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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Long-range planning is needed

By L. Phenna, MBE, JP, MAIW

As veterans, each of us was proud to serve our country in time of war, and we considered it to be our unquestionable duty to do so, as we loyally carried out the dictates of our respective leaders.

The hard lessons of war afforded us a unique and invaluable experience in co-operative effort. Surely then, it is not too late, some 34 years after the World War, to capitalise on this common bond of service, and to initiate new long-range plans for the future of our organisation.

The RSL has a large untapped potential for membership and service. All too few of us are willing to take on a fair share of the workload and achieve the kind of level of service we are capable of.

There are many thousands of World War veterans eligible to join our ranks and who currently have not taken up the challenge.

The task of enrolling them as quickly as possible is one that must be tackled by every financial member of the League. Our years of active service to the RSL are numbered. In less than 15 years time the great majority of us will be "Senior Citizens."

It therefore behoves each and every one of us to enrol at least one new member every year.

Our purpose! To bring these people into our ranks now, to gradually expose them to the aims and objects of our organisation, to make them aware of our various programmes and projects, and to encourage them to initiate additional programmes of their own to better serve the changing needs of our country and the nation.

Your chance to become involved in this vital project will be with the launching of "RSL Week," from November 5th to 11th, 1979.

Elsewhere in this edition you will find details of the programme, covering the whole week. Each day has been planned to ensure the work of the RSL in WA is brought to the notice of its members and the public in general.

I seek your wholehearted support in these endeavours and request that you do all in your power to contribute to the activities of "RSL Week" in a positive and tangible way.

Support each day's activities, and encourage your friends to do likewise.

In particular, support the "Poppy Day Dinner," the Remembrance Day Service and the Grand Concert on the Sunday afternoon.

This is your opportunity to really become involved and at the same time do something for your organisation.

Be sure that you are aware of what is going on during the Week by attending your sub-branch meetings and by making enquiries at Anzac House — the staff will be more than happy to assist you.

THE BUDGET

Most veterans will be delighted with the increase in repatriation benefits announced in the budget.

A pleasing aspect is that as from February 7, 1980, Allied veterans will be eligible for the service pension on a similar...
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basis to that applying currently to British Commonwealth veterans.

This certainly will recognise, in a tangible and material way, the contribution which these veterans had made to the war effort and to Post-War Australia.

The League had initially sought these benefits for Poles and Greeks who had served with Australian forces during the World War.

During the election campaign, the present Government had included the extension of the service pension to all Allies in its policy and was now implementing that particular undertaking.

We cannot of course, segregate one group of Allies from another, nor can we specify one war from another. A veteran is a veteran, irrespective of where he comes from and a war is a war, be it declared or not.

Let us not try to distinguish between one veteran and another — they all supported Australia and Australian Servicemen and women in a time of need. Let us therefore, in turn, support them, when they will be in need — upon retirement.

They will have all completed residential qualifications by that time and will have made a significant contribution to the community life in Australia and will have contributed substantially to the taxation system of this country.

We, who have fought long and hard for these benefits, welcome the extension of the service pension to our former Allies who have fought on active service and who now will be partly compensated for indefinable effects of war service.

Poppy Day Costs

In recent months the media has highlighted the exorbitant administration costs of agencies and organisations responsible for Charity Collections.

One case quoted revealed that only $1 out of every $5 collected was ultimately received by the Charity concerned.

To allay any fears the public may have regarding “Poppy Day,” it was considered expedient that we advise members of the League’s activities in regard to operating costs.

Collections on Poppy Day, 1978, were just over $22,400. Administration costs, including a public accountant’s audit report which must be submitted to the Chief Secretary’s Department, was $1,625. The cost of poppies, wreaths and cards used was, $3,050, a total of $4,675.

In short, Sub-Branch Amelioration Funds and WA Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen’s Relief Fund, between then, received almost $4 out of every $5 collected.

PASS IT ON

It has been suggested by the Bedford-Morley Park Sub-Branch that when a member has finished reading his or her “Listening Post” that this worthy publication be placed in one of the following areas:

Doctor’s surgery; dentist’s surgery; local library; hospital waiting-room etc.

This, it is felt, will bring the RSL cause before a wider section of the community and could engender membership, as well as interest, in the League’s Charter generally.

OUR COVER: WINTER EDITION

The cover of our last edition was specially designed to commemorate the sesquicentenary of WA and the International Year of the Child (IYC).

It depicted the WA Year (WAY ‘79) logo, the coloured swan, and the IYC logo designed by Erik Jerichau, a Dane.

We acknowledge, with grateful thanks, the WA Council of State School Organisations Inc for the source of the material and design.

UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (1959)

The right to:
- Affection, love and understanding;
- Adequate nutrition and medical care;
- Free education;
- Full opportunity to play and recreation;
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- Special care if handicapped;
- Be among the first to receive relief in times of disaster;
- Learn to be a useful member of society and to develop individual abilities;
- Be brought up in a spirit of peace and universal brotherhood;
- Enjoy these rights regardless of race, colour, sex, religion, national or social origin.

1979 is the 20th anniversary of the United Nations’ declaration of the rights of the child.

We re-print those rights as a reminder to all and in the belief that they are very much akin to our own “Code of Citizenship.”

Found — a Valuable Edwardian Clock

In a local antique shop, S.J. Krikstolaitis came across a clock. It is an Edwardian black marble. An inscription on this particular clock bears: “Presented to Private Humphrey of the 1st VB Royal West Kent Regt. by the inhabitants of Malling and districts in commemoration of services rendered for his country in South Africa, 1900-1901.”

Mr Krikstolaitis purchased the clock and would now like to trace Private Humphrey’s descendants. He thinks that the descendants would like to purchase the clock from him and thus have it back in the family.

He feels that this is where it belongs — in the family, and it is considered that the clock is a very valuable family heirloom.

If anyone can come to light with the name or names of Private Humphrey’s descendants, please contact direct — S.J. Krikstolaitis, 11 Bepton Way, Balga, 6061, WA.
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The official opening of the 64th National Congress was held at the Parmella International Hilton Hotel on Monday, September 10, 1979, before an audience of 240 guests.

Among the official party were Senator Peter Durack, representing the Prime Minister; Senator John Wheelton, representing the Leader of the Federal Opposition; the Hon. Ray Young, representing the Premier of WA; Ken McIver, representing the Leader of the Opposition in WA; the Lord Mayor of Perth, F.C. Chaney; A.E. Adermann, Minister for Veterans' Affairs; Gordon Bryant, representing the Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs; D. Leuchars, Dominion President, NZ Returned Services' Association; Sir Colin Hines, Deputy National President and State President, NSW; Ken Schultz, National Secretary; Sir Richard Kingsland, Chairman, Department of Veterans' Affairs (Canberra); and K.D. Medbury, member of the Repatriation Commission (Canberra).

National President Bill Keys welcomed the assembled guests and formally invited His Excellency the Governor of WA, Air Chief Marshal Sir Wallace Kyle, GCB, KCVO, CBE, DSO, DFC, KSTJ, to officially open the congress.

In his opening address, Sir Wallace said:

"Thank you, Mr Keys, for your very kind words of welcome to me.

"As Governor of WA, I take pleasure in welcoming you and all delegates and members, to this fair city of Perth; also, of course, all family members who have come here with you.

"I hope you will enjoy your stay here. I'm sure you will find warm hospitality and I hope and believe you will make new friendships.

QUEEN'S MESSAGE

"May I first of all read to you a message from our Patron — Her Majesty The Queen. She writes:

"I sincerely thank all members of the Returned Services League of Australia for their kind message of loyal greetings, which I much appreciate. As Patron of the League, I send my very best wishes to all concerned for the success of the 64th National Congress.

September 10, 1979

ELIZABETH R.

"Mr President, I have much pleasure in delivering this to you for inclusion in your records.

"Ladies and gentlemen, a good deal has been said about the current role of the RSL, the problem of diminishing membership, the need to update attitudes and ideas; and so on.

"Much of this of course is associated with the fact that we have been fortunate enough to avoid a World War for 34 years. And most of us, who have experienced the unpleasant effects and aftermath of World War II, are getting on a bit.

"I'm not suggesting that the old grey mare ain't what she used to be. What I am suggesting, is that most of the men and women who are now responsible, or are becoming responsible, for our affairs, and who now exercise great influence in the community, have not experienced the physical and mental stresses of war.

"In consequence, we must accept the fact that the RSL, as an organisation, can no longer exercise leadership and influence in quite the same way, as it has done in the past, that is, by virtue of its experience of the disciplines of war. Younger people are not receptive to this approach and we are therefore in a different ball game.

"For one thing, they expect us to admit that we older ones have ignored many problems created by the very good living which we ourselves have helped to create, and that we continue to enjoy the fruits of a good country and fail to attack with vigour, the as yet, unresolved hazards of our modern environment.

"The League remains of course, very important as a mature and experienced community within our society, to serve as a counter to the excesses and immaturity of extreme and rapid change.

"But, if it is to be heard, it must recognise the impact of things like automation; enormously powerful machinery which replaces manpower; the effect of micro-miniturisation and the resulting change in social habits and standards.

"These things are with us whether we like it or not; and have produced considerable social upheavals.

"So we must try and define clearly the problems of our society which are the outcome of permanent changes, such as greatly increased leisure time for the wage-earner; the spectre of a permanent high level of unemployment, if nothing is done to counter this by recognising that we must adapt to these changes in our lifestyle.

"The danger of the philosophy that "the world owes me a living". And the subsidiary effects of this, such as drugs and their abuse: and too great an emphasis on selfish demands.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

"This all sounds very gloomy and pessimistic, I know; so I must reassure you that I am only trying to highlight the potential problems of the future, which could easily become realities, if they are not recognised and if a conscious and determined effort is not made to counter them.

"My experience in the United Kingdom suggests that these problems can become a reality without anyone noticing the danger, before it's too late to prevent it getting out of hand.

"In a country such as ours where service clubs like Rotary, Lions and Apex flourish, where we have a wonderful and active organisation like Legacy, where the care and skillful treatment of disadvantaged people like paraplegics, handicapped children and the elderly, are provided for, probably better than anywhere in the world, it seems ridiculous to suggest that human relationships and true values could so deteriorate as to bring us down.

"But unless we recognise and evaluate these potential dangers which confront us now and take positive steps to counter them, then I think we as a community are taking risks which are irresponsible; risks which we have no right to take.

"I therefore suggest to you that the RSL at this and future Congresses, State and National, should face these issues squarely; and tackle the difficult tasks of ensuring that ordinary people are warned of the dangers and are equipped to deal with them.

"And I suggest too, that this requires a carefully-organised campaign using all your resources.

"Our Service experience, yours and mine, surely teaches us the lesson that accurate intelligence and good communications are essential prerequisites, if a battle is to be fought with any success.

"But we also know, that when this is combined with a clearcut objective, then we can go forward with optimism,

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because all that remains is our fighting ability, which Australians have never had cause to question.

"And you have your clear-cut objective in the 'Code of Citizenship,' which I'm proud to say was produced by the WA Branch and is now accepted as a hallmark throughout the League.

LIMITED OBJECTIVES
"But we must not be accused of merely paying lip service to it; though to avoid this, it may be necessary to refine it down to a series of limited objectives. For example, encouragement of family unity and respect for the law.

