The League's Views On Anzac Day Observance

Released to the Press, after being sent to the West Australian National Football League, the following statement, which was adopted by the State Executive of the Returned Servicemen's League, failed to appear in its entirety.

There has been a great deal of publicity recently concerning the observance of Anzac Day. Most of the criticism arises because of the fact that Anzac Day falls this year on a Saturday. Some of the criticism is irresponsible, some of it is based on wrong information and much of it is merely a wanton attack on the R.S.L. for reasons which are not apparent.

The R.S.L. has never attempted and will not attempt to lay down the law to the public. It has not arrogated to itself powers which it does not possess. All the R.S.L. has done is to carry out an instruction from the Congress of the League which has on numerous occasions defined the policy to be observed on Anzac Day. As far as the R.S.L. is concerned the responsibility for fixing the date of the race on Anzac Day is regulated by Act of Parliament, and does not concern itself with the League's own view. On the other hand so far as organised sport is concerned the League has merely expressed the hope that no organised sport would be held.

If sport is held on Anzac Day, then the League cannot and will not do anything about it, having made the request, realising that such individual acts are in liberty to come to its own

Victorian Branch Is In Accord With W.A.

In the name of the State President of the Victorian Branch of the R.S.L. the following statement was issued to the Press.

The statement appeared in full in two newspapers and in part in a third.

All Governments have agreed that returned men should decide the form of observance of Anzac Day, and each year, the R.S.L., which is the representative of returned men in this State, has discussed the observance at its annual conference of branches, and by an overwhelming majority has opposed any change from the present method.

At the last conference I purposely expressed no view on Anzac Day, I was the Chairman and recorded the vote (287-8) but as President, I give effect to it, and will declare that with the Branches from wherever it may come.

The decision is clearly not of a coterie, but of the returned men of this State. An inexcusable minority exists, whose views are not entitled to respect, and who are more vocal than the others, but whose numbers are too small to constitute a challenge. That there are critics is not vital. Every decent community has its critics and the R.S.L. cannot be free from them.

As for the right to make a decision, there would have been no Anzac Day but for returned men and that would not have been a holiday but for the R.S.L.

Firstly, the holiday came in 1925 only after five years of R.S.L. striving. Second, the 80,000 men in Victoria who are mostly 1939 war men, are as representatives of the returned men in this State as the 30,000 who march on Anzac Day—in fact, more so.

For plebiscites, returned men regard them as unsatisfactory and inconclusive. No plebiscite has ever produced more than a negligible number of votes. Supporters prefer to come straight out and voice their views when they meet, and reject utterly those proposals that open the door to canvassing, and the collecting of paid or unpaid votes by interested parties.

Nothing could be fairer than the R.S.L. way of obtaining a decision—by discussion in each of its 430 branches, with an examination of the results at the annual State conference of branches. This procedure has been followed for

Turk May Be Here For Anzac Day

A representative of the Turkish military forces may be here for W.A. for Anzac Day.

The Federal Government has opposed, on R.S.L. proposals, for even Turkish representatives to come to Australia. For the commemoration.

R.S.L. Federal president G. W. Holland said in a letter to First President's E. S. S. that the Federal Government would pay the men's expenses.

Arrangements for their tour, however, would not matter much.

The Turkish man's arrival would possibly one go to each State for Anzac Day.

Nine of the Western Command representatives for the Coronation Conference left for Melbourne on Thursday, March 5. In the picture three-year-old Mr. Smith says goodbye to his father, Sgt. Roy Smith (right), while Sgt. Vic Shell looks on.
Our Aims, Objects And Ideals

Comradeship And Service Through The League

With the cessation of hostilities of the World War, ex-service men in great numbers sought membership of the R.S.L. Many of them joined the League because they felt it was the right thing to do. Others joined from a feeling that unity is strength, and by ex-service men standing together there would be a better chance of having their particular interests served.

Some joined in order to secure the privilege of wearing the League badge which, over a long period of years, members have been particularly proud to wear. Others again were, no doubt, actuated by the idea of service. Many were mindful of all commendable motives, but there are a number who, unfortunately, have allowed their membership to lapse. This may be due merely to carelessness, perhaps some apathy, and some perhaps have felt that the League did not measure up to whatever standard they set for the League. Whatever the cause is that many of the younger Diggers have ceased to be members of the League.

Some ex-members may ask themselves whether they are still needed in the League? There are many good reasons why membership should be open to anyone who has the interests of self, but mostly for altruistic purposes. Read a little about the objectives of the League and ask yourself if they are not sufficiently worthy to warrant practical support.

TIES OF FRIENDSHIP

To perpetuate the close and kindly ties of friendship created by a mutual service in war, and the recollections associated with that experience: to maintain a proper standard of dignity and honour among all sailors, soldiers, and airmen; to act as an example of public spirit and noble-hearted endeavour.

To provide for the sick and wounded and any among those who have served, and their dependents, including pensions, medical attention, homes and suitable employment.

To inculcate loyalty to Australia and the Empire, and secure patriotic service in the interests of both.

To guard the good name and reputation of those who served by the awards of returned sailors, soldiers and airmen.

SERVICE TO AUSTRALIA

To induce members as citizens to do their best to maintain the spirit of sacrifice and loyalty with which, as sailors, soldiers, and airmen, they served. Australia and the Empire, and to maintain an association non-political in nature and in the interest of relation to party politics. League has fallen short in the effort to obtain these objectives, and we have still the work and help is more than necessary. The spirit of the R.S.L. is the spirit of the obligations and contributions; where each man shares his mate's shareable interests, and helps to cement that spirit of comradeship and service. We feel a particular obligation to foster the interests of the widows and children of those mates of other mates who have shared your membership lapses. To wear the badge when no longer a member is the lowest type, help by securing the return of any badge wrongly

RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

The R.S.L. is the body authorized by Governments to nominate representatives to bodies where service men are to be represented, and it has a mandate on many public bodies, including the Repatriation Board, Repatriation Commission, Repatriation Commission, Regional Recreation Training Committee, and other official and semi-official bodies.

The R.S.L. has been behind the League for the benefit of ex-service men and women; it is the guardian of their rights and privileges. To this point we have been describing what we might call the League's work. The League seeks to give service to its members by obtaining for them help in their efforts to maintain the spirit of sacrifice and loyalty with which they served in the World War. The League seeks to give service to its members by obtaining for them help in their efforts to maintain the spirit of sacrifice and loyalty with which they served in the World War. This may be regarded as the tangible side of the League membership. There are however, the intangible benefits to be derived from the association of ex-service men through their ideas, their interpretation and development of that comradeship which were formed during service. It is in the highest terms the League has the interests of the comradeship that will assist in rendering service without profit to oneself.

A man may profess comradeship, attend reunions, make speeches, cry aloud from the mouth of the League, and yet despite his professions he might be no more comradely in the spirit of the League than before. Merely being a member of the League does not set a seal upon his comradeship service. It is only, and especially if it is a part only to which one belongs, is supposed to be a proctor who shuns all actions which help make the League and the welfare of the League by its members.

