Over 600,000 Receive War-Pension Benefits

Six hundred and two thousand people throughout Australia were receiving war pensions and allowances. The Minister for Repatriation, Senator W. J. Cooper, told delegates to the League Federal Congress in Canberra.

Senator Cooper said that more than 135,000 were receiving pensions and allowances in relation to World War II near 465,000 in relation to World War I and 2,800 as a result of the Korean and Malayan conflicts.

The cost to the Government was more than £400,000. These figures show that the W.W.I group, although smaller numerically (a little less than one-third of the W.W.II group), absorbs about 42 per cent of the total pension vote, proving that war disabilities have worsened with age, and the pension has risen accordingly, he said.

Not Forgotten

"In simple words, the old Digger is not being forgotten. The estimated annual cost for the year 1955-57 is £55.5 millions. Service pensions add a further £4.9 millions, making a total of approximately £504 millions.

"The total cost to the budget for repatriation this coming year is estimated at £667,850,000—an increase of nearly £4 millions on 1955. Increases have been granted in some categories of benefits. The service pensioner will benefit to some extent in the means test to service pensions. The income of the pensioner will be assessed on an annual basis, instead of a fortnightly basis.

"Representations had been made by the League, asking for this change."

A Question Of Trust

Funds placed in trust accounts for R.S.L. sub-branches which have gone out of existence can be used for no other purpose than to assist the reorganisation of such sub-branches.

This was agreed to by the State Executive last month on the recommendation of the Trustee of the League.

The recommendation was made following a request by the membership committee that portion of the funds be made available to new sub-branches.

The Christmas grant to hospitals and institutions from the trust funds was £136/10/0, and the monthly grant for November and December respectively was £59/10/0.

Association Has Changed Name

League headquarters has been advised by the secretary of the Imperial Ex-Service Association Inc. Mr. Harry Black that the association has received approval from the Registrar of Companies to change its name to "The British Ex-Service Association."

Under the heading "Associations of Ex-Service Men" in this journal will be found particulars concerning officers and the places for sub-branches to provide their collectors with information on receipt books.

New Air-Staff Chief

Pictured here is Air Vice-Marshal F. R. W. Scherger, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., A.F.C., who will take up appointment as R.A.A.F. Chief of Air Staff on March 18 when the present C.A.S. (Air Marshal Sir John McCallum) reaches retiring age. Air Vice-Marshal Scherger (52) is now Air Member for Personnel in World War II he commanded No. 7 Operational Group and the First Tactical Air Force of the R.A.A.F. in the South-West Pacific. For two years prior to his appointment he was Air Officer Commanding Malaya Command (on loan to the R.A.A.F.). He flies Vampire jet fighters—20 years ago he was top test pilot of the R.A.A.F.

U.N. URGED TO ACT OVER HUNGARY

The Federal President of the R.S.L. (Sir George Holland) in a press statement recently bitterly criticised the United Nations Organisation for not acting to correct the position in Hungary.

Its inaction was utterly incomprehensible, he said.

"What America is up to by supporting the Rumanians, the danger of other similar actions, and the result is that many of the nations of the world, decided to reject it. Yet nothing is done by the United Nations except the passing of pious resolutions.

"This is a time for courageous decision to act," Sir George said. "Only by strong action now can the United Nations Organisation hope to survive as a real hope for world peace."

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"What angiels and the R.U.S. & R.S.L. is the dangerous inconsistency of policy displayed by the United Nations, as a symptom of its attitude to the Suez Canal crisis and the Hungarian situation, reveals," said Sir George.

"Today Communist Russia is apparently being allowed to use its strength as a reprisal against a country which, having experienced a world of life, decided to reject it. Yet nothing is done by the United Nations except the passing of pious resolutions.

"This is a time for courageous decision to act," Sir George said. "Only by strong action now can the United Nations Organisation hope to survive as a real hope for world peace."
Tribute To The Late Mr. B. T. Williamson

From one of his many cronies

On December 13, 1956, Benjamin Thomas Williamson, past-president and one-time secretary of the Subiaco R.S.L. sub-branch, passed away.

Mr. Williamson served in World War I with the 28th Battalion and was honourably discharged because of wounds received on the Western Front. Some time in the late 1920s he took over the position of secretary of the Subiaco sub-branch. A brilliant accountant, steady, reliable and forceful, yet conservative where finance was concerned, he built up the sub-branch in cash and reputation.

His sterling personality attracted the finest type of returned men to take an active interest in R.S.L. affairs and he laid a foundation that made the Subiaco sub-branch in the late 1930s one of the best clubs in the State.

It is impossible to assess the man. He was a tower of strength to every organisation with which he was connected, and in his leisure hours his chief interest for many years was in the R.S.L.

Throughout the years of World War II—in spite of the heavy demands of his own work—he managed to provide a one-day parade of the V.D.C. and a day for the support of the Red Cross. It was characteristic of him that he never sought any State Executive honours but would have nothing to do with such activities.

To his widow and family he extended sincere condolences.

W.S.L. Visits Pinjarra

By "Ack-Willie"

"May I come in?" were the words heard as president Bert Crowley was about to start proceedings at the December meeting of the Murray sub-branch.

Words were from State President, Mr. W. S. (Bill) Lonnie.