"Ladies and gentlemen I know full well that the RSL has many other matters it wishes to discuss during this National Congress — the welfare of its members, defence and internal security and your international programme of aid are examples.

"In all these matters you have exercised an important influence and no doubt you will continue to do so.

"But important though they are, all of them are dependent on a healthy society, capable and willing to deal with pressures of our modern lifestyle and insidious propaganda which tends to undermine its integrity, its pride and its dignity.

"There are dangers and temptations ahead which many honest men and women, good citizens all, need to be warned about.

"We who are aware of these dangers and have a voice, must accept the responsibility of bringing them to notice.

"And so I see the need to ensure that the basic standards and values, which brought Australia to nationhood and have always stood her people in such good stead, are not undermined; and I believe this to be the most important and continuing task we have today.

"The RSL is well equipped to do this. It is well organised, it is articulate and it is still respected.

"As I formally declare this 64th Congress open, I beg you to accept the challenge and devote the maximum effort to deal with it through ALL your Branches."

Presentation of Anzac Awards

State Governor, Sir Wallace Kyle presented the 1979 "Anzac of the Year Award" to George Smith, of Karrinyup, who has dedicated his whole life to those less fortunate than ourselves — the underprivileged, the alcoholics, the drug addicts, the prisoners.

Whilst travelling on his Churchill Fellowship, he spent 14 weeks living with drug addicts in New York.

George Smith's Award is richly deserved.

In thanking His Excellency, George suitably replied, saying he was deeply honoured in receiving the Award and the support given him by his voluntary staff over the years.

He acknowledged his gratitude to Australia and particularly WA, where he has found many personal outlets for his campaign. There are so many things worth fighting for, he said, not only in times of war but also in times of peace.

He hoped that this Award would focus, not only on himself, but all those who individually were endeavouring to assist their fellowmen to bring their dreams to a rightful destination and to make our country and world a better place in which to live.

Centenarian, Bob Hewson, of Maida Vale, pictured above with five-year-old grandson, Matthew Joseph, still recalls helping to form the sub-branch back in 1917.

A sub-branch president, secretary and executive member, he has always had the interest of the sub-branch at heart, and has been a staunch and active member.

After the World War, his was a household name in the sub-branch, and he was the recipient of the service award for 50 years continuous membership in March, 1972.

Bob has been blind for 25 years, but not being able to see has not dampened his spirits.

When he celebrated his 100th Birthday, he received many congratulatory telegrams and the good wishes of his friends and members of the League. — Photo by courtesy of 'The West Australian'.

Fearless Fred Oxenham pictured at Wyndham Cenotaph and mini memorial, Anzac Day ceremony 1979.
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This Son of Britain, who in war,
Sailed off from safety of the shore,
Holding the flame of freedom high,
Enduring war's blast from sea and sky.

This Captain whose crewmen still recall,
Shone as an inspiration to them all,
As together they sailed in the mouth of Hell,
As together they did their duty well.

This Admiral whose task it did befall,
To probe the enemy's western wall,
Who ably helped conceive the plan,
That spared the men in Overlord's van.

This Supreme Commander, whose determined stance,
Inspired an Army to advance,
Through jungle more harsh one would rarely see,
Advance to final victory.

This human conqueror, who with his wife,
Helped succour the victims of wars bloody strife,
Who unrevengeful justice meted,
To those his forces had defeated.

This Viceroy who with dignity and renown,
Divested Great India from his country's Crown,
And over this land so trouble torn,
Presided as two new nations then were born.

This Man, this Admiral of the Fleet,
This First Sea Lord, this Sailor so complete,
May he evermore abide with Thee,
So safe from perils of the sea.

(Photo by courtesy of 'The West Australian'.)

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

The Trade Practices Act, 1974 came into force on October 1, 1974. There are important new provisions in that Act which contain strict regulations on advertising and all advertisers and advertising agents are advised to study those provisions very carefully.

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(c) Represent that goods or services have sponsorship, approval, performance characteristics, accessories, uses or benefits they do not have;
(d) Represent that he or it has a sponsorship approval or affiliation he or it does not have;
(e) Make false or misleading statements concerning the existence of, or amounts of, price reductions;
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REDEVELOPMENT OF HOLLYWOOD HOSPITAL

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Evan Adermann has announced that the Commonwealth Government had agreed in principle to the partial redevelopment of the Repatriation General Hospital, Hollywood, WA.

He said that it was intended to replace the hospital's four operating theatres and about 70 surgical beds. The proposals took into account projected veteran treatment needs in WA for at least the next decade.

Because Repatriation hospitals accept non-Repatriation veterans where there is spare capacity to treat them after the needs of eligible veterans have been met, the new facilities at Hollywood would also be available to the WA community.

The potential for maximum rationalisation of Hollywood's facilities with the State hospital system, particularly the neighbouring Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, had been fully explored with the State health authorities, who have endorsed the Hollywood redevelopment. They had been pressing the Commonwealth for some time to give a firm indication of its intentions in this regard.

Mr Adermann stressed that, in taking this decision, the Commonwealth Government in no way intended to prejudice the possible outcome of the recently announced inquiry into the efficiency and administration of hospitals in Australia.

The redevelopment proposed for Hollywood was intended to replace existing outdated facilities and there would be no expansion of the hospital's services as a result. The existing facilities required replacement as soon as possible and the Government believed that to delay planning pending the outcome of the inquiry could seriously jeopardise the hospital's capacity to continue to provide appropriate treatment.

Nevertheless, Mr Adermann stressed that planning for the project would take place against the background of the inquiry, and developments from it would be closely monitored for possible effects on the proposal.

Planning for the project would be undertaken jointly by the Departments of Veterans' Affairs and Housing and Construction. Mr Adermann expected that detailed proposals would be submitted within 12 months to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for approval. That Committee would then conduct public hearings on the proposal in Perth before making its recommendations to Parliament.

Mr Adermann said that the proposed replacement facilities would ensure that Hollywood continued as a modern hospital, providing a high level of care well into the future. The Government's decision was a firm indication of its commitment to meet the treatment needs of the veteran population in WA.

These famous batons are few and far between and only one Australian military man has ever owned one. That was Sir Thomas Blamey.

Albany resident, former local shire councillor Frank Gomm, who was among those at an investiture at Government House in Perth in September to receive his British Empire Medal for his long service in RSL affairs let me have a peep at a well-compiled family history the other day.

His brother Jack Gomm, of Townsville in Queensland, who, like his brothers and sisters, went to school in Albany, has done a lot of research in this family tree—a popular idea in the present 150th anniversary year of WA.

He has traced the Gomm family history back to Sir William Maynard Gomm (1784-1875), a British army field marshal who took part in many overseas campaigns.

These included the battles of Quatre Bras and Waterloo in the days of Napoleon.

The field marshal's brother, George Gomm, migrated to Australia in the 1840s and settled in Victoria.

Subsequently his son, Henry Gomm, who was Frank Gomm's grandfather was a farmer, evidently in the Eastern States.

Recently in this column there appeared a photo of a small group of early bushmen at the Albany Forts around the start of this century. In the group was Frank Gomm's father, Henry Gomm, so well known in the Albany district even before the turn of the century.

The Harry Gomm family was among the pioneers of the King and Kalgan Rivers districts.

Old Albany residents will remember Frank Gomm's brothers, Henry, Thomas, David and Jack and his sisters Catherine (Kitty) and Doreen. — BOB SELBY, in the Albany Advertiser.

LISTENING POST — SPRING 1979 — 11
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George Shaw, photographed at his home in Epsom Ave last week.

LAST FRONT LINE ANZAC RECALLS GALLIPOLI DAYS

George Shaw, of Epsom Avenue, was one of a group of four men who were the last to leave the front line at Anzac on the morning of December 20, 1915, and it was Mr Shaw himself, then a lieutenant aged 21, who gave the message to signals: "The line is withdrawn.

He recalled it all last week — that battle long ago to capture the Gallipoli Peninsula so the Allies could force open the narrow strait called the Dardanelles to allow supplies to be shipped to Russia.

Mr Shaw, now aged 85, was in the 28th West Australian Regiment, and was in charge of the machine gun section of the battalion.

About December 13, 1915, the battalion commander ordered Shaw to select 16 men and a batman for a stunt (that was the common name used to describe any sort of military action.)

They took four Vickers Maxim machine guns with four men to a gun, and manned a trench in the front line at a place called Russell's Top.

This was a trench about 300 yards (274m) long, only a few yards from the Turkish front line. It was so close to the enemy that people conversed in whispers.

The decision to withdraw from the peninsular had already been made, and the "stunt" consisted of firing the four machine guns from various spots in this front line trench, to dupe the Turks into believing that it was still fully manned.

Very soon, Shaw lost four of his men — two shot dead through the head and two wounded. This left 12 men to man four guns.

On the 19th, the batman had to leave with one gun, and at 2am on the 20th, two more guns and eight men left him, leaving behind Lt. Shaw and Privates C.G. Graham, A. Harris and H.K. Harvey — the last four men in the front line of the Suvia Bay — Gaba Tepe line at Anzac.

"We four carried on, trying to make it seem that the line was fully manned," Mr Shaw recalled.

"We were supposed to run up and down the trench, which was 300 yards long, firing the guns from different positions. But each gun weighed 56lbs (25.4kg) and each tripod 28lbs (12.7kg) so there was not much running going on."

When the two guns left, leaving only two behind, the four remaining men had to make the best show they could while their comrades were withdrawing to the beach, and to safety.

Shaw's orders were to leave at 3.10am, but later orders were issued to make it 3am — orders that he never received.

He heard some shuffling behind him, and it turned out to be 33 men and a captain from the 20th Battalion (Infantry, who should have been covering the machine guns, but were leaving!

Shaw was told by the captain that time had been advanced by ten minutes, and that he must leave then and there.

Rather than unload the belt of one of the machine guns, which was mounted at what was called "Bully Beef" gun pit, it was easier to fire it off, which Shaw did — at the Turks. Their answering fire hit the machine gun and knocked both it and Shaw into the bottom of Bully Beef gun pit.

He picked himself up and withdrew with his other three men and the two guns, reporting to Signals 40 yards (36m) to the rear that "the line is withdrawn".

"And that's how for five minutes we four defended the British Empire against 50,000 Turks," he said, and chuckled with delight.

Mrs Shaw, now aged 80, who had been listening to her husband-relate this story, said quietly;

"That's his little joke."

FOOTNOTE: George Shaw used to have a poultry farm in Belmont after World War 1. It is now part of the Perth Airport land. His wife, formerly Ray Orton, has lived in the house they now occupy — 98 Epsom Avenue — since 1903. She says she can remember the day they moved in.

AMENDED MEMBERSHIP PENNANTS

A record of 27 sub-branches were presented with Membership Pennants, having achieved a 15 percent increase in membership for 1978, at the Annual State Congress on Saturday, May 19, this year.

The sub-branches are: Bedford-Morley, Boyup Brook, Cockburn, Corrigin, Darling Range, Dowerin, Gnowangerup-Borden, Jerramungup, Karridale-Augusta, Katanning, Kojonup, Mandurah, Marble Bar, Margaret River-Rosé Brook, Medina, Merredin, Nungarin, Ongerup, Perenjori, Ravensthorpe, Returned Ex-Servicewomen, Tammin, Three Springs-Arrino, Wanneroo District, Yilgarn & District, Yanchep-Two Rocks.