For that reason the R.S.L. has maintained a firm attitude against any proctor who shuns all actions which make the League and the welfare of the League by its members.

Value Of Team Work

A Telephone Service For Soldier Settlers

Another indication of the value of team work and co-operative endeavour has been brought to our notice by the Federal Member for Moore, Mr. Hugh A. Leslie, M.H.R., in connection with the provision of telephone facilities for the 19 or so soldier settlers on the old Toorah Estate about 25 miles east of Moora.

Although less than 12 months have elapsed since pressure in real earnest war brought to bear the Postal Department for the provision of telephone services to the settlers on the Toorah Estate, Mr. Leslie was able to announce that a new telephone service has been set up, including the provision of one of the exchanges on the 24th February, 1952, and that a number of subscribers and their families respectively would be open for operation on the 24th February.

In the construction of the new line. Actually, two working groups were established, one between Bindi and Toorah and the other between Toorah and Coolinda.

It is worth noting here that this cooperative endeavour has been a particular feature in connection with the progress of the Toorah Land Settlement Scheme. The whole of the developmental work in the subdivision, preparation, cultivation and equipping of the holdings of this scheme has been carried out on a co-operative basis with marked success and the matter of the telephone services above referred to is but one of the indications of how it pays to assist in achieving the things one desires rather than to sit down and demand that one's needs be provided.

A New Role For Northam Camp

Northam Camp is no longer a training centre for recruits to the Australian Regular Army. The number of new soldiers required to maintain Australian Army strength today can now be trained more economically at a central point. In future recruits from all States will complete their basic training at Kapooka, N.S.W.

Northam will remain the camp training area for Western Australia's Citizen Military Forces, cadets, and for special promotion courses.

The last recruits at 6 R.T.C. marched out on February 6. Northam area itself has been greatly improved during its occupation, by the R.T.C. and today its buildings, general equipment, grounds and roads are in excellent order for the C.M.F.
LIFE BLOOD

The present month of March is the one in which the League takes stock of the progress that has been made in membership for the year. By the end of the month one quarter of 1953 will have passed and sub-branches should have attained worthwhile results in the drive to establish a sound membership throughout the State.

The League cannot continue unless each and every member realises his obligation to the organisation. A first duty is the payment of the Annual Subscription to Sub-Branch Secretary, or Anzac House, and a second is to become a one man membership committee, for in every walk of life, in every district there will be found men who through mere thoughtlessness have neglected to renew their subscriptions.

The tasks before the League are many, and its functions as a community link of doubt and uncertainty is one of the greatest importance. Without a virile membership the League cannot continue to play its part in the affairs of the State and Commonwealth. The answer lies in the individual.

The R.S.L. Hour On Radio 6KY

Arrangements have been made at the time of going to press for an R.S.L. Hour on Radio 6KY. The session will probably be held on Wednesdays and will run for 11 weeks. The broadcasts will embrace only the Australian Championship with six contests a night, ultimately running to elimination finals and a grand final. Prize money of over £100 will be provided by 6KY for the three top prize-winners in the Grand Final.

In addition the programme will incorporate community singing and a three-minute period set aside for a talk on leisure activities or any other purpose that might suit the league. At the leading the meeting of the State executive, the Membership Committee reported that metropolitan sub-branches had been circulating the matter. It was fully discussed at a meeting held in the Board-room on March 1st of the members at the State executive.

For Outstanding Work

Mundaring Awards Service Certificates

The State Executive Representative (Mr. C. Kleeman) presented the Certificates to the Members at the Annual Meeting and Smoko on January 31st, 1953.

The recipients were members who had given over seven years of valuable service not only to the Sub-Branch but to the League generally. Details of service to the Sub-Branch are as follows: Harry Rutherford, twenty-three years, which include ten years as President, and four years as Secretary and Treasurer; Charlie Prouse, twenty years' service; Arthur Doerr, seventeen years.

When presenting the Certificates Mr. Kleeman stated that it was a great honour to receive a Certificate for service rendered and claimed that the State Executive had to have sufficient evidence of the merit of each recipient before they were granted. He paid great tribute to the members concerned for their unceasing efforts to the League and emphasised the fact that there were far too many members who had done more, but who had not been fortunate enough to receive the League's appreciation.

New Root For Anzac House

After considerable discussion at the meetings of the State Executive, it has finally been decided to erect a new root on Anzac House.

The cost involved will be £3,275 for the complete roof area, and £2,445 to enclose the walls between the top parapet and roof with louvres.

The State President of the executive (Mr. F. C. Chaney) had informed the meeting that expert advice had been obtained on the best way of treating the leaking roof.

Experts had informed him that it would be far more satisfactory and cheaper in the long run to erect a new roof rather than attempt to seal the old one.

The parapet will be extended and the new calling will be 11ft. above the present bungalow root.

The person who should require the least reminder as to the value of the Red Cross in Peace or War is the ex-serviceman, whether he has suffered or has suffered no ill effects from his service or whether he shows the scars of war. For in whatever capacity one may have served, in whatever theatre, abundant evidence was always to hand of the universal presence of that humanitarian body.

Now during this month of March the Red Cross is appealing for funds to carry on the work we all know to be so much, not only to our post and present servicemen and civilians. Therefore, each member besides continuing whatever he is able can within his own sphere of activities endeavour to help those less fortunate and appeal to all members to share in the great work the League was doing, not to leave the bulk of the work to "the few," he pointed out that the recipients this evening had set a fine example that could well be a pattern to adopt.

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Training For Ex-Service Members
And War Widows

The training scheme which has been established for "members of the Forces" who served overseas in connection with the Korea and Malaya operations, and widows of members who died as a result of service in those operations, is intended to provide assistance similar to that which the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme offered to ex-servicemen and widows of the 1939 war.

The following information outlines the main conditions of the scheme. It also indicates those who come within the provisions of the scheme. It is important to note, however, that eligibility for training, in the case of members, may only be determined, following discharge, by lodging an application with the Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation in the State in which the member resides.

INTRODUCTION.

The re-establishment training scheme for the Korea and Malaya Forces, the "Korea and Malaya Training Scheme," is administered by the Repatriation Commission. With the cooperation of the Universities Commission, the Division of Industrial Training, and the War Service Land Settlement Division, training may be provided in a wide range of professional, vocational and agricultural courses. Depending on the nature of the course studies may be undertaken either full-time or part-time, including by correspondence.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Three main conditions govern a member's eligibility for training. They are:

(a) Six months' war service — in most cases a member's war service is the period he spent outside Australia while allotted for duty in an operational area. This condition does not apply to those who actually served in an operational area (Korea or Malaya) for one month or more; or who have been incapacitated as a result of war service; or who for some other reason have been materially prejudiced as a result of war service.

(b) Be honourably discharged from the Services within two years of termination of war service, except in the case of those enlisted for a period not exceeding three years, who may apply on being honourably discharged at the termination of the period of enlistment.

(c) Come within one of the categories of eligibility for full-time or part-time training and be suitable for training in the course applied for. The widow of a serviceman whose death, during service or after discharge, has, been accepted as due to war service is eligible for training on completion of two years of marriage.

