League Supports Admission Of More Japanese Pearl Divers

Without Japanese divers Western Australia's important pearling industry would die.

The State President (Mr. Chaney) said this in a statement on the proposal to admit Japanese to Australia to work with the Broome pearling fleets.

The development of the north-west was of vital importance to the whole of Australia, Mr. Chaney said, and the pearling industry played an important part in this development.

"Steps have been taken to use divers from Greece and the near waters of Australia, but they have not proved successful," Mr. Chaney went on.

"Therefore we must either either prepare to scrap the pearling industry or accept the Commonwealth assurance that the security of Australia is not endangered by the introduction of these men.

"The industry as a dollar earner will surely, in the long run, do more for the defence of Australia than the apparent alternative—the ending of the industry by depriving it the services of the only men who have proven capable of economic and efficient pearling diving.

"The matter, in any case, appears a small problem when compared with the posthumous in Australian waters by Japanese over whom the Commonwealth has no control.

At its last meeting the State Executive endorsed Mr. Chaney's remarks.

Broome Opinion

Before issuing a statement Mr. Chaney first sought the opinion of the Broome Sub-branch.

The following message was received from the sub-branch president (Mr. E. Gould):

"At a special meeting the sub-branch resolved that, while members do not wholeheartedly approve of the introduction of further Japanese divers into the pearling industry, in view of the facts that 35 Japanese were admitted two years ago and adequate trained labour is not available from other countries it is not considered that the admission of a further limited number of Japanese would be a menace to our security.

"It is apparent that without a supply of specialised labour the industry must decline, with a consequent loss of revenue to the country and with disastrous results to Broome.

"We strongly recommend, however, that the Australian Immigration authorities take all precautions to see that the new men are thoroughly screened before they leave Japan.

(Emphasis added.)

Air Minister To Act On Insurance

Last year the Federal Congress of the R.S.L. supported the following resolution:

"That this Congress deplores the business methods of life insurance companies who will not consider proposals on the lives of air crew members of the R.A.A.F. or will only accept the proposals if additional premiums are paid.

"The League requests the Federal Government to convene a meeting between representatives of the Underwriters' Association and the League to discuss the whole position."

The League has since received advice from the Minister for Air (Mr. Trowley) that he is bringing the resolution to the notice of his colleague the Minister for Defence for his consideration.

R.S.L. has important part to play says retiring admiral

Sir John Collins, retiring First Naval Member and Chief of the Naval Staff, told members at a reception in Anzac House ballroom during his recent visit to Perth.

Sir John, who was loudly cheered as he rose to speak, said that co-ordination of the services in war time was vital, and any organisation that united them in peace time was performing a considerable service.

For that reason, he said, he always put a great deal of pleasure from attending R.S.L. functions.

In the course of his remarks Sir John quoted Admiral Collins praised the work of the Merchant Navy and those civilians associated with the services in an administrative capacity.

A number of distinguished guests attended the reception to Admiral Collins, as well as members of the R.S.L. State Executive, presidents and secretaries of metropolitan sub-branches and representatives of unit associations.

The State President, Mr. F. C. Chaney, outlined Sir John's distinguished naval career and wished the Admiral and Lady Collins an enjoyable life in the future.

His remarks were supported by the State Vice-President, Mr. W. Lonnie.

Farewell parade

Sir John took the salute at a farewell parade of the ship's company at Fingal Naval Depot (Victoria) on December 20. More than 1,500 officers, ratings and WRANS took part in the parade and heard an address from Admiral Collins.

At the cadet-midshipmen at the Royal Australian Naval College were on leave and did not take part in the parade. Admiral Collins was one of the first cadet-midshipmen to enter the College when it was opened in 1913.

THANK

Secretary, R.S.L. Perth.

Dear Sir,

Please convey to the State President and members my appreciation of the reception given to me at Anzac House.

I think your League most sincerely for the honour they did to me and the Royal Australian Navy, and would thank the president for the very kind references he made to my wife and which were conveyed to her after the reception.

(Signed) JOHN COLLINS
Vice Admiral.
Faversham seeks help from all members

Chairs, a power lawnmower, clothing and labour for working bees are some of the urgent requirements for the Faversham War Veterans’ Home.

Chairs at present being used in the Home’s recreation room are in a most dilapidated state.

The Home committee wishes to replace them with chairs upholstered in washable plastic.

At least 20 of these chairs, which sell wholesale at £6/6s/each, are needed.

The committee suggests that 20 sub-branches might be able to donate a chair each.

A small metal plate, bearing the donor’s name, would be inserted into each chair.

Clothing Shortage

After meeting their other commitments some of the veterans at the home are feeling the pinch when the time comes to replace personal clothing.

The committee suggests that many R.S.L. members might have good, usable clothing which is doing little more than providing food for moths.

Laundred or dry-cleaned clothes would be most acceptable to Faversham.

Alternatively, when members are buying shirts or underclothing they might care to buy an additional item for Faversham.

Labour Costs

A great deal of maintenance work and building improvements have been necessary at Faversham.

Labour costs are by far the biggest factors to be considered and voluntary labour is regarded as the only solution to some of the main problems.