Hearty congratulations to these sub-branches and it is hoped that many more will follow suit to build up the membership which is so vital to the League.
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14 — SPRING 1979 — LISTENING POST
Repatriation Benefits Increased, Extended

Increases and extensions in Repatriation benefits for entitled veterans and dependants have been approved in the 1979-80 Budget. The changes are set out below.

Twice-yearly Indexation of Main Repatriation Pensions

The main Repatriation pensions are to be automatically indexed twice a year.

THE NEXT PENSION INCREASES WILL BE PAID ON 1 NOVEMBER 1979. THEY ARE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>New Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Rate (T. &amp; P.I.)</td>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>$110.90 weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Rate</td>
<td>6.20</td>
<td>$76.35 weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Rate (100%)</td>
<td>3.40</td>
<td>$41.85 weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War and Defence Widows</td>
<td>4.70</td>
<td>$57.90 weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Pension Standard rate</td>
<td>4.70</td>
<td>$57.90 weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>married couple</strong></td>
<td>$7.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

They will be followed by further increases in May 1980 and in each succeeding November and May subject to any movements in the Consumer Price Index.

MANY OTHER REPATRIATION BENEFITS WILL BE INCREASED FROM 1 NOVEMBER 1979. THE BENEFITS INVOLVED ARE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>New Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funeral Benefit</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orphan’s Pension</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No parents</td>
<td>4.10</td>
<td>$25.60 weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One parent</td>
<td>2.05</td>
<td>$12.50 weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendant’s Allowance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>high rate</td>
<td>10.10</td>
<td>$35.60 weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>low rate</td>
<td>2.80</td>
<td>$17.50 weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Transport Allowance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>high rate</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>$20.00 monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>low rate</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>$10.00 monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowance for Maintenance of Gift Cars</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>$480 annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing Allowance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>high rate</td>
<td>.45</td>
<td>$1.50 weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>medium rate</td>
<td>.30</td>
<td>$1.00 weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>low rate</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>.75 weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsistence and Travel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowances for subsistence and car travel payable to veterans required to attend for treatment, pension and review purposes, will automatically be adjusted in future in line with levels paid to Commonwealth Public Servants. The increases and new rates for subsistence will be:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>New Rate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital city rate</td>
<td>$18.65</td>
<td>$41.15 daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elsewhere</td>
<td>$17.50</td>
<td>$34.50 daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meal Allowances will be increased to:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital city</td>
<td>$3.75</td>
<td>$3.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elsewhere</td>
<td>$3.80</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>$7.80</td>
<td>$6.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The new rates for use of a veteran’s own car will be:
- Over 4,000 c.c. $18.1 cents/km
- Over 2,000 c.c. but under 4,000 c.c. $14.2 cents/km
- Over 1,500 c.c. but under 2,000 c.c. $12.6 cents/km
- Under 1,500 c.c. $11.3 cents/km

Where it is not medically necessary for a veteran to use his own car and public transport is available, reimbursement will normally be based on public transport travel costs.

Rail Travel
All rail travel will be first class.

Introduction of Service Pensions for Allied Veterans
From 7 February 1980, Allied veterans will be eligible for the Service Pension on a similar basis to that applying to British Commonwealth veterans. Eligibility details will be announced when legislation is introduced in Parliament in the present session, but will mean generally that Allied veterans will be eligible for the Service Pension if they have:
- served in any war or warlike operation during the time in which Australia participated;
- served as a member of a formally raised Force of an Allied country;
- served in a theatre of war;
- never served in enemy Forces;
- resided in Australia for at least 10 years;
- satisfied the income test applicable to Australian and British Commonwealth veterans, and
- reached the age of 60 (for male veterans) or 55 (for female veterans) or have become permanently unemployed.

Easing of Access to Pensioner Health Benefits
The maximum levels of income of Service Pensioners before losing eligibility for Pensioner Health Benefits and other Commonwealth benefits, such as telephone rental concessions, will be increased from 1 November 1979. This will help many Service Pensioners, including many who may have lost these valuable benefits in the past.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits Card holder type</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>New limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single pensioner</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
<td>40.00 weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married couple</td>
<td>10.50</td>
<td>60.00 weekly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Free Comprehensive Medical Treatment for all who have suffered with Pulmonary Tuberculosis
Full, free medical treatment of veterans, who suffered pulmonary tuberculosis and who were receiving a pension for pulmonary tuberculosis before 2 November 1978, will be restored immediately. In addition, they will continue to receive a pension paid at a rate not less than the 100% General rate applicable in May 1978, irrespective of the degree of actual incapacity.

British Commonwealth Ex-Servicemen—Reminder
As advised earlier this year, British Commonwealth veterans entitled to Service Pension are now entitled, subject to an income test, to Pensioner Health Benefits Cards and telephone rental concessions.

Authorised by the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, the Hon. Evan Adermann, M.P.
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16 — SPRING 1979 — LISTENING POST
Work on Hollywood — completed and pending

By H. Noonan
(Chairman, Repatriation Committee)

An informal discussion between members of the League's Repatriation Committee, the Deputy Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs, the First Assistant Commissioner, Tribunals, and the Deputy Director Medical Services, took place on July 9, 1979.

Set out below are extracts from a report prepared for State Executive:

HOLLYWOOD HOSPITAL: Mr Cleland, with the aid of a map of the Hospital, indicated the works programme already completed and that which was pending: out-patients department, $740,000; administration, $229,000; kitchen, $90,000; bulk store and amenities, $636,500; Ward 15, $50,000; total $1,745,500.

Scheduled works include: air-conditioning Wards 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 16, $301,000; transferring intensive care from Ward 5 to Ward 3, $80,000; Ralec, $50,000; upgrading Wards 5 and 7 — multiple bed (en suite, with day and interview rooms), $500,000; total $931,000.

OPERATING THEATRES: Mr Perryman pointed out that the Cabinet was considering a request by the Minister for $5 million to upgrade the theatres, plus wards.

Dr Godkin said that whilst this was overdue, most procedures could be carried out satisfactorily. Where surgery involving more sophisticated equipment was required, this was carried out at the adjacent Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre. He emphasised the need to differentiate between urgency and desire.

REPATRIATION REVIEW TRIBUNALS: Mr Giblett asked Mr Perryman whether he was in a position to indicate when one of the Tribunals would be visiting WA. Mr Perryman said that the Medical Members were yet to be appointed. Because all the Tribunals were currently in session in Melbourne and Sydney, it was thought the first session in WA would be in September 1979.

Dr Godkin and Mr Perryman answered a number of questions regarding the submission of evidence, access to the summaries files by advocates and appellants at an earlier stage than at present, etc.

They both considered that the revised sections of the Act were more unwieldy than before and that because of this it would be possible for a case to go on "ad infinitum."

SIGN-POST CASES: Dr Godkin said that it was envisaged that the Repatriation Review Tribunal will establish what he referred to as "Sign Post Cases" - cases where a precedent has been established, and which reference could be made in order to expedite a decision.

Because of this information, the Committee feels that the Membership should be aware of the following circumstances involving an ex-Vietnam veteran, who died in WA and whose case was handled here.

CHRONIC GRANULOCYTIC LEUKEMIA: A decision of considerable significance was handed down by the Repatriation Commission on May 30, 1979. This involved the case of the widow of a Vietnam veteran who died in 1976 of this disease.

RSL War Compensation Officer J. Giblett has or some months been working on this case, with Dr L. Dougan, Research Fellow, Cancer Council of WA. Dr Dougan's report was presented by Mr Giblett to an Entitlement Tribunal on February 16, when it was referred to the Repatriation Commission as material to the case.

The Senior Medical Officer (Appeals) could not go against the excellent opinion of Dr Dougan, and the Commission accepted the veteran's death as service-related. Benefits to the widow and child are retrospective to August 4, 1977.

This case is seen as not only of benefit to the widow involved, but of great significance with regard to the increasing number of Vietnam veterans who are presenting with various types of cancer. Dr Dougan, in her report, was able to call into question some of the drugs given to the veteran. These were proved to have leukenogenic properties.

MEDICAL TREATMENT OF VETERANS: The Committee suggested that an in-service programme be instituted in all teaching hospitals and nursing schools to educate members of the professions concerning some of the problems peculiar to veterans.

Mr Perryman was of the opinion that this was a valid point. During their clinical years, all medical students spent some time at Hollywood. He pointed out that when new medical officers were appointed to the Department, they underwent special instruction in repatriation matters.

Dr Godkin said that after some years of emphasis on medical technology and sophisticated advances in medicine, there was now a return in the medical schools to an emphasis on the doctor-patient relationships. He felt that this augured well for the future.

It was noted in passing that the newly-appointed medical superintendent of Hollywood Hospital was a product of medical schools in Australia.
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REFORM OF REPATRIATION APPEAL SYSTEM

The Government has approved changes to the Repatriation Appeal System by the establishment of a Repatriation Review Tribunal. In 1977, the Government announced that it had decided to transfer the functions of the existing Repatriation Appeal Tribunals to the Administrative Appeal Tribunals.

Subsequent examination revealed substantial practical problems in giving effect to this decision so the Government has decided to establish, with effect from July 1, a separate and independent Repatriation Review Tribunal which will combine the functions of the present War Pensions Entitlement Appeal Tribunals.

The proposed Repatriation Review Tribunal is modelled in many respects on the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and will function in a somewhat similar manner. Its role will be to review divisions which are the subject of the applications before it, rather than to reheat claims or applications as is done in the existing Repatriation Appeal System.

While incorporating these present-day principles, for the review of administrative decisions, the Bill seeks to retain the best elements of the existing system — in particular, those elements which confer upon applicants special rights and privileges.

For example, the Bill retains the concept embodied in the existing appeal system that an unsuccessful applicant who subsequently collects further evidence which was not placed before the Tribunal at its earlier hearing may have his case reopened by submitting such further evidence. Similarly, the right of the Repatriation Commission to re-open a case decided unfavourably to an applicant is retained.

The right to appeal to the new Tribunal for review of a decision is set out in the proposed section 107VC in respect of entitlements matters, the proposed section 107VD in respect of a refusal to grant a Service Pension on the grounds of permanent unemployability. These provisions mirror the present sub-sections 64(1) and 70(1) of the Act.

NO FORMALITIES

There will be no formalities in the method of applying for a review. The proposed section 107VF simply requires that an application shall:

• be in writing;
• set out a statement of the reasons for the application; and
• be lodged with the Secretary, Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

The procedure will be the same as has been successfully operated for the past 50 years, in that the applicant will forward his application for review to the Department in the same way as he has lodged his original claim and his appeal to the Commission. He does not have to search out the Tribunal or a proper authority, such as a registrar, to lodge his application.

The Secretary will be required, under the proposed section 107VF, to notify the President of the Tribunal of the lodgment of the Application and subsequently forward to the President all the appropriate documents and records.

The procedure in an assessment hearing will now be the same as that which has been successful in the entitlement area. In the past, the appellant would appear before an Assessment Appeal Tribunal where his case would be re-heard both in terms of evidence produced supplemented usually with an “on the spot” medical examination by the medical members of the Tribunal.

