Sub-committee Discusses Details Of Anzac Day Arrangements

Too much time is taken up in laying wreaths on the annual Anzac Day service.

This is the opinion of the R.S.L.'s Anzac Day committee, which met recently to consider arrangements for Anzac Day this year.

It was considered essential, however, that private wreath-bearers be given every consideration.

It was suggested that the position might be taken by the Chief Marshal, with the help of several Assistant Marshals, so that the service might move continuously, without undue waiting between the various groups.

The committee recommended that the following groups be observed:

- Official wreaths in this order: R.S.L., representatives of the Commonwealth Government, representatives of the State Government, the Lord Mayor, heads of the three services,
- Unit associations and other ex-service organisations,
- Private wreaths.

It was further recommended that guides, drawn from among the sub-wardens, stand by on the platform of the Memorial, to indicate the position where each wreath should be laid.

The front of the Memorial is to be reserved for official wreaths, the remainder to be arranged round the two sides and the rear.

Some confusion generally arose among members of the public about what should be done when the bugles sounded.

It was decided by the committee, therefore, that directions should be given in the Anzac Day press publicity.

It was recommended that the guidance officers, so far as the wreaths were concerned, comprise the president and the secretary of the Assistant Warden sub-branch (Messrs. King and Hume) and Deputy Warden (Mr. Townshend).

These officers are to be under the control of the Warden (Mr. E. R. H. Doig).

Other Services

At the conclusion of the dawn ceremony at the State War Memorial it has been the practice for similar ceremonies to take place immediately at the Jewish Memorial and the Hall Light Horse Memorial.

Times for the Esplanade were decided.

Markets are to be on duty at 6.30 a.m. in readiness for the march-off at 10 a.m.

The march-off will take place at 10.15 a.m. and the service starts at 11 a.m.

It is proposed in the near future to call a meeting of all Unit Associations so that they can make their arrangements for the parade in good time.

Arrangements have already been made that the Anzac Parade be obligatory so far as the C.M.F. is concerned.

Their assembly area will be Langley Park, and the men to be arranged with army representatives.

It was recommended that the army may be asked to supply the guard-of-honour of 80 men.

Serving troops will be in position on the Esplanade before the arrival of service units.

At 6.30 p.m., however, the C.M.F. will follow ex-service men.

Merchant Navy

This year arrangements will be made to include members of the Merchant Navy in the ex-service men's cocked hat.

It was recommended that use be made of the services of all available bands.

The distance separating Legacy wands from the main column will be considerably reduced this year, it was decided.

Legacy wands have always been carried in the past they have been so far ahead of the rest of the column that they have given the impression that they were not forming a part of the main parade.

The Union Jack and the Australian flag are to be carried at the head of the parade, and unit flag bearers are to be encouraged to carry on the ceremonial handling of the flags as during the Royal visit.

An approach is to be made to the army for unit colours to be carried and to have regiments, made for them, detach themselves on arrival at the Esplanade and take up their positions on the south side of Riverside-drive on both sides of the dais.

Official Party

The official party at the salute dais is to consist of The Excellencies Sir Charles and Lady Gardiner and a vice-regal aide, the State President of the R.S.L. and his wife, the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the Lord Mayor, the Chief Justice, heads of services and members of the Federal Government.

The question of leading citizens on the dais having to be separated from their wives was discussed, but it was agreed that the size of the dais would not permit extra numbers.

In decided that an approach be made to the City Council to see if some arrangement could not be made to meet the position, particularly in view of the arrangements which were made for the Royal visit.

Hymn sheets will be printed on the same lines as last year.

Only one verse of the National Anthem will be sung.

It was considered that one padre would be sufficient to offer the prayers, and it was decided to invite the Dean of Perth (The Very Rev. John Bell) to officiate.

COOLGARDIE OPENS NEW HEADQUARTERS

Members of the Coolgardie sub-branch are proud of their headquarters.

The building, which was originally the Maribyrnong Hotel, was purchased in 1952 by the sub-branch and has since been completed.

The purchase price was only £300, but it cost £250 to put in a new floor and subsequently about £500 has been spent on improvements— including furniture and lighting.

The building is now in first-class shape. A great deal of the work was done by the members, with local builders also playing their part.

The foundations of a war memorial have already been laid in one corner of the block on which the headquarters stand.

Good News For The Cats

Mr. Arthur Langford, known to Anzac Club habitués as "The Cat's Meat Man," because he supplied morsels for the club's mascot from its kittenhood, will return to Perth from England shortly.

He is due to sail in the Oceana on March 31.
Criticism Of Faversham War Veterans' Home Refuted

Of late, much criticism has been levelled at the management of Faversham War Veterans' Home.

The fact that the critical view of so many members is not shared by the incoming of the Home is borne out by a letter recently received by the State Secretary (Mr. J. Chappell).

It reads as follows: "I should like to place on record my appreciation to the League for the manner in which I have been treated at the Home since coming here some three years and three months ago."

In writing this letter I have one object in mind: To express my personal gratitude for what has been done for me, as I know that many have levelled criticism at the Home. This criticism is entirely unfounded.

"In conclusion, the management, both past and present, have at all times been more than considerate—the accommodation and food is excellent, more particularly when one considers the tariff."

The original letter may be inspected at Faversham House.

Sanctuary

Faversham is conducted by the League on definite instructions from State Congress, to provide a home and sanctuary for diggers in their declining years.

Being a decision of Congress, it is the responsibility of all sub-branches to ensure that this important phase of League work to their utmost ability.

Personal visits at Faversham, if practicable, is the most satisfactory way of accepting responsibility, but sub-branches and members who reside too far distant from York can help by donation, both in cash and kind, as neither the Federal nor the State Governments provide any subsidy towards the cost of running the Home.

Both January and February issues of the Listening Post indicated very clearly how sub-branches could shoulder their responsibility, but to date the response has been disappointing.

At the risk of repetition, it is again pointed out that Faversham is a League responsibility, not just that of a few sub-branches or individual members.

"Is it the task of State Secretaries without assistance from all sub-branches? Secretaries and presidents of sub-branches: Have you brought the aspect of your sub-branches' responsibility to the notice of your members?"

Generous Gift

The West Australian branch of the Air Force Association has become very interested in the potentialities of the existing vacancies at Faversham, and, as a practical expression of their faith in the essential work done in the sub-branch, have generously offered a full size billiard table for the use of our guests at the Home.

A gift of this magnitude should spur our own sub-branches to greater efforts.

Thanks to our friends in the Air Force Association.

At present there is accommodation available at Faversham for at least 12 more veterans.