Urgent jobs include the creation of new poultry sheds and runs, the preparation of land for vegetable gardens and the re-decoration, stripping of walls, painting and repairs to existing accommodation.

The help of sub-branch members is sought in these matters and the Faversham Home Committee would be grateful if anybody could spare a few hours for this purpose, would get in touch with them, or the House Superintendent, by telephone or letter.

Donations

Since the January issue of Listening Post, the following donations have been received:

J. V. Hands, Wyalkatchem (periodicals); Fingrup Women’s Auxiliary (books); Waroona Women’s Auxiliary (periodicals); Katanning Sub-branch (periodicals); H. J. Sykes (pressed bay); Red Cross (tobacco).

Mundaring Changes Schedule

It was decided at the last meeting of the Mundaring and Districts R.S.L. on January 24 that in future the monthly meetings would be held on the fourth Friday of each month.

The first will be held on Friday, March 25 in the newly acquired Mundaring Station Buildings.

Members are asked to remember the date and are also advised that the annual meeting and smoko will be held on Saturday, February 26, at 7.45 p.m.

Following by the catering arrangements this function should live up to the high standards set in past years.

A big crowd is expected and members are asked to make a special effort to attend.

Those members who have not renewed their subscriptions are asked to do so at the annual smoko.

Mundaring

For your meeting place

Mundaring

The Listening Post

February, 1955

Shenton Park
R.S.L Holds Annual Dinner

Women were present at the Shenton Park sub-branch’s Christmas party for the first time last December.

Possibly for that reason the gathering was one of the most successful the sub-branch had enjoyed.

Among the guests were the State President (Mr. F. C. Chaney), the State President of the Women’s Auxiliary (Mrs. Stockman), Mr. C. W. Court, M.L.A., and Mrs. Court, C.R., Honorary Treasurer the Sub-Neighbourhood Council, and Mrs. Mackie.

In the chair was the sub-branch president (Mr. C. Kleeman).

Presentation

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation by Mr. Chaney of a Certificate of Service to Mr. J. B. Ball, first vice-president of the sub-branch.

The certificate had an honoured place in many homes and the recipient could well be proud of it, Mr. Chaney said.

The presentation came as a complete surprise to Mr. Ball.

Each member of the sub-branch’s Women’s Auxiliary received a small gift during the evening; Mr. Kleeman acting as Father Christmas.

Mr. Chaney presented Mr. Ron Congdon with a trophy for the highest aggregate score in the darts competition.

Mrs. Kleeman received a bouquet in recognition of her services to the sub-branch during the year.

Debt Cleared

Proposing the toast of the sub-branch Mr. Court commended the president, as its leader, on the work performed by it during the past three years.

Mr. Court particularly referred to the fact that the debt on the hall was fast disappearing.

A sum of £794 had been paid in four years, and the aim was to pay the remaining £260 in the coming year.

The dinner was followed by a Christmas party, with dancing and concert items continuing until midnight.

Guest entertainers were Mrs. Patterson (pianist), Mr. Eric Williams (piano accordion), Mr. C. L. Hipkiss (ゲガロ) and Miss. Bill Hodge (drums).
The Pearling Industry

The development of the north-west of Western Australia is of vital importance not only to this State but to the whole of Australia. The R.S.L., being fully aware of this fact, has repeatedly urged the Government to take steps to see that our empty north receives consideration and has included in its constitution as one of its aims "the development of the north".

We must, therefore, encourage by our support the establishment of new and the continuance of present industry, which in themselves are a means to the end we have in view.

With the pearling industry Australia has a means of earning dollars and the attracting of capital to our northern areas.

The main thing to be kept in mind is that without Japanese pearl divers the pearling industry will surely die.

Steps have been taken to use divers from Greece and the near waters of Australia but they have not proved successful.

Therefore we must be prepared either to scrap the industry or accept the Commonwealth assurance that the security of Australia is not at all endangered by the introduction of these men.

It appears that this is really a small problem when compared to the poaching in Australian waters by Japanese, over whom the Commonwealth has no control.

The industry as a dollar earner may surely, in the long run, do more for the defence of Australia than the only alternative, the ending of the same industry by denying it the only men who have been proven capable of the economic operation of pearl diving.

In these days of uncertain friendships in the international sphere we must look to those who may be our allies in any future struggles.

However much we may dislike the Japanese for what some may have done, we should bear in mind that in that whole sphere of potential danger to our future, the South-East Asian area, the Japanese nation is the one most likely to be a bulwark to the southward drive of Communism.

By our actions now we may well destroy ourselves in the future.

Anzac Day Inter-State Contingents

Federal Executive has approved of an interchange plan for contingents of R.S.L. members to travel inter-State and participate in Anzac Day ceremonies.

In the next issue of "The Listening Post" full details concerning the arrangements will be published. Interested members should make contact with League Headquarters.

Community Of Interest Groups

The State Congress of the R.S.L. last year amended Rule 5(E) to permit the formation of community of interest sub-branches. Congress was of the opinion that their action would be the means of increasing League membership.

Until Congress made this change, it was not permissible for such sub-branches to be formed in Western Australia. It was claimed that there were groups of ex-servicemen eligible for membership, with common interests in professional, business and industrial sub-branches of this kind.

