Rest Home For Partially Blind Soldiers

The W.A. branch of the Partially Blinded Soldiers’ Association (Inc.) on December 13 last reached another milestone in its history by officially opening the Rest Home at Saunders-street, North Beach.

At the same time, the Honour Board was unveiled.

The attendance was very appropriate for the occasion, several organisations being represented in answer to invitations which had been posted. This was pleasing to P.B. members generally.

The President (Mr. P. Greif) in introducing the Chairman of the Lottery Commission (Mr. L. J. Triest) explained that the rest home was promoted by the late secretary (Mr. John Mackay) and to perpetuate his name it had been decided to name the home “Mackay Lodge.”

Mr. Greif also informed those present that an apology had been received from the State President (Mr. W. S. Lonnie) owing to previous engagement at Faversham House—and that Mr. Lonnie had depu ted the unveiling to a Vice-president (Mr. Eric O. Davies).

The secretary of P.B.S. Association (Mr. K. Gillam) in supporting the President’s remarks gave those present a brief outline of the history of the Association, which at present was in a very healthy financial position.

Also, its membership had been maintained at practically 100 per cent of those eligible ever since 1948.

At the end of last year every member was “financial.” Mr. Triest, in his report to those present, said he was not only thankful and surprised but very pleased to have been given the opportunity of not only officially opening the home, but that of coming along to see what had been done by the association—a job to be justly proud of—and he was certain of it.

He was quite sure the money spent (£3,000) would be simply repaid.

He said he had great pleasure in declaring Mackay Lodge open, and that after the unveiling of the Honour Board all could go through the place and see for themselves.

The unveiling was performed by Mr. Eric Davies who said how pleased he was to be associated with such a memorable afternoon.

Traditions Upheld

He said the 30 names engraved on the Honour Board were those of members who had not only been deprived of vision—one of God’s greatest gifts—but had died of war-caused disabilities.

He knew many of the members of the association and was pleased that they upheld the traditions of their mother-organisation—the R.S.L.

He sincerely hoped the Honour Board would always be revered by those who for years to come would have the privilege of occupying the rest home.

*The opportunity was taken by the R.S.L. State Executive to extend to the Minister for the Navy (Senator O’Sullivan) during his recent visit to Perth to inspect naval establishments—a welcome to Azac House. The Minister, who saw service in both World Wars, was made to feel very much at home and was shown here (second from left) relating an anecdote of his wartime experiences in “the islands” to (from left) Mr. F. C. Chantey, M.H.R., the State President (Mr. W. S. Lonnie) and Mr. Leon Goldsworthy, formerly of the R.A.N.

Brigadier D. M. McMahon, supporting Mr. Davies’ remarks, said that as a senior patron and member of the association, he was pleased to be present on such a auspicious occasion.

He had known the late secretary and knew how pleased he had been to think that members had decided to hold his name in reverence by naming the home Mackay Lodge.

In handing back the gayly decorated flag to expose the Honour Board of the P.B.S. association, Mr. Davies then dropped the question of taking the flag to expose the Honour Board of the P.B.S. association.

Afternoon tea was served by ladies and members of the association.

Navy Minister Greeted

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PERTH TO HAVE REMEMBRANCE DAY FESTIVAL

A Remembrance Day Festival—one somewhat similar lines to that conducted annually in Melbourne—is to be held in Perth this year.

It will be held on the Sunday prior to Armistice Day, commencing at 8 p.m.

This was decided by the R.S.L. State Executive at its meeting on February 1.

The executive also appointed a committee of seven members with power to co-opt—to decide on the venue for the festival and to seek the cooperation of people and organisations throughout the State.

The action was taken following a report by Mr. R. J. Stoddart on the Melbourne cere monial.

Mr. Stoddart told his fellow members of the executive that the Melbourne Remembrance Day Festival—held in the Melbourne Town Hall—was conducted in two parts, consisting of solemn pagesantry followed by a service.

During the ceremony poppy petals were showered down on the congregation at an appropriate moment, he said.
FAVERSHAM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Help To Hand—More Needed

One of the most consistent and practical supporters of the Faversham War Veterans' Home over many years—Mr. Sharp of the Balingup sub-branch—is also a good photographer.

As a result, the film record of his travels has been screened and a profit (£2) forwarded to the home.

Mr. Sharp has expressed his willingness to show the film to other sub-branches or audiences, the proceeds of which to go to Faversham.

Here is your chance, sub-branch secretaries, to help Faversham and entertain yourselves, your families and friends—just contact Mr. Sharp, C./Balingup sub-branch.