Any sub-branch having members who desire to avail themselves of the existing vacancies should make immediate application to Anzac House.

The same applies to any other eligible ex-servicemen who are not members of the League—members of the League for membership of the League is an essential qualification.

Donations

The following donations have been received since our last issue, and to all donors the League's thanks is extended.

Freemantle City sub-branch, lounge chair (value £6/15/)
J. V. Hands, periodicals.
A. Rigby, books.
Red Cross, tobacco.
Highgate sub-branch, four lampion tables and a large quantity of clothing.

Sub-branches and individual members of the League are requested to support our advertisers. Help them to help us.

New Zealand Visitors

Latest advice from New Zealand is that a party of not more than 36 will be visiting Australia to participate in Anzac Day Services this year.

The party will arrive in Sydney on April 16 and leave Sydney on April 19.

Three members of the party—Messrs. C. I. Hayward, E. C. Anderson and J. Fraser will arrive in Perth by air on April 18.

Termination Of W.S.L.S. Scheme Opposed

Injustice would result from the setting of an arbitrary date for the ending of the War Service Land Settlement Scheme. This is the view of the W.S.L.S. Land Settlement sub-committee, which has issued the following statement on the subject:

At the past two Congresses and in several newspaper statements, the Minister for Lands (Mr. Hoar) and the Director of Agriculture (Mr. Baron Hay) have referred to the end of the War Service Land Settlement Scheme and the commencement of civilian land settlement.

The League's latest information is that the scheme may end in two years.

In the Director's recent statement he reported that there were 900 eligible ex-servicemen to be settled. Accepting the Director's figures and knowing full well that over the last two years only about 600 ex-servicemen have been settled, the outlook of many eligible ex-servicemen is not bright.

No-one will quarrel with the policy of civilian settlement. It is a good one. But both the Federal and State Governments are shifting their responsibilities to the ex-serviceman who has for years been working on farms, I understand, or even on their farming basin, confident in that time he would be allotted a war service farm.

The setting of an arbitrary date for the end of the settlement scheme must exclude many of these men from farms.

Surely the Minister or the Director can inform these persons and the League just how many of these ex-servicemen intend to settle.

That many aspects of the scheme will require constant vigilance by the League is obvious.

MARCH, 1955

THE LISTENING POST

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Patronize The Modernised Hotel Australia For Luxurious Accommodation AND MEET MARION IN Davey Jones' Locker

Criticism Of Faversham War Veterans' Home Refuted

New Zealand Visitors

TERMINATION OF W.S.L.S. SCHEME

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We Will Remember Them

The anniversary of Australia's epic feat of arms on the shores of Gallipoli occurs for the 40th time on April 25. The men of Anzac purchased for their country its right to nationhood and the price which many of them paid was life itself.

Many Gallipolis have occurred within these 40 years in two World Wars and Korea.

Those who were affected by the sacrifices made do not need any Act of Parliament to remind them to pay homage to their honoured dead.

New generations have emerged untouched by the ravages of war. For them and also for those who apparently so easily forget, it was necessary that a perpetual reminder should be established in order that they should not allow the memory of brave men to fall into oblivion, and so Anzac Day has been set aside for the purpose. Anzac Day is a day of commemoration and thanksgiving. The day was given to the people to enable them to pay due homage to those who did not come back.

The day is now being assailed by those to whom Anzac Day means little or nothing, seeking to add it to the already long list of holidays throughout the year dedicated to sport. Any suggestion from those who look upon the day as sacred, that its sacred purpose is being violated is regarded as an infringement of their rights and liberties.

A moment's thought, however, will show that it is just the reverse in that those who want the day for sport are really trespassing on sacred precincts.

Like the Sabbath Day, Anzac Day was made for the people and not the people for the day. Surely one day a year is little enough to give in return for the whole lifetime of sacrifices made that we might enjoy in freedom the other 364 days of the year.

Let us go back to the ancient Greeks if we still have not learnt how to pay due homage to those who sacrificed and died. Inscribed on one of their monuments to their dead, there appeared this injunction to the passer-by—"When you go home tell them of us; it was for your tomorrow we gave today."

The League stands fast by the traditional observance of Anzac Day which was created and set aside for one purpose, and one purpose only. Surely nobody is any the worse for pausing in the turmoil for at least one day of the year and making grateful acknowledgment of the debt we owe. There is no sound reason why a noisy minority, to whom Anzac means little or nothing, should prescribe the manner in which the day should be observed. The League prefers to consider the feelings of the thousands of bereaved families who spend that day in memory of their loved ones. Who would seek to intrude with clamour on their quiet reflections?

It is good for the soul of any individual occasionally to pause and reflect and also for the Nation.
Executive Members Query Need For Veterans’ Home

Does a need still exist for the War Veterans’ Home at Faversham?

This question was discussed at a meeting of the State Executive of the R.S.L. on Wednesday, March 2.

The discussion started when the chairman of the Faversham Housing sub-committee (Mr. E. C. Townsend) reported that the number of inmates in the Home had fallen to 27.

The Home could accommodate as many as 50 old diggers with its present staff, Mr. Townsend said.

Economic conditions had changed since Faversham had opened, commented the senior vice-president (Mr. W. S. Lonnie).

Social services had improved and many men, who formerly would have had no alternative but to enter Faversham, could now make other arrangements.

"An increasing number of them," Mr. Lonnie stated, "prefer to struggle along with their pensions and other benefits and maintain their independence in preference to going into an institution."

There was no suggestion that people were leaving Faversham because of inadequate provision being made for them there, Mr. Lonnie added.

The league was doing a good job—Faversham was well run and was providing a good home for its inmates.

There is no real evidence to suggest that institutions of any kind are no longer needed," claimed Mr. H. G. Holder.

"If they are not, then why is Sunset so crowded?"

"I think the reason that applications for admission to Faversham are declining is that old soldiers don’t realise just how good the Home is."

Honor Roll Replaced

For the past three years the honour roll of members of the Midland Railway Station staff who served in World War I has been missing from its place on a wall of the station.

Recently it was recovered and replaced after repairs had been made.

This is the second time the board has been mutilated or misplaced.

Prepared and erected by the firm of John Moncrieff it should receive much better care and respect.

New Gun Is Docile But Deadly

Although treated in a way that would make a good soldier winces—it was sprayed with fine sand, immersed in mud, and even frozen—a new sub-machinegun demonstrated recently at a British factory still came up firing. The rifle, known as the Sterling, which the makers believe is the finest of its kind in the world, has been adopted by the British Army, replacing the Sten, and its capabilities have been underscored by the most adverse service conditions in Korea and Kenya.