FULL-TIME TRAINING.

There are 13 categories of eligibility for professional training and 14 for vocational and agricultural training. These categories include those:

(a) who, because of incapacity caused by war service or disablement at discharge, or because their pre-enlistment occupations are in over-supply, require training in another occupation;

(b) whose training was interrupted or the commencement of whose training was postponed, by war service (including all those who enlisted on or before their 21st birthday, or, for some training courses, their 25th birthday);

(c) who are in need of short refresher courses;

(d) who, during their war service, have shown conspicuous ability.

PART-TIME TRAINING.

For part-time training, there are two categories of eligibility which catter for those who desire to complete a course commenced under the Services Vocational and Educational Scheme and for all those who desire part-time training to improve their occupational status.

TYPES OF FULL-TIME TRAINING.

PROFESSIONAL.
Professional courses may be undertaken at universities, teachers' colleges, theological colleges, and similar institutions, or at technical or agricultural colleges. Training may be in any recognised professional course in any field except in the following syllabus laid down by the training institution:

- Qualifying training normally limited to one year full-time, or two years part-time, may be given to those who are otherwise eligible and suitable for part-time training.

VOCATIONAL.

For approximately six months, trade students attend an intensive full-time day course at a technical college or approved industrial establishment. During this period they receive a living allowance. On reaching a minimum of 60 per cent. of the skill of a qualified tradesman they are placed in industry for a period of six months, or failing that, according to the trainee's standard of partial proficiency.

AGRICULTURAL.

These trainees take a course of practical training on approved farms — the course depending on the members' previous farming experience, and on the age of the trainee. Single trainees or trainees with one adult dependent, receive £12 7s. 6d. per week, and trainees with more than one adult dependent receive £8 8s. per week. These allowances are paid in respect of work done on farms in the Commonwealth, in part by the Commonwealth, for the farmer's contribution increasing as the trainee's experience increases, and in the Commonwealth's contribution decreasing proportionately. In short refresher courses at Doole College, Victoria, is also available.

TRAINING BENEFITS.

(Full-Time Professional and Vocational Trainees.)

(a) Living allowances: Single trainee — £7 11s. 6d. per week. Married trainee, £7 11s. 6d. per week. Married trainee with one or more children, £8.

(b) Fares allowance: While attending a training establishment, 7s. 6d. per week.

(c) Books and Equipment allowances: Professional trainees are allowed up to £12 10s. a year for books and to £2 5s. a year for equipment. Vocational trainees are allowed £10 a year for books and to £2 5s. a year for equipment or £4 10s. a year for equipment for one adult dependent. Vocational trainees may receive special allowances ranging from £1 per week for the first case of single trainees, to £2 per week for the duration of the course for the second adult dependent. Vocational trainees may receive special allowances ranging from £1 per week for the first case of married trainees, to £2 per week for the second adult dependent. Vocational trainees may receive special allowances ranging from £1 per week for the first case of married trainees, to £2 per week for the second adult dependent.

(d) Other benefits: In addition to the above, full-time trainees, who leave without cause, may receive special allowances ranging from £1 per week for the first case of single trainees, to £2 per week for the duration of the course for the second adult dependent. Vocational trainees may receive special allowances ranging from £1 per week for the first case of married trainees, to £2 per week for the second adult dependent.

HOSPITAL VISITOR

At the February 18 meeting of the committee, it was pointed out that hospital patients were asking why no R.S.L. representatives called on them recently.

A volunteer to act as visitor to hospitals in the Burnley area was co-opted for Mr. S. A. McNamara, who was unable to attend.

He is to be commended for his efforts.

TRAINING BENEFITS

(PART-TIME.)

Part-time trainees do not receive allowances on the same basis as full-time trainees. Their financial assistance is limited to a total expenditure of £75 to meet the cost of tuition fees, books, etc., but if the fees for the course being undertaken exceed £75 (in most other benefits) they may be provided. Part-time training is available in a wide range of courses, including professional and vocational, and in many cases may be undertaken by class attendance or by correspondence.

HOW TO APPLY.

Applications should be lodged with the Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation in the State in which the member resides. The forms are provided for this purpose.

Some limits have been set for the receipt of applications, and applications submitted after the closing date cannot be considered.

In the case of members, applications should be lodged within twelve months after discharge. Widows who require training must apply within twelve months after the death of the member.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.

A condition of the Scheme is that trainees may not be granted both full-time and part-time training for the same course. This means that a trainee who applied for and was granted part-time training would be disqualified from full-time training, even though he was eligible for full-time training at the time of application. Applicants should ensure that their training requirements fully comply with the officers of the Repatriation Commission when lodging their application form.

BETTER PLANS — BETTER HOMES

A modern home is only as functional and attractive as the plan on which it is built. Good design is what you want. A floor plan which suits the needs and desires of your particular family. You'll be wise to entrust the planning of YOUR War Service Home to R. M. Neal and Associates who are acknowledged as designers of W.A.'s most distinctive homes and other buildings. An added feature of their all-weather and streamlined planning service is the attractively modest fee. Their office is situated at 5 Malcolm Street, Perth, (opp. Public Works Dept), and their telephone number is R3533 and R1132.
**AUSTRALIANS IN ROYAL AIR FORCE**

After active service in Korea, three pilots from the Royal Australian Air Force study a model of a Canberra jet bomber at Australia House, London, on their arrival in Great Britain to serve with the Royal Air Force for two years under an exchange scheme. They are from left: Flying Officers H. A. Hughes, of Sydney, W. H. Simmonds, of Bunbury and G. A. Board, of Adelaide. During his six months’ service in Korea, F/O. Simmonds was credited with shooting down an MiG 15.

Commander Is Made Captain

The Minister for the Navy (the Hon. William McMahon) announced recently that Commander J. S. Mesley, D.S.O., R.A.N., at present commanding officer of the destroyer Tobruk, would be appointed Captain (D) of the 16th Destroyer Squadron and commanding officer of the destroyer Anzac, with the acting rank of captain, as from March 23rd.

H.M.A.S. Anzac was serving in Korean waters on a second tour of duty.

Mr. McMahon added that Commander Mesley would be succeeded as commanding officer of Tobruk by Commander I. H. McDonald, R.A.N., now Director of Naval Communications at Navy Office, Melbourne. Commander McDonald was commanding officer of the frigate Shoalhaven which was on occupation duty in Japanese waters with the destroyer Bataan when the Korean war broke out in June, 1950.

Shoalhaven remained in the Korean area until she was relieved by the destroyer Warramunga three months later.

Tobruk, which had already served in Korea from September, 1951, until February, 1952, would relieve Anzac in Korea next June.

**Promotion To Rear-Admiral**

Advice has reached the Navy Office, Melbourne, that Captain Guy Willoughby, R.N., who, as Commodore Willoughby, was Fourth Naval Member of the Australian Naval Board and Commodore (Air) for two years from June, 1948, has been promoted Rear-Admiral.