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Funds being sought for memorial to Blamey

- By Major-General Sir Clive Steele

It was indeed fortunate for Australia and the 2nd A.I.F. that Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey was available and accepted the appointment of Commander-in-Chief of our forces in the 1939-45 war.

It is only now, years after the war and his death, that history is proving how much the country owes to his ability and leadership in those critical days.

A committee of citizens from many sections of the community has decided that there should be an appropriate memorial to perpetuate Field Marshal Blamey’s memory.

After most careful consideration it was agreed that the memorial should take the form of an equestrian statue to be erected in the King’s Domain in Melbourne and a memorial scholarship to be awarded annually to the three services in rotation.

The estimated cost of the statue and the scholarship fund is £25,000.

The committee selected an equestrian statue that will be kept in harmony with the Monash statue which is located at the intersection of Government House-road and Birdwood Avenue.

Mr. Raymond Ewers, who has been commissioned to make the statue, served in the Royal Australian Engineers Corps and was later commissioned as an officer in the Australian Imperial Force.

The conditions of the service scholarship and the method of selecting the candidates are being formulated in discussions with the Chiefs of Staff of the navy, army and air force.

An appeal for £25,000 will shortly be launched.

Volunteer Work

Halves Cost Of Flooring Hall

By doing the work with voluntary labour from members Victoria Park sub-branch refloored its hall for half the £700 that was estimated the job would cost.

Twelve members, sacrificing part of their hard-earned holidays, did the whole job in 10 days.

The old floor had to be ripped up and was stacked away for resale.

Floor joists were brought in from 18th to 26th streets, centres and the new floor laid.

Most of the workers were strictly amateurs, but they worked like tigers and kept the perspiration flowing from them as they raced from one end of the hall to another trying to supervise half a dozen jobs at once.

The result of it all was a first-class floor that is expected to last for many years.

“It will be a pleasure to dance on and should bring about an increase in bookings,” commented secretary F. Long, sub-branch chairman.

Next item on the building agenda is another big one.

The sub-branch hopes to paint the interior of the hall before the year is over.

Manjimup men remember old Diggers

Last Christmas, from its amelioration fund, the Manjimup R.S.L. sub-branch provided a Christmas gift parcel—a cake and a bottle of wine—for a number of its aged, invalid and pensioner diggers.

It was the first such gesture ever made by the sub-branch and has brought gratitude from the 30 recipients, spread throughout the Warren district.

Vice-president J. J. Johnston motored nearly 100 miles to distribute the “cheer parcels” and thanks of the members and non-members was his reward.

One such gift was presented to the widow of an ex-member resident of the Drummond Cottage for aged women in Manjimup. It brought joy and happiness to those who shared the remembrance parcel and helped the eight women to spread the spirit and joy of Christmas in the manor the sub-branch wished.
State Executive has crowded agenda after holiday break

After a break over the Christmas and New Year holidays the State Executive got down to business again on Wednesday, January 19.

The State President (Mr. F. C. Chaney) was in the chair and 25 executive members were present.

Mr. Chaney welcomed members to the first meeting of the new year, extending a special welcome to Mr. A. L. Hallett, who returned to the executive table after a period of illness.

Reference was made to possible uses of the space on the roof of Anzac House, the proposed alterations to the board room and the use of the vacant ground adjoining Anzac House.

As a result of discussion which took place concerning these matters, it was agreed that early consideration should be given, to making extensions to Anzac House.

Advice on this regard should be sought from an outside committee of specialists, it was recommended.

Christmas in Korea

The parcels were packed in Japan and distributed to the troops by the British Navy, Army and Air Force Institute.

The Institute did its best to see that each man received in his parcel the items that he most desired.

Money provided by the Returned Servicemen's League and the Clachers' Fighting Forces comforts fund was used to supply every Australian soldier in Korea with at least one parcel last Christmas.

League airs its views on land resumption

Reporting to the State Executive, the chairman of the Housing Sub-Committee (Mr. Ralph Stoppard) said that a communication had been received from a person claiming to be an organiser for the Land Resumption Protection Federation, seeking the League's support for action which the federation was taking in dealing with land resumptions.

The State Executive approved of the sub-committee's recommendations that the League co-operate with the Government in bringing to the notice of the public the fact that the federation covered interests other than those of ex-servicemen.

However the League pledged its support in instituting inquiries and watching over the interests of ex-servicemen and their dependants when requested to do so.

It was reported that to date only two specific cases had been referred to the League and that they were now receiving attention.

State Minister supports R.S.L.

Recently the R.S.L. made representations to the Minister for Town Planning on behalf of an ex-serviceman whose application for subdivision of land had been rejected by the Town Planning Board.

The League's Housing Subcommittee in its report to the State Executive advised that the Minister, as a result of the representations made by League Headquarters had upheld the ex-serviceman's appeal against the Town Planning Board's decision.
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A Man's Drink!
Minister rejects R.S.L. proposal on housing

The Minister in charge of War Service Homes has turned down a suggestion from the R.S.L. Federal Council that where no application for a war service home has been received from a person eligible under the Act preference be given to an Australian or British ex-service man who would normally not be eligible.