Under the legislation proposed in this Bill, the Repatriation Review Tribunal will be required to review the decision of the Board and either affirm that decision or set it aside. If it sets the decision aside, the Tribunal will substitute a decision it considers to be in accordance with the Act.

ONUS ON PRESIDENT

The Bill provides for the Tribunal to consist of a President, a number of Deputy Presidents and a number of members. The President will be responsible for the efficient operation of the Tribunal. He will be empowered to give directions for the purpose of increasing the efficiency of the operations of the Tribunal and as to the arrangements of its business.

He will be required to give directions from time to time as to the persons who are to constitute the Tribunal for the purpose of conducting reviews in pursuance of applications for reviews.

In hearing an application for review of a decision, the Tribunal shall consist of the President or a Deputy President, a Services Member and one other member.

When a matter before the Tribunal related to an application for review of an assessment decision the third member will be a medical practitioner. Services Members will be members who are appointed by the Governor-General from lists of names submitted by organisations representing returned soldiers.

The procedures of the Tribunal will be informal, as they now are, and the President will be empowered to give directions as to procedures. In the absence of a particular direction, the presiding member in a particular proceeding may give direction as to the procedures to be followed.

I draw attention however, to the provisions of the proposed sub-section 107W(3) which requires the President or the presiding member in a particular case, when giving direction as to procedures, to have regard to the need for the proceedings before the Tribunal to be conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as the requirements of the Repatriation Act and a proper consideration of the matters before the Tribunal permit.

This is an important principle, as it spells out in the legislation the requirement that formal proceedings and technical concepts are to be avoided.

The hearing of a proceeding will be in private, as are the hearings of the present Repatriation Appeal Tribunals. However, the Bill provides that a presiding member at a hearing may permit the hearing or a part of the hearing to take place in public, if so requested by the applicant. This is an important departure from the current Tribunal arrangements.

RSL COMMENT

RSL War Compensation Officer Jim Giblett, commented on the changes to the Repatriation Appeal System by stating that basically the changes alter the final right of appeal to a Pensions Appeal Tribunal to that of an applicant for a review of decisions made by either Repatriation Board and the Repatriation Commission. Procedures will be much the same as before except there is no formal appeal form.

Persons wishing to have their case reviewed will write a letter to the Department of Veterans’ Affairs and this starts a chain of events that lead to a hearing of what we used to know as an appeal.

Organisations such as the RSL no longer have the right to nominate lawyers for appointment as Chairmen of Pension Tribunals, to be known as Deputy Presidents, but they have the right to nominate one of the lay members as a Services
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20 — SPRING 1979 — LISTENING POST
Member of the Review Tribunal is retained.

Periods of appointment are extended for terms of up to seven years, but not after the age of 65 except for the President who can continue on until he reaches 70 years of age. An appointee can be removed from office only by the Governor-General on receipt of an address from each House of the Australian Parliament.

A new provision is a penalty of up to $1,000 or three months imprisonment for insulting a Member of the Tribunal in relation to the exercise of his powers or functions. Similar penalties will apply to any person who interrupts a proceeding of the Tribunal, creates a disturbance in or near the place where the Tribunal is sitting, or does any act in respect of the Tribunal that would, in the case of a court, constitute contempt of court.

The practical application of changes will be watched closely throughout the next six or 12 months.

---

**EARL MOUNTBATTEN MEMORIAL FUND APPEAL**

At the official opening of the National Congress, the National President, Mr Bill Keys, launched the "Earl Mountbatten Appeal".

He said that the fund was designed to relieve hardship and distress among ex-servicemen and women of the British Commonwealth.

It would also support any undertaking that the trustees thought would contribute towards goodwill and understanding among member countries and member service organisations of the British Commonwealth.

Earl Mountbatten had always shown concern for unfortunate former comrades, and any donations to the Appeal could be directed to:

- State Secretary, Returned Services League, WA Branch, Box C128, G.P.O., Perth, WA 6001.
- The National Executive of the League has opened the appeal with a contribution of $5,000 from the Jubilee Commemorative Fund and the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, has committed the Federal Government to match the appeal on a dollar for dollar basis.

As this is an international appeal donations are not tax deductible.

---

**HONOUR FOR EDITH HARLER**

It is with pride and pleasure that the Returned Sisters' Sub-branch of the RSL received the announcement that one of their members, Miss Edith Harler, had been awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal for her service to nursing.

Instituted in 1912 by the International Red Cross Committee the Florence Nightingale Medal is awarded every two years by that organisation, to nurses "who have distinguished themselves in an exceptional manner by great devotion to their patients in time of war or peace."

It has been given to organisation, graduate nurses, nurses' aids and to nurses who died in war.

The number of medals awarded is strictly limited and Miss Harler and a South Australian nurse, Miss Jenny Leak, were the only Australians among the people from 17 countries who received the Award this year.

We offer both our sincere congratulations.

---

**A First for Hollywood**

Hollywood Hospital has become the first in WA to be awarded full accreditation status following a visit by a survey team from the Australian Council on Hospital Standards. Accreditation status has been awarded for a period of three years and an appropriate certificate has been awarded to the hospital.

The accreditation programme has the objective of ensuring that the highest standards of patient care are maintained in Australian hospitals, given the limited resources available. The twin goals of quality control and utilisation review are thus intrinsic to the programme.

In his official notification to Deputy Commissioner, C.J. Williams, the Executive Director of the Council congratulated the hospital on its general standard of patient care. He said that the survey team had asked him to express their appreciation to the administration team and department heads of the hospital for their assistance and courtesy given throughout the survey.
Best Wishes to All Ex-Servicemen from

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GERALDTON SUB-BRANCH PRESENTATIONS

The presentations of three Certificates was a highlight of the Annual Reunion Dinner of the Geraldton Sub-Branch on June 2.

State President Len Phenna presented a National Award Certificate to Frank Wick of Yandanoona, in recognition of 50 years unbroken membership, Frank, who was 87 in September, said it had been a pleasure, not a burden, to do what he had been able to do during his long membership with the League.

The State President also presented the Geraldton Shield to Northampton Sub-Branch president Ron Mitchell, for the most meritorious Sub-Branch of 1978 with fewer than 100 members. Northampton has now won the shield five times.

In addition, State Auxiliary President Joy Ford, presented a Life Membership Certificate to Mrs Barbara Heath, and a Certificate of Service to Mrs Eadie Rogers.

President Phenna congratulated the Sub-Branch on having won the Collett Cup for the 16th time as the outstanding country sub-branch and also the Merv Williams Trophy for the second consecutive year for raising the most money for the War Veterans' Home Fund, on a membership basis.

He also congratulated the Women's Auxiliary on winning the Country Cup as the outstanding country auxiliary for the 17th time.

Furthermore, during the toast to the Auxiliary, congratulations were extended to President Mrs Trythena Ashplant, on having received an RSL Certificate of Merit at the recent State Congress.

LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

Mr Phenna said that he was extremely encouraged that membership this year would exceed that of last year.

He said that while the Rocky Gully Sub-Branch was closing down because only a few war service land settlers were left in the area, these members were joining such sub-branches as Mt Barker, Albany and Mandarrah, and new sub-branches were being formed at places like Pannawonica, Tom Price, Newman, Yanchep-Two Rocks, Karratha and Kambalda. An application had just been made for the formation of the Kambalda Sub-Branch.

However, Mr Phenna said that while the League had 7,500 members in this State, figures from the Veterans' Affairs Department showed that there were 35,000 people with overseas service, which meant that the League should have a total of 50,000 ordinary and service members. He said those who had not joined the RSL were letting down those who were in need of help, and were also letting down their country.

Mr Phenna was replying to the toast to the League, proposed by Councillor Bill Cunninghan, as the Mayor's representative. In toasting the Geraldton Sub-Branch, the MLA for Geraldton, Mr Carr, said the RSL was truly a "Service" Club, providing outstanding service and also many outstanding citizens.

Praising the work of the League as a National Organisation, Mr Carr said the "Last We Forget" motto was significant, because there were young people who seemed to think that our wonderful society had just dropped off a tree. This, of course, was not true and there was a need for everyone to realise that many service personnel had died in support of the democratic way of life.

Sub-Branch president Ernie Gleed suitably responded.

Other toasts included — visitors, by Reg Warner, with the response by the State country vice-president Merv Williams; outside helpers, Jack Terry and Fred Heath; and Toastmaster, by John Spendlove, with Graham Till replying.

BJB.

War Veterans' visit to the RAAF Sergeant's Mess

It was a brilliant morning when, in July, residents assembled between the bowling green and Administration offices. The grass twinkled with heavy dew and bright sunshine, the mingling of the colourful ladies.

The bus and the Red Cross arrived at 10am. About 70 residents from the Home boarded the vehicles, under the eyes of Home officials and members of the Mt Lawley Inglewood Sub-Branch.

We then proceeded to the city and up to King's Park, and stopped at the State War Memorial. It was a glorious view with the glittering Swan River behind.

We then moved on to look at the University of WA. The State is fortunate indeed to have such a magnificent University.

Leaving probably the best public park in Australia, we then travelled to Fremantle and up to their War Memorial, where we disembarked and stretched our legs, had a good look around and noticed shipping in Gage Roads and across to Rottnest Island.

After we had seen the beautifully-kept memorial and surrounding lawns, Bob Duncan ushered us back into the vehicles and we proceeded to Pearce via Booragood and Canning Highway, arriving at Pearce about noon.

The president of the Sergeants' Mess warmly welcomed the visitors; we were then invited into the Mess, and met the members, who took over. Drinks were served, and after that an excellent three-course dinner. A sing-along, followed with a first-class pianist, and many old songs of the past were heard for an hour or so. Our leader for the day, Bob Duncan, passed a vote of thanks to the president and members of the Mess. Later, we watched a fly-over the base of an F11.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and the wonderful reception bestowed upon us "oldies". It is a day that will long be remembered and appreciated. — BOB CHARLES.

Cup Congratulations

Claremont Sub-Branch received a letter of congratulations from Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser, as follows:

"Dear Mr Gillies: I wish to congratulate the Claremont Sub-Branch on its award of the Newdegate Cup. It is to such standards of efficiency that the Australian community should aspire. — Yours sincerely, MALCOLM FRASER, Prime Minister."

LISTENING POST — SPRING 1979 — 23
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KOJONUP SUB-BRANCH WOMENS AUXILIARY

The proceeds from the Kojonup Auxiliary catering for the year amounted to about $1,000. There was the annual lodge meal in June, a wedding in August when we catered for about 115 guests, followed in October by a dinner for the Tertiary Education Group, and later in the same month we catered for the annual meeting of rural youth.

On behalf of the Sub-Branch, we were very pleased to cater for the Group Conference in April, held in Kojonup this year. It was our privilege to welcome the members of the State Executive and delegates from other sub-branches.

The timing of this conference proved to be inopportune as many of the prospective delegates were unable to attend owing to the devastation caused by "Cyclone Alby" in their respective areas.

Our usual afternoon tea was provided for all after the Anzac Day March. There was a bigger attendance than usual, as owing to the current renovations to the Memorial Hall, after the customary commemoration and wreath laying, the parade marched to the RSL Hall where the service was held.