The Munro and the Superintendent (Mrs. and Mr. Heffel respectively) have now returned from their annual recreation leave and York accorded them a warm welcome—a century for about 12 days on end.

However, Mr. Heffel looked quite fit at the P.S.L. Hotel when supervising the transfer of goods bought for Faversham.

A conspicuous sight in the dining room was the long trestle tables placed along the kitchen wall.

If it is hoped, it will add to the comfort of our veterans and also improve the appearance of the dining room.

Louche chairs, linen, cutlery, bedding and labour-saving devices for the kitchen staff were also purchased from the hostel.

During the past month a breakdown in the refrigeration unit experienced your thanks for their efforts and further expense of purchasing a suitable unit to replace the worn-out plant.

Quotes have been called and a decision made regarding the expensive season of Christmas has just passed. Acknowledgements to Mr. Surgen (Yorks), fruit; Mr. P. Wholahan (Yorks), dressed lambs; Mrs. G. R. Johnstone (ex-servicemen and county council); Brookton Women's Auxiliary, periodicals; Cootow-Waddi Forest Sub-branch, £2; Balingup Sub-Branch, £.

To all above, grateful committee expressed their thoughtfulness, and good wishes.

Hostel Sale Disappoints

The sale by auction of effects at the R.S.L. Hostel—firstly previously disposed of—realised under £1,000 on goods which had been valued at £2,000.

This was reported at the last meeting of the Sub-Executive by the Secretary (Mr. Chappell).

The equipment had been kept up to a fair state of preservation but was very old, Mr. Chappell said.

The veterans' home—Faversham House, York—had benefited to a considerable extent from the disposal of the hostel and its effects.

The executive put on record the appreciation of Mr. Chappell's services in connection with the sale and the subsequent cleaning-up of the premises prior to their handing over to the new owner.

Department Approves League's Views On Immigration Policy

An official expression of the League's attitude to immigration has earned approval in the Commonwealth Department of Immigration.

At the recent Federal Congress of the League held in Brisbane it was resolved:

"That this Congress strongly supports the continuance of a vigorous immigration policy and that, although first preference be given to British migrants, other migrants of European origin continue to be brought to Australia to achieve the maximum annual economic target."

The following statement in respect of the resolution has been received from the secretary of the department.

"It is gratifying to know that the views of the League are identical with present policy, that a vigorous immigration programme should be maintained having regard to the state of the nation's economy and absorptive capacity while preference being given as far as possible to British migrants."

For a number of years the League has strongly supported a vigorous immigration policy and has especially sought to ensure as far as practicable that the majority of migrants should be from British stock.

Regional Meeting At Nannup

A South-West regional sub-branch conference is to be held at Nannup on Friday, March 2.

Surrounding sub-branches likely to be represented are Manjimup, Quindup, Pemberton and Boyup Brook, Greenbushes, Bridgetown, Northcliffe and Kirup.

The League in particular has been keen in nominating British ex-servicemen and their families, and in the years following the cessation of hostilities has been successful in obtaining sub-branches to sponsor each British ex-serviceman.

The committee are still receiving the League's immigration committee from British ex-servicemen for nominators prepared to sponsor their migration.

The committee has again requested that all sub-branches should consider supporting the League's migration policy.

R.S.I. sub-branches are being requested to inform Head Office of the intentions regarding consideration in the A.R.M.S. nominations for the current year.

To sponsor a migrant it is not necessary to guarantee employment or payment. It is, however, necessary to be able to offer living accommodation. The Committee would be pleased to furnish further details to any member of the League who might be interested in nominating a British ex-serviceman.
State Branch Will Raise Some "Meaty" Issues

For the meeting of the R.S.L. Federal Executive to be held in conjunction with the official opening of the new League headquarters in Canberra, on February 14, the W.A. branch has some "meaty" items on the agenda.

The items cover housing, defence and land matters. The opening will be performed by the Governor-General (Mr. William Slim), and the occasion will mark the first meeting of the R.S.L. in Sydney for 40 years. The State President (Mr. W. S. Lonnie) will attend the meeting.

Housing Questions

The State branch will ask the Federal Executive to press for a larger Commonwealth War Service housing allocation for all States than the £30,000,000 promised this year, and will point out that there are still large numbers of ex-servicemen for housing in W.A.

The demand for war-service homes, it was pointed out, could be affected by the discharge from the Forces of personnel now serving in Malaya and Korea.

Land Matters

At a special League land conference to be held on February 13 to discuss a number of administration matters referred to the last League Congress in Brisbane—the W.A. branch will seek clarification of the future of war-service land settlement.