After giving the matter consideration the Minister sent the following reply to the Council:

"It is difficult to visualise under what circumstances the intentions of this suggestion could be made effective."

"Normally, a home is provided under the Act only on behalf of a person whose application has been completed after the construction of the dwelling is commenced."

"Where original applicants find that, for some reason or other, they are unable to continue with the proposal it is usual for the home to be taken over by another applicant and completed on his behalf. But there have been very few instances during the past seven years since the division commenced its very active building programme, where a group home erected in anticipation of its selection by an eligible person has been left in the hands of the division."

"If such circumstances arise immediately, we believe, a tenant for the premises and further endeavours made to allow the C.O. to purchase the house eligible for and desirous of obtaining assistance under the Act."

"If the division's efforts in this direction are not successful the property would be sold on the market at not less than the valuation of the land and dwelling-house."

Hard to define

"It would be difficult to define a policy in isolated cases of this nature to ensure that such homes were available to either Australian or British ex-service man who is not eligible for assistance under the Act."

"However, where offers to purchase on similar terms are received by the division from an ex-service man and a civilian, standing that in the absence of eligibility, he would be required to purchase the home on civil terms."

"If the intentions of the suggestion could be best achieved by local sub-branches of the League bringing to the notice of the Housing Commission the fact that an ex-service man, who is not otherwise eligible (for assistance, wishes to acquire a home in a particular locality and requesting the State Housing Commission to have this matter for consideration in connection with the disposal of any home which may revert to the commission and for which an eligible purchaser is not available)."

Branch officers appointed

The State Executive of the R.S.L. has approved the appointment of the following sub-branch officials:

President: F. W. Grooms (Balfadu and Districts), J. B. Walmsley (South Perth), A. E. Marshall (Bridgetown), H. H. Hungerford (Highgate), R. H. Coxx (Collie), J. T. Towers (Mt. Magnet), R. M. Colley (Bunbury), H. R. Cunliffe (Rockingham), W. A. Smith (Bunbury), T. J. Smale (Collie), M. P. Boulton (Yokine), A. G. Holtham (Wyalkatchem), J. F. Winterveldt (Curtin), J. D. Morten (Scarborough), R. M. Colley (Bunbury), W. J. Gardiner (Collie), J. J. T. Towers (Mt. Magnet), R. L. Herbert (Nungarin), A. F. K. Smith (Collie), J. M. Day (Collie), R. J. J. McPherson (Collie), J. D. Morten (Scarborough), R. M. Colley (Bunbury), R. M. Colley (Bunbury), and R. M. Colley (Bunbury).
R.S.L. criticises Land Settlement delays

Several aspects of the War Service Land Settlement Scheme were criticised in a talk prepared by the R.S.L. Land Settlement Sub-committee and broadcast from 6PM-AM on February 3.

The full text of the talk is published below.

Many original applicants for farms under the scheme have not yet been allocated farms, and there is a feeling of frustration and disappointment at the long delay which has occurred.

The fault does not lie with any particular person or department, and the position is due entirely to the circumstances which were apparently inevitable, and which cannot justly be laid at the door of the Government or any of its officers.

It would be just as unjust and unreasonable to blame the League for the present position.

Following is the number of applicants, together with the categories into which they are placed:

- Total applicants: 4,786
- Withdrawn: 407
- Regarded as cancelled: 1,515
- Not eligible: 191
- Allotted to others: 887
- Transferred to R. & I.: 451
- Qualified to apply: 753
- Refusing critical training: 458
- Unsuitable: 111
- Awaiting classification: 13

Cancelled

The League is concerned at the number of applicants, which are regarded as cancelled, of 1,515 of them. There is no authority for any of the applicants to become automatically cancelled, and we have the Minister's assurance that no names are removed from the list without the authority of the applicant.

It is possible, however, that many of the original applicants to whom brochures may have been sent earlier may not have taken the trouble to advise the Department of their change of address, with the result that many applicants are out of the race. There have been cases for a period of years.

The question of this striking off was submitted by the League to the Land Settlement Board, and it was asked if it was the practice to striking out applicants for farms under the scheme without their specific consent.

The Chairman of the Land Settlement Board replied in the following terms:

"The Land Settlement Board has for a considerable period, too, been concerned at the comparatively few applications which are received when farms are advertised either for re-purposed properties or for properties which are under development."

High Prices

Another matter which has been exercising the mind of the League is the report that some ex-service men, who have been allotted farms have been disposing of them to other eligible ex-service men at comparatively high prices.

Some of these lessees under the scheme have been obliged apparently to relinquish their farms owing to ill-health.

One property has recently been offered by an ex-service man for the sum of £6,920.

At the last meeting of the Land Committee of the League, this matter was thoroughly discussed, and there are certain aspects of the matter on which the League is seeking further information.

It was pointed out that if properties were sold at high prices after five years, the purchaser should be protected, and such high prices must react unfavourably on the valuation of other properties.

The question also arose as to whether these sales were to be considered as private deals, and also as to whether the purchaser was still subject to the lease, thefreehold of which would not be available till after five years.

It was resolved to write to the Land Board to ascertain the position arising at an expedient time.
**LAND SETTLEMENT DELAYS**

(Continued from previous col.)

serviceman under the scheme sold his farm after five years. Would he still feel under the scheme was subject to the usual conditions, and could be evicted if unsatisfactory?