Shortly after his return to England in 1950, Rear Admiral Willoughby took over command of the Royal Navy’s newest and biggest aircraft carrier EAGLE (45,000 tons) from the contractors, Harland and Wolff Ltd., at Belfast.

In the Second World War he commanded the aircraft carrier ACTIVITY on the supply route to Murmansk.

Mr. McMahon said that the Australian Naval Board had signalled its congratulations to Rear Admiral Willoughby on his promotion.

**Sinking Of The Perth Is Recalled**

The sinking of H.M.A.S. Perth in Banda Straits on the night of February 28, 1942, was commemorated in St. John’s Church, Fremantle on March 1.

Those attending the service included the Governor (Sir Charles Gairdner), the Naval Officer-in-Charge, West Australian Area (Capt. F. Bryce Morris), the commanding officer, H.M.A.S. Leeuwin (Commander C. J. Stephenson) and the Mayor of Fremantle (Mr. W. F. Samson).

Survivors of the Perth, members of the Ex-Naval Men’s Association and a naval party from H.M.A.S. Leeuwin were headed by the Fremantle Highland Pipe Band in a march through the town.

During his address, the Rev. W. Kirby said that the service was the eightieth of its kind and he believed that this generation would come to understand what it meant for men to lay down their lives that others might live.

Wreaths were placed before the memorial tablet during the service and afterwards the Governor was introduced to each of the survivors and subsequently took the salute.

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So to enjoy the unchanging charm of rich, warm, non-fading colours and an everlasting weatherproof roof you will need the product of the Good Earth, "Bristile" Terra Cotta (Clay) TItles.

Manufactured in Western Australia by H. L. Brisbane and Wunderlich Ltd.

Estimates given free of cost or obligation.

Tiling undertaken in any part of the State.
A Split-second Decision By Brig. H. B. Norman, D.S.O., M.C.

Epic Crossing Of The Busu River By The 2/28th Battalion

It has been said that active service is made up of long periods of utter boredom relieved by short periods of intense excitement. That's pretty true. And during those periods of intense excitement a commander is often required to make split-second decisions of great consequence.

Of all such decisions which I had to make during the war there is one which sticks most vividly in my mind: the decision to order 700 men, many of whom could not swim, to cross a raging torrent under enemy fire. Here's the story!

By the 20th January, 1943, the fighting in Papua had ended and attention was turned to New Guinea. For the initiation of his new plan, General MacArthur used almost exclusively the battle-seasoned 7th and 9th Australian Divisions, supported by Australian and American sea and air forces.

BEACHHEAD SECURED.

The Japanese expected a frontal attack on LAE, which wasarrisoned by 8,000 troops in strong defences. Instead, the General attacked from each bank. The 7th Division, flown to NADZAB in the MARKHAM VALLEY, attacked from the West, and the 1st Division, landed on the night of 6th September, near the BURO RIVER, from the BEACH, 16 miles East of LAE.

After securing the beach head, the attack from the East was made along two routes. 24th Brigade moving along the coastal route and 36th Brigade along the inland route. The Advance Guard or spearhead for the advance of the 24th Brigade was the 2/28th Battalion, 96 per cent of which were Western Australians. I had the honour to command this Battalion.

On the 8th September, the Battalion arrived at the BUSU RIVER.

ASSEMBLY AREA.

The BUSU, with the MARKHAM RIVER, comprises the main drainage system for mountainous North-eastern NEW GUINEA. At the mouth, where the 2/28th Battalion assembled, it is 700 yards wide, broken by several channels by gravelly shoals and a small island carrying tall Kunai grass. A channel under the West bank, carries the main stream, about 50 yards wide and up to 6 feet in depth. A shallow bar across the mouth narrows, the channel where it enters HUO GULF.

Half the regiment had spent the previous night in a torrent which ragged through a small island, and the sun's rays, pouring into the Gulf, to form a huge expanse of turbid water.

It should be explained that infantry are not expected to swim into the attack. Before bridging a river such as this a bridgehead must be captured. To do this assault boats are used. In this case they were not available. Even if they were not available, we would have washed them down to the bar.

So here was my problem. A fast-flowing river in flood ... the bridgehead was not complete, no boats, no bridges, no ford. The crossing on foot would be hazardous, but not impossible. Not to cross would mean certain capture on our side of the BUSU...

UNIT TRADITION.

About 3,000 yards up-stream the 28th Brigade had also been halted, and the BUSU and the 28th Brigade Commander reported the river to be impassable. It was only at that moment that somewhere on the Division front bridgehead should be established, because if the Ninth Division became involved, it might be possible to consolidate greater forces against the 7th Division, which had landed at NADZAB, 20 miles East of LAE.

To complicate my decision I remembered that a little over a year previously, in the desert at EL ALAMEIN, this same battalion had crossed the minefield at RUIN RIDGE on foot, and had been cut off from supplies. Nearly a whole battalion had been lost in that fatal operation. The same thing could easily happen if the bridgehead was not established, but with the help of the far bank of the BUSU. But RUIN RIDGE, ending though it did in division, had established a unit tradition. I decided that we must cross the BUSU.

A special order issued by Army Headquarters, advising the bar to be the only crossing place, would, so obviously, be known to the enemy, that crossing there would be court martial.

NIGHT PATROLS.

Two Patrols led by two experienced Officers, Lt. Warren and Lt. Eddie Bennett, both reported—"impassable to crossing on foot. No signs of enemy, no signs of movement, no indication of enemy's position in the area.

The patrol was continued through the night without success. At dawn it was decided to make a cable across from the island but as the leading man emerged from the cover of the Kunai grass he was picked off by enemy riflemen near the bar.

By putting down 3-inch Mortar and Vickers machine gun fire along the edge of the far bank, the Japanese further back and gain some respite from enemy fire in the early stage of the assault. As to the point of contact intelligence had told us 5.30 p.m. was generally "Rice Time" aollo repairing out would allow time for crossing in daylight and immediate reinforcement to cover our consolidation.

Somehow this river had to be crossed and the crossing of the river was only one way which stood any chance of success. Further more the torrent was increasing in size and volume so this means days of waiting.

I decided, therefore, after getting in touch with 3-inch Mortar and Vickers Machine Gun fire, to attack from the island at 4.30. The attack to be carried out by companies in extended line, bayonets fixed and rifles at the "High Port."

THE ADVANCE.

A drizzling rain was falling as I waited behind the Commander of the Advance Guard company and heard the orders. "Three minutes to go. Check your gear. Then, one minute our lip's pass out." Finally, "Advance."

"Rats of Tobruk" and "Thieves of Alamein," our mottoes over their cover, extending to right and left in almost perfect line as they faced the torrent. A dull gleam came from their bayonets. The supporting fire held up the water. The river was a shingle bed. As they moved forward to attack, the rain seemed almost impossible.

Soon they were knee-deep in water, feeling their way with the sole of their foot over the stony bottom. As the water deepened, the torrent swelled. Megan tall horse tail hair, now being hurled towards the bar, only thin hair and weapons showed. The river waters swept the far bank where the strong held a gun and pulled their colour. Our man across was the Company Commander, Captain "Pat" Carroll. Some were borne under water, their hopes for survival dashed. They plunged into two trees, one dead, one green that was them, under fire, in the middle. They took shelter in a small gully, not more than 10 yards wide. The enemy was at the top of the head of the gully.