In view of statements made following the conversation that the scheme is to be discontinued, W.A. will ask the Prime Minister for the Federal Minister for the Interior as to plans for the future of the scheme.

Crackers Let Off In Crypt Of Memorial

The night before the unveiling of the State War Memorial extensions in November someone let off crackers at the crypt of the memorial.

The R.S.L. State President (Mr. Lonnie) disclosed this at the last meeting of the State Executive.

A considerable amount of time had been spent the following morning cleaning up the debris in preparation for the ceremony in the afternoon, he said.

Mr. Lonnie made the disclosure during discussion of a question as to the duties of the State Memorial.

Mr. E. C. Townshend said he had recently had occasion to discuss with a number of chidren who were sky-larking in the memorial enclosure.

He had intervened similarly on a good many other occasions. Nor was it always children who were at fault. He had once encountered a man/cricket.

As well it will urge that the Prime Minister be requested to ensure that all efforts are extended to extend greater cooperation to members of the R.S.L. who have been discharged from the Citizen Forces particularly for attendance at annual meetings.

At a recent Press conference Mr. Lonnie said it had come to his notice that a number of young men were making it difficult to reconcile their obligations to the country with the demands of the Citizen Forces to be left to feel that as such he was prejudicing his chances of further promotion in his civil calling.

£1,016 Raised For Medical School

To December it last R.S.L. sub-branches had officially contributed £1,016/9/6 to the University of W.A. Medical School Appeal Fund.

This was stated by the chairman of the W.A. State branch of the appeal (Mr. J. E. Watson) in a letter to the chairman of the appeal organisation.

The committee had received £334/12/12/ in donations and remitted the total to the central office of the appeal.

As well, he said, some sub-branches had contributed direct to the central office and in much money was yet to be sent in to the R.S.L. committee by sub-branches and women's auxiliaries.

Many sub-branches had assisted local committees to raise money for the fund. That was as it should be, but it was also hoped that they would pay some money through the committee so that a substantial amount of money could be shown at the conclusion of the fund campaign.

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"Jap" Divers Sought To Save Industry

League support for the admission of Japanese pearl divers was given to prevent the collapse of an industry in which R.S.L. members have much at stake.

This is disclosed in a report by the President of the Japanese Shells Committee to the State Executive.

The report follows an investigation made on the recommendation of the 1955 State Congress that the State Executive obtain full information on the subject.

The Japanese divers have been a matter of interest and concern for a number of years to many League members.

The committee reported as follows:

After the cessation of hostilities in 1945 attempts were made to procure divers from various Japanese sources, such as Malaya, Hong Kong, and the Philippines.

Employment of such divers was unsuccessful.

The parlous condition of the pearling industry is well appreciated by the committee, occasioned by the lack of trained divers and failure to procure divers from other than Japanese sources

The committee's recommendation being given to the re-employment of Japanese divers.

State Branch Move On Housing Issue

The State branch of the League is now the practice of disclosing the waiting-period in respect of applications for war service homes to be dispensed with.

It is felt that it would be better for applicants to be satisfied that they are being dealt with in turn, and for applicants to be notified accordingly.

The State Executive at its meeting on February 1 decided to seek the support of the Federal Executive for the proposal.

The chairman of the Housing sub-committee (Mr. R. J. Stoddart) said the matter had been discussed earlier in the day with the Commonwealth Director of War Service Homes (Mr. Lucas) who had arrived in Perth at short notice.

Mr. Stoddart said he felt that the discussion with Mr. Lucas on various aspects of the war service homes scheme had cleared the air considerably.

65 Sub-branches Visited

There have been about 65 official visits to R.S.L. sub-branches by Mr. Barlow, both here and throughout the country, by members of the State Executive since the last State Congress.

Another 64 sub-branches are listed for visits before next Congress.

This was disclosed by the State President (Mr. Lonnie) at the last meeting of the State Executive.
Old Digger to Lead Yarloop Sub-branch

After many years in the hands of second-war veterans the leadership of the Yarloop R.S.L. sub-branch has reverted to a first-war Digger.

He is Mr. Allan L. Hardie and he was elected president at the last monthly meeting of the sub-branch.

Mr. Hardie joined up in Kalgoorlie in 1915 and with the 28th Battalion saw service in Egypt and France. When he was discharged he held the rank of C.S.M.

When accepting office as sub-branch president, Mr. Hardie said he did so on the understanding that the sub-branch would go into recess if no president could be found.

He said that the old-timers had battled hard for their sub-branches in the early days and it was wrong that there should be a breakdown at a time when the situation was easy. "It’s pretty fair sailing now," said Mr. Hardie, and the younger members don’t know the troubles we had. So much is lost if a sub-branch goes into recess, and any such happening is a nail in the coffin of the League as a whole.