The Anglican Bishop of Bunbury gave the address to a packed house. This year, the wreaths were made by Mrs O'Neil and Mrs Newman.

Once again, our members organised the annual dinner for the Kojonup Sub-Branch in November. The attendance was between 80 and 85, many of whom were from neighbouring sub-branches.

The State Executive party included the senior vice-president, the State secretary and their wives, also Mrs Ford and Mrs Sullivan, the Auxiliaries State president and secretary. The Anglican Ladies Guild served the meal.

In January this year, we assisted the sub-branch president in catering and entertaining for a small "Thank-You" party, a gesture to the local organisations and some individual members of the community who have helped in the activities of the Sub-Branch over the years. This proved to be a very happy and informal evening.

Our donations this year: State Women's Auxiliary, $200, to be used by the state executive as required; RSL State Executive, $100, followed by a further $200 for administration.

Our usual donation to the War Veterans' Home, Mt Lawley, has been held over for further discussion in 1979. The Auxiliary refunded $25 to the Rural Youth Group to assist them in their activities for the year. Our current credit balance is $456.33.

Thanks to the Sub-Branch, we now have a fridge installed in the Auxiliary room — much appreciated by those catering over the hot months of the year. The old wood-stove has been replaced — the installation was done by the men.

Some of us were pleased to attend an afternoon, organised by the Sub-Branch president, at which one of our members received a "Certificate of Appreciation" for her many years of service to the Sub-Branch; Mrs Joan O'Connell is currently receiving surgery for an eye affliction but has moved from Kojonup to "Bethshan" in Katanning.

Molly O'Neil — another of our members, who, though not well enough to attend regular meetings, unobtrusively tends the roses around the hall.

The Women's Auxiliary State Conference held in May was attended by one of our members.

The "Family Dances" each month seem to be retaining their popularity; here again, I ask for more members willing to help on the evening of the second Friday each month.

My appreciation to all members and helpers who assist when called upon for their co-operation, and that of all office-bearers I say "thank you". To Ena Cameron, who recently resigned from the office of secretary, we say thanks, and all good wishes to her, and her husband in their new venture.

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26 — SPRING 1979 — LISTENING POST
VALE

Members of the Returned Sisters’ Sub-Branch have been saddened by the recent deaths of four of their colleagues who served with the Australian Army Nursing Service during the World War.

They were Dorice-Mary Burgess, Mary Jefferies Patterson, Jean Amy Walker (nee Peacock) and Margaret Ellen Beard.

DORICE BURGESS, who died suddenly at the Howes Wing, War Veterans’ Home on June 13, 1979 was one of the first group of West Australian nurses to go overseas in 1940 with the 2/2nd Australian General Hospital.

Their destination was the Middle East and after some time in Palestine, the Unit moved to Egypt to set up a 1,000-bed hospital at El Kantara on the Suez Canal.

From here, Sister Burgess was seconded to the Military Hospital in Alexandria which was receiving casualties from the Western Desert, Greece and Crete.

Shortly after rejoicing her Unit, she was involved in a tragic accident in which she received severe injuries and was given little chance of recovery, but after devoted and skilled nursing she was able to return home.

Her determination to overcome her disabilities and return to active nursing resulted in re-joining the staff of the Royal Perth Hospital to take up her previous position. When the new Hospital Block was completed, Miss Burgess was appointed as Sister-in-Charge of the Private Wing, a position she successfully held for some years until she resigned to help with the inauguration of the Maurice Zeffert Home, of which she became the first matron.

Retirement was marred by continuing disability which necessitated moving into the War Veterans’ Home where she adjusted well and was very happy.

Dorice Burgess was a keen supporter and active member of the RSL through the Returned Sisters’ Sub-branch, in which she served as president and held other offices. Last year she was awarded the honor of Life Membership of the League.

She was also a part president of the War Nurses’ Memorial Association and liaison officer for the War Veterans’ Home where she will be greatly missed.

Before joining the Australian Army Nursing Service, MARY PATTERSON (Pat) had had considerable nursing experience. On completion of training for the General Certificate, in the Government Hospitals, she qualified for Certificates in Midwifery and Child Welfare at the King Edward Memorial Hospital in Subiaco and for some time held charge positions in Country Hospitals. It was experience that was to stand her in good stead when she joined the AANS and was posted to the Australian Camp Hospital in Port Hedland during the threat of Japanese invasion.

In 1944, she was posted to the 2/4th Australian General Hospital, in Redbank, Queensland, and saw overseas service when the Unit moved to Labuan in British North Borneo with the Ninth Division for the last offensive before the end of hostilities.

On discharge from the Army, Miss Patterson rejoined the Medical Department in WA and subsequently became Matron of the Pinjarra Hospital, a position she held for some years before being transferred to the Wooroloo Hospital as matron prior to its being taken over by the Department of Corrections.

Mary Patterson was a dedicated nurse and deeply concerned for those under her care. Following her retirement from the Department, she took charge of a private nursing home for frail and elderly patients.

She died on June 14th this year in the Quadriplegic Unit of the Royal Perth Rehabilitation Hospital after a long disabling illness which she bore with fortitude and outstanding courage.

On completion of training for the General Certificate at Royal Perth Hospital, JEAN PEACOCK joined the Staff of the hospital before going to the Eastern States to further her nursing training.

She had just completed her Midwifery Certificate at the Queen Victoria Hospital for Women in Melbourne when she was posted to the Australian Army Nursing Service and returned to WA in 1941.

Her first posting was to the 118th Australian General Hospital in Northam. Subsequently she saw service in the Australian Army Hospitals in the Northern Territory and overseas service in the Australian Camp Hospital in New Britain.

On cessation of hostilities, she returned to the 110th Military Hospital at Hollywood and on discharge from the Army married an ex-serviceman, William Walker.

Her post-war years were well occupied in bringing up a family and caring for her husband who had a war disability and predeceased her.

In recent years, Jean Walker suffered ill-health which necessitated periods of hospitalisation. She died suddenly at her Unit in Thrum House on July 11th.

MARGARET BEARD, who retired from active nursing in 1977, had a distinguished nursing career. She completed training for the General Certificate at the Kalgoorlie District Hospital in 1939, and joined the staff of the Fremantle Hospital while waiting to be called up for service with the Australian Army Nursing Service in 1940.

She was posted to the 2/2nd Australian General Hospital in the Middle East and on return to Australia in 1942 was transferred to Sea Transport, which took her to the Islands of the SW Pacific, New Guinea and Singapore.

Following her discharge from the Army after nearly six years of service Miss Beard completed her Midwifery Certificate at KEMH, and travelled to New Zealand, Canada and the United Kingdom during which time she gained valuable post basic experience.

On returning to WA, she joined the Department of Child Health, but resigned in 1958 to take up the appointment of Deputy Principal Matron with the Government Medical and Health Services, becoming Principal Matron in 1970 (the title was subsequently changed to that of “Principal Director”).

It was a challenging position involving the organisation of nursing care in Government-controlled hospitals throughout the length and breadth of the State.

Miss Beard held a Diploma of Nursing Administration from the College of Nursing (Australia), of which she was made a Fellow, and took an active part in professional nursing organisations including the Council of the Royal Australian Nursing Federation, the Nurses’ Board, the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee and the West Australian School of Nursing.

She was a Member of the Order of Australia and held the Queen’s Jubilee Medal for her services to nursing.

During the short time of her retirement, Margaret was able to fulfill part of her ambition for further travel and enjoyment of life with her friends; before her death on August 2nd, which followed a distressing illness.
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Christmas rush around the corner

August is the time of the year when Executive finds time to relax a little; we have got over Conference, and our Christmas rush is around the corner.

September will see Mrs Sullivan ordering the amenities for our Christmas Cheer parcels, and it would be appreciated if Auxiliaries would send in their donations to this fund as early as possible please.

Since Conference, we have increased by ten the number of hospitals and homes visited by Executive members each month — a step made necessary by the increased number of ex-service men now being hospitalised. We are grateful to the Auxiliaries for their wonderful support to our Hospital Visiting Fund, used for this purpose.

Since my last report, members of Executive helped with the catering for the League Congress and on June 2 Mrs Sullivan and I attended the Geraldton Sub-Branch and Auxiliary Dinner, where I presented Mrs Heath with Life Membership and Mrs Rogers with a Certificate of Service.

Members of Executive helped Bellevue Auxiliary celebrate their birthday on June 14, and I presented Mrs Trigg with her Life Membership.

On June 19, I was happy to help form the Yanchep Two Rocks Auxiliary and we wish them many years of service to their Sub-Branch and the League. My husband and I would like to thank our host and hostess for the night also.

The Boulder Group Conference was well attended and I thank the League for including me among the speakers. The Boulder Auxiliary catered for the Lunch etc, a wonderful spread enjoyed by all.

I was pleased to see them all again and to talk with the visiting ladies.

Mandurah Auxiliary held their 40th birthday party on June 29, and members and many of their guests wore period dress, making it a very colourful and happy day. I had much pleasure in giving Mrs Cayley her Life Membership, and what a surprise that was!

The Bullsbrook Auxiliary held an "At Home" on July 9, and members of Executive drove up there to spend a happy day with them, we were pleased to see members of the Bindoon Auxiliary as guests also.

I was asked to present Certificates of Service to Mrs Cunningham and Mrs King.

On July 12, the Cockburn Auxiliary held a "Fun Day", inviting local and surrounding Auxiliaries to attend. Armadale and Mandurah members were among those who voted it a most enjoyable day. It was decided that the idea would continue with Auxiliaries taking turns to host the day. Armadale are planning to hold one in October.

All our old skills with darts, quoits and bowls came back, some of us even remembered how to throw rummy, and the game of table tennis balls caused much laughter.

Mr Ford and I attended the Scarborough Auxiliary "Casserole Tea" on July 22 and I presented Mrs Bettridge with her Life Membership.

While visiting our family in the country recently, George and I had a chance to call in and see the Boyup Brook Auxiliary girls busy catering at the local sheep sales; they were doing a good job too, and saw us on our way after a welcome "cuppa".

Whilst in Katanning, I met the Auxiliary members at an afternoon at Mrs Roberts' house, and on our way back home to Perth called in and had lunch with the Pinelly girls. Thank you so much, everyone, for your welcome and hospitality, I appreciate these opportunities to meet you all.

Mrs Rolfe reports that the "Adopt A Legacy Ward" is well supported this year, also Torchbearers for Legacy. There seems to have been a number of Auxiliary members on the sick list lately, and we wish them all a speedy return to good health.

In the near future, data for next Conference will be sent to Auxiliaries. Please don't forget to send your agenda items in early.

Best wishes to you all. — JOY FORD (State President)

Meeting in war led to a career

Ronald Nathan Stone is a name that is synonymous with jewellery, not only in WA but across the country.

Mr Stone is currently president of the Australian Jewellers' Association and a past president of the Jewellers Association. He is also the managing partner of well known Perth Jewellers, J. R. Wallace and Co and of the Jewellery Wholesale Manufacturing Company.

It was a chance meeting in the World War that led Mr Stone to his life's occupation. It was during his army career that he met Wallace Walters — a man who was to play a significant role in the jewellery profession in WA.