Commonwealth countries and others, 15 of them in all, have placed orders for the gun and some of them have received delivery.

According to the makers’ claims, this 6 lb. gun is lighter, safer to use, and more reliable than any sub-machinegun previously-manufactured.

Using the international 9mm ammunition, it is accurate and lethal at 200 yards and will kill at even greater distances. Its rate of fire is 750 rounds per minute.

As world newspapermen who attended the demonstration found by firing it themselves, it is docile in use (for the most novice), it is accurate.

The recoil is negligible.

Since the butts folds neatly away, the gun can be fired with one hand, pistol fashion.

"I used it in this manner, putting half a magazine (15 rounds) through it, it is being considered for adoption as the standard sub-machinegun for N.A.T.O."

Old Kondinin Stalwart Passes Away

Mr. Albert Howlett, a stalwart of the Kondinin branch for many years, passed away on February 21.

Mr. Howlett served with the 4th Dracon Guards from the day World War I broke out until several months after its completion, and was well qualified when asked if he could be called an "old contemptible."

He joined the Kondinin branch in 1926, and was one of the first members serving a term as president.

Mr. Howlett was also for a long period a member of the Kondinin Road Board and the Parents’ and Citizens’ Association.
Some Facts And Figures On Membership Subscriptions

The question of the amount of responsibility and expense that sub-branches should shoulder in collecting subscriptions is members and what share of them they should retain is one that is often discussed.

Under the League's constitution rule 6 provides as follows: "If any member fails to pay his annual subscription before the first day of February next after it has become due, notice shall be sent him by his branch or sub-branch secretary calling his attention thereto, and if he shall fail to pay the amount due on the second day thereafter he shall cease to be a member of the League."

State Congress in 1954 carried a rule 6(a) to the effect that "When a sub-branch has made all reasonable efforts to obtain from unrepresented members either their renewal of membership or the return of their badges, their names are submitted to the State Executive, which shall then be responsible for any further action."

The reasons that arise for the change of responsibility on League headquarters to take action under this rule and the State Executive's agreement to the submission of "all reasonable efforts" as set out in the resolution of State Congress.

Costs

There are, at the present time, from sub-branches which claim that the costs associated with this procedure must be met out of the 1/8 which the State Executive has allowed sub-branches from the 5% membership fee increase agreed to by Federal Congress.

It is claimed that out of the 1/8 allocated to sub-branches, one penny goes to cover a one-cent stamp and a possible 1/3d. for postage involved in forwarding the request to a sub-branch. The remaining 7/9 goes to an unfinancial member.

To say that the costs involved are for the sub-branch to meet, and not against the 1/8 as mentioned, is a form of one's own account.

A better comparison is as follows:

- 20 financial members at 7/8 each equals a gain to a sub-branch of £7.
- The costs are necessary in collecting the above amount:
  - 20 notices at 3d. each: 7/8.
  - 20 second notices at 1/½d each: 7/8.
  - 20 returns f. stamps at 1d. each: 7/8.
  - 10 envelopes at 1½d. each: 7/8.
  - 1/10.

Net result in favour of sub-branch £5/4/8.

Privileges

The State Executive agreed that a League member was entitled to all his rights and privileges under the constitution before action could be taken to recover the badge from him or her.

It was also agreed that sub-branches should be circulated and instructed to comply with the rule as laid down in the constitution.

Suits are dispelled to sub-branches that have printed and sub-branches are advised that the fees are allowable on application.

Form 1 was to be sent all financial members by on May 31, and it was suggested that Form 2 might be sent by registered post as a test of good service. Otherwise, action taken to recover the badge under the Returned Service Men's Badges Act might fail.

A copy of these forms would be sent to League Headquarters for a copy, and a further copy would be retained by the sub-branch.

The distribution of these forms was agreed, and it would be sufficient proof that a sub-branch had made all reasonable efforts to obtain a membership fee of the badge.

It was anticipated that there would be some response to the dispatch of Form 1, and that registered letters with Form 2 would only be sent by a sub-branch to those members whom it was felt should be subject to the provisions of the Badges Act.

Impoverished

Admirably League Headquarters will benefit as a result of the sub-branches' efforts, but what sub-branches want to do is to have a list of all the members of the Union who are in need of assistance.

No sub-branch was to be held responsible for the costs of assistance to those members who were improverished, and also to their dependents.

One sub-branch made mention of the fact that in Victoria 10/10 is allocated to sub-branches in the case of a member who dies.

No mention was made of the fact that in that state and in other states, League members are required to pay for the journal published by state branches.

The cost to members in Victoria is 9/6 a year.

Sub-branches are an additional cost to the League membership fee in the eastern states. Western Australia members, out of their annual subscription, provide for a membership and Listenting Post.

The 13/ which Headquarters are paying for is divided up as follows:

| Federal Office | £1.00 |
| Listenting Post | £1.60 |
| League administration | £0.60 |
| Total | £1.30 |

Well-Known R.S.L. Man Dies At Bunbury

The death occurred at Bunbury recently of Mr. George Whistlecraft, a returned soldier World War I.

Well known in the Bridgetown district, Mr. Whistlecraft moved to Bunbury two years ago for the sake of his health. He was a member of the Bridgetown sub-branch of the R.S.L. almost from its inception.

He took an active part in R.S.L. activities and was a member of the sub-branch committee.

Mr. Whistlecraft was one of four original soldier settlers who took up land in the Sunny side area under the soldiers' settlement scheme after World War I.

Kenwick Holds Social Evening

Women's Auxiliary members, their husbands and members of kindred organisations were entertained by the Kenwick sub-branch at a social evening on March 1.

Also present were two members of the State Executive, Messrs. Kesley and Stanbury, and the president of the South Sub-branch (Mr. V. Stevens). The compere was Mr. V. Stevens.

The evening began with a recitation by Mr. Colin Ross ("The Sergeant Major") and "Mountain Lovers"). Refreshments were served at intervals and the old-time dance numbers were enjoyed by everyone.

Other items were presented in the course of the evening by Mr. Palmer (harmonica player), Mr. A. Harding (conjurer), Mr. Harry Luck (singer), "Old South Bay" (pianist), and Mr. Lionel Wilson (piano accordionist). The highlight of the evening was the presentation of service certificates to members.

Mr. H. Cooper, who received a past-president's certificate, was a foundation member of the sub-branch and played a leading part in getting the hall built.

Mr. Wally Moore, another stalwart, who has achieved a great deal for the sub-branch in the many years during which he has been associated with it also received a past-president's certificate.