Elected vice-presidents were Messrs. Harry and John Blackburn.

Mr. D. L. Purcell was re-elected secretary and the meeting decided that, henceforth, the position of treasurer should be combined with the secretarial office.

A new member welcomed to the meeting was Mr. Studda, formerly a member of the Collie sub-branch executive.

Although it is now three years since the sub-branch held a reunion, members unanimously agreed that the event should be revived this year—probably early in March.

The meeting was well attended and everyone agreed that efforts to increase sub-branch membership and awaken new interest should be co-ordinated with planning for the reunion.

It was agreed that the last Thursday in each month would become the regular meeting-night.

The next event on the sub-branch calendar is a social evening on Thursday, February 16. There will be a special film programme.

Executive Member Resigns

Mr. G. H. Yates, M.L.A., has resigned his seat on the R.S.L. State Executive.

At the last meeting of the State Executive a submission of resignation received from Mr. Yates was accepted with regret and a decision taken to send him a letter of thanks for his services to the executive.

Mr. Verrall, of the Cottesloe sub-branch, was named as next in line for the position vacated.

Mr. Yates recently announced that he would not be seeking re-election to Parliament because of ill-health.

In his letter to the executive he said he was staying in New South Wales for the time being, and thanked his former colleagues for their "many kindnesses.

He said that his interest in the League would never die and that he appreciated the copy of "The Listening Post.”

Early History Sought By Sub-branch

Information of interest regarding the formation of the North-East Fremantle R.S.L. branch is being sought from members by the sub-branch secretary (Mr. Alf Doust).

Mr. Doust is urging original members with long memories to pass on any recollections worth recording in the history now being compiled by a special committee of the sub-branch.

It is felt at League headquarters in this State that members of all sub-branches could well take a lead from this action at North-East Fremantle and pass on to their respective sub-branch secretaries historical information of value with a similar purpose in view.

Faversham To Have New Cool Room

The R.S.L. State Executive has agreed to the provision of a 180 cubic-foot capacity cool room at Faversham House, York.

The cool room is a prefabricated structure which can easily be dismantled and removed if necessary, and is estimated to cost about £490 to purchase and install.

The executive made its decision following a report from the chairman of the Faversham House sub-committee (Mr. E. C. Townshend).

Mr. Townshend said the existing refrigeration plant had recently broken down, causing considerable inconvenience. This was the second occurrence of the kind in the last few months.

In the opinion of a refrigeration engineer at Northam, Mr. Townshend said, a new and more modern unit was called for.

Mr. Townshend said that the Red Cross had indicated its willingness to meet half the cost of a new plant to a maximum amount of £500.

The proposed cool room did not contain a freezing unit but was very commodious and would thus enable advantage to be taken of favourable markets for foodstuffs could be stored in it for several weeks.

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The League float (pictured above) was one of 50 to take part in the Festival of Perth procession through the city during the lunch hour on February 6. The procession was arranged by the Perth City Council to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the grant of city status to Perth. Despite a temperature of over 100°F, large crowds lined the city streets for the occasion and other traffic was stopped temporarily.

Mrs. Cornish To Lead Hills Branch

At its December meeting the Darling Range R.S.I. Women's Auxiliary elected Mrs. Cornish to the office of president for the ensuing year.

Regret was expressed that the retiring president (Mrs. Chapple) had refused nomination for another year and she was thanked for the good work she had done.

Those present wished Mrs. Cornish a happy and successful year. Mrs. Hensworth was re-elected secretary and Mrs. Comley treasurer.

The vice-presidents are Mrs. Boylan and Mrs. Walker, and the assistant-secretary is Mrs. Peg Hope.

The meeting, which was held in the morning, was followed by a plenqe lunch and social.

The Christmas cake was made by Mrs. Eileen Phillips—the auxiliary games captain—and decorated by Mrs. Joy Clarke.

During the afternoon, Mrs. Chapple presented Certificates of Service to Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Riordan amid much applause.

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Malaria Entitlements To Be Cancelled

The Repatriation Commission has decided to cancel malaria entitlements related to service in World War II, provided the entitlement is not connected with any other entitlement.

This has been stated by the commission in response to representations by the League's Repatriation committee.

The commission's statement reads:

"In regard to the treatment of malaria by the Repatriation Department, the Repatriation Commission examined the opinions of medical authorities on the use of treatments and the possibility of a person being infected with malaria.