QUICK RISES

Following the war, Mr Stone was finishing an apprenticeship in watch-making when once again he bumped into Wallace Walters — who at this time had just bought Royce Cox's jewellery business in Piccadilly Arcade.

Mr Walters offered Mr Stone a job. In 1951 he started work as a watchmaker, becoming manager six months later. In 12 months he was a junior partner.

He is a former mayor of Stirling, a justice of the peace, a member of the WA Consultative Retail Association, warden of the State War Memorial, a former past president of the Highgate RSL and a member of the Mt Lawley RSL.

There are two things Mr Stone is extremely proud of... one is a certificate hanging in his office and the other a small badge he wears on the lapel of his suit.
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RSL Week — 5 to 11, 1979 Programme

MONDAY, NOV. 5 — OPENING DAY: All sub-branches have been requested to contact schools in their area with a view to:
(1) presenting a National Flag or "Code of Citizenship," and he
(2) delivering an address and encouraging them to conduct a Remembrance Day Service and Flag-Raising Ceremony.

TUESDAY, NOV. 6 — MELBOURNE CUP DAY: The RSL will make available a trophy to the value of $200 to the WA TC. The race book will feature the RSL prominently.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 7 — SERVICES/CADET DAY: Army, Air Force and Navy Cadets will give a display of their activities at the War Veterans' Home, 51 Alexander Drive, Mt. Lawley at 1400 hours — 1530 hours — 1900 hours respectively.

THURSDAY, NOV. 8 — RSL MEMBERS' DAY: This is a “Back to the RSL Day” — an all-out drive to sub-branches to increase their membership by their own initiative. A static display will be mounted at Anzac House, and membership booths will be manned throughout the day. Morning tea (10.30 to 11.30am) and afternoon tea will be provided. Potential members will be able to meet the State President and Executive members between 1400 hours and 1600 hours. Skinners night in the Club will be at 5.30pm, with evening meal provided at 6pm.

FRIDAY, NOV. 9 — POPPY DAY: The traditional fund-raising “Poppy Day” street appeal will be held as customary. We are looking for record sales of poppies and laurel wreaths on this day, both in the metropolitan area and sub-branches throughout WA. Members and friends are requested to assist as collectors.

The State President will take part in a “Talk-back” radio session on 6WF at approximately 0800 hours.

SATURDAY, NOV. 10 — POPPY DAY DINNER: The RSL will host a "Poppy Day" Dinner at the Jubilee Hall, Royal Agricultural Society Showgrounds, Claremont. (Special Guest Speaker). Tickets available through Anzac House at $13.50 each, including dinner and refreshments.

SUNDAY, NOV. 11 — REMEMBRANCE DAY: Service at 11.00 hours, State War Memorial, King’s Park. His Excellency, The Governor of Western Australia, Air Chief Marshal Sir Wallace Kyle will attend and lay a wreath. Service cadets will line the concourse.

Members, their families and the public are invited to participate by taking a picnic lunch to have on the lawns and then wander down to the Perth Entertainment Centre.

REMEMBRANCE DAY CONCERT: A grand concert will be presented by the RSL under the sponsorship of TVW7 at the Perth Entertainment Centre, commencing at 1430 hours.

All bookings at Perth Entertainment Centre. Tickets $5.00; $2.50 Pensioners and Children.

For Party Bookings see page

SANDWICH LUNCHES

The second series of “sandwich lunches” concluded on Tuesday, September 4, 1979. Each consisted of a set of six. A decision has now been made to run a third series.

The lunches have been held on the first Tuesday of each month. Commencing at 1200 hours, members and their friends assembled in the wing of the Anzac Club for fellowship and any drinks they cared to buy. Sandwiches, tea or coffee were provided at about 1245 hours.

The crowd moved upstairs to the meeting-hall at 1315 hours and were addressed on an interesting and topical subject from 1320 to 1340, followed by questions. The programme for the second series was:

State Premier, Sir Charles Court (Subject: The RSL “Code of Citizenship”); Professor Henry S. Albinski (US strategic posture in the Indian Ocean and the Western Pacific); Dr Trevor White, (The 200-mile exclusive Economic Zone); Commodore R.H. Percy, RAN; (Coastal Surveillance in Australia); Col. J.P.K. Murdoch, Civil Commissioner, Exmouth (Coastal surveillance of our North-west).

Peter Smith, Director of Engineering, TVW (Development in Television).

The average attendance was about 80. The talks were all of above average in interest, as were all the speakers’ erudition and were very well received. The cost was kept to $1.30 per head and the quantity and quality of the provender more than adequate.

The initial idea was conceived and propounded by Mrs Joan Dowson, a very active member of the State Executive, who carried the burden of the organising and the actual on-the-spot hard work. Our sincere thanks to her and her dedicated helpers for their efforts. The talks were all chaired by the chairman of the Membership Committee.

R.J. Nyman

LETTERS TO EDITOR

PRAISE FOR JIM GIBLETT

Dear Sir: I write to you in order to express my thanks for the work done on my behalf by War Compenisation Officer, Jim Giblett.

I am now in receipt of an acceptance of further war-caused disabilities, and I am sure this is due to the understanding attention to detail and presentation of my claim by Mr Giblett.

It is the work of men like him that places the esteem of the League so high amongst both members and the community.

— Membership No. WB 7782.

BROTHER SOUGHT

Dear Sir: I am an ex-serviceman (VX39210) and have not been able to locate my younger brother since sometime before my mother died in 1970. He is an ex-serviceman (also Victorian) who served in Greece and the Middle East.

I understand he was called by his older brother to join him in the Army Service Corps sometime during this period. His Christian names are John Andrew, and he is 56 years of age.

Is there any possibility of passing this information out to all the RSL clubs in your State in an endeavour to locate him? I understand he went to your State with his young son about 1968/69.

Your kind attention to this request would be appreciated. I can be reached at Suite 2324, Commerce Court West, Commerce Court Postal Station Box 69, King and Bay Sts, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5L 1B9 — J. J. MARTIN.

LISTENING POST — SPRING 1979 — 31
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MAYORAL CONGRATULATIONS

At a meeting of the Geraldton Town Council on May 23, Mayor Lyle Harris extended hearty congratulations to the Geraldton Sub-Branch of the RSL and also to the Women's Auxiliary.

The Mayor said the Sub-Branch had again won the Collett Cup for the rural sub-branch with the most meritorious service in WA during 1978. He said this competition was based not only on work for the benefit of ex-service personnel and their dependants, but also on service to the community in general.

He said the Collett Cup win meant another "double" for Geraldton as far as the major honours were concerned because the Women's Auxiliary recently received the Country Cup for the 17th time as the outstanding country auxiliary in 1978.

FROM MALCOLM FRASER

The Geraldton and Northampton sub-branches have received surprise letters of congratulations from Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser.

He congratulated the Geraldton Sub-Branch on its achievements in winning the Collett Cup for the 16th time and also the Merv Williams Trophy for the second consecutive year.

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that the standard and efficiency of the Geraldton Sub-Branch would be maintained for the benefit of both the RSL and the community in general and that the Sub-Branch would continue its good work in raising money for the War Veterans' Home fund and other worthy causes.

In his other letter, Mr Fraser congratulated Northampton on its achievement in winning the Geraldton Shield for the fifth time as the best Country Sub-Branch with fewer than 100 members. The Prime Minister said the Shield was a fitting symbol of the praiseworthy way in which a few could contribute both to the RSL and to the Australian community at large.

NEW ZEALAND TREES

Members of the Geraldton Sub-Branch and the Regional War Veterans' Home Committee have held an Arbor Day observance at the Home.

President Gleed told the July meeting that 52 New Zealand Christmas trees had been planted along the Gregory Street boundary with the idea of forming a hedge.

The Sub-Branch has expressed pleasure at the manner in which the Regional War Veterans' Home is being conducted by Mr and Mrs Harold Gies, formerly of Perth and Mulesas.

On other RSL matters, Sub-Branch secretary Mrs Pat Terry reported that the Salvation Army would make a bugler available for funerals of ex-service personnel, and on the suggestion of Bill Cunningham, contact is to be made with the Northampton and Dongara Sub-Branches to see if a regional representative is available for the Miss Crowning Glory Quest.

There are valuable prizes for several sections, including the personality girl with the best head of hair; Miss Charity Princess, for raising the most money; and Girl of the Golden West, for most money raised in a country area. The proceeds will go to the War Veterans' Home Fund and Legacy.

CODE OF CITIZENSHIP

The presentation of copies of the Code of Citizenship to schools is included in plans being made by the Geraldton Sub-Branch for the celebration of the State-wide "RSL Week" in November as part of Way '79.

The Code of Citizenship, which was adopted by the WA Congress and endorsed by National Congress, is aimed at combating the widespread decline in moral standards and promoting those principles of citizenship which the League believes are urgently needed in the Australian community today.

Other activities during the "Week" would include Poppy Day on Friday, November 9th, and the Remembrance Sunday observance on November 11th, including the annual Pilgrimage to the War Cemetery at Utakarra and the Diggers' Luncheon.

Geraldton members will also visit Northampton for the annual reunion of that sub-branch on Saturday, November 10.

In addition, Saint Patrick's College is to be contacted with a view to the College Army Cadets holding a Beating the Retreat ceremony on Sunday, November 4, because of other activities on the following Sunday. — B.J.B.

ANZAC GRAVES IN PORTSMOUTH


Alongside the Australians' graves is the grave of Edward George Sanderson, aged 77, and his wife, Both died on March 4, 1949, within an hour of each other. The couple had looked after the graves - right up to their death - and expressed the wish that they also should be buried nearby. All the graves are now cared for by the Portsmouth South branch of the Royal British Legion, who organise an Anzac Day service at the gravesides on the nearest Sunday to April 25. They also arrange for poppy crosses.

In June this year, my wife and I visited these graves, and were later entertained by the president and members of the Portsmouth South branch of the Legion. I was presented with a plaque by President Colson (who had joined the Royal Navy in 1905 and who is now over 90) for presentation to the RSL in WA.

We also met the old army mate and friends of the late Fred Hillier, of Harvey RSL, who died in Portsmouth last year and was cremated at Milton. — H.V. SIMMONS
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34 — SPRING 1979 — LISTENING POST
Commemorative Medallions for the 1940-45 War Message from the Consul of Greece

By Law 1048/1946 an Award for a Commemorative Medallion was established for both Greek and foreign servicemen who participated in the wars 1940-41 and 1941-45 and were members of Greek Units.

By Presidential Decree No. 1/21/12/1978 the same Award was EXTENDED TO FOREIGN SERVICEMEN who were members of their OWN FOREIGN UNITS.

Conditions for the Award by the Applicant

1. Application to the Greek Ministry of Defence, Athens.
2. Certificate from the Defence Department of the applicant's country, certifying the applicant's participation during the period of war 1940-45, as well as the specific Unit to which he or she belonged.

A Committee, comprised of representatives from the Departments of Defence, Foreign Affairs, Public Order and Mercantile Marine, which convenes twice a year (May-November), will make the final decision regarding the Award.

All applications, as well as the necessary documents to be forwarded to Mr. P. Theodoracopoulos, Consul of Greece, Consulate of Greece in WA, 16 St. George's Terrace, Perth, WA 6000. Phone: 325 6608 either in person or direct in writing.