Mr. Ted Barker, who for six years successfully performed the hardest task that any organisation has to offer, that of secretary, received a past-secretary's certificate.

Mr. and Mrs. Whistlecraft proposed the toast of the Women's Auxiliary and Mrs. Thomas responded.

Mr. Moore proposed a toast to Mr. Stevens, thanking him for the work he had put into organising the evening.
Army May Be Equipped With Transfusion Pumps

The Australian defence services may be equipped soon with blood transfusion pumps in hospitals and in the field, the Minister for the Army (Mr. Francis) said recently.

Mr. Francis said the machine had been presented to the Army with full patent and manufacturing rights, by the late Dr. Mark Ashkenasy, of Melbourne.

It would be invaluable in future war fare and for civilian use.

Tests on the usefulness of the pump under normal hospital conditions were best carried out at the Austin Hospital, Heidelberg, by Dr. R. Officer, the Army's consultant surgeon. Dr. Officer had practical experience in the operation of the machine during the final stages of its construction by Dr. Ashkenasy.

The Commonwealth Health Department and the Repatriation Commission were interested in the recent tests. Officers of the departments believed the machine would prove a valuable aid in the treatment of patients in public and military hospitals.

The Army Medical Service had named the machine "The Mark Ashkenasy Blood Transfusion Pump." It enabled blood transfusions to be made direct from the donor to the patient.

The pump was about the size of a cigar box and could be clipped on to a firm object when in use.

The Army was confident the pump would be the answer to medical emergencies for people suffering from radio-active burns in an atomic bomb attack.

After 15 Years C.M.F. Trophy Returns To W.A.

For only the second time in 20 years a West Australian unit has won the Army trophy for the most efficient C.M.F. unit in Australia.

The trophy was presented by the R.S.L. State President (Mr. F. C. Chaney) to the University of W.A. Regiment at its camp at Northam this month.

The last time the trophy, which was donated by the R.S.L. in 1935, was won by a West Australian unit was in 1937-38, when it was awarded to the 11th Battalion.

The trophy is a bronze statue of a World War I digger on a rock pedestal. It is mounted on a piece of wood from the original H.M.A.S. Sydney.

The figure is reported to have been sculptured by Brig.-Gen. Carl Jesu, who was commandant of the military district of W.A. before World War I. Since 1948 the trophy has been held by the University of Adelaide Regiment.
Army To Test One Man Tropical Rations Pack

Australian food scientists have completed preliminary research into a new one-man 24-hour ration pack to suit the needs of the digger on active service, particularly in tropical country, the Minister for the Army (Mr. Jos. Franks) announced recently.

The pack had been designed to suit cases where group cooking and feeding were operationally impossible.

It was planned that a group of students at the Jungle Training Centre, Canungra, would test the ration over a 24-hour period in March to see how effectively it suited the digger's appetite.

Soldiers on the ration-pack would be studied carefully by regional medical officers and civilian scientists. They would be weighed, examined for fatigue and energy reactions, and would undergo tests to see if the ration were sufficient to subdue hunger for the required time between meals.

In a series of exhaustive trials, the ration would also be tested for variety, for portability, and stowage on the soldier, for suitability of containers, and determination of wastage.

Troops undergoing the test would have to answer a questionnaire on its effects.

Other trainees in the same group would be on normal Army rations to provide a contrast.

To ensure accurate findings, it was intended that troops on both pack and ordinary rations would be kept as closely as possible to the level of their physical and mental activity.

No Replacement

Australia up to this time had not yet tested 24-hour one-man ration to replace the well-known Operation Rations (OD) which was used by our troops in the Pacific Theatre in World War II.

It was on the conclusions of the Canungra tests that the ration for the new ration would ultimately be based, so that the pack could go into full-scale production.

Pack rations for the Canungra trials would have three different varieties.

"A" ration provided meat and cereal for the main breakfast course. "B" contained ham and eggs, while "C" offered nut food.

Other components were oatmeal block, biscuits, condensed milk, sugar, tea and salt.

Extra salt, of course, was a necessary ingredient to replace sweat losses, and meals themselves were rich in the essential mineral.

Lunch-time menus offered a choice of Vienna sausage, luncheon meat and cereal, biscuits, milk, sugar and tea.

Evening meals provided corned beef, corned mutton and fish. Sundries included chocolate, fruit tablets, barley sugar, anti-"
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Jerramungup Property Is Developing Quickly

Since the Jerramungup property was taken over some years ago by the War Service Land Settlement Board tremendous development has taken place.

In addition 9,000 acres of wheat has been planted and 7,500 acres of internal fences have been erected.

Ninety-six dams, of a total capacity of 2,034,000 cubic yards, have been excavated and 28 machinery-cut-stuling sheds built.

When John Hassell first dropped anchor in St. George’s Bay in January, 1839, on route from London to Sydney, he probably thought he would be the first “New Australian” to own this property and found a family there.

But on January 16, ten years later, he applied for 8,000 acres of land—4,000 on each side of the river. For the purpose of running 4,000 sheep for “Jer-na-mung-up,” a locality described as “good grazing country” by the colony’s first Surveyor-General, J. S. Roe, in his diary recording an exploration there about October 22, 1848.

Roe’s description of the country was endorsed by John Forrest in 1870 on his expeditions along the coast to South Australia.

He refers to Jerramungup (the officially adopted spelling) as “extensive country.”

The name is considered to be a corruption of the native Yarramboochi, meaning a place where the Molale trees (i.e. flat-topped yates) stand up on high ground—an unusual feature.

The Jerramungup country is steeply undulating, mostly Yate forest. “Park” cleared.

The soils between the granite outcrops are red or grey clay-like loams.

The river, which drains away to the sea from the salt lake around Pingrup to the sea at Gorgon Inlet, is salt and dives up into reaches in summertime.

To reach Jerramungup the traveler takes the Ravenstone road, which, after leaving Ongerup and until reaching Nillumbik (a distance of 18 miles), traverses country covered by low scrub and maquis.

Thereafter small patches of Yate disappear until the picturesque valley of the Gairdner River opens out, and the salt desert is reached after a run of 14 miles.

Grown land of a similar nature, extending southward almost to the sea, and with an increasing rainfall nearer the sea, is becoming more populated.

A large area of this land is to go to the west of the Gardiner River is at present being cleared and made into farms under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme.

Soldier Settlers

The following ex-servicemen have been successful in the allotment of the first eight Jerramungup farms.