Needless to say—he was made most welcome, but I will venture to say that his presence and the fact that it was Bert's first meeting as chairman had that particular party a bit worried. He said to vice-president Lou Graysmark after: "It's the quickest I've ever seen him."

Visit by the State President was the last item on the agenda of the sub-branch—and also made the 106th R.S.L. function he has attended since August.

How it came about was that Bill was paying a weekend visit to his family at the holidaying town of Yunderup. One night, with his own wife and children he visited the store on Saturday. Bill glanced at a local paper and saw the headlines "Pinjarra R.S.L. meets Sunday..." Though the idea of some young and attractive young lady was in his mind, the second, more important and his own thoughts, Bill was not likely to be easily persuaded to join in the fun.

In return some of the committee paid the Lonnies a visit at Pinjarra and said they had been invited to a function arranged in their honour for the 15th of January (Saturday).

Outcome of this visit was a weekend of fun and games, including a visit to the Lonnie's home in Pinjarra, and a trip to a nearby town. The Lonnie's were invited to a function arranged in their honour for the 15th of January (Saturday).

It is only on rare occasions that a State President has the opportunity of visiting his family in a country sub-branch and finding that the boys felt highly honoured.

By the way, you city readers should think about it for as long a time as possible and a bundle of prawns caught by his offspring.

SECRETARIAL: At the December meeting of the State Executive, Mr. Don Atherley, the Acting State Secretary for three months, was appointed Acting Secretary and went on leave.

FAVERSHAM CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

DID YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS INCLUDE THE VETERANS' HOME?

The new year, with all its good resolutions is in its infancy. Have you, or the sub-branch to which you belong, made the best of New Year’s resolutions—to support your War Veterans’ Home to the utmost of your ability?

The closing month of 1956 was made quite bright for our veterans by the activities shown here:

Sunday, December 2, The Gong and Bindoo sub-branches and auxiliary visited the home, providing afternoon tea and musical items, including distributing oranges, tobacco, sweets and reading matter.

Sunday, December 9, Northcote sub-branch provided transport for the veterans to visit Northcote, where they were treated to an afternoon tea, entertainment to musical items and served high tea before returning to the home. Each guest, before leaving for home, was presented with a Christmas card.

Sunday, December 16: The R.S.L. Women’s Auxiliary provided transport for veterans to a highly successful musical programme, after which Christmas cards were distributed by Mrs. Stockman. Christmas cake was cut and seasonal greetings were exchanged in the time-honoured manner, with the cheering cup provided by the auxiliary.

Thanks and greetings from the veterans were conveyed by one of their number, Mr. Allen.

Wednesday, December 19: The York sub-branch auxiliary entertained two veterans to a music, supper and light refreshments, presented each veteran with a Christmas parcel.

In addition, to York, a donation of fruit and above the following donations were received:

- Red Cross Society: Christmas parcel with tobacco for each veteran.
- Misses: Gingin: Christmas cake.
- Pinup sub-branch auxiliary: reading matter and Christmas hamper.
- Wundowie sub-branch: load of firewood.

Mr. P. Dawe, Harvey: case of oranges.

Swan View-Greenmount sub-branch: periodicals.
- Mr. S. J. Budd, Bassendean: case of peaches.
- Mr. Theo Boyle, York: two turkeys.

Quairading auxiliary: four dressed chickens and a Christmas hamper.
- Miss Mary Sharp, Mullalup: 5/6/8.4.
- The Mullalup-Kirup sub-branch: 5/6/2 for Christmas cheer.
- Wundowie: Christmas parcel for each veteran.
- Mr. Kuhl, Malbelling (via York): dressed lamb and two bags feed-wheat.
- Glen Forrest sub-branch: case of peaches and case of plums.
- Kulh auxiliary: Christmas hamper.

Mr. E. W. Lillicrapp, Coo-up: 12/0/6 Christmas Cheer.

Mr. R. D. A. Banwell, York: one dozen Swan lager.

Donation With A Difference

A Mullalup woman, who collects shells believes in turning her hobby to good account for others. This is borne out by a letter she wrote to the matron of the Faversham War Veterans’ Home recently. The letter reads:

"Dear Matron,—I have a shell collection and whenever I show it to anybody I ask them for sixpence.

In this way I have collected 28. Will you please buy a little tobacco for the old soldier. Your friend, Mary Sharp."

FAVERSHAM HOUSE AFFAIRS

During the absence of the members and matron, Faversham War Veterans’ Home on their annual leave in January the administration was turned over by Mr. S. A. McNamara of the State Executive. The executive of the Faversham committee has co-ordinated the work of Mr. P. F. J. Mullalup, a builder, during the building of extensions to the home.

Mr. J. B. White has been appointed deputy-chairman of the committee for the ensuing year.

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THE LISTENING POST

THE NEED FOR UNITY

TURNING through the pages of history, and comparing the past with the present, it can be seen that these stirring times provide challenges for us to face.

PROBLEMS which have arisen from time to time during the past year have continued to sustain an ever-growing stimulus and drive which is the vital and moving life-blood of the League.

IT IS no redundancy to say that at present the Suez troubles and the lack of unity amongst the United Nations are a growing weakness in the peaceful structure of the world.