The necessary forms are available at Anzac House. Phone: 325 9799.

Commodore ROBERT H. PERCY, RAN, Naval Officer Commanding WA Area and Commanding Officer, HMAS Stirling

Commodore Percy, who was born on November 27, 1919, entered the Royal Australian Navy as a cadet midshipman on January 29, 1941. He was promoted to Commander on December 21, 1963, to Captain on December 31, 1968, and to Commodore on February 17, 1976.


At Geraldton Sub-branch Auxiliary Dinner, Mrs Joy Ford, State President, RSL Women's Auxiliary State Executive presents Mrs B. Heath with life membership award.

Medal from the Great War

Hon Secretary Henry K. Kahan, of the 28th Battalion AIF Association, writes to us that a Rivervale housewife recently unearthed in her garden a Great War medal bearing the inscription "No. 859 Private GARRITY, H.W. 28th Battalion, AIF."

The holder of the medal, Mrs Martin (phone 364 8852), would be happy to hand it to a relative of Pte Garrity. He was killed in action on May 3, 1917, during an attack near Bullecourt.

Anyone who can perhaps assist Mrs Martin in finding a relative of Pte Garrity, please contact her on 364 8852.

LISTENING POST — SPRING 1979 — 35
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Financial members of the League are automatically members of the Club and you may enroll your friends as Provisional and Associate members and make full use of the Club and amenities.

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Unit Associations may arrange to hold meetings at the Club. All information obtainable from the Manager, Ted Steele - phone 325 9799.

Dr Haydn Stanley Williams, CBE

Dr Williams is the incoming State Warden of the State War Memorial. The handing-over ceremony will take place on Remembrance Day, Sunday, November 11, 1979, in the presence of His Excellency the Governor, Air Chief Marshal Sir Wallace Kyle.

Dr Williams, who was born on June 14, 1917, was educated at Perth Modern School and at the Universities of WA and London. After holding many and varied professional positions, he was appointed Director of the WA Institute of Technology in 1967. He will retire from this position at the end of 1979.

Immediately prior to the appointment, he had been Director of the Technical Education Division of the Education Department of WA.

Under his dynamic leadership, WAIT has grown to be the largest and most diverse college of its type in Australia with an enrolment of 11,000 students.

Dr Williams's contribution to the development of WA and to education throughout Australia was recognized in 1977 by his being named WA's "Citizen of the Year," and by the Award of the Queen's Jubilee Medal; and in 1978 by being made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

The support Mrs Williams has given the Director in this demanding role has earned the admiration of friends and colleagues alike.
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PRESENTATION:
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A proud moment for Quairading, as Tom Heal, Nat Smith and Dave McRae hold their Certificates of Service (50 years of RSL membership) presented to them on Anzac Day by H.W. (Mick) Gayfer, MLC. They are three of the last five remaining Great War veterans living in Quairading. More than 150 people attended the service held in the RSL Hall.

The NZ Delegation attended a reception given by the Mandurah Sub-Branch RSL at their hall in Pinjarra Road, Mandurah. In the picture are (l to r): Roma and Ray Worner (NZ), George Keating (NZ), Mandurah Sub-Branch president Keith Ross and his wife May.

'WAY ’79 — REFLECTIONS
A century and a half of toil, sweat and tears, Of love and loss, thru’ those founding years. We recall memories of mothers and fathers passed by, The earth for their beds, their roof the sky, From dawn until dark, small time for play, Yes! These were the toilers who made WA.

Daughters and sons they reared with the corn, In loyalty and love, those offspring were born, Then came the time to answer the Call, “Take up your weapons or your country will fall,” From all points of the State, by night and by day, Those were the “Aussies” who made WA.

We complain of the heat, mosquitoes and flies, They experienced worse things out of the skies, Lie back and reflect from your comfortable chair, Where would we be today? if they hadn’t been there, So pay homage to them all on our “Anzac Day”, Our pioneers and fighters who made WA.

L.C. MARTIN

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We believe the highest values of citizenship are fundamental to our society.

We believe good citizenship is the responsibility of every citizen of Australia.

We believe every citizen should uphold these social values:

* Loyalty to Australia and the Crown.
* Strong commitment to democracy and democratic institutions.
* Respect for law and order and the rights of others.
* Practical compassion for those in need.
* High personal standards of responsibility, conduct, performance and integrity.
* Fair dealing, and giving value for value.
* Personal co-operation and friendship with citizens of other countries.
* Unselfishness.

We believe a sound environment is desirable for the preservation of these values.

We believe each generation is entitled to be grounded soundly in these values—in the home, in centres of learning and through the example of every adult citizen.

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STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT ITEMS OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS

Item 8.
"That the National minimum subscription for Ordinary and Service Members be raised to $8.00 commencing 1980."
CARRIED

Item 10.
"That the present 10 cent Jubilee Fund levy on membership subscription be raised to 20 cents."
CARRIED

Item 16.
"That in view of the cost to the League, the loss of adequate media coverage and the difficulty of obtaining the attendance of members of Parliament at National Congresses held in the various States, this Congress recommends that all future Congresses be held in the A.C.T. and, also to effect further savings that the dates of any future National Congress be planned to enable full advantage to be taken of the super Apexian Fare period which represents a 40% saving on air fares."
CARRIED

Your delegates, Mr L. Turner and I strongly opposed the item.

Item 12.
"That Honorary membership of the League be offered to all returned veterans of the 1914-18 War, provided they are presently members of the League."

There were some 69 resolutions dealing with Repatriation and Veterans' Affairs, however, due to the Budget proposals, much of the usual heated debate on these issues was missing. Like others, I believe we only received back from the Government something they took away last year and for which the League has fought for very hard indeed and for which it deserves the highest praise.

Prior to the debate on Repatriation items, two special resolutions were carried, they were:

a) "That this Congress records its appreciation to the Federal Government for its improvements in veterans' benefits contained in the 1979 Budget."

b) "That State Branches forward a list of Repatriation Priority items to National Headquarters for consolidation and presentation to the December 1979 National Executive meeting."

This latter resolution was a result of the South Australian delegation advising Congress of the method of presentation of the Defence Paper over many years and the acceptance of such presentation by successive Governments.

As a result of Special Resolution (b) having been carried, many of the Repatriation items were referred to the special Priority List.

Item 23.
Submitted by Western Australia was LOST.
"That the system of indexing service and disability pensions twice a year in accordance with the cost of living index be restored and that the Service Pension be 30% of the National average weekly wage."

In our view such a resolution is more than realistic and must be pursued at all costs.

Item 29.
Submitted by Queensland State Branch.
"That the Credit Funds on behalf of the veteran who dies in a mental institution and who has no next-of-kin or other dependants be deemed to form part of his/her estate. Such estate to be utilised and paid to 'A General Assistance Fund' to be administered by the Commission who would be required to establish valid and just criteria for the distribution of moneys from such a fund and incorporating Grants for immediate assistance."

was CARRIED.

and of course there is a bearing on some of our Veterans presently in Lemnos Hospital and other institutions.

Item 42.
Submitted by South Australian State Branch.
"That the T.P.I. pension be raised to the same level as the minimum basic wage."

was LOST — for obvious reasons.

Item 47.
Submitted by the W.A. State Branch.
"That the allowance to students (Tertiary) under the Soldier's Children's education scheme, at present $24 per week be raised to a more realistic figure."

was CARRIED.

and referred to the State Priority list.

Item 57.
Submitted by the W.A. State Branch.
"That all Repatriation benefits (medical and hospital) as allowed returned Soldiers of the 1914-18 War, be extended to include returned Sisters of the 1939-45 War."

was CARRIED.

and should in my view, be placed on our Priority List.

Item 61.
Submitted by the Victorian State Branch, and which, if introduced by the Government, could have far reaching effects on R.G.H.'s throughout Australia was CARRIED, as follows:

"That Repatriation Hospitals be certified as Nursing Homes as well as continuing as General Hospitals to enable eligible patients chronic conditions to be accommodated and to make full use of the total bed capacity for service and ex-service members."

Items 66 and 68.
Submitted by the W.A. Branch were referred to the National Executive meeting to be held in December.

66 deals with Section VL sub-section 1 to 7 of the Repatriation Act, and 68 deals with Repatriation summaries files being made available on application by Advocates. In the area of Social Services and Tax —

Item 87.
Submitted by Tasmania, Victoria, N.S.W. and S.A. State Branches was CARRIED as follows:

"As there has been no increase in the basic income limit for the Service Pension and no increase in the income limit for fringe benefits since 1972 and 1973 respectively, the R.S.L. seek a proportionate increase in each of these amounts.

Subsequently a request be made to introduce a system of indexation for these income limits so that they are tied to movements in the C.P.I. in the same way as War and Service Pensions."

Quite a few items that followed this particular resolution were in turn referred to it and will be dealt with accordingly.

Item 101.
Submitted by the W.A. State Branch.
"That this Congress make strong representations to the Commonwealth Government to increase their contribution to Nursing Homes and that they restore financial security to all patients."
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was referred to.
Item 62 under the heading of Repatriation and this particular resolution was as follows:
"That the R.S.L. request the Government to always keep the full cost to the Service Pensioners of nursing home care at less than 80% of the Service Pension."
Of particular interest was an Item submitted by the N.S.W. State Branch under the heading of Social Service which was as follows:
"That the Commonwealth Government be requested to set up a form of service structure so that school leavers who have not found employment and are eligible for Social Security Benefits, can be gainfully employed in the National interest."
This resolution was the subject of considerable debate and was finally CARRIED.
DEFENCE:
Many of the Resolutions on the Agenda were referred to the Defence Paper, as they were in the main, covered by it. Those that were not covered by the Paper were the subject of individual debate and were either received or rejected.
Item 109.
Submitted by the W.A. State Branch, and requesting the Government to improve defence arrangements generally was CARRIED, as was our —
Item 130
requesting Congress to re-affirm the necessity for an adequate dry-dock facility to be constructed in the Fremantle area. This item was also referred to the R.S.L. Defence Paper for inclusion. All in all there were some 50 items on Defence, most of which were referred to the R.S.L. Defence Paper or carried separately.
DEFENCE SERVICE HOMES:
Item 152.
Submitted by Tasmania and Queensland State Branches was as follows:-
"That the present loan of $15,000 be increased to $30,000 and that this increased amount be provided at three levels of interest, $12,000 at the existing level of three and three quarter percent, $3,000 at two percent, below ruling bank interest rate, and the remaining $15,000 at bank interest rate."
This resolution covered the next four items and was accepted as the substantive resolution and agreed to by all States.
In the main, Defence Service homes items covered the increase in the loan itself and a reduction in the waiting time for the purchase of an existing home.
Item 166.
Submitted by the W.A. State Branch and dealing with the Family Law Act was CARRIED as follows:-
"That the necessary changes in the Family Law Act be effected in order to protect the interest of the resident in the Defence Service Home which is jointly owned and the other partner ceases to reside in the house and bring action to effect a sale of the property."
This resolution was well received and in the opinion of delegates should be pressed with all possible haste.
IMMIGRATION:
Item 172.
Submitted by the Queensland State Branch was CARRIED as amended:-
"That this Congress reaffirm its resolution and Standing Policy of Immigration carried at the 63rd National Congress."
Item 173
also submitted by Queensland,
"That this Congress calls upon the Federal Government to maintain their efforts to take all necessary steps to reduce the practice of illegal entry of refugees to this country."
was CARRIED
GENERAL ITEMS:
Congress reaffirmed its policy regarding the sale of freehold land to foreign nationals or that it be sold to aliens at the expense of our National heritage.
Other general items included a motion calling for harsher penalties to be imposed on all illegal drug pedlars, pushers and those actively engaged in the trafficking of drugs and a request to the Federal Government to consider allowing income tax concession for the initial cost of the installation of solar heating in private homes.
A further motion requesting the Federal Government to consider the reduction of the retiring age for Veterans', in the event of the general retiring age being reduced — was also CARRIED.
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2/16th BATTLESHIP ASSOCIATION

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28th BATTLESHIP AIF ASSOCIATION

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC. (WA SECTION)
CITY OF PERTH SUB-SECTION
Meets fourth Tuesday of each month, No. 4 Brisbane Place, Perth. President: Joe Wallace. Tel. 367 4528; past President: Vic Gibson. Tel. 364 4277; vice-presidents: George Rigby. Tel. 349 1481, Fed Johnson 271 9452, Ron Troune 361 8748, Secretary, Roy Ward, 271 2451.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SECTION) INC; STATE COUNCIL

WRAC ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: Mrs Nancy Carlson, 24 Iveston Rd. Lynwood, 6155. Tel. 457 3984. Secretary: Mrs B. Freeman, 58 Sussex St. Spearwood. Tel. 418 2953.