FIRST ENEMY FIRE.

These, pounded on one side and breakers on the other, and in their fight, drew the first enemy fire. As they moved forward, a machine gun sited well back to cover beach and bar. From this position, three light machine guns opened up, with their fire sustained by rifles and machine guns opening up as the enemy tried to cover the whole way across the river, instead of taking cover short of the fire. It was obvious all equipmen could not be carried across the crossing. Equipment was to be left behind. Sea gear, weapons, ammunition, and some rations were all that could be taken.

BRIG. H. B. NORMAN.

My personal reconnaissance indicated the best, most effective way to approach the river was directly from the island.

The Patrols had been unable to find anything better upstream within our right boundary and the bar could not be considered. Not only was it by the Japanese, as indicated by footprints, but troops crossing there would be so strung out, on a front of one or two men, as to render them most vulnerable to enemy fire. If any got through the water, the small numbers would be cut down in the stop.

Owing to the island and a slight bend, there appeared to be a definite current towards the far bank, very little further down stream. Also, the far bank was entirely stripped of vegetation.

FORMING-UP PLACE.

The Kunai grass on the island gave protection from observation, and the far bank was an ideal forming-up place near the far bank. Any other crossing meant the troops would be under observation the whole way across the river, instead of taking cover short of the fire. It was obvious all equipment could not be carried across the crossing. Equipment was to be left behind. Sea gear, weapons, ammunition, and some rations were all that could be taken.

Into the water. It was a most classic example of perfect discipline and comradeship. Once across, and NCO's, oblivious of fire, directed the formation of chains. Chopped down bushes, rifles, human chains with linked arms, accouched those hard-pressed. By devious means the whole battalion crossed. Inevitably, many weapons were lost and some men went down with their weapons, fighting the momentary enemy, the flood, as grimly as the Japanese.

The REORGANISATION. Reorganisation was difficult, but now it was a hundred times safer. Companies and platoons had marched on for 25 miles to 15ft. high and darkness was falling. Yet, by 7 p.m. the company commander reported he was in position. We had not gained as much ground as anticipated.

THE RSL SHOP

CLOTHING

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FOOTWEAR

Blankets .29/6

English Dark Grey 60 x 80.

Trousers .44/6

All wool Khaki Battledress style, 4 pockets.

Cotton Corduroy

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Khaki cord Trousers, regular and stout sizes.

RUBBER BOOTS

Ankle Style 34/6. 42/6

Knee Boots . 41/6

Thigh Boots .59/6

R.A.N. BOOTS

59/6

Genuine naval issue, soft sole light weight, soft boots, in wide fittings.

Work Hats 17/9

Wide brim working Hats in Khaki 8/9.

S.OCKMAN. 30/6

Wide brim hats.

The R.S.L. Trading Co. 570 MAY ST. PERTH. PHONE "HAMP" 460. "HAMP" 460
as we hoped, but we had a perimeter and were in a position to fight.
The list of "missing" during the night and in the morning, was greatly reduced. One man, Ale Wilson, taken hundreds of yards out to sea, was washed up behind the Japanese lines. He rejoined his company by swimming, wading and crawling back to safety during the night and in the morning, was taken hundreds of yards out to sea, was washed up behind the Japanese lines. He rejoined his company by swimming, wading and crawling back to safety during the night and in the morning.

CONTACT WITH BRIGADE.
Sgt. Croucher of Bathurst swam back across the river to inform the Brigade Commander that the Battalion was across and re-organized. The rain was now constant and heavy. As fast as men dug, the holes filled with water. They had no protection against the downpour, their tobacco was soaked and there was no prospect of a smoke on the morrow. So intense was the cold, men cuddled back against back, absorbing warmth from one another.

Three attempts were made to fire line across without success, but members of the pioneer platoon, engineers, and a volunteer swimmer from 2/43rd Battalion, took across a light cord which they hauled a telephone cable over and for the first time in eight hours, I was able to report to my Brigadier. Vivid-lightning and peals of thunder interrupted bursts of machine-gun fire and occasional mortar bomb explosions.

Daylight revealed our perimeter to be about 550 yards by 200 yards extending from the beach on our left, back to the Buua. Captain Newbery's company on the beach flank was harassed by grenades, mortars and machine-gun fire from positions in a swamp fronting the company. Lt. John Brooks's platoon from this company, supported by another platoon, was ordered to attack these positions. Wading in swamp, some up to the armpits, they inflicted a massacre. Sixty-eight Japanese dead were counted and many were never seen in the heavy Kunai and water. The Flotain's casualties, of all kinds, were 14.

This opened the way for our continued advance: an advance which ended six days later in Lae. The Battalion throughout, was aided by Japan's crack troops, the Special Naval Landing Parties. That crossing of the Buua River paved the way for the advance of the 9th Division on Lae. Many were limping on feet from which the skin had been soared, all were fatigued, but never was morale higher.

At the Buua the Battalion proved that the fit, well-trained infantryman can go anywhere, under any condition, at any time and it also proved Field Marshal Sir John Monash's statement, "Without infantry you can do nothing, nothing at all."
In Peace and War!

BEER is Best

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Quality FIAT Cars

STATION WAGON

CONVERTIBLE
(Convertible—60 m.p.g.) All-imported, all steel body work. Lock-up luggage space. Safety glass. Twelve-volt equipment. FIAT independent front suspension. Four-speed transmission. Simple to park . . . easy to handle . . . Truly a "Big Car in Miniature." Four-wheel hydraulic brakes.

UTILITY
All-imported steel body, cab front. Load 660lb. plus driver. Four-wheel Hydraulic Brakes. Interior light and heating. 50 m.p.g.

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560 Wellington Street, Perth
Phone BA 2921
While members of the Second Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment were marching in Melbourne recently before leaving for Korea, members of the advance party were being issued with winter clothing in Japan. Left Capt. D. Butler, of Perth, in a heavy jacket of the type used in Korea. Right Pte. K. Freeman of Carnarvon, dressed in his winter issue and carrying the remainder of his new outfit.

### Services Canteen Trust Fund

**Palmer And Dawson Memorial Bursary**

Flying Officers Palmer and Dawson were during the 1939/45 war flying "Mosquito" Aircraft in Squadron 464.

In March, 1945, Denmark was in the hands of the Germans. The Danish Resistance Movement advised the British that the German Gestapo records concerning the Danish people were kept in certain large buildings in the towns of Copenhagen, Aarhus and Odense, and it was very important that these buildings with their records should be destroyed. To destroy the buildings by bombing without also destroying the surrounding buildings occupied by the Danish people was a very difficult task and meant that the aircraft crew would have to fly in daylight almost at roof top level making themselves an easy target for the anti-aircraft defences.