Farm No. A1064, James Ulick Deegan (Runji); No. A1067, Arthur James Martin (Gordon); No. A1068, James Alister Owersby (Perenjori); No. A1064, Allan Tilbe (Corrigin); No. A1086, Henry Robert Dwane (Reeds); No. A1087, Earn Stanley Gordon McRae (Jerramungup via Ongerup); No. A1089, John Simpson O’Dea (Shackleton); No. A1090, Lynn Frederick Parson (Armadale).
Jungle Training Scheme To Be Speeded Up

Training schedules planned for the recently opened Jungle Training Centre at Canungra will be accelerated to provide for maximum possible output, the Minister for the Army (Mr. J. Francis) said recently.

Training will be stepped up by the acceleration of the appointment of instructors to the Canungra course to periods varying from two to five months, and the movement of a demonstration battalion from the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, from Ingleburn.

The new changes have been made following discussions between the G.O.C., Northern Command (Mr. H. G. Hartlock), the Director of Military Training (Colonel M. F. Brogan) and the Acting Commandant of the Jungle Training Centre (Lt.-Col. J. Kelly).

At present, the instructional staff at Canungra numbers 95, including nine officers and 86 other ranks. The first batch of officers and N.C.O.'s has commenced training and the first intake of other ranks from the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, will begin the six weeks intensified training course next month.

Under the accelerated plan, it is expected that the 2nd Battalion will have completed its Jungle training by mid-August this year.

When the Jungle Training Centre attains peak output, troops will be handled in successive batches of company strength of approximately 100 men.

Mt. Hawthorn Holds Annual Meeting

The large attendance at the annual meeting of the Mt. Hawthorn sub-branch on February 25 was an indication of the fact that members are keenly interested in the management of their sub-branch.

The retiring president (Mr. J. White) and the council (Mr. E. Cooley) submitted reports on the year's activities and in the absence of members of the treasurer (Mr. H. Whitehouse), the auditor (Mr. J. Young) submitted a statement of receipts and expenditure.

It showed the sub-branch's finances to be in an excellent position and a vote of thanks was passed to the committee of management.

The outgoing officers were elected: President, Mr. J. Shearer; vice-presidents, Messrs. L. Liddle and B. Button; secretary, Mr. E. Cooley; treasurer, Mr. H. Whitehouse; committee, Messrs. H. Richardson, T. Erickson, G. Pope, H. King, G. Mussey, J. D'Oro, P. Myers, F. Williams, L. Vivian and A. Brown; trustees, Messrs. W. Rawles, W. Kay, T. Dannion, T. Dunlop, V. Whitehouse, M. Whitehouse, W. Magee and J. Young; public officer, Mr. J. White.

Owing to the illness of several members over the Christmas period, competition for club trophies was held over.

The president extended a welcome to Messrs. G. Pope, B. Bill Rawles and H. Richardson, back after illnesses.

The Mt. Hawthorn sub-branch's eight life members are the sub-branch's active members and the eighth is president.

Members are reminded to keep in touch with sub-branch activities by attending fortnightly meetings and to keep in mind local arrangements for Anzac Day.

MARCH, 1955

THE LISTENING POST

Page 9

"WHERE ALL DIGGERS MEET"

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GAMES NIGHTS: Third Tuesday each month.
SUPPER AND REFRESHMENTS.
Boyup Brook To Vary Meeting

In an endeavour to interest members in the outlying districts the Boyup Brook sub-branch executive will hold some of its meetings at the more remote centres as well as in Boyup Brook itself.

This was decided at the sub-branch's annual meeting.

A satisfactory financial statement was presented, and the general account was able to bear a transfer of £100 to the building fund.

A block had been obtained but had been found to be unsuitable, it was reported.

The re-elected president (Mr. D. Fyffe) was installed in office by the State Executive representative (Mr. G. W. Gordon).

The reunion which followed the meeting was very successful, though the president was disappointed that there was no representation from the Dinnup district.

Wilga was well represented.

The secretary (Mr. R. Ferguson) is doing a good job of work even though he has a broken arm.

He comments that the arm could probably stand the exercise of writing out renewals of subscriptions for 1955.

Nannup Holds Annual Meeting

With the Busselton sub-branch re-union falling on the same evening as that of the Nannup sub-branch the usual exchange of visitors from these neighbouring branches did not take place.

Nannup's retiring president (Mr. R. S. Hall) explained that his business did not allow him to do justice to his office, and the chairman of the Road Board (Mr. S. E. Ford) was duly elected president.

The secretary (Mr. C. Gilbert) was re-elected and much praise was given to his sterling efforts.

The State Executive representative was Mr. G. W. Gordon.

Visitors present included representatives of the Bedford-Morley Park sub-branch cricket team and the president and secretary of the Augusta sub-branch (Messrs. Wilson and Vansittart).

Much stress was placed on the necessity of building a sub-branch home and a social committee was formed, headed by Messrs. Blythe and Hall.

Present during the evening was Mr. Kevin Plunkett (2/16th), who was paralysed in an accident.

He was brought down specially for the evening.

In the past year the sub-branch has worked well in establishing a trust fund for him.

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R. J. Stewart, W. Pregnancy.

Jerramungup Fire Brigade

The new Jerramungup soldiers' settlement (see story Page 8) is well on its way to being able to boast all modern conveniences. The settlement area, has a fire brigade, volunteer members of which are seen above.

Esperance Receives Visit From Women's President

An important event for members of the Esperance branch of the R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary was the visit on January 8 of the State President (Mrs. Stockman).

Mrs. Stockman was in Esperance for nearly five days, during which time she saw a great deal of the district.

Mrs. Stockman's first major function was a social and musical afternoon in the Esperance Hall. A large number of women attended the gathering, including members of other organisations as well as of the Women's Auxiliary.

Mrs. Stockman gave a talk on the activities and aims of the Auxiliary and expressed the hope that the Esperance branch, newly recently formed, would be able to increase its membership.

Her hope was quickly realised, as three new members were enrolled on the spot.

Mrs. Stockman, who stayed at the Pier Hotel during her visit, attended the C.W.A. card evening on Tuesday, and a Mutual Aid card party on Thursday afternoon.

On Thursday afternoon she was taken for a drive to the Pink Lakes.

On Friday afternoon the State President was driven round the beach, visited the local wireless station and the Fresh Air League Home and was entertained to afternoon tea at the home of the Esperance branch secretary.

Mrs. Stockman spent Saturday afternoon watching a softball match, and in the evening was presented with a bouquet of flowers by the Esperance Auxiliary—a gift for her birthday, which fell on January 22.

On Sunday morning several members of the sub-branch were at the station to see Mrs. Stockman off on her trip back to Perth.