**Protection**

Another question to be asked under what authority could an ex-serviceman sell his lease and what protection was provided for the ex-serviceman purchaser? Would he be able to obtain the refusal of the purchase property by the previous owner?

Another matter from which the League derived considerable satisfaction was the fact that the Minister and the Department had agreed to the League's request to have established an appeal board which would deal with complaints from ex-servicemen settlers under the scheme, regarding the cost of land.

The cost of land was a particular good one.

The Victoria Park sub-branch had its first meeting for 1955 on January 21.

The formal business was quickly completed and the meeting developed into a pleasant social evening.

The branch secretary, Mr. F. Long reports that subscriptions are coming in well, but expresses the usual secretarial regret that the outstanding ones won't remain outstanding for much longer.

The branch's annual smoke was held on December fittingly wound up a successful year.

More than 100 members and visitors enjoyed a rousing show. Among the visitors were Mr. W. Matthews, and Mr. L. Thomas, director of the Perth Art Gallery as well as representatives from other sub-branches and kindred organisations.

**ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICEMEN.**

The new year, ends old year well

**LAND RESUMPTION**

Sir:—In the West Australian of January 14 under the heading Land Grab appeared a letter to the Editor signed by Mr. Long, the branch secretary. A. R. Long, of the Perth Art Gallery as well as representatives from other sub-branches and kindred organisations.

To The Editor

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Women's Auxiliaries

Holiday dances Successful

A Christmas social and a New Year cabaret dance were the
highlights of an active month for the Waroona-Hamel sub-
branch of the R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary.
Representatives from Mandurah, Pinjarra, Coolup, Yar-
loop and Harvey attended the Christmas social.
Dancing, games and vocal items made it an outstanding
success.
During the evening the Auxili-
ary president (Mrs. Knox) pre-
pared a Certificate of Ser-
vice to foundation members
Mrs. Kath Dods.
On behalf of the group the
secretary (Mrs. Clements) pre-
pared the R.S.L. sub-branch
president (Mr. M. Harries) with
a cheque for £50 for the sub-
branch building fund.
After an enjoyable supper
Miss almonds Harries and Clements
produced some hilarity with
their skit, Happy Ever After.
The cabaret dance on New
Year's Eve was most success-
ful, both socially and financi-
ally. Proceeds went to the
building fund.
Novelties made by auxil-
ary members added an extra
festive touch and also brought
a few extra pounds rolling into
the coffers.

New officers elected at Esperance

The vice-president of the Es-
perance Women's Auxiliary
(Mrs. Edwards) was in the
chair at the annual meeting
held in the Parish Hall on Fri-
day, January 7.
The president (Mrs. Henry)
was absent on account of ill
health.
The following officers were
selected: President, Mrs. F.
Dixon; secretary, Mrs. L.
Ambler; treasurer, Mrs. M.
Stewart; vice-presidents, Mrs. S.
Strother and Mrs. Holgate.
The branch received a visit
from the State president (Mr.
Stockman) on January 19.
Members attended a tea in the
Parish Hall in honour of her
visit.
Mrs. Stockman was also taken
on a sight-seeing tour of
Esperance.

Two W.A. cadets
selected for
officer training

Two West Australians are
among 32 young men selected
to attend the Officer Cadet
School at Portsea (Victoria).
They are Allan Doone Hughes

Women's Auxiliaries

WRANS chief
goes into retirement

She has been succeeded by
First Officer Joan Cole, of the
Women's Royal Naval Service,
who had been on loan to the
Royal Australian Navy, from
the Admiralty since October,
1953.
First Officer Cole will serve as
Director in the acting rank of
chief officer, until she re-
turns to the United Kingdom
in January, 1956.
Chief Officer Bowden, who
served in the WRANS during
World War II was a member
of the first WRANS officers' train-
ing course held at Flinders
Naval Depot, Crib Point, Victo-
ria, in January, 1943.
When the war ended she was
a first officer on the staff of the
flag Officer-in-Charge, Sydney.
She was in England in 1950,
when she was invited to accept
the appointment of Director of
the WRANS for the re-estab-
lishment of the service on a
permanent basis.
Chief Officer Blair Bowden
who has been Director of the
Women's Royal Australian
Naval Service, more generally
known as the WRANS, since
December, 1950, retire from
that post on January 14 and
left for England nine days
after.

Commissioned

First Officer Cole joined the
WRNS in May, 1941, as a
stores rating and was granted
commission as third officer
in May, 1944.
She served in numerous Royal
Navy establishments, and, from
May, 1951, until September,
1953, was officer-in-charge
of recruiting and entry at the
WRNS headquarters at the
Admiralty.
Upon her arrival in Australia
on loan she became officer-in-
charge of the training of
WRANS at Flinders Naval
Depot.
Paying a tribute to Chief
Officer Bowden the Minister
for the Navy (the Hon. J.
Francis) said that she was re-
tiring from the service at her
own request.