At 6.30 a.m. on 21st March the "Mosquito" planes piloted by Flying Officers Palmer and Dawson with a number of other planes took off from an advanced base to make the Copenhagen attack and nothing further was ever heard of either Flying Officers Palmer or Dawson or the two R.A.F. aircrew who were with them. Four other R.A.F. aircrew also lost their lives in this operation.

The attack was highly successful and most if not all of the Gestapo records were destroyed. At the conclusion of the war the Danish people wished to signify their gratitude to the R.A.F. and the R.A.A.F. for its work during the war on behalf of Denmark and they contributed a sum of money in special memory of the eight members who lost their lives in the difficult and dangerous attacks made on the Gestapo Headquarters at Copenhagen, Aarhus and Odense.

A proportion of this money has been placed with the Trustees of the Services Canteen Trust Fund who have established an education bursary to commemorate the memory of the late Flying Officers Palmer and Dawson.

As Flying Officer Palmer lived in Victoria and Flying Officer Dawson in New South Wales the Bursary is awarded alternately to a child resident in New South Wales and then to a child in Victoria.

The bursary for 1953 has been awarded to Barry Hewish, 1 Patent-son-street, East Geelong, Victoria. Barry is the son of the late Sgt. A. L. Hewish who whilst serving with the R.A.F. was killed in action after returning from a raid over Germany.

### A Caravan Park Suggested

The rapid increase in land values at and around Kwinana had presented the R.S.L. with an opportunity of putting some of its property to profitable use, said a Vice-president (Mr. W. Lomnic) at the January 20 meeting of the State executive.

He reminded the executive that the R.S.L. held 17 acres of land between Rockingham and Point Peron on a 25 year lease from the Commonwealth Government.

The land was obtained about three years ago at a peppercorn rental.

Mr. Lomnic suggested that a bulldozer could clear the land and a caravan park be installed.

In time a holiday camp for League members could take its place, he said.

A sub-committee was set up to study these recommendations in the light of the added value now placed on the land.
These crunchy, nutty-flavoured biscuits are delicious with that morning or afternoon cup of tea.

MILLS & WARE'S

GRANITA

There's more in ADA than meets the eye!

"ADA" BRITISH Wash. Machine

This quality machine has electric wringer, automatic draining pan, handles 71 lb. clothes at a time. A.C.D.C. 220, 32v. available (immediate delivery) guaranteed.

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TERMS

ATLAS SPECIAL

4-piece Bedroom Suite
£8.4/- / 7/-

Dining Suite
£6.10/-

SPECIAL RUGS

at 32/- ch.

MT. HAWTHORN'S ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Mt. Hawthorn Auxiliary was held last month and while the attendance was not as large as expected, it could be considered satisfactory.

The membership position remains hopeful, the number of financials at the end of the year being 441.

The Amelioration Fund showed a credit of £736/6/ and the general fund £317/15/6. This was a very creditable performance, especially in view of the fact that both funds were overdrawn at the beginning of the year.

The Building Fund finished up with a credit of £143/0/6 and now brings the total of the Building Fund to approximately £4,000.

The following members of the Sub-Branch answered the last "Tally" during the year: J. Woolhead, B. Haslam, J. Ferguson, F. C. Gray, E. Jones, and C. Goodnow.

The Sub-Branch wishes to accord its thanks to the following for their special assistance: "Nobby" Clark, Bob Gribble, Ernie Cockcroft, Bill Wrenn, "Pop" Myers, Allan Lofstein, and Mrs. Lofstein.

The President extends thanks to the following for their interest in visits to C.H.L.: Messdames Sandicott and Bevan, Messers. J. Hodgkiss, E. McGrigor, Pop" Myers, Allan Lofstein, Ernie Cockcroft, Jack Ritchie, Les Lowe, Ted Dutton, and Eric Cooley.

These women whose magnificent self-sacrificing service to the 1914-18 digger and the community must now be forgotten.

FIRST WORLD WAR NURSING SISTERS

Mr. G. W. HOLLAND, Federal President of the R.B.L today expressed concern that provision could not be made for treatment in Commonwealth hospitals for aged nursing sisters of the First World War.

"In many cases the plight of these women is desperate," Mr. Holland said, "and the fact that many are between 70 and 80 years of age is one grave consideration for the Government. Many of them have no close relatives and the only accommodation available is in places of sickness and convalescence i.e. to private nursing homes at rates of a minimum of twelve guineas a week. Several instances have been brought to the League's notice. The number is small and the need is great. It is sincerely hoped that the Government will make adequate provision for the Royal Hospital treatment of these most deserving women whose magnificent self-sacrificing service to the 1914-18 digger and the community must never be forgotten."

FROM THE LISTENING POSTS

On arrival at the Hall, wreaths will be laid in memory of fallen World War I diggers and the main service will commence at 3 p.m.

The President, Mr. J. White, will conduct the service and will be assisted by his clergy and the other members.

Highgate Sub-Branch.

To make sure of winning an election it is necessary to be first of all a member of Highgate. The first step is to attend the meeting on Thursday night at the lodge at 8 p.m. The election will be for the next three years. There are currently 21 members and 200 members required. The meeting will be attended by the Provincial President, Mr. J. White, and other members of the Lodge.

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NEW SECRETARY FOR A.R.M.S. GAMES

At a well-attended meeting of Presidents and Secretaries, at Amanzoo House on March 11, an announcement was made to appoint a member of the Staff at Amanzoo as Secretary to the Games Committee, with general consent. These in attendance agreed that this step should do much to stimulate interest in these games and bring about conditions more satisfactory to all concerned.

It is proposed to hold a meeting of interested parties in the near future.

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Call, Write or Phone: W1539
For All Water Pressure, Broken Pedestal Pans, Cistern and Roof Repairs, Sewerage Connections.

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Will supply all your Medical Requirements, Prescriptions accurately dispensed.
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Hams & Bacon

March, 1953
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For an excellent Meal in Happy Surroundings

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Cheaper for Cash

We aren't trying to sell you anything, but we are trying to make it easier for you to buy.

COMMONWEALTH
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THAT'S A BRANCH OR AN AGENT IN YOUR DISTRICT

When Writing to Advertisers, Mention "The Listening Post"
MT. LAWLEY-INGLEWOOD SUB-BRANCH

GENERAL MEETINGS: First Tuesday each month. GAMES NIGHTS: Third Tuesday each month.

SUPPER AND REFRESHMENTS.
Meeting Place: 6 Grosvenor-road, Mt. Lawley.

Large Donation List.
The Returned Ex-Service women's sub-branch has arranged various functions during the year and has raised nearly £100 for charitable purposes. Particularly they have interested themselves in entertaining the ex-Korean lads and have made a very good job of it. The special task of the sub-branch is to arrange alternate months meetings of the sub-branch providing refreshments and acting as hostesses for supper at the end of the year. Although the attendance at meetings averaged over 30, it is felt that more Ex-Service women could attend. The new secretary is B. M. Neale.

More Volunteers Wanted.
The volume of work completed to date, by the Returned Ex-Service sub-branch, in connection with the Honour Avenue, is very satisfactory. The volume of work to be completed is very considerable. If a few volunteers would come forward and assist the committee and the comparatively few others who help, the undertaking would become a 'Task of the Past' in no time.