NEVERTHELESS one important fact has arisen from this, and that is that the R.S.L. in Australia is wholeheartedly behind Sir Anthony Eden's action in the Suez. If Australians become apathetic to the real power behind Nasser's threats then far-off countries could become affected by this same force. For evil to succeed there is no greater help than for good men to do nothing.

“ETERNAL vigilance is the price of liberty.”

IN REVERTING to our own front it can be said that we have had a most successful year. A revived interest in R.S.L. work amongst the sub-branches, a good roll-call on Anzac Day, the inspiring Festival of Remembrance—held for the first time in this State—and the snow-ball effect of the membership drive have stood forth in no uncertain manner.

HAVING accepted the challenge of the past we find that it gives us an incentive for the future. Therefore let us again to the tasks for the forthcoming year with vigour, sincerity and enthusiasm.

THE State Executive has already met to discuss its plan and programme for the New Year. This will be designed to ensure that the League's progressive and ever-expanding policy for the protection of the interests of ex-servicemen and women, and for the development of our great nation, are made known to the sub-branches and indeed to the community throughout W.A.

ABOVE all, let us each retain a deep and abiding love for those things which we prize dearly and which spring from an ever-devoted loyalty to our Queen and Empire. May these thoughts sustain the efforts of the League and every member during 1957.

The Good Work Goes On

Testimony that the League does during the building of its still performing a worthy service in our home here.

while on behalf of "I heartily thank the those needing assistance comes. In the following extracts from letters received respectively, from Rivervale and Geraldton:

wished to thank the R.S.L. on behalf of Mrs.—

and myself for help it gave the future.”

Still More Sought For War Widows

The payment of war widows' hospital expenses by the Repatriation Department in certain circumstances is to be sought by the League.

Federal Congress decided that the Commonwealth treatment.

Government be asked to provide for the payment of war widows' hospital expenses by the Repatriation Hospital, for a widow to receive hospital treatment.

Congress decided on this action on a motion put forward by the Queensland Government.

The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance.

January, 1957

THE LISTENING POST
For speed, smoothness and pressurised comfort

TA A VISCONT

The following items are taken from early issues of "The Listening Post" made available through the courtesy of Mr. E. S. Watt (for many years a member of the R.S.L. State Executive). It is hoped that they will be of interest and awaken many memories.

War Service Homes Position

We understand that the transfer of the War Service Homes Commission to the State Workers Homes Board is just about complete, and that building operations should be in full swing once more early in the new year, under new control.

The daily Press announces that £105,000 has been allotted for operations in this State, but from this amount should be deducted £63,000 already spent.

The new administration will not, therefore, have too many marbles to play with in trying to satisfy the couple of hundred applications waiting for satisfaction. By the way, was this State's quota of the Diggers Loan £60,000?

The assumption of activities by the new people will, we trust, put an end to the ineptitude and incompetence that has been an unhappy feature of the Commonwealth-controlled administration.

No scheme could have been launched under more favourable conditions, for almost unlimited money was made available to meet the big-demand for houses.

Labour and materials were certainly at first a bit scanty, and to put a premium on both, the Melbourne heads set up a rival in the Commonwealth Bank to compete against the Commissioner for both necessities in the building trade.

Of course the poor old Digger will lament for 30 years about the foolishness of this policy.

The day-by-day system distinguished the first administration in this State, and results ran well over the maximum allowed in almost every instance.

Houses were, however, well and faithfully built and despite the squabble and "pilbox" formations, they should provide a comfortable home for the Digger with a restricted number of little "diggers."

The same cannot be said of the "doll houses" constructed by the second administration, noticeable around Sub Siberia, South Perth and Victoria Park.

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For Your Stay In Perth

WINDSOR HOTEL

South Perth

(only seven minutes from City by Ferry)

COMFORTABLE ACCOMMODATION
REASONABLE TARIFF

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Sub-branch Spree

Mr. Lawley-North Perth, sub-branch celebrated the end of the financial year on Saturday 21 when a most enjoyable evening was spent. Mr. Neville Heenan (retiring president) occupied the chair and the proceedings were merry and pleasurable throughout.

After the formal toast of "The King," Mr. D. M. Benjamin proposed: "The R.S.L. and the State Executive." pleached for hard work as was complimented by the League, and eulogised the efforts of the State Executive and State Secretary. The toast was drunk with musical style.

Mr. H. E. Bolt (State President) in a rousing speech, stressed the need for cooperation for the R.S.L. Mr. J. R. Butler, D.C.M. (State Secretary) also spoke in reply and made a new and characteristic speech. December, 1921.

Fat Finances

At the last meeting of the State Executive, a financial statement for the last three months was submitted. It showed that revenue totalled £286/16/ while the expenditure amounted to £294.7.11.

It was stated that a number of outstanding accounts would bring the receipts up to similar deficits.

The statement, which was commented upon favourably, was received and adopted. December, 1921.

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A Silent Worker

Miss Mary Mears, who was present at the League's Certificate of Merit on December 21, well deserves her honour. Few workers have shown such unselfish devotion to soldier activities, and few of her friends will be able to get her certificate. Jimmy Cornell, M.L.C., made the presentation stating that Mary was the fifth person in W.A. to be given a certificate, and that anyone picked out for the honour well deserved it.