(a) Malignant Malaria-three years.
(b) Benign Tertiary Malaria-six years.
(c) Quatrain Malaria—the authorities state that this type of malaria was not common in the tropics and is of relatively low rate; however, an infection can last for many years.

Periods Passed

As, in the case in the 1939-45 War, a period of three years in the case of malignant malaria, and six years in the case of benign tertiary malaria has passed since the member last left an endemic area during his service, and as it is not possible for those who suffered during or after service to be treated and subsequently to recover, the period of the continued existence of the disease, it was decided to contact all members who had an entitlement to malaria to ascertain whether or not any symptoms were being suffered which were regarded as due to this condition.

It was considered that symptoms akin to those of malaria sometimes manifest in other pyrexial illnesses, and that there was a tendency for some doctors to accept the word of the patient who really thought that the symptoms were due to malaria, that he was suffering from an attack and to report to the department accordingly.

It was not intended to deprive any member of benefits—including treatment and subsistence allowance—to which he may have been entitled, but it was known that many were still receiving these benefits when the illness was, for example, a cold or influenza and not malaria.

In addition to creating administrative difficulty, it was quite possible that acceptance of the patient's diagnosis of malaria might cause a more serious condition to be missed in its early stages, when it was more amenable to treatment and when the relationship to war service could be more readily determined.

Consequently, it was decided that entitlements for malignant malaria and benign tertiary malaria should be cancelled in cases where the malaria entitlement was not connected with any other entitlement.

This action has been taken and arrangements made to examine any member who claimed to be still suffering from symptoms believed to be malaria in order to determine the true cause of the symptoms.

Action has also been taken to determine the relationship to war service of disabilities disclosed during the examination.

Treatment of malaria contracted by those members who have served in Korea or Malaya is still provided by the department and no action has been taken to cancel malaria entitlements in these cases."

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Avenues Of Enlistment Open To Young Australians

Avenues of enlistment currently open to young Australians contemplating full-time service in any of the three Armed Services—with conditions in respect of each category—are set out below.

The information has been supplied by the Recruiting Directorates for the information of country and recruitment secretaries and officers associated with recruitment activity in this State.

The general requirements for all services are:

1. Good character and residence in Australia.
2. Ability to pass medical and aptitude tests.
3. Written consent of parent or guardian if under 21 years of age.
4. Minimum height of 5ft 6in, for the Navy, 5ft 2in for the Army and 5ft 6in for the Air Force.
5. Females to be unmarried and without dependants.

Other conditions and details of each service are as follows:

NAVY

General Rating: Entry age 17 to 26 years (17-24 for engineering mechanics); sound primary medical education required; entry by selection on application; initial period of engagement six years (plus time taken to attain 18th birthday) or 12 years (optional).

Trade Rating: Entry age 17 to 24 years; leave completion apprenticeship or equivalent; entry by trade-test selection on application; initial period of engagement six years (artificers eight years) or 12 years (optional).

Fleet Air Arm (Aircrew): Entry age 17-24 years; Intermediate Certificate passes in English, Maths, and at least two other subjects; entry by selection four times per year as advertised; initial period of engagement 16-month course plus seven-year short commission.

Fleet Air Arm (Non-flying): Entry age 17 to 24 years; sound primary education needed; entry by selection on application; initial period of engagement six years (plus time taken to attain 18th birthday) or 12 years (optional).

Navy College Cadets (normal entry—Cadet Midshipmen): Entry age 17 to 20 years; university matriculation needed; entry by selection annually; applications normally close October 30 for the following year; initial period of engagement two years; training leading to a permanent commission.

Naval College Cadets (marijuana entry—Cadet Midshipmen): Entry age 17 to 20 years; university matriculation needed; entry by selection annually; applications normally close October 30 for the following year; initial period of engagement two years; training leading to a permanent commission.

Junior Musician: Entry age 15 to 17 years; sound primary education standard sixth class, plus satisfactory musical knowledge and ability needed; entry by selection on application; initial period of engagement two years; training plus normal six or 12 years (optional).

Recruit Musician: Entry age 17 to 24 years; required educational standard sixth class, plus satisfactory musical knowledge and ability; entry by selection on application; initial period of engagement six years (plus time taken to attain 18th birthday) or 12 years (optional).
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LEAGUE'S STANDING IMPRESSES N.Z. EX-SERVICE CHIEF

The high standing of the R.S.L. not only with the public but with the Government and Government Departments impressed the Dominion President of the Returned Services Association of New Zealand (Mr. K. W. Fraser) during his visit to Brisbane for the annual Congress of the League.

Reporting on his trip to the Dominion Executive council, Mr. Fraser said the Government had been most cordial in granting interviews with senior officers of the League.