What about advising Lionel Parks, Max Brice or Shy Harvey that you are willing to help? On one Sunday morning out of the remaining 43 this year.

On Sunday, 15th February, the Warden of the War Memorial, Sir Ross McDonald, handed over to the incoming Warden, Mr. R. A. Good, also at the Annual meeting of the P.O.W. Association conducted their annual pilgrimage to our 'Sons of Old Quesnig. Sir. Ross expressed appreciation of his happy associations with the sub-branch, and congratulated the President "Ted" Townshead on the excellent manner in which the sub-branch carried out the work of the year, as well as their magnificent support for the annual "Blinded Veterans Day" luncheon.

Wednesday, 18th March, will be the next luncheon at Boanns at 1 p.m. The guest speaker on this occasion will be Mr. B. Stepheison, M.C.P., B.A., F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P., A.I.L.A., who is visiting this State to assist and advise on the problem of town planning. Your attendance at this luncheon is earnestly requested. Those who unfortunately missed the last luncheon missed a very good show.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, 17th March. What about taking an active part in sub-branch affairs? Jack Zampatti and his 5 R.O.D. "gans" set an example which could well be imitated.

The Partially Blinded Soldiers' Association.
At the recent 12th annual meeting, Mr. C. Graham was re-elected as the President and the position of Secretary which had been held by the late J. Macdonald was filled by Mr. P. Gillam acting as secretary and treasurer. Mr. R. W. Hills was elected as assistant secretary to the Treasurer.

Mr. Scrivener and the treasurer called on Dr. McWhae regarding the naming of the building. Jack Zampatti and his 5 R.O.D. "gans" set an example which could well be imitated.

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A Camp For Ex-Servicemen

The State Executive is giving consideration to the possibility of bringing together a number of ex-servicemen who would live under army conditions in a camp in the metropolitan area, during the weekend which includes the Coronation Day holiday. On Saturday, May 30th, to Tuesday, June 2nd, inclusive. This proposition is in the embryo stage at present.

Further assistance from sub-branches and Women's Auxiliary to the above appeal are gratefully acknowledged in the following list:

Previously acknowledged £305.19/
Kellerberrin R.S.I. £25.
Perth R.S.I. £25.
Mt. Barker, Women's Auxiliary £10.
North Perth R.S.I. £5.15.
Financially £13.
Roleystone-Karragullen R.S.I.
Nedlands R.S.I. £5.
Boyup Brook R.S.I. £5.
Cawarram R.S.I. £5.15.
Brook R.S.I. £7.10.11.
Girling, Women's Auxiliary £3.
Boulder, Women's Auxiliary £3.12.
Carramar R.S.I. £2.12.
Meekatharra R.S.I. £2.12.
Merredin R.S.I. £29.
Balingup, Women's Auxiliary £10.10.
Northam, Women's Auxiliary £5.5.
Bayswater, Women's Auxiliary £5.
Lake Grace, Women's Auxiliary £5.
Karratha R.S.I. £2.12.
Kununoppin R.S.I. £25.5.
Donnybrook R.S.I. £3.11.6.
Boyup Brook, Women's Auxiliary £2.2.
Bent-Palmarya, Women's Auxiliary £5.
Riverton R.S.I. £12.6.
Total: £484.10.11.

S.H.C. Asked To Purchase Land

The R.S.I. will recommend to the State Housing Commission that it purchase 25 blocks of land for the erection of war service homes in the Rockingham area, and that it obtain land in the Townsite of Medina for the same purpose.

It was pointed out at the last meeting of the State executive that with the ex-servicemen all relief at Kwinana, many ex-servicemen will be employed there.

The erection of war service homes would relieve these men of housing difficulties.

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- Jack Manning, Rev. Kell
- Ray Stewart, Jim Morrison
Preparation For The Battle Of Britain

By Air Marshal Sir Robert Saundby
In “The Aeroplane”

I still come across people who believe that little preparation had been made for the Battle of Britain before the outbreak of war in September, 1939, and that, even then, not much was done until May 10, 1940, when Mr. Churchill became Premier and Lord Beaverbrook formed the Ministry of Aircraft Production.

Few people, perhaps, hold so extreme a view as this, but many are inclined to think that the aircraft, weapons and methods by which the Battle was won were mainly last-minute improvisations.

The truth of the matter is, of course, very different. We began to think about the problems of the air defence of this country as soon as the “run-down” after World War I had been arrested, and the newly formed Air Staff had settled down to its work. For some years, indeed, its activities were considered, as it was money was available for the provision of anything more concrete.

In 1924 the whole of the Royal Air Force, at home and abroad, possessed only two fighter squadrons, and no bomber squadrons at all worth the name. Germany had been disarmed, Russia was remote, while France and Italy were our allies in the recent war.

The skies seemed clear, and matters of defence scarcely entered the heads of the politicians.

The Two Formations of A.D.G.B.

Concrete preparations for air defence began in 1925. In that year the Government, alarmed at the very low level at which our once-powerful Air Force had sunk, authorised a scheme for a new Air Command to be called the Air Defence of Great Britain. It was intended that this Command should build up, in due course, a force of 32 squadrons. Realising that our air defence did not depend solely on fighter squadrons, it was to be organised in two formations: the Fighting Area with 17 squadrons, and the Bombing Area with 35.

This decision was the outcome of a policy, accepted by the Government, of providing itself with an air force not inferior to that of any foreign power within striking distance of our shores. At that time, the only air force which could come within this definition was that of France, and no-one in the world believed that the French would be in the least likely to attack us. Thus the growth of the new Command, in the absence of any real threat to our security, was very slow, though everybody realised that some expansion was necessary if the Royal Air Force was not to fade away as a fighting force.

By 1930, after five years, a few fighter and bomber squadrons had been formed, but in 1931, the Disarmament Conference held at Geneva under the auspices of the League of Nations began to exert an influence on our defence policy. Among the proposals being discussed were the total prohibition of air bombardment and restriction of all military aircraft to an unladen weight of 3,000 lb.

The Treasury, which had already made preparations for these proposals might be accepted by the nations of the world, took the line that these restrictions would be impossible for bombers and, possibly, even for fighters. They refused to authorise new specifications for military aircraft, for whatever purpose, which exceeded an unladen weight of 3,000 lb. In practice, the only type for which the new Air Staff requirements were permitted was a small general-purpose aircraft, suitable for air control work in undeveloped countries.

Thus, by 1932, very little had been done. “If the trumpet give forth an uncertain sound, whom shall prepare himself for the battle?”

The problem of air defence has two main aspects. It is first necessary to ensure that the fighter can intercept the bomber, and secondly, intercepting it being a difficult matter, it is essential that a fighter should have an armament powerful enough to ensure that, when it has made contact, it can kill the bomber “stone-dead.”