2/7 SPECIAL FORCE ASSOCIATION OF WA
Meetings as arranged. Secretary: B. Wakeford, 875 Beaufort Street, Inglewood, 6052. Phone 271 3802. Liaison Officer, E.W. Dubberlin, 17 Hotham St. Meltham, 6053. Phone 271 1406.

1940 DUNKIRK VETERANS ASSOCIATION
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH
Meets first Friday each month at Anzac House 7.30pm. Secretary: E.R. Bench, Forrestfield. Tel. 453 9966.

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. President: W.H. Grant, B.E.M., C.D., Phone: 367 4471. Secretary: D.J. Symes, 15 Siddell Way, Dianella, Tel. 276 9850.

2/32nd BATTLESHIP ASSOCIATION (W.A.)

FEDERATION TB SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOC. (WA)
Meetings third Monday at Anzac House at 8pm. President: Peter Kemmis, 87 Selby St. Wembley, 6014. Tel. 381 3348. Secretary: John Quinn, 23 Douglas Ave. Mt. Yokine, 6060. Tel. 3346 1374.

51st BATTLESHIP AIF ASSOCIATION

BRITISH EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION
President: G. D. Willetts, Q.M., 13 Croxton Pl., Nth Beach, 6020. Tel. 447 5670. All correspondence: The Hon Gen Sec., PO Box 308, Kalmaruna 6076. Tel. 293 3465 Secretary: Mary Woollacott, 121 Feet Rd. Todestowne, 6111. Tel. 362 1941.

GUILD OF SIGNAL UNITS ASSOCIATION (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.

LISTENING POST — SPRING 1979 — 57
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Write for a Free Brochure explaining and condemning Vivisection to
BRITISH UNION FOR THE ABOLITION OF VIVISECTION PERTH (WA) BRANCH INCORP.
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Box T1798, GPO, Perth, 6001 — Phone: 293 1821

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PROP. NORM ALLENBY
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Phone: 271 1666

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Best Wishes to all R.S.L. Members throughout the State from the.....

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GREENBUSHES

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COLD BEER & FRIENDLY SERVICE
PHONE: GREENBUSHES (097) 64 3509
Council meets first Tuesday each month at Anzac House.
Annual General Meeting second Tuesday, August (Anzac House). Annual Re-union nearest Saturday to 11th November (Remembrance Day) Subiaco Civic Centre.

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, Mr Max Filer, 5 Valentine Ave., Dianella, 6062. Tel. bus. 458 0548 - priv. 276 8513. Executive Committee meets when required.

TOTAII'Y & PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION

TPI Memorial House, 66 Colin Street, West Perth 6005. Tel. 321 5457. President: D.G. Maley, Tel. 349 4530. Secretary: D.W. Penny. General Meetings, monthly, second Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.

REGULAR DEFENCE FORCES WELFARE ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)

For all enquiries contact President, W/Cdr D. T. Coughlin, 114 Empire Avenue, Wembley Downs 341 2393, or Secretary, Lieut. E.C. Lunn-Garner, R. 9 Davis Crescent, Kalamunda. Phone. 293 1309-

RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)

President: R. Goldspink, 31 Copper Rd. Morley, 6062. Secretary: D. Le Fevre, 16 Kennedy St, Melville 6156. Tel. 330 2420. The committee meets 2nd Tuesday each month.

SUBMARINE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

President: Mr R.E. Smith, 23b Pointer Way, Girrawheen 6064. Tel. 342 1066. Secretary: Mr J.W. Appleton, 9 Thorley Way, Lockridge 6054. Tel. 279 1838. Meets in Anzac House, fourth Wednesday of every month, 8 p.m. (December excepted).

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

Meet every 4th Wednesday. 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. 276 3495. Secretary: Mr T.W. (Bill) Scott. Tel. 457 4902.

Z SPECIAL FORCE

Z Special Forces Australia Inc. Chairman Jack Sue, 321 4979, 321 4771. Managing Secretary, K. Scarff. Tel. 095-27 1357

AUSTRALIAN LEGION OF EX-SERVICE MEN & WOMEN (INC) W.A. BRANCH

State President, Mr J.T. Bastow, 120 Lawrence St. Bedford. Tel. 271 8509. State Secretary, Mr T.P. Ingram, 100A Petra St. Bicton. Tel. 339 1470. Details of Sub-branch Meetings, please phone 339 1470.

2/2nd COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

Meetings 1st Tues. e/m. Anzac Club 8pm. President: G. Maley, 61 David St. Yokine, 349 4530. Secretary: A. Wares, 16 Waverley St. Dia'ella 276-4304.

NETHERLANDS EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSN. OF AUST.

President: J. Van Der Moezel, 31 Jackson Ave. Karrinyup, 6018. Tel. 341 1798. Secretary: J. Freund, 88 Garling Street, Willagee, 6156. Tel. 337 3625. Meets 4th Wed. E/M. Druids Hall 8pm. All correspondence to Box 87, P.O. Wembley, 6014.

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- VINEYARDS & SPANISH HORSES
- GRAND BUNBURY
- SWAN SCENIC DRIVE
- DARLING RANGES
- HISTORIC FREMANTLE, KWINANA, BEACHES
- HISTORY OF PERTH
- EL CABELLO BLANCO & DANCING HORSES

STATE WIDE TOURS

3 DAY SOUTH WEST WONDERLAND TOUR
4 DAY ALBANY & SOUTH WEST TOUR
5 DAY ALBANY & SOUTH WEST WILDFLOWER TOUR
4 DAY GERALDTON & KALBARRI NATIONAL PARK WILDFLOWER TOUR
11 DAY WITTENOM & HAMERSLEY GORGES TOUR
17 DAY-PERTH TO DARWIN TOUR
6 DAY KALGOORLIE, ESPERANCE, HYDEN, WAVE ROCK

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11 DAY WITTENOM & HAMERSLEY GORGES TOUR
17 DAY-PERTH TO DARWIN TOUR
6 DAY KALGOORLIE, ESPERANCE, HYDEN, WAVE ROCK

RO...
HOSPITAL VISITING

In line with resolutions passed at State Congress, we are calling for volunteers to assist with hospital visiting. Can you help?

Currently, our old friend Ron Boyes and part-time helper Bill Rattigan, of Claremont Sub-Branch, are working at least three days a week, endeavouring to visit every person admitted to Hollywood Hospital.

The task is a bit much for two men, and if we can get some volunteers, the prospects of reintroducing the system of advising sub-branches will be so much brighter.

If you are interested in assisting, or require any information, please contact Welfare Officer W.B. Melvin at State Headquarters (phone 325 9799).

An additional service has been introduced at Hollywood — a member of the State Executive, Bob Charles, will be available to patients at the hospital between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. every Thursday. He can be located in the Red Cross hall.

TWO PERTINENT QUESTIONS

Are You an Active R.S.L. Member in Your Area – For Your Sub-Branch?

Have You Your 1979 Crown?

RSL TOURS

PROGRAM 1979-80

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HOLY LAND TOUR - November 2-29, 1979

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GRAND S.E. ASIA AND ORIENTAL TOUR - 33 days

FIJI TOUR - 8 days, departs every second Sunday from April 1 1979

NUQUEA TOUR - 7 days, departs every month from April 2 1979

AMERICAN CARNIVAL - 21 days (fully escorted)

HONOLULU CONDOMINIUMS - 8 days

CARNIVAL EUROPE - Departs, August 12, 1979 - 21 days (fully escorted)

NEW ZEALAND - 14 days (departures Sept 14 and Nov 21).

All members are invited to make use of the League Leisure and Travel Pty. Ltd. By doing so you are assisting the RSL financially — it's your company give it your full support.

All travel may be arranged through League Leisure Pty Ltd.

FULL INFORMATION AVAILABLE AND ALL ENQUIRIES TO BE MADE TO THE PERTH AGENT

AMERICAN EXPRESS — 125 ST GEORGE’S TCE, PERTH (SECOND FLOOR NEWSPAPER HOUSE ARCADE).

PHONE: 322 1177

62 — SPRING 1979 — LISTENING POST
BATTALION MEMORIAL

The 2/16th Battalion is apparently the only Infantry unit of the 39-45 war without a permanent memorial in Kings Park. However, the Association is taking steps to erect a fitting reminder of the Battalion whose record is a revered part of Western Australia’s history.

The Publicity Committee has been requested to ‘come up’ with firm proposals and present thinking is along the lines of a monument faced with marble and combining dignity, grace and utility.

We aim to complete the memorial in time for dedication as closely as possible to the fortieth anniversary of the Battalion’s formation. The ceremony will be a big occasion and we plan to announce the date in the December and March Pigeon Post.

We are very happy to report that approval has now been received from Kings Park Board for the erection of a memorial in Kings Park. A rough sketch of the location of the memorial is on the next page.

Our thanks in particular to John Blythe who has worked extremely hard on this project.

1. Forrest Memorial
2. Restaurant
3. Wittenoom Floral Clock
4. Education Centre & Lookout Platform
5. Wishing Well
6. Premier Leake Memorial and Drinking Fountain.
7. State War Memorial Concourse
8. Jewish War Memorial
9. HMAS Perth & Red Cross Trees
10. First Rotunda & 11th Bn. Memorial
11. State War Memorial

ENROL A MATES!

LEAGUE NEEDS YOUR MEMBERSHIP. IF YOU DON’T EXACTLY NEED THE LEAGUE AT THE MOMENT YOURSELF, ONE OF YOUR SERVICE MATES MIGHT

THE LEAGUE IS ONLY AS STRONG AS ITS MEMBERSHIP

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Town and Country lifts assets 25pc to $387m.

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