Miss Marys shyly got W. H. Robson to express her feelings, explaining that she was a worker rather than a talker, a fact which everyone will acknowledge. January, 1922.

Task To Be Done

The man who doesn't reckon that the League is worth 2d a week is not in more than a charity-chasing impostor. Yet he is the first to say there's a buckish issue of Wheres-all, which is the policy of the R.S.L.

Those ex-soldier scoffers who are too "superior" to belong to the R.S.L. and have a hand in the fight should be heartily ashamed of themselves. Every worker who doesn't join a union is branded as a blackleg. This is the policy of the League.

The R.S.L. is constantly fighting the battles of veterans and children dependent; it keeps in touch with all Government Department—pensions, repatriation, etc. In short, it carries to outside the solemn task of protecting the dependants of the men, who fought for the Empire.

January, 1922.
15 Sub-branches Will Meet At Pinjarra

The Murray Road Board will hold a midday reception for R.S.L. delegates. The meeting will commence at 2 p.m. There will be a wreath-laying ceremony on the war disk and a reception to delegates by the host sub-branch in the evening.

£150 PAID IN FOR VETERANS

War veterans will benefit from an amount of £150 transferred to the League by the Quiding Repatriation Local Committee.

Commission Post Filled

The appointment of the League’s Federal Secretary, Mr. J. C. Neagle, C.B.E., as ex-service men’s representative on the Repatriation Commission was announced by Mr. T. S. Edmandson at the Senate on October 29.

Senator Cooper said that Mr. Neagle would succeed Mr. J. C. Neagle, who is now a member of the Senate.

Alderman J. L. Stodart said inquiries were being made in the hope of persuading other bodies to hand over un wanted funds for the same purpose.

More popes were sold by the Nedlands R.S.L. sub-branch than by any other sub-branch in the State.

If you have a daughter of school leaving age who is interested in a Business Career, we suggest you enrol her for a C.C.C. Course of Business Training.

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BRANCHES & AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE
ANZAC CLUB NOTES

By

Doug Dargie

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"Will Ye No Come Back Again?"
By "The Roamer"

When Noah built his famous ark
And showed the animals in,
He wasn't over-cautious as
To the types that he let in.

Some animals have served the race
And others have brought no harm,
Apart from the really vicious ones
That bark and snarl in the manner.

"You mustn't gamble, mustn't drink
Or have fun that smacks of sin,"
At these words the clever bloke
Conjured the "bandits" in.

These smart machines will make you rich
(Some chrome, some black as well),
You pull the thing and grab your dough.
You do—all dying ring bell!

The lions and tigers of the wilds
Their dinners all have maulled.
But they were made to look quite tame
Once "bandits" were installed.

We've cursed them, tugged them, pushed them
Pulled handle slow and fast.
But now the law says "Out they go,"
So the bandits' day is past.

And that is why we gather here
With sorrow more than laughter
To try to guess, with bandits gone,
Whatever will follow after.

Committee Queries Reports
Of Land Scheme Closure

The land committee of the R.S.L. State Executive has queried reports that the War Service Land Settlement scheme would be closed in from 18 months to two years' time.

The chairman of the committee (Mr. O. E. Davies) told the executive this last month.

Mr. Davies said it had been stated that all eligible applicants would be allotted farms within a two-year period.

But there were still 721 qualified applicants awaiting farms, in addition to 459 requiring practical training and 34 awaiting classification.

Applications regarded as cancelled totalled 1,300.

Mr. Davies reported that steps had been taken to ascertain whether prospective settlers who had not been responding to brochures sent out were still interested in acquiring land.

The committee was making inquiries as to whether single-unit farms would be provided under the scheme provided they measured up to the standard.

The committee, including country members, had waited on the W.S.L.S. director (Mr. Colquhoun) and the deputy-director (Mr. Ubboll) on November 21.

Among matters discussed were the cancellation of certificates, the position of Eastern States eligible, refusal to permit valuations to be dealt with by the appeal board, averaging when the scheme was likely to be completed, and when properties would be fully developed.

Referring to a State Executive request for the formulation of a policy, Mr. Davies said the committee had considered an outline of the matters dealt with during the five preceding weeks.

These had involved:
(a) A prepared statement of the defects of the W.S.L.S. scheme and the suggested remedies.
(b) Action taken to include the League in the deliberations of the Parliamentary Select Committee.
(c) Precis of evidence given by the chairman of the land committee before the Select Committee.
(d) Arrangements made with Minister for Land for the League to be advised before regulations were promulgated, and also arrangements made for a League representative to inspect settlers' files.

GLOUCESTER PARK

The Gloucester Park sub-branch is now holding its meetings at the Monash Club, King-street, Perth, and hopes to acquire a block of land on which to build its own hall.

MT. LAWLEY-INGLEWOOD SUB-BRANCH

The monthly general meetings of the sub-branch will in future be held in ST. PATRICK'S HALL, Beaufort Street, Mount Lawley, at 8 p.m. on the FIRST WEDNESDAY, each month. Next meeting, WEDNESDAY, February 6th. Supper and Refreshments.

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by Plaistowe
The Gallipoli Evacuation

MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE

By H. C. Gardner, a member of the Mt. Lawley R.S.L. Sub-branch.