Mrs. Stockman said that she had been charmed by the lovely scenery round Esperance and the neighbouring beaches.

She thought that the beaches were equal to any that she had seen in the Eastern States during a recent visit.

The South African Beaufort labour bodies provided 79,000 natives with work on farms, from the time of the inception of the Bureau at the end of 1931 up to the middle of 1954. In addition to the 79,000 natives who took up employment on farms, more than 20,000 were recruited to help gather the record maize harvest.

Confirmation Of Sub-branch Officials
As Approved By State Executive

ON FEBRUARY 16, 1955.

SUB-BRANCH,                           PRESIDENT,                          SECRETARY,                        
Brunswick                             A. C. Barnes                           R. P. Moore                         
Cardiff                               J. Wilson                                           A. L. Carrier                        
Karrakatta-Augusta                    B. Keeley                                           J. C. Nash                           
Wagin                                 C. J. Graham                                        N. W. Pember                         
Willow                                H. Warner                                           M. Schofield                         
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Miss Meares Quits Presidential Post

Miss Mary Meares, M.B.E., who has been president since the sub-branches inception in 1948, announced her retirement at the annual general meeting of the Ex-Service Women's branch on Friday, February 11.

Miss Sylvia Perry was appointed to succeed Miss Meares as president. Other officers elected were: Vice-presidents, Mrs. M. Lloyd and Miss G. Smith; secretary, Miss Baptista (re-elected); treasurer, Miss Thomas (re-elected).

Miss Meares delivered her last presidential report. A fete held at R.G.H., Hollywood, had raised over £200, she said, and it had been possible to make donations to the Red Cross, Paversham House, the War Memorial fund, Legality and other charities. Support had been provided for the Blind Soldier's meetings and socials and the sub-branch had been responsible for decorating Anzac House for the Royal visit.

The annual Anzac Day meal, which took the form of a high tea, had been provided for all incapacitated ex-servicemen in institutions. Accommodation had been a serious problem during the year, and the sub-branch was grateful to the T.P.I. Association, which had made its rooms available for so long, and to the Returned Sisters' sub-branch, who granted the use of their rooms for monthly meetings.

"We have been very fortunate in having Mr. Townshend as our representative on the Executive," Miss B. said, "and are most grateful to him for his guidance during the year."

Sub-branch Likes Installation Ceremonies

At the January meeting of the Karridale-Augusta sub-branch, officers for 1955 were installed by Mr. Cliff Kleeman, who happened to be holidaying in that locality.

Sub-branch members were pleased to see some ceremonial introduced on this occasion. Mr. Kleeman's efforts were appreciated and he was invited to come again. Principal officers installed were: President, Mr. J. D. Wilson, and secretary, 'Mr. R. Vanmille.

It is understood that in future sub-branch meetings will be held at Augusta, where it is hoped good attendances will result.

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New C.O. for 25 Squadron

Squadron Leader I. S. Parker, D.F.C., who has recently returned from service in the United Kingdom, has been appointed Commanding officer of No. 25 City of Perth Squadron.

Squadron Leader E. A. Martin, D.F.C., has been transferred to No. 2 Operational Training Unit, at Willmot, New South Wales.

In May Squadron Leader Martin will go on advanced jet-fighter course.

Anzac Plans For "Old 16th"

All who served in the "Old Sixteenth," or other 4th Brigade units, are invited to take part in the Easter Day parade and service on Monday, April 25th.

Fall in is near Anzac House. Further details will be announced in daily Press.

Nominations Due For Women's Officials

Nominations for State President and Secretary of the R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary were invited in April. They would close on April 12.

Sub-branch Officers were decided at a meeting of the State Executive.

The recent visit of the State President (Mrs. V. Stockman) to the Esperance branch had given members an excellent idea of the work being done by the metropolitan auxiliaries, it was reported.

During December and January nearly 600 bedside visits had been made at Royal Perth Hospital, Hollywood, Sunset, Edward Millen, Heathcote, Lennox, Home of Peace, Infectious Diseases Hospital and Glendevon had also been visited.

Members were advised that the State Secretary (Mrs. E. A. Jones) was in attendance at Anzac House every Wednesday from 12.30 to 3 p.m.

The following donations were acknowledged: Toodyay sub-branch, £2 15s. 0d. for State War Memorial; City of Perth, £10 for Christmas cheer; Brookton, £5 for the State War Memorial; North Beach, £2 5s. for Christmas cheer; Belmont, £2 2s. for Christmas cheer.
No Changes In National Service Training Planned

There is no likelihood of compulsory national service being discontinued in Australia.

The Minister for Defence (Sir Philip McBride) gave this assurance in the House of Representatives recently.

"There will be no variation of the present universal "roll-up,"" Sir Philip said.

"Nor will there be any extensions of the present grounds for exemption."

"All young men, on turning 18, will be required to register for national service."

"Subject to medical fitness they will remain liable to call-up until generally speaking, they are 26 years of age."

The number of national servicemen to be trained, the Minister continued, would continue at the present figure of 30,000 annually.

Most of the training of national servicemen in the army was centred on Citizen Military Force units.

It had been found that it was impracticable for young men to be kept away from Citizen Military Force training centres to be fully effective members of their units.

On this account registrants living in remote areas had so far had their training deferred.

Those not living within handy distance of training centres had had part of their training deferred.

"The national service training scheme had also to be thought of in the context of mobilisation plans."

"It was not in the national interest to train men who were unlikely to be called up in the early stages of an emergency."

There were also a limited number of jobs that would be of great and immediate importance in an emergency, having regard to Australia's strategic role, and in which it would be difficult to replace men if they were mobilised for the services.

"The training of youths engaged full-time in the production of food and raw materials therefore deferred at present," Sir Philip concluded.

"But only people coming into the categories I have mentioned will have service curtailed or deferred in any way."

The 39th annual congress of the R.S.L. adopted the following resolution. "That this congress of the R.S.L. strenuously opposes the compulsory defence training scheme and training standards to be regulated at the highest practicable level."

Army Reduces Its Height Requirements

The Australian Regular Army would reduce its height limit to five foot two inches from five feet four inches, the Minister for the Army (Mr. Francis) announced recently.

It was felt that the lower height standard would broaden the recruiting field, since stocky young Australians had been regretfully turned away from recruiting offices solely because they couldn't make the minimum height, not because their health was bad.

They would now be welcome to try again, and this time their prospects of getting into the A.I.F. were just two inches better.

Recruiting officers had often commented it was a pity about the height regulations.