As Director of the WRANS
she had displayed great enthu-
siasm and initiative and in a
desire to create more public
interest in the service as a voca-
tion for women and to attract
suitable types of recruits she
had travelled widely in the
Commonwealth.
New jungle training school opened

The Australian Army would soon have one of the best and most modernly equipped jungle warfare training centres in the Southern Hemisphere, the Minister for the Army (Mr. Francis) said after he had inspected the preparations being made to open Canungra Centre last month.

Mr. Francis said that Australian troops had suffered greatly during the early days of World War II because they had received no training in jungle warfare.

The position had been remedied quickly with the establishment of a centre at Canungra, where Australian soldiers were instructed in jungle warfare technique that had enabled them subsequently to meet the enemy on an equal footing.

Canungra had become recognised in those days as the best jungle warfare training centre, but the new centre now being completed well surpassed the former establishment.

Because of Australia's geographical position and defence commitments, it is essential that Australian soldiers have expert training in fighting under jungle conditions. Jungle fighting demands a highly specialised form of training.

Canungra is admirably suited to these requirements. Situated at the foot of the great Binna Burra Plateau, about 48 miles from Brisbane, it is rugged jungle country, covered with dense tropical growth and offers conditions comparable with any within the Australian defence orbit.

Soldiers who attend courses at Canungra will be, for the most part, infantrymen of both Regular and Citizen Military Force field units.

Australian Regular Army officers will attend on a full-time basis, and those of the C.M.F. units will attend during a period of their annual 14 days' camp.

Experienced

During the past three years, Australian Army officers and non-commissioned officers have been attached to the British Army in Malaysia as observers. They have gained valuable information, which will be applied in training practice at Canungra.

The Centre has been modernised since last used, eight years ago.

Eighty civilian tradesmen from the Department of Works and 30 Army engineers from the 24th Squadron, R.A.E., have worked solidly to carry out this work. Some of the old buildings have been reconditioned and brought back into service.

The commander of the school, pending the appointment of a permanent officer, will be Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Kelly.

At Canungra, the first training course for officers, was that of Chief Instructor at the School of Infantry at Seymour, Victoria.

Lieutenant Colonel Kelly saw service in the Middle East with the 2/13th Battalion and was mentioned in dispatches in Tobruk.

He was also mentioned in dispatches for his part in the Ichabod-Hoon Golf campaign, while in command of the 31/31st Infantry Battalion.

Later he took the Battalion to Bougainville.

The Chief Instructor of the School will be Colonel G. R. Varbre, D.S.O., M.C., who received a Military Cross for his leadership at Morotai, New Guinea, in 1942.

Two years later, at Tarakan, Borneo, he won the D.S.O. Colonel Varbre toured Malaya with military men in 1930 and has been training nationals in 1951.

Mt. Lawley Has Important Meeting

The Mt. Lawley-Ingleside sub-branch meeting on Tuesday, March 1, will be of special importance.

There will be the annual meeting and installation of officers and the election of President and two vice-presidents, deferred from the February meeting.

In addition there will be a full statement on the plans to launch an appeal for funds for the new sub-branch hall.

All members are urged to attend, and the sub-branch building plans are.

As it will be the annual meeting, special supper and refreshments will be provided.

Help For War Widows

A resolution from the R.S.I. Federal Congress to have war widows and their dependent children treated at public or private hospitals at the expense of the Repatriation Commission is at present being considered by the Commonwealth Government.

At present war widows are entitled to free treatment only at Repatriation hospitals.

The Congress also hopes to have the Repatriation Commission pay the fares of war widows and their children who have to travel to other cities for medical treatment.

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Railway Of Death Is Being Used Again

At the war's end the notorious "Railway of Death" in Siam, built to Japanese orders by tens of thousands of British and Allied prisoners of war and forced labourers, was left to rot in face of the approaching jungle.

Today, the railway, every sleeper of which the Japanese boasted cost a human life, is being put into service for peaceful purposes: the memory of the men who slaved to build it is commemorated along its route by special war cemeteries and memorials.

The railway was built during the Japanese occupation across the plains of central Siam from Ban Pong, on the main line from Bangkok to the south, through the foothills and the main range of the border jungle mountains, to link up with Burma's main southern line at Ye, south of Moulmein.

Allied bombing, specifically put the line out of commission after its completion in October, 1943, and after the war's end, its bridges of green timber taken from the jungle rapidly collapsed while the forest encroached steadily across the tracks.

In the past year or two the State Railway Authorities of Siam have been busy rebuilding part of the line, and it is planned to reopen it as far as Kanchanaburi, a World War Commission proposes the establishment of a large hydro-electric power station.

Passenger trains running to and from the foot-hill territory of Wampo and Tarso from the main line are crowded even by Siamese railway standards, which are free and easy in the extreme. It is clear that the hinterland beyond Kanchanaburi, the capital of the western province of the same name, has been considerably developed and has attracted large numbers of settlers since the days of the railway, when the P.O.W. parties blazed the trail up the valley of the river Menam Kwa Nai.

The men who slaved away in the heat of the tropical noontime, clad in rags, atrociously underfed, many of them grievously sick, and brutally driven by their Japanese captors to build the railway, are gone but they are not forgotten.