An Invitation

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PERTH OFFICE: 48 ST. GEORGE’S TERRACE, PERTH.
L. S. COX, State Manager.
BATTLE OF BRITAIN (Continued)

formation of three twin-gun fighters. I also put forward a greatly simplified tactical system. This essay won the prize and, in accordance with the rules, I was appointed to the air staff of the German High Command. In my estimation, it was impossible to defeat the enemy. No such policy was adopted by the other nations, who were completely defeated and finally had to beg for peace. The French and British, who were completely defeated, were forced to sign the armistice, which was a defeat for the Allies. The fall of the Front and the retreat of the British were a complete defeat for the Allies. The fall of the Front and the retreat of the British were a complete defeat for the Allies.

The Rest of the Problem

We had now made preparations for a high-speed, powerful armored fighter, but the other half of it is now ready for the production line into the position to attack the bomber—remained to be seen. We needed more submarines and destroyers, and we had to make good our losses in acoustic. Acoustical mirrors which could, in favourable circumstances, pick up the sound of the battle were needed. They were to be placed in the two aircraft factories, still more miles away, built and tested. They were certainly better than the ears of the Observer Corps watchers, but could not give early enough warning to the Command to stop the bombers. Some new approach to the problem was needed.

This took the form of radar, or "radio-location," as we then called it. This experimental station at Bawsey and soon started tracking the flights of Coastal Command aircraft over the Channel and the North Sea, and also tracked the enemy's activities. By 1937, we had a device which could track the enemy's aircraft by its radio signal and send the information to the Command. This was a new approach to the problem, and it showed that the Command could control the battle.

When the war broke out we had no self-sealing tanks in our aircraft. This caused serious losses, so in our early attempts against the German warships this was not an oversight, but a deliberate omission. It had been ruled, at a very high level, that the addition of another brand of self-sealing tanks would be unacceptable. The decision proved unwise and was immediately reversed. As the meantime, considerable preparations had been made, and a large-scale plan was put into operation on April 9, when Hitler invaded Denmark and Scaniaavia, when all our operational aircraft were self-sealing tanks. A modification such as this is a vital operational necessity. It was absolutely vital to all aircraft, no matter what difficulties may be caused to the production. A modification had to be made so as to avoid the two accidents which occurred in the course of events.

The first accident was the Air Marshal Sir Arthur Harris' story that the operation was a failure. The second accident was the modification, upon which he was insisting. The third accident, the crash of the bomber from the production line. He said: "Well I hope you've got the bug. But if I have to lose fifty bombers I prefer to lose them that way instead of twenty."

With the completion of the Ministry of Aircraft Production in May, 1940, we had no difficulty over this question of operational fitness. The Ministry was formed just when we were trying to obviate faults in several types of aircraft by incorporating modifications that battle experience had shown to be vital. But the key question in the New Ministry was mostly civilians chosen for their "drive" and business acumen. An aeroplane was just as aerodynamic as it was practical and the aircraft in question were determined to produce as many aeroplanes as possible. Such matters as battle-worthiness, vital operational modifications, and an adequate supply of spare parts meant nothing to them, and they were dismissed as second-rate operators.

A common armed Spitfire

It took time that could ill be spared to persuade them that we could not hope to match the Germans for numbers, and that we must have quality to win the battle. On that day, those who had laboured long to prepare for the struggle saw their visions of total victory. We had defeated the giant, and Hitler had set foot upon the road that would lead him to an inglorious war cress in his bunker in Berlin.

The Air Ministry had made mistakes, and had taken its full share of "knocks" in its relatively short existence. But it made few mistakes in the preparations for the Battle of Britain, and it is right that credit should be given where it is due.

Not long ago I received a letter from a distinguished retired Army officer, in which he wrote: "There is no doubt that history will show that the major element, apart from our pilots, was the Hurricane and Spitfire ready for the Battle of Britain. The Hurricane and Spitfire were ready. It is a remarkable story of how things worked out for the Battle of Britain. A.R.A.F., Radio

Eased the sting of pain

Mr. V. J. Holder, 132 Donald Street, Fairy Meadow, South Coast, writes.

"I wish to express thanks and gratitude to those wonderful Bex powders for relieving my throat, which was subject to Tonsilitis (not severe case, but bad enough). The method I used was to take the powders by direction of the packeta for colds, etc. Bex acts directly on the inflamed throat and also internally by its double action against any air force. I am also convinced that it is more a matter of flexibility of mind than the part of the production engineers than anything else. Many a time have I seen the dire consequences of insisting upon an "operational" modification but in practice, they have never fully carried the day, even when not in the least. Bex has been due, no doubt, to the cooperation and ingenuity of those responsible for production. And so, when we came to the supreme test of battle, it was a small force of superb quality, the product of eight years of thinking, experimenting, building and training, moulded from the finest human material and splendidly led, that we pitted against the vast mass of the Luftwaffe, flush against the German line. We were a small force, but it succeeded in winning one of the decisive battles of the world.

"As eased the stinging pain and throaty soreness"
League Think-Legislation Inadequate

There Is Very Little Preference In The Preference Act

While preference to ex-servicemen in employment has been an important plank in Government policy for years since World War I, and was reflected in pre-war State Preference Acts, it has never been adequately effected by Legislation. The Commonwealth Re-establishment and Employment Act which replaced States' Legislation, contains no preference on ex-service employees.

In actual fact this Act has resulted in a loss of preference.

The major R.S.L. objection is in the matter of preference in promotions. Irrespective of the suitability of an ex-service man for promotion in any Government, industrial or commercial concern the Act does not stipulate that the employer must give the ex-service man any preference over non-ex-service employees.

Another major objection is the absence of any provision for preference in retirement. The Act makes no reference whatever to this most important aspect of employment; irrespective of a man's services, he can be retrenched in spite of his ability, and non-ex-service men can be retained on any staff.

In this regard the Federal Government's Public Service policy is strictly adhered to. The R.S.L. feel this preference to ex-servicemen is within its employ, yet it has continued to retrench, and the retrenchment continues. It should be noted that the State Preference Acts should also be made.

Another important matter raised is that the Act does not prevent an employer from engaging a non-ex-service man as a labourer one day (providing no ex-service men apply) and then promoting him as his chief executive officer the next week without any ex-service man having a right to claim preference in respect of the latter job.

NEW BILL REQUIRED

There is no valid reason for any further delay, and the League is hopeful that its request will be given in 1935; the easiest way of meeting our wishes is to have a Bill which has been drafted by the Federal Executive of the R.S.L. placed on the Statute Book.

Sub-branches are becoming increasingly alive to the necessity for seeing that the preference principle is observed in public employment. For a few years the principle had not been adhered to strictly, because of the abundance of unemployment offer-

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There was more money available on the home front, and the differences in the rewards of the one and the other were too small to make the service-man feel himself a fool for having conned the uniform.

Somewhere for the late days of World War II that the war was one of production, and that the man at the fathe or the bench at home was doing his bit equally with the serviceman, if not better.

On the home front, however, the production man got overtime. Not only that, he got "danger money." There were dozens of ways of adding to the weekly income.

Then there were those who were in production—men who did get overtime, and another one—holding on tightly till the war had been won for R.S.L."

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