Most of the under-height scheme would be applied to the recruiting field, since it was believed the recruits' health was satisfactory.

It was stated that the Army would still demand the same high standards of general health from its recruits, standards as high as those of any Army in the world today.

Midland Elects 1955 Officers

Officers for 1955 were elected at the last monthly meeting of the Midland sub-branch.

They were: President, Mr. J. F. Craig (20 Third-avenue, West Midland, phone U1664); vice-presidents, Messrs. B. Davis and W. S. Lamb; treasurer, Mr. J. W. Ravensoorth; secretary, Mr. H. J. Kynaston; and Mr. R. T. Bain (Midland Junction, phone U1542). Members are reminded that in future the monthly meetings will be held on the first Thursday in each month.

Crows for 1955 are available from the secretary of the Midland branch.
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R.S.L. To Help Flood Victims In The East

The R.S.L. will contribute £500 towards the relief of New South Wales flood victims.

This was decided at a meeting of the State Executive on Wednesday, March 2.

Sub-branches are asked to contribute a minimum of £2 each. Bellevue has already donated £20.

The State president (Mr. F. C. Chaney) appealed to all sub-branches to support this cause.

Interchange Plan Deferred

In the February issue of this journal it was stated that Federal Executive had approved an interchange plan for contingents of R.S.L. members to travel interstate and participate in Anzac Day ceremonies.

Advice has now been received from Federal office that, as a result of further negotiations with Australian Overseas Travel Service, the Federal President (Sir George Holland) has decided that due to the time factor, it would be unwise to start the scheme this year.

The plan will therefore be deferred until 1956.

Belmont Scores With Social Functions

Members are advised that this year the Belmont sub-branch is holding its monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, in the Belmont Road Board Hall.

On Sunday, February 20, a successful beach day was held at Mosman’s Bay. A special bus was chartered, and a party of 70 members, their wives and children, took themselves away to the river.

The annual reunion and smoko be held on Anzac Night, at the Belmont Road Board Hall. Artists have been engaged and a good night is assured all who attend.

Tickets are available from the secretary and members of the Committee.

On Saturday, May 21, the sub-branch is conducting a carnival dance in the Redcliffe Hall. Dancing will be from 8-12 to the music of a Perth orchestra.

More than half of the Branch’s 54 members is now wearing a 1955 crown. If you are not among these, you are requested to remedy the omission immediately.

The sub-branch will be conducting an Anzac Day service at Belmont War Memorial at 3 p.m.

Mt. Magnet Will Meet More Often

In a report to League Headquarters the honorary secretary of the Mt. Magnet sub-branch advised that its next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 20.

Future meetings will be held fortnightly from that date on, as it is felt that League matters tend to be scattered, and they are requested to have their meetings more frequently.

It is hoped there will be good attendances.

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Personalities

JOHN CHAPPELL, R.S.L.
State Secretary, recently paid a visit to Merredin sub-branch, to attend the annual reunion.

ROY WADDINGTON, a member of League Headquarters staff, who has been holidaying in Bunbury for the last two weeks, has now resumed duty at Anzac House, feeling all the better for the break.

FRED GRAHAM, who looks after the War Service Homes Division of the State Housing Commission, is at present on long service leave and is missed as a regular attendant at League Housing Committee meetings. All will wish Fred a happy holiday.

CLIFF KLEEMAN, an erstwhile member of the State Executive and at present President of Shenton Park sub-branch, recently called at Anzac House to discuss League Housing Committee matters. His appearance was greatly enjoyed by all.

STAN WATT, who was, for many years, a member of the State Executive, accompanied by Mrs. Watt, left this State last month for an extended tour of Great Britain and the Continent.

ALLAN CARRIOT, who has recently taken over the position of secretary of the Cardiff sub-branch, found time while on a visit to the city, to call at Anzac House to discuss matters of interest to his sub-branch.

PHIL HERLIHY, a brother of Jim, a member of the State Executive, accompanied by Listening Post since coming to this State from America, 12 months ago, has resigned his position and is now on his way back to America.

RAY MARSHALL, who has been associated with Listening Post since coming to this State from America, 12 months ago, has resigned his position and is now on his way back to America.

LES SMYTHE, of Geraldton, has been visiting in Perth and during his stay he entertained to dinner by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cuthbert at their home at Bedford Park. Les was severely wounded at the battle for Hamel on July 4, 1918, as a result of which he lost his right arm.

TOM CALDWELL, a member of the State Executive, accompanied by Listening Post since coming to this State from America, 12 months ago, has resigned his position and is now on his way back to America.

WONDERFUL TO RELIEVE PAIN

Mrs. L. Wright, 113 Wools Avenue, Hurstville, writes: "I suffered a severe attack of Hay Fever recently with pain in the head and limbs. I took a powder morning and night for three days. The pain disappeared leaving only a slight cough. I still take a powder during the day. I have been using Bex for years and always tell my friends how wonderful they are to relieve pain."

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Page 19

MARCH, 1955

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FEDERATED S.N. SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN’S ASSOCIATION — Meetings are held at the Union Hotel, Wellington-street, West Perth, 1st Monday of each month, at 8 p.m. President: G. H. Heddon, 9 Wellington-street, West Perth. Telephone: 3511 W.A.P.O.5045.

SOUTH AFRICAN IMPERIAL VETERANS’ ASSOCIATION — A Branch is meeting at the Anzac House, 60 Wellington-street, West Perth, 1st Monday of each month at 8 p.m. President: G. H. Heddon, 9 Wellington-street, West Perth. Telephone: 3511 W.A.P.O.5045.

10TH LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, when called.

ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION — Meetings are held at the Anzac House, when called. President: G. H. Heddon, 9 Wellington-street, West Perth. Telephone: 3511 W.A.P.O.5045.

KANSAS CITY, U.S.A., CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:—Anzac House, when called.

ROYAL A.C.T. AND N.A.T. ASSOCIATION — Meetings are held at the Anzac House, when called.

11TH AND 9/11TH S.L.I. A.F.P. — Meetings are held at the Anzac House, when called. President: C. W. Mitchell, 110 Wellington-street, West Perth, 1st Monday of each month at 8 p.m. Secretary: A. B. Brookman, 60 King-street, West Perth. Telephone: 2231 W.A.P.O.0030.

22ND BATTALION (S.L.I.A.F.P.) — Meetings are held at the Anzac House, when called. President: C. W. Mitchell, 110 Wellington-street, West Perth, 1st Monday of each month at 8 p.m. Secretary: A. B. Brookman, 60 King-street, West Perth. Telephone: 2231 W.A.P.O.0030.