At Kanchanaburi, which was a transit point for the labour gangs passing up the river valley, and at Chiangrai, where a large hospital camp was maintained, special war cemeteries have been constructed where the bodies of all officers and men who died on the railway, about one in three of the total—have been re-interred and given honoured graves.

Ower 8,600 officers and men are commemorated in these two cemeteries, 6,950 at Kanchanaburi and 1,700 at Chiangrai. The former cemetery lies between the site formerly occupied by an officers' camp and the area which became known as "the aerodrome camp".

The preparation and maintenance of the cemeteries is the re-
The Army has got a Navy—on wheels

People in all parts of Australia are familiar with the appearance of the slabsided, unassuming-looking army amphibian, affectionately named The Duck, and even less streamlined.

But people in Australian flood-threatened areas—particularly in Victoria—don't worry about its homely appearance. They are grateful to ducks and their crews for their presence when flood-threats are in the air.

Recently a group of Southern Command duck crews and their flood-bound residents from the Melbourne suburb of Elwood, which has been a frequent sufferer, and now stands to benefit by a reconstruction grant of $150,000.

In earlier rains, flood-bound farmers at Yarram, ready to abandon their properties as waters rose higher, were reassured by news from the local police that army amphibians manned by crews from the Royal Australian Army Service Corps would race to their help if they needed it.

Luckily, a dry spell caused an ebb in the floodwaters. But it wasn't the first time that Ducks had been welcomed around South Gippsland. The Duck doesn't have the glamour which the Jeep has earned, but it always gets a cheer from Australians in flood-mad areas. Ducks have become such welcome visitors when danger looms in South Gippsland that in recent Yarram area, townspeople, shopkeepers and refugees from isolated outlying farms lined the streets and cheered and waved to their crews as the rescue craft lumbered down on their first reconnaissances missions.

The Duck, or Amphibian, for the information of those who have not actually set eyes on it is the varied Rosom and Jeff smoking mounted on massive wheels and driven by a heavy-duty G.M.C. engine. Its tyres are inflated from the dashboard through the hubs by special motors, and the wheels themselves are often used to give firmer steering, when the craft is battling through heavy currents or seas.

Incidentally, the tyre pressures are measured on a dashboard gauge which gives the inflation needed. The front and rear pairs of the shot, sand, or coral when the duck is partly water-borne.

Horse-power

The duck-driver always knows he has horse-power enough to pull him through heavy seas or the most vicious of river-curves.

His bitterest river enemies in stormy times are snags, submerged tree-trunks, fence-posts, and the varied Rosom and Jeff smoking which the floods sweep down on their way.

The Duck has buoyancy tanks. A fully-laden craft can 'ship' a foot of green, and still ride through the walls of water like a ping-pong ball.

But said as it is, the metallic skin of the hull has limits of resistance.

A 15-foot log, whipped along in a 20-foot current, could batter its way through the hull.

A submerged tree stump could put the duck in one unlucky impact.

Consists of the craft have to develop a sixth sense about inland waters.

Submerged timbers and rocky washaways can quickly change the shape of the flooded terrain, and in tight pinches, with lives at stake, there's no time to take soundings.

Like the Mississippi River skippers, a duck-master uses the surface appearance of the murky waters he is riding to give him some idea of what's underneath.

Army duck-crews are always on call for emergencies and there's no 40-hour week and no overtime, no danger money and no provision for three regular square meals and dry bed.

Flood rescue

Flood-rescue teams have been praised before for their capacity to work to dropping-point, for their sympathy and cheerfulness in dire distress, and for their ever-ready capacity to run any hazard to save life or prevent injury.

The ducks have a role in Australia's scientific project, too. If it weren't for these craft and the men in them, authority would not be so easily handled.

Ships' crews around Port Melbourne recently watched an army duck giving a towing test with one of the huge inflatable rubber pontoons used on freight-lifts between the Polar exploration ship Kunda Dan and the storm-beaten, frozen shores where our Antarctic research station will operate in 1952.

The Kunda Dan has 18-ton derricks, so she can easily lift the amphibian jibboard or overside.

Lieutenant Tony Hall, R.A.A.F., and his army crews will show, their skill at running safely inshore with valuable stores and equipment.

Their aim is to tackle any type of weather, says Lieutenant Hall, and land their freight without selling a drop of oiling a pound.
The Army Has A Place In Peace Time, Says C.G.S.

When the Chief of General Staff (Lieutenant General Sir Sydney Rowell) retired recently his last farewell message took the form of a broadcast in the A.B.C.'s Guest Of Honour programme.

In the talk Lieutenant General Rowell drew on 44 years of soldiering experience to review the history of Australia's army, and to explain its place in the community. The text of the talk follows.

I am grateful for the opportunity of speaking tonight as it enables me to tell you, the people, something about the Australian Army in which I have had the honour of serving for nearly 44 years, and the high privilege of leading since April, 1950.

When you consider the strength of the Army today and take into account the fact that it passes some 30,000 young men each year through the National Service Training scheme, it will be appreciated that our army can be very few homes in Australia which do not have some close association with us.

I like to believe there are closer to the people than, ever before in my service.

We have certainly gone a long way since the days after World War I when no regular soldier would willingly travel in uniform on public transport.