If "to regret one's own experiences is to arrest one's own development" my own experience has suffered no serious check on that score.

My most memorable experiences are only a couple of weeks during the evacuation, attached practically to nobody but me. I had undertaken to be a telegraphist on the beach!

About the middle of December 1915 I was ordered to report to B.Y. (Bunyip), Anzac headquarters, at the Cove. This turned out to be the Army Post Office on the beach.

Ten of us reported—one man from each of the brigades in this division, from the Light Horse, and one from the Tunnellers (29th Div.).

The senior man was L.Cpl. Donnelly of the Light Horse. We were attached to the 11th A.S.C. (under Major Leaney.)

Not knowing anything about an evacuation at the time our first job was to collect all parcels and other mail—matted, bag it, and carry it from the cove to Wellington Pier—not a very nice job, by the way, bearing "Beach Ball" round the point with a big bag on your back; however same was completed with only one casualty.

Something Afoot

While established at Walk-er's Pier we wondered at all the little jetties being built so fast, and then we found they were definite orders and were told that there was going to be an evacuation, and that our particular job was to report every night to the M.O. (Medical Officer) of the British Middies to see if any of the bags contained blood. We laid a trestle road from the landing strip as far as the hospital and another from the beach.
This was early in the morning. There was some hustling on the beach, so we decided to finish the last of our S.R.D. and make for the jetty to see what was doing. Had we not been awakened by the mine explosions we may have been left behind, for later that morning we "came to" on the deck of an old "Gyro" tramp called the Abastia. When she was well out to sea. We found ourselves between a fowllurn and a latrine mixed up with a lot of Indians, but could not remember how we got there. We were the only three Diggers aboard.

Eventually we arrived at Mudros and have to near "The Little Grey Home in the West" as she was known—the headquarters, H.M.S. Arrigun. In a few moments a pinnace left her and came alongside us. About a dozen "red tabs" joined us on deck (we had not known they were on board). We got the pinnace and went aft. We followed them and went up to report our presence.

The pinnace headed straight for Sarpiot, and we again reported to her. Acting A.P.M. at that time, we thought—"we arrived at Tel-el-Kebir about 2 a.m. next morning. Again we wandered around until we spotted the blue and white flag of the 11th A.S.C. and again reported to the major.

He said he thought we had reported to him at Alexandria. He issued a rail warrant for us to Cairo and told us to report to the intermediate base there. After breakfast in the Sergeant's Mess, we caught the 11 o'clock train to Cairo with about 50 a piece in the money lasted.

Idyllic Days

At that time our only duty was to draw our rations daily and feed ourselves—no drill, no fatigue, only to give us orders. To fill the day we would hire a Greek boat and visit the French storeboat "Britannia" in the harbour, dig up the purser, have a nice French omelette and some wine, and buy a case of Johnnie Walker and one of Bass.

The war would label this "Lieut. Donnelly, A.P.M., 1st Anzac", so that the military police at the jetties would think we were on fatigue. We were never questioned.

As the troops were paid in 10/ currency notes and change was virtually non-existent, it was nothing to hand over a note for two bottles of beer and, to a bottle of whisky. We carried on in the usual way until we received orders from the major to move on Donnelly and be ready to embark within 12 hours' notice. When only a supply boat had been on the deck roll the major demanded an explanation. I was an undignified man.

In due course we embarked on the S.S. Minch between the three of us arriving at Alexandria at about dark. We went down to get rid of some of our notes.

Anzac Cove, Gallipoli, after all had been evacuated without the enemy's knowledge. The jetty in the near foreground was known as Watson's Pier. Beyond it is Beachy Bill's Point part which was Walker's Pier.

Army Career Open

Last week's leaving certificate results have probably opened Army careers for 350 Australian ex-servicemen. They are candidates for Royal Military College, Dunrobin, to be selected subject to gaining the necessary standard in the examinations.

The candidates are:—M.P. Blake, Fords Street, West Melbourne; J.C. Hendrick, 66 Dwyer Street, Subiaco; A. W. Malan, Sandstone, via Mt. Magnet; T.B. Soeff, Broadway Road, and A.G. Thompson, Collins Street, South Perth.

We stayed at the Hotel Bristol—in the square just around the corner from Sheppard's for just on three weeks. One evening, when returning to our hotel after a performance at the Casino, we were attacked by Donnelly's brother. He said we had been reported missing, and that he had our descriptions in his possession. He ordered us to report to him next morning, which we did.

All turned out all right. We were instructed to report to our respective units immediately and were told that no action would be taken if we did no.

As a coincidence, I was transferred later, with the re-organisation of the 2nd Division, to a battalion of which Lieut. Donnelly was adjutant. It was thought that he was on leave. They all turned out all right, and we were instructed to report to our respective units immediately and were told that no action would be taken if we did no.

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FEDERAL CONGRESS

A highlight of the recent 41st annual Federal Congress of the R.S.L.—held in Canberra—was the reduction of the 13 points of League policy to seven (reported in the November issue of “The Listening Post”). Among the other decisions arrived at were the following:

General

Papua and New Guinea:

“The R.S.L. request further representations be made to the Commonwealth Government stressing the need for urgent annexation of the Trust Territory of New Guinea.”