Members of the Federal Cabinet not from the same Minister down also appeared to extend every courtesy and consideration to the R.S.L.

Amplifying the remarks reported in December's "Review," the official organ of the R.S.A., Mr. Fraser said he felt the Prime Minister of Australia (Mr. Menzies) had paid the R.S.A. a "tremendous tribute" in tendering him a full State luncheon in Canberra.

"State luncheons are very rare over here and I did really feel very honoured by Mr. Menzies' action," said Mr. Fraser.

Mr. Fraser, speaking of the conduct of R.S.L. matters generally, said he did not think the R.S.A. had very much to learn in procedure or methods. The annual Congress (equivalent of the N.Z.R.S.A., Dominion Council) was a much smaller meeting, being attended by less than 20 delegates and principal officers from the various States.

Delegates were also accompanied by the State general secretaries.

Because most matters had already been largely threshed out at State level, there were no committees operating during the Congress as with the Dominion Council meeting.

Defence To Fore

Mr. Fraser said he had been surprised to find that a large proportion of the resolutions discussed were in connection with defence. The R.S.L. took the keenest interest in defence and were much alive to the problems of defending their country and participating in the British Commonwealth's interests in the Pacific.

"Australians generally are very Commonwealth-minded," said Mr. Fraser.

Another aspect of public opinion which was a source of gratification to him was the keen support given to the Government's realistic immigration policy by almost all classes of the community and by the R.S.L. in particular.

Mr. Fraser said the membership of the R.S.L. was down on previous years, especially in South Wales. However, the total membership was over 250,000, which made it a very high organisation in the Commonwealth.

Delegates To N.Z.

Mr. Fraser reported that great interest had been displayed in all States at the yearly interchange of visits in connection with Anzac Day and plans were well advanced for an Australian delegation to visit New Zealand in 1956.

When their turn came again, continued Mr. Fraser, Zealanders could be assured that delegates would receive the warmest of welcomes in all States.

After hearing Mr. Fraser's report and a resume of the various functions at which he represented the association, it was decided to invite the Federal President of the R.S.L. (Sir George Holland) to attend the 1955 Dominion Council meeting in Wellington.

It is hoped that if Sir George is able to attend it will be possible for the Government to extend him a State luncheon.

MORE PRAISE FOR LEAGUE

Praise of the League was expressed in two letters read to the State Executive at its meeting on January 18.

One, from the Acting-Commissioner of Police (Mr. O'Brien) bearing on the recent street appeal sponsored by members of the Police Union on behalf of victims of the Clontarf bus smash included the following statement:

"A material factor in the success of the appeal was the whole-hearted support of the League."

The other letter, from Mayaya, expressed thanks for generous and well-chosen Christmas parcels.

COMPENSATION FOR WIDOWS OF SERVICEMEN

The State branch of the League has decided to seek, through the Federal Executive, more adequate compensation for widows and relatives of members of the Citizen and Regular Forces killed or injured on duty.

At the State Executive meeting on January 18, the chairman of the Defence sub-committee (Mr. F. C. Chaney, M.H.) said that the recommendation was put forward following two recent deaths. One of the fatalities concerned F/O. R. J. Williams, a Citizen Air Force pilot who was killed in a jet-plane crash at Pearce last year.

"Compensation in such cases, Mr. Chaney said, was only equivalent to Workers' Compensation.

His sub-committee was of the opinion that servicemen undergoing risks not ordinarily undertaken by the civilian population—for example men flying aircraft part-time, or handling explosives, or serving in the Navy—should be more adequately covered than at present.

League Hopes To See Lord Mayor

It has been decided to invite the Lord Mayor of Perth (Mr. H. R. Howard) to a 5 o'clock reception at Anzac House shortly.

At the last State Executive meeting the President (Mr. Lonnie) said it was proposed to make such a gesture at each Lord-Mayoral change in the future.
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101ST BATTALION—5TH BRIGADE—Committee meeting held in usual place, second Saturday of each month. Hon. Secretary: R. E. M. Lander, 122 Coode-street, Como. Phone, BA 6025.


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Do-It-Yourself Policy Pays Dividends
At Victoria Park

By applying a do-it-yourself policy the Victoria Park R.S.L. sub-branch has achieved spectacular results valued at about £1,500, over the last six years or so and is now practically clear of debt in that connection.

A past-president (Mr. George Radford) and Mr. Ford said the hall was the sub-branch's main asset and had been built by the old Diggers at the height of the depression — "a real accomplishment in itself" — and that the help of the sub-branch had also been given regularly.