But I am conscious that public goodwill is not easily gained and that what profit we make from aid in national emergencies—such as flood and fire from our: public displays or from the general bearing of our troops, can be rapidly dissipat-
ed by isolated acts of ill-temper or some piece of inefficiency.

Real Worth

The real worth of the Army is to be found in the great training establishments remote from centres of population.

We should not be judged alone on the conduct of a few brave men in capital cities.

Then I should speak of the four years in the Army today for it is a partnership in a very real sense.

They are the regular soldier, the Citizen Force volunteer, the National Serviceman and the women's services.

The backbone of the service in the field in which we live today must inevitably be the regular soldier.

We had no great—peace-time training for regular army service up to World War II and it has not been easy for many people, in both public and private life, to see the need for an organisation much greater than we had in 1939.

It is the regular soldier who does the 30,000 of these young men in the National Service Training Units and the different training centres, who work themselves up to the Army's standards.

The great bugbear of the regular soldier is transfer from one station to another. This has always been the bane but it has been aggravated in the post-war years by overseas service.

It can be alleviated by a generous statement of married quarters and by the provision of proper amenities, but it can never be entirely removed.

I speak feelingly on this matter when I say that I have lived for 26 different homes in my married life.

Those who frame conditions of service need to be constantly reminded that the soldier does not work a 40-hour week and that he gets no overtime.

A lot has been done in the past few years for the regular soldier, but he deserves only the best and a great deal remains to be done.

Pay rates

For example, service rates of pay can never equal those which private industry is prepared to offer.

The second partner is the Citizen volunteer. With the aid of a small regular cadre, it is the volunteer officer and N.C.O. who runs the Citizen Force, which is the basis of the army's expansion if war should un-happily come to us again.

I am sure that this country has never adequately appreciated the volunteer work that these citizen soldiers do in peacetime in the national interest.

Conditions today are more exacting and really leave the volunteer soldier little time for anything else.

Nonetheless, in the past 40 years there has been a distinctive succession of citizen officers who have accepted a national obligation and have not spared themselves in the conduct of their duties.

And we have with us today men of great military capacity as well as of high standing in the civil community.

The Citizen Force can only flourish if it is assured of a flow of volunteers who are willing to carry on this work at considerable personal sacrifice.

They will not come forward unless the people are conscious of the effort the Citizen Force volunteer is making and acknowledge this effort in some tangible way.

Such things as showing an interest in a local unit and a good attendance at public parades do a great deal to help.

The third member of the team is the National serviceman who came to us in August, 1951.

Since then, we have had up to 30,000 of these young men in the National Service Training Units and the different training centres.

In this time I have had an unusual chance of assessing these people and forming a very firm conviction that those who say that the present generation is not as good as the past are very wide of the mark.

In any case, I seem to remember hearing similar doleful statements when I was a boy.

(Continued on Page 15.)
"Eased the stinging pain and throaty soreness"

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 tonsillitis (not severe case, but bad enough). The method I used was to take the powders dry and work them to the back of my throat, adding a small drink if possible.

There, it seemed to go to work easing away the stinging pain and throaty soreness which goes with tonsillitis.

N.B. I used powders by directions on packets for colds, etc.

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Our Returned Men Best Off, Says 77 Leader

Returned servicemen are better off in Australia than anywhere else in the world in the opinion of Wing Commander R. S. Royston, commanding officer of 77th Squadron.

This happy state of affairs existed, he said, almost entirely because of the efforts of the R.S.L., which is the state president of the R.S.L. (Mr. F. C. Chaney) said that it would be a great pity if 77th Squadron were ever disbanded—a habit which the R.A.A.F. seemed to have with its more famous units.

"I remember back in 1942," Mr. Chaney said, "when a few Kittyhawks from 77th Squadron, just then in the process of being formed, flew over Perth."

"Tiger Moths were about the most modern aircraft we were ever used to seeing in our skies, and to us then these few Kittyhawks seemed to represent the heights of aeronautical achievement."

"Then on Australia Day this year we saw the new 77th Squadron in action."

"It was an eye-opener. I don't think I have ever seen better formation flying in my life—not from the Royal Air Force, not even during the Coronation."

"I hope that there will be a 77th Squadron as long as Australia has an Air Force."

Retirement of Capt. Bryce Morris

After 40 years with the Royal Australian Navy, the Naval-Officer-In-Charge, Western Australia (Capt. Bryce Morris) has announced his retirement at 53.

He entered the R.A.N. college, Jervis Bay, on December 31, 1915, and will officially retire on May 31 this year.

Capt. Bryce Morris became a commander in 1938 and was seconded to board the cruiser Canberra at the outbreak of World War II. In 1944, Capt. Bryce Morris returned to Melbourne to serve with a combined services planning team preparing for the arrival of British forces in the Pacific.

In 1945, as N.O.I.C. New Guinea, he was the first white man to land at Rabaul, where he received the surrender of 25,000 Japanese.

Becoming N.O.I.C., Fremantle, in 1951, he organised the Australian-Naval preparations for Operation Hurricane—the first British atomic explosion at the Monte Bello Islands in October, 1952.

Among the 77 Squadron guests at the luncheon were—left Flying Officers J. A. Whitehead, C. T. Kilian, C. D. Smithies and R. Ramsey.