Queensland:

“That this Congress considers that the Australian War Service should be celebrated on the day it falls that is, on the 26th day of January and not State branches.”

Branches were urged to make strong representations to their State Governments throughout Australia to provide the necessary legislation for that purpose and the Commonwealth Government be urged to cooperate.

Western Australia:

“That Federal Congress again bring before the Federal Government the urgent need for recognition of Northern Australia, and that to expedite this the Government allow tax exemption to all persons employed in Northern Australia, and perhaps small contractors. Further that as income tax be also granted to business, pastoral, mining, fishing, and other interests, providing that they re-invest 40 per cent. of the net income in Northern Australia. The period of exemption to be 20 years. Northern Australia to be defined as the part of Australia which lies within the south parallel of latitude commencing at the Western Australian coast and east to Haddon’s Corner, Queensland and then bounded by a line running north-east to Cape Melville, Cape York Peninsula.

Victoria:

“This Congress notes with disappointment the fact that the Government has failed to include the names of the war dead from the 1st world war within the cloisters of the National War Memorial at Canberra has never been examined. Whilst realising that the work may have been delayed by the Second World War and the cost of the new additions to the Memorial, this Congress regards the establishment of a personal line between the honoured war dead from both world wars and Korea and this National Memorial built to commemorate their sacrifices by suitably inscribing all such names on the Memorial Perpetuity.”

Re-establishment

New South Wales:

“That returned servicemen who continue in the service following the conclusion of World War II be made eligible under the provisions of the Re-establishment and Emigration Act for a period of five years from date of discharge.”

Western Australia:

“That the amount granted for tools of trade given to returned servicemen be increased from £10 to £20.”

Congress reaffirms its decision in relation to ex-offender in pursuance of the provisions of the Re-establishment and Emigration Act be made to administer the necessary legislation.”

Housing

Victoria:

“That in the opinion of this Congress the existing delay in the housing of returned servicemen and women—which results from the policy of the Government in pursuance of the National Housing Act be amended to provide for the reduction of interest rates 2 per cent.”

Queensland:

“That the Commonwealth Government be requested to examine the possibility of an Emergency being made in the War Service Homes Act similar to that provided under the Queensland State Rental Scheme whereby the applicant is entitled to insurance for the amount of the purchase of his home.”

“That appropriate action be taken to ensure that War Service Homes Division to widen its scope to finance housing in closely settled rural areas.”

Repatriation

Victoria:

“That the Australian Soldiers’ Repatriation Act be amended by a clause to make it compulsory for the Department to detail its reasons or reasons for the rejection of a claim for the acceptance of a condition or period of war service where the submission of further information by the claimant may influence the decision.”

“That the Australian Soldiers’ Repatriation Act be amended so that all Australian returned service personnel of over sixty years of age be eligible for consideration for free in-patient treatment in Repatriation hospitals.”

“That strong representations be made to the Minister of Repatriation to obtain the automatic acceptance of all mental illnesses encountered by servicemen and servicewomen due to their war service.”

Delay shall be no longer than three months.

South Australia:

That interest rates on War service homes be reduced to 2 per cent.

New South Wales:

That the War Service Homes Act be amended to allow both single widowed returned ex-service men to have no dependants to become eligible for war service homes.

That the Commonwealth Government to provide flats for purchase or rental under the Commonwealth rental scheme for returned ex-service women who have no dependants.

Queensland:

That the Commonwealth Government be requested to examine the possibility of an Emergency being made in the War Service Homes Act similar to that provided under the Queensland State Rental Scheme whereby the applicant is entitled to insurance for the amount of the purchase of his home.

That appropriate action be taken to ensure that War Service Homes Division to widen its scope to finance housing in closely settled rural areas.

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and we will be pleased to quote for all classes of repairs, repolishing, or re-upholstering to your present furniture.
RESOLUTIONS

"That representations be made to the Commonwealth Government to have the age service pension paid to the widow for three months after the death of the service pensioner."

Tasmania:
"That Congress again asks that self employed victimees be reimbursed for loss of income when under treatment in a Repatriation doctor or at Repatriation Hospitals as out-patients, and why attending medical boards."

Western Australia:
"That all ex-service men of 70 years of age and over he exempted from the means test in assessing pension benefits."

Queensland:
"That the Commonwealth Government be advised to provide that the Repatriation Department shall meet the hospital expenses of war widows and children of ex-service men whose deaths have been accepted as due to war service, and when it is found necessary in cases of emergency and remoteness from Hospital for a widow or child to receive treatment."

Land Settlement

Western Australia:
"That all eligible applicants for farms under the W.A.S. who have not yet been allotted a farm be permitted to transfer their eligibility from the scheme to enable them to take advantage of the C.R.E. Loan which would have the effect of cancelling their eligibility under the scheme and establishing their eligibility for the loan for which they had not previously applied."

"That the Commonwealth Government be asked to consider reopening for a further period classification for farms through the present War Service Land Settlement Scheme."

New South Wales:
"That all steps be taken to see that any move by the Commonwealth Government towards the curtailment of loan money for soldier settlement be strongly opposed."

