month, No. 4 Brisbane Place,
Perth. President: B. Edmondson, Tel. 322 1671; Past President
J. Wallace Tel. 387 4582; vice presidents: V. Gibson Tel.
364 4277; K. Nordahl Tel. 367 3102; G. Ramsay Tel. 3611390
Secretary Roy Ward Tel. 271 2451.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WESTERN
AUSTRALIAN SECTION) INC. STATE COUNCIL
State President: F. Metcalf, JP., 2402 Albany Hwy.
Gosnells. Tel. 398 2340. State Secretary: W.J. Skinner, 28
Wilberforce St, North Beach. Tel. 447 3148.

WRAAC ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: Mrs. Nancy Carlson, 24 Iveston Rd. Lynwood,
6155. Tel. 457 3984. Secretary: Mrs. T. Leedham, 2 Adelina
Crt, Kelmscott. Tel. 390 7551.

AIR FORCES CLUB (INC)
Meets at RSL Hall, Kinton Rd, Applecross. Fridays 4.30
- 11.00 p.m. Sundays 4.30 - 7.30 p.m. President: R. Carter
Tel. (H) 330 1883. Secretary: B. Davenport Tel. (H) 4504048
All correspondence to: PO Box 153, Applecross. 6153.
"Z" SPECIAL FORCE ASSOCIATION OF WA
Meetings as arranged. Secretary B. Wakeford, 875 Beaufort St, Inglewood, 6082. Phone 271 3802. Liaison Officer, E.W. Dubberlin, 17 Hotsham St, Meltham, 6053. Phone 271 1406.

1940 DUNKIRK VETERANS ASSOCIATION
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH
Meets first Friday each month at Anzac House 7.30 pm.
Secretaries: D.J. Symes, 15 Siddeley Place, Dianella. Tel. 276 9950.

PARTIALLY BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA * WA BRANCH INC.
General meetings held at Anzac House, 4 Sherwood Court, Perth at 2pm first Monday each month, except January.
Secretary: R. Ross. Tel. 321 5086.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOC. (WA)
Meetings third Monday at Anzac House at 8pm. President: Peter Kemmis, 697 Hay St, Wembley 6014. Tel. 381 3348. Secretary: John Quinn, 23 Douglas Ave., Mt. Yokine. 6060. Tel. 349 1374.

51st BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION
President: H. Bowra, 7 Highland Rd, Nth, Perth. Tel. 444 2585. Secretary: G.K. Baron-Hay, 24 Stanley St, Nedlands 366 1554. Committee meetings held quarterly at 4 Sherwood Court (RSL H.O.) 2 p.m. on Monday, 1st December, 1980.

BRITISH EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION (INC.)

GUILD OF SIGNAL UNITS ASSOCIATION IN (W.A.)
Meets second Tuesday each month 8.00pm Lord St. Drill Hall, Perth, President: Doug Harvey, 150 Lansdown Rd, Kensington, 6151. Tel. 367 4339. Secretary: Dick Koch, 42 Parkside Ave, Mt Pleasant 6153. Tel. 364 4828.

KOREA & SOUTH EAST ASIA FORCES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA BRANCH)
Meet second Monday in February, April and July at T/Anzac House, 4 Sherwood Court, Perth. Members notified by mail of October A.G.M. State President, Mr. Jack Gerke, 1 Gerald St, Como, 6152. State Secretary M. Cadden, 53 Wicca St, Kewdale, 6106. Tel. 277 3881. Executive Committee meets when required.

TOTTALLY & PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION
TPI Memorial House, 88 Colin St, West Perth 6005. Tel. 321 5457. President: P.G. Maley. Tel. 349 4530. Secretary: J.H. Smart, Tel. 450 5056. General Meetings, monthly second Tuesday at 1.30 pm.

REGULAR DEFENCE FORCES WELFARE ASSOCIATION
(WA BRANCH)
For all enquiries contact President: W/Cmndr. D.T. Coughlin, 114 Empire Avenue, Wembley Downs 341 2393, or Secretary Lieut E.C. Lunn-Garner, R.A. Davies Crescent, Kalamunda, Phone 293 1409.

RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: J. Lethlean, 208 McDonald St, Joondanna. 6060. Tel. 444 3431. Secretary E.L. Holmes, 46 Gregory St, Wembley. 6014. Tel. 381 1024. The Committee meets 2nd Tuesday each month.

SUBMARINE OLD CAMRADES ASSOCIATION
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
President: Mr. C. Coster, 107 Gildcrcliffe St, Scarborough, 6019. Secretary: Mr. J.W. Appleton, 9 Thorley Way, Lockridge 6054. Tel. 279 1638. Meets in Anzac House, fourth Wednesday of every month, 8pm (December excepted).

POLISH EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION,
SUB-BRANCH NO. 9
President: George Redziejowski MC MC Tel. 361 6294 Hon. Secretary: K. Milczarek Tel. 271 7238. All correspondence to: P.O. Box J692 GPO, Perth, WA 6001.

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (INC)
Meets at Riverton Sub-branch RSL Hall, High Road, Riverton. Second Wednesday, each month. 8pm. Secretary: N.E.F. Roper, Private Flat, 95 William St, Perth. 321 5576.

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION
(BRANCH 1210 WA)
President: Adrian Bell, 158 Nollamara Avenue, Nollamara 6060. Tel. 349 1446. Secretary: Audrey Brown. Meetings fortnightly, Tuesday nights at 8pm. 131 James St, Guildford, WA. Dances held every Saturday night. Bingo Thursday nights.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
Meets 2nd Wednesday every month (excepting January). Cameron Barracks, Canning Highway, Victoria Park. President W. Smith. Tel. 407 5430 Secretary: K. Trent Tel. 367 7794. All correspondence to Cameron Barracks.

GUARDS ASSOCIATION OF W.A. (INC)
Meets in Visitors Room, Anzac House, on third Friday every month at 8.00pm, President: Mr. D. Cross. Tel. 2763495 Secretary Mr. T.W. (Bill) Scott. Tel. 457 4902.

Z SPECIAL FORCE
Z Special Force Australia Inc. Chairman: Jack Sue, 321 4979 321 4771. Managing Secretary, K. Scarfe. Tel. 095 27 1703.

AUSTRALIAN LEGION OF EX-SERVICEMEN & WOMEN
(INC) W.A. BRANCH
State President: Mr. J.T. Bastow, 120 Lawrence St, Bedford Tel. 271 8509. State Secretary: Mrs. E.A. Bastow, 120 Lawrence St, Bedford. 271 8509. Details of Sub-branch Meetings, please phone 271 8509.

NETHERLANDS EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA
President, J.B.C.P.M. Desertine, 61 Milton St, Yokine. Tel. 444 2167. Secretary: J.D. Van Der Moezel, 31 Jackson Ave, Karinyup, Tel. 341 1798. Meets 4th Wednesday e/m Druids Hall 8pm. All correspondence to Box 87 P.O. Wembley 6014.

PEGASUS ASSOCIATION OF W.A.
(Ex Paratroopers, Glider Pilots, and Airborne Forces)
For details of meetings and social events, contact the President J. Mail, 139 Howes Crescent, Dianella Tel. 276 6721 or Secretary: P. Toomer, 40 Jervois St, Dianella Tel. 276 8545.

2/2nd COMMANDO ASSOCIATION
Meetings 1st Tuesday e/m Anzac Club 8pm. President: Mr. Gerry McKenzie, Alfreda Ave, Morley. Secretary: A. Wares, 16 Waverley St, Dianella Tel. 276 4304.
Mr. Noel More (Centre) winner of the RSL Car Raffle, with State President Len Phenna (right) and Mr. Denis McInerney of McInerney Ford who supplied the car.

**Best Wishes to all R.S.L. Members**

**Introducing the Becker range of well made silos for W.A. farmers...**

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**Note:** It is important that all Silos be fitted & erected on a solid re-inforced concrete base.

Also manufactured are water tanks and conversion of flat bottomed to cone base styles. If you are not satisfied with our range shown let us quote you on the size and shape you want, using our expertise. Obligation free quotes given. Prompt statewide deliveries! Personal attention assured at all times.

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