2/16TH BN. A.F. — Meetings are held at the Anzac House, when called. President: T. R. Hamilton, Vera St Moritz Park, Secretary: R. N. Cleland, 28 Charles St, Booragoon. Past President: H. Whiston, 3 Lord Street, South Fremantle. Secretary: T. J. Long. 167 Hay-avenue. For all communications, call Mr. Hamilton on 2229 W.A. T.P.

21ST BATTALION A.F.P. — Meetings are held at the Anzac House, when called. President: W. S. D. Edmonds, GPO, Perth. Secretary: W. S. D. Edmonds, GPO, Perth.

22ND BATTALION (S.L.I.A.F.P.) — Meetings are held at the Anzac House, when called. President: W. S. D. Edmonds, GPO, Perth. Secretary: W. S. D. Edmonds, GPO, Perth.

THE VETERANS’ BATTLE FUND LEGION — Meetings are held at the Anzac House, when called. President: Rt. Hon. T. H. Sullivan, K.C. M.C. 3 Lord Street, Fremantle. Secretary: T. J. Long. 167 Hay-avenue. For all communications, call Mr. Sullivan on 2229 W.A. T.P.

THE DISTRICT VETERANS’ BATTLE FUND LEGION — Meetings are held at the Anzac House, when called. President: T. H. Sullivan, K.C. M.C. 3 Lord Street, Fremantle. Secretary: Mrs. Sullivan, 3 Lord Street, Fremantle.

THE DISTRICT VETERANS’ BATTLE FUND LEGION — Meetings are held at the Anzac House, when called. President: T. H. Sullivan, K.C. M.C. 3 Lord Street, Fremantle. Secretary: Mrs. Sullivan, 3 Lord Street, Fremantle.

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CANNING SUB-BRANCH OPENS NEW HEADQUARTERS

Nearly 100 people attended the official opening of the Canning sub-branch's new hall on February 27.

The ceremony was the climax of many months of hard work on the part of sub-branch members.

Among the visitors were the State President (Mr. F. C. Chaney), the State Vice-President (Messrs. Longie and Davids), the accountant (Mr. Don Athole), Mr. L. Hamilton, M.H.R., Mrs. M. A. Griffiths, M.L.C., the chairman of the Canning Road Board (Mr. E. Keen), the president of the Queen's Park Memorial Hall committee, Mr. H. Delaney and representatives of the Westphool Kennick and Goodwill sub-branches.

The president of the Canning sub-branch (Mr. F. Garden) was in the chair.

While everyone stood in silence, Mr. G. R. Stubbings presented and unveiled a memorial tablet in a replica of the State War Memorial.

The president then received the vote of thanks.

The official opening of the new building was performed by Mr. Chaney, who thanked sub-branch members for allowing him that honour and extended his congratulations to them on the acquisition of such a fine building.

He then released the flag covering the memorial plaque and formally handed over the keys of the hall to Mr. Garden.

Speaking on behalf of the Canning Road Board, Mr. Keen gave an assurance that the Board would always be willing to do what it could to assist the sub-branch.

Messrs. Hamilton and Griffiths also added a word of congratulation.

Mr. J. Duckwood extended the thanks of the sub-branch to "Mr. Reeves for life membership of the sub-branch and various other sub-committees.

In his annual report the treasurer revealed that the sub-branch had found 79 financial members on its books.

The auditors commended the treasurer for the manner in which he had handled the sub-branch's finances for the year.

Officers Elected

At the annual meeting that preceded the opening ceremony, the following officers were elected: President, Mr. G. Wood; vice-presidents, Mr. J. Duckwood, secretary, Mr. E. S. J. Hayward; vice-presidents, Messrs. E. J. Noble and H. Godfrey; auditor, Mr. E. E. Hambley; hospital visitor, Mr. G. Hewson; warden, Mr. J. J. Connolly; social committee, Messrs. J. Duckwood, D. Stewart, L. M. Taylor, G. Hawkins, H. Hicks, J. Varley, R. Druie and G. R. Stubbings; management committee, Messrs. Woods and Duckwood.

New Branches May Be Formed

The State Executive has been informed by its membership sub-committee that there is a possibility of new sub-branches being formed at Medina and Manning Park.

Life Membership

For Mr. S. Reeves

Life membership was conferred on Mr. S. P. T. Reeves, J.P., at the annual meeting of the Mt. Barker sub-branch on February 16.

The president, Mr. Norman Burnell, pointed out that the distinction was conferred only for outstanding service.

Mr. Reeves expressed great surprise at being presented with the honour, Mr. Burnell said, not only because of his long and distinguished association with the Mt. Barker sub-branch but because of his work for the R.S.L. in general.

On a memorial service in memory of the sub-branch's fallen members, Mr. Reeves expressed his gratitude for the tributes paid him by his fellow members.

A. E. Breen, of 18th National Service Training Battalion, was the guest speaker.

Two Australians Receive American Army Awards

Two Australian officers have been awarded American decorations for distinguished service in Japan and Korea.

They are Lt-Col. L. D. King, now on the staff of Army Headquarters, Melbourne, and Lieutenant A. C. J. Breen, of 18th National Service Training Battalion.

Lieutenant Breen gained the American Distinguished Flying Cross for "extraordinary achievements" while on duty in an unarmed light liaison aircraft over the enemy lines in Korea in June, 1953.

On a control mission north of White Horse Mountain, he expertly directed three flights of fighter-bombers, leading them through thick cloud to attack enemy strongpoints.

The citation says that Lt. Breen ignored warnings from attacking aircraft that his own craft was under heavy small-arms and light automatic fire, but continued to direct the fighters in their runs over the target area.

"By his high personal courage, keen airmanship and devotion to duty, Lt. Breen rendered great service to the United States Air Forces, and the Australian Army," the citation concluded.

Lt. Breen was also awarded the United States Army Meritorious Service Medal for meritorious achievements in air flights over enemy territory.

Mr. Breen's courage, skill and devotion to duty were regarded as a substantial contribution to the success of United Nations efforts in Korea.

Lt-Col. King gained the United States Legion of Merit, Degree of Legionnaire, for meritorious services to the British Commonwealth as chief of the Liaison Group in Tokyo, and British Commonwealth military representative at the United Nations-Japan negotiations between 1952 and 1954.

The citation for his award declares that he executed his tasks in an exemplary manner and established harmonious relations with the Japanese, enabling the maintenance of efficient, smooth functioning of the British Commonwealth base in Tokyo. Lt-Col. King was described as having shown "exceptional professional competence and sustained devotion to duty."