"That this Congress, noting the success obtained in the recent experimental employment of European divers from the Mediterranean in the pearl industry, affirms its support of the Commonwealth Government policy of promoting permanent settlement on our northern shores and, in particular, urges the continuance of selective immigration of European peasants trained in diving."

South Australia:
"That the R.S.S. and A.I.L.A. has considered, and has condemned, a vigorous policy of immigration for security and defence. It therefore commends to the Government's decision, to pursue a continuing immigration program, and notes with satisfaction that the Government has decided, as a long term plan, upon an annual population increase, through immigration, of at least 1 per cent."

"That the Federal Congress strongly opposes any diminution of the National Service Training Scheme."

South Australia:
"That the Federal Congress urges that the Federal and State authorities, in treating plans for civil defence as extremely urgent, and that all steps necessary to expedite these plans be put into operation as quickly as possible."

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The Salient, Tobruk

These verses have been submitted by Ex-WWX4163 R. Davis, of 26 Wynyard-road, Belmont, who writes:

"I am enclosing a poem that first came into my hands when I was in the 8th A.G.I. at Gaza, but do not know who wrote it as it came to me second or third hand at that time. Maybe 'The Listening Post' by publishing same will cause it to meet the eye of the author. I had it published in a country newspaper with this object in view, but nothing came of it. The author may be one of those who 'fulfilled his bond.'"

"Just flat drab land and sweeping sand
And stunted camel thorn;
No structures till we reach it all
Lest we give our positions away,
Just a Barbourie tire against the sky
And the nests of the Arty's bay.
Where the winds sweep free over the sea
In the duststorm's sticky swelter,
And we keep down low out of the blow
In the dugout's humid shelter.
In the forward post we do a roast
In the hell of the noonday sun,
Just a rifle mob we do our job
In the ceaseless watch for the讯.
In the dim starlight of the cold black night
When the skylines vague and sweeping
We stare in the glare of a weird flame
For a glimpse of the enemy creeping.
With his damned fixed lines we are kept right down
And the rash get bullets, not fame.
By day and by night we just fight
And fire back at the dust and flame.
From sharing the brunt we came back from the front
For a rest in more peaceful places.
We have taken some raps, there are added gaps
In the ranks of familiar faces.
There is many a cross to mark the loss
Of the pales who fulfilled their bond."

The S.G.I.O. - Building—184 St. George's Terr., Perth

Your WILL and your ESTATE will be in the hands of the

PUBLIC TRUSTEE

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**Apathy Condemned By State President**

At a recent meeting of the Brunswick R.S.L. sub-branch the State President (Mr. Lonnie) vigorously contested various reasons given for poor attendances at local sub-branch meetings late.

His visit was made to explore the situation and see what could be done to effect an improvement. Some 30 members had gathered for the occasion.

The president of the sub-branch (Mr. A. Barnes) told Mr. Lonnie that of 70 potential members in the district, 41 were financial, but at recent meetings the average attendance was only six, and as a result very little had been done over the past two years.

In the absence of the treasurer, Mr. L. Gripps, the secretary Mr. R. Moore read the balance sheet which showed the sub-branch had deposits and assets of over £700, which included the purchase price of their half-acre block, bought several years ago, and which said Mr. Lonnie, and at present much more.

One member's reason for the fall-off in attendance was that past-presidents did not continue to attend meetings once a new president took over.

To this Mr. Lonnie said he considered these men had done their job and were entitled to take things easy and let another man have his turn of office.

Another reason was that local ex servicemen did not require assistance and there was nothing for which to work.

To this Mr. Lonnie replied that if such healthy circumstances prevailed here there were many organisations such as Legacy, Faversham House and others badly needing financial aid and here was a great opportunity for Brunswick to do something worthwhile.

Mr. Lonnie urged members to strive for a building on their block.

“You admit you want a building, but you are one of the oldest sub-branches in the State, renowned for your vigour, I suggest you put your shoulders to the wheel and make a start. Only three months ago you raised over £2000 for Legacy in 12 months”.

---

**Newcomer Scoops The Pool**

In its first year the Manning sub-branch has won the R.S.L. Institute games shield competed for by six south-of-the-river sub-branches.

At the competition wind-up in the Bilton-Palmyra R.S.L. Memorial Hall recently a round of games preceded an excellent supper at which the shield was presented.

An attendance of 90 was representative of the North-East Fremantle-Palmyra City, Hamilton Hill, Applecross, Manning and Bilton-Palmyra sub-branches.

The institute secretary Mr. Theo Brennan, was introduced by Mr. H. Stanbury of the State Executive.

As originator of the competition Mr. Brennan had every reason to feel pleased with the good attendance and good fellowship.

The arrangements for the evening were made under the supervision of the sports council.

Visitors were lured in their droves to the Manning sub-branch’s new Edward Hall — an initiative to other sub-branch members to dig deeper in their toes and emulate the achievement.

---

**Pleasing Christmas Gift For Murray Sub-branch**

*by “Ack-Willie”*

A nice Christmas present was received by the Murray sub-branch when the president of the women’s auxiliary (Mrs. J. Capps) presented a cheque for £70 to President Bert Crowley.

Presentation was made at the annual supper to which auxiliary members had been invited. This made the second donation in cash. Earlier in the year a cheque for £50 was presented.

Apart from cash assistance the auxiliary has contributed all crockery and other essentials needed for the new clubrooms.