The expenditure on improvements could not have been very much higher but for the self-help policy, which was instigated by the last two major jobs. The Christmas before last the sub-branch had given them their annual holiday to re-floor the hall with its 50th birthday celebration.

The team of workers who had assisted a carpenter, a bricklayer, a radio technician, a truck-driver, two clerks and five other T.P.I. men and a few others.

These men had not had any particular training but were quite willing. The floor had been renewed, sanded, polished and was ready to use in five days.

A builder's estimate for that job would have been about £1,000, the work cost the sub-branch about half that figure.

During the recent festive season another big job had been undertaken — a "face-lift" for the inside of the hall. A colour-scheme had been supplied free of charge by an expert and the paint obtained at wholesale prices.

The first half-booking was for early in the New Year, so that speed was essential.

Once again a cross-section of members were busily at work, with a clerk, a bricklayer, a carpenter and others helping out. The hall had been completely cleaned, repainted and cleaned up in five days.

Once again the self-help policy had enabled the job to be completed, and the results were highly creditable.

To top off those undertakings was a new lighting system which it was hoped would reduce lighting-costs and improve the lighting.

Victoria Park sub-branch members had shown that Diggers were capable of fine work at cut prices.

With the self-help principle and more work given time during their annual holiday to re-floor the hall with its 50th birthday celebration.

The League offers Assistance To Servicemen
The League — in this State is looking after the needs of its members, and the men of the Army and Navy at overseas service — and is the men's families — and will in due course advise the troops that the League is available for assistance in any personal or family problem.

Additionally, through its sub-branches, it will endeavour to keep in touch with their relatives and assist them whenever possible.

At the State Executive meeting on January 18 the President (Mr. Lonnie) said the idea had developed during a reception at Anzac House to Lieut.-Col. Jackson, who could take his way up to take up his command in Korea.

He had told Mr. Lonnie that little was heard of the troops serving abroad and that the idea had been the idea was no mere skirmish but was a major commitment.

The ball was opened as well as the normal channels of the League should give high priority to... to touch with the men and their dependants.

League Pays Tribute To Old Soldier
Members of the State Executive stood in silence during the minutes of the meeting on January 18 as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Mr. John Johnstone.

Mr. Wood died at Mt. Lawley, the previous day at the age of 97.

Described as the State's oldest ex-serviceman, Mr. Wood was a veteran of the South West Australia and World War I — in which he served as an instructing sergeant-major and afterwards a corporal in the Volunteer Defence Corps and World War II.

He was a member of the Press sub-branch of the League, and is survived by his widowed daughter and two grand-children and three great-grandchildren.

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Club Opens For Men In Penang

A garrison club for Australian troops in Penang was to be opened in Georgetown on February 1. It was announced recently by the Minister for the Army (Sir Eric Harrison). Sir Eric said that he had been recognised that there was need for a club in Georgetown to cater for members of the 2nd, 2nd B.A.A.S., the 105th Field Battery, and other units at Penang and Butterworth.

The club would also be available to members of other Australian units spending leave in Penang.

It had been hoped to open a club sooner, but negotiations had been hampered by the inability to find suitable premises.

Now a building had been found in the heart of the city, and necessary structural alterations were being made by the owners.

Because of the need for the early opening of a club, refreshments and snacks would be the first facilities provided, to be followed shortly afterwards by reading and writing rooms, billiards room and overnight sleeping accommodation.

The club would be conducted by N.A.A.F.I. on behalf of the Australian Army, and would be open to all servicemen.

It was anticipated that men from R.A.A.F. crews at Butterworth would be among the major users.

Thanks From Salvationist With Forces

To Anzac House has come a letter of thanks for Christmas gifts sent through the R.S.L. and Citizens’ Fighting Forces Comforts Fund to Australian servicemen in Japan.

The letter is signed by Lieut. Col. Charles M. Greedes, Red Shield Services Commissioner, R.C.E.F., R.A.F., and reads:

Having just received your very practical expressions of goodwill and best wishes at this the festive season, I thought that I should sit down right away and thank you personally and also on behalf of the boys of the Australian Army in this area.

So often the good gifts and expressions of goodwill are knocked down, but I am happy to say that the presents have been appreciated by our men, and that the hospitality of the Salvationists has been appreciated and enjoyed.

Happy Christmas to you and all your boys of the League and Comforts Fund Committee.

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- THE BATTLEFIELDS OF FLANDERS AND THE SOMME — PARIS.
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**Noteworthy Meetings At Victoria Park**

The last two meetings of the Victoria Park sub-branch have been noteworthy occasions, the sub-branch publicity officer reports.