Women’s auxiliaries are recognised as the backbone of most sub-branches and the above shows the value this splendid organisation is to Murray.

It is with regret that the sub-branch reports the death of Mr. S. (Sam) Charlton.

An ex-10th Light Horse veteran, Sam died in the Murray District Hospital three days before Christmas.

Though age and failing health prevented Sam from taking (as he would have liked) a more active part in sub-branch affairs he was a most respected member.

Members are extending force to pay their last respects. Last rites over the flag-draped coffin were performed by Murray R.S.L. member the Most Venerable Archdeacon King.

Vale Sam Charlton, soldier and gentleman!

---

**Children First In Favour**

Children were the first in favour at the annual break-up social of the Midland Junction R.S.L. sub-branch a few days before Christmas.

Fruit- salad, icecream, sweets, nuts, fruit and cool drinks were there in abundance for them.

Volunteer musicians and songsters contributed greatly to the success of the evening. A highlight was the community singing under the baton of Mr. Harry Kynaston.

As a mark of his service to the sub-branch Mr. W. Gibson received a presentation at the hands of the president (Mr. W. Lamb).
THE LAST POST

BIRCH, J. H., 4th M.G. Bn., Boyanup.
BISH, G. S., 2/11 Bn., Wireless, Calingiri.
CHARLTON, G. S., 10th L.H., Mundaring.
CORNELIOUS, J. W., 10th L.H., Katanning.
DALTON, A. H., 2/11 Bn., Mundaring.
DUNGEY, W. L., 44th Bn., Fremantle.
GOCH, S. C., 44th Bn., Three Springs.
GRAHAM, T. R., 28th Bn., Central.
HANSON, A. H., 44th M.G. Co., Bellevue.
HEWS, W. 11th Bn., Boulder.
HOUSE, W. A., 2nd Forestry, Busselton.
JONES, E. C., 11th Bn., Mt. Lawley.
LOVERIDGE, G. L., 1st M.G. Co., Wagin.
MC Intosh, W. A.F.A., Mt. Magnet.
MARSHALL, F. K., 11th Bn., Subiaco.
MILLER, D. T., 22nd M.T., Mullewa.
MILLS, D. W., 21st Bn., South Perth.
ORR, W., 18th Bn., Public Service.
PRICE, W. L., 7th P. & A., Denmark.
RANNELL, J. W., 2nd N.S.W. M.R., Mundijong.
RINTOUL, T. S., 2/28th Bn., Kalgoorlie.
SMITH, W., 1/17 Lond., Perth.
STUBBS, G., 10th L.H., Roebourne.
TEUMA, S., M.N., Gloucester Park.
THOM, J. E., 1 P.A.R., Mundoune.
TOLHURST, H. V., 2nd R.C.V. Co., Boulder.
VIVEASH, A. N., 11th Bn., Perth.
WALTHER, J. W., 2nd P.T., R.C.V., Kalgan.
WEBBE, A. R., R.N.A.S., Claremont.
WILLIAMS, J. V., 16th Bn., South Perth.
WILLIAMS, T. C., 12th Div., Roy. Scots, Kukerin.
WILLIAMSON, H. T., 28th Bn., Subiaco.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Screech-headers amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe,
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with those who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

[Published by request]

Sub-branch Appointments

R.S.L. sub-branch appointments confirmed by the State Executive at its meetings on October 24, November 7 and December 6 comprise the following:

- **Kojonup**
  - President: S. Crook
  - Secretary: B. D. Raven

- **Freemantle**
  - President: L. J. Bartley
  - Secretary: A. P. H. Lee

- **Inverell**
  - President: T. A. Weatherall
  - Secretary: W. G. Wallace

- **Armadale**
  - President: I. C. Simmonds
  - Secretary: N. Evans

- **Beverley**
  - President: Dr. E. D. Cullen
  - Secretary: N. Evans

- **Japara District**
  - President: W. C. Goodall
  - Secretary: R. J. Doherty

- **Manjimup**
  - President: J. Davies
  - Secretary: W. A. Pettit

- **Returned Sisters Club**
  - President: P. Martin
  - Secretary: W. A. Pettit

- **Roebourne**
  - President: L. R. Bruce
  - Secretary: A. Pettit

- **Glen Forrest**
  - President: A. Miller
  - Secretary: A. Pettit

- **Vasse**
  - President: R. Elson
  - Secretary: C. Hickmott

- **Maylands**
  - President: T. C. Cogitas
  - Secretary: A. Pettit

- **Darling Range**
  - President: B. Comly
  - Secretary: W. W. Jenkins

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These crunchy, nutty-flavoured biscuits are delicious with that morning or afternoon cup of tea.

**MILLS & WARES GRANITA BISCUITS**

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**Kiddie's High Chair**, £3/3/6

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Lean, Tough Soldier Has Had Colourful Career

A lean, tough soldier with a colourful career is Lieut.-Col. J. W. C. Leith, who now holds the post of Assistant Brigade Major with the Western Command's 3rd Infantry Brigade, with which he remained until his latest appointment.

He succeeds Lieut. W. H. W. Hofmann, who has been Commander of the 3rd Recruit Training Battalion and area commander at Kapooka, New South Wales.

W.A