The December meeting took the form of an Annual "Smoko" and drew an attendance of about 120 members and friends. Among the visitors were Mr. Ralph Stoddart, of the State Executive, the sub-branch president (Mr. Gus Stewart), and Mr. Jim Powell, a former secretary who has been living in the city for some time.

Neighbouring sub-branches and kindred organisations were represented.

The entertainment was described as "good and plenteous," and the evening in general a great success.

Once the formalities of the evening were over, the members took the opportunity of mixing together and swapping yarns.

A highlight of the proceedings was the presentation of a Certificate of Service to a past-president—Mr. G. Ford.

An attendance of 60 members at the January meeting made it one of the best-attended general meetings for some time.

The State President (Mr. Longie) attended and addressed the meeting.

The February meeting, held on Friday, February 17, was an event of note.

The annual New Year's Eve social of the Bellevue R.S.L. sub-branch was described by the sub-branch's club manager (Mr. A. Hayen) as the best ever.

The night was rather warm, but recent renovations to the clubrooms made conditions more comfortable than in previous years.

The beer was well patronised and four barmen were kept busy throughout the evening.

The attendance figure was estimated at about 250.

Among the guests were the State President and Secretaries (Messrs. Longie and Chapple respectively), Mr. F. C. Cheney, M.H.R., Mr. J. Brady, M.L.A., and former R.S.M. Charlie Mitchell, manager of the Antzec House Club.

Dancing was sustained throughout the evening, with a three-piece orchestra supplying the music.

A stumptious supper was catered for by Mrs. J. Wright assisted by members of the women's auxiliary.

The sub-branch executive has expressed its thanks to all who helped to make the evening a success.

Bellevue Event Best Ever

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### McKinlay Shield Games
#### Round 5

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### R.A.R. Men Joined By Families

Twelve more men of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, in Penang were recently reunited with their families. The 12 wives and their 37 children were flown to Malaya in a specially chartered Skymaster.

### Australians Welcome At London Club

A London club for serving or former N.C.O.'s of any of Her Majesty's Forces is commended by a West Australian ex-service man now in England.

The club is the Chevrons Club, Dorset Square, London, W.1. It was established by Mr. L. Owen of the Cottesloe sub-branch of the British Legion.

In a letter to the State Secretary (Mr. Chappell) he said that the club were quite a few Australians and that he could recommend it for any Digger wishing to spend a holiday in London.

Mr. Owen said that he had been receiving his copies of "The Listening Post" regularly and was in due course passing them on to various friends and relations who were keen to know what was going on among ex-service men in Australia.

He felt that ex-service men were less active in England than in Australia. He observed that England was still largely a Welfare State with everyone "more on a common footing with regard to Health Services, etc., but not so with employment."

The Australian ex-service man was very lucky by comparison, he said. One had to go overseas to realise that.

Mr. Owen sent his regards to his old friends.
Avens Of Enlistment—

O.C.S. Cadets (Porteis)—preferably unmarried; Entry age 18 to 23 years; Intermediate Certificate or equivalent needed; entry by selection twice annually—applications normally close April and October for entry July and January; initial period of engagement four months' course leading to permanent appointment with initial rank of Second Lieutenant.

Clerical Trainees: Entry age 15 to 17 years; Intermediate standard (I.C. preferred); entry by selection annually—applications normally close October for entry in January; initial period of engagement nine months training plus six-year engagement—renewable at option.

Bank Boys: Entry age 15 to 17 years; Sub-Intermediate standard; entry by selection annually—applications normally close October for entry in January or February; initial period of engagement eight years (two year course plus six-year engagement)—renewal at option.

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WRAC (General) and RAANC (General): Entry age 17 to 30 years (up to 35 if required) sound primary education needed plus ability and aptitude for branch desired; entry by selection annually—initial period of engagement four years.

WRAAC (officer cadets): Entry age 21 to 30 years (up to 35 if required or sub-intermediate needed; entry by selection annually—applications normally close September for entry in October; initial period of engagement four weeks' course leading to permanent appointment.

Cont. from Page 8.

Sub-branch Changes

An application for the formation of a R.S.L. sub-branch at Kurrajong has been approved by the State Executive.

In reply to an invitation to be represented at the inaugural meeting of officers, the executive has intimated that it will be prepared to arrange representation for any Friday in March apart from March 2.

The executive has been informed by the chairman of its Membership sub-committee (the Rev. W. Riley) that the Bulga sub-branch has closed down and that R.S.L. member is in that area will link up with the Cargill sub-branch which is to conduct quarterly meetings at Balgownie for the convenience of those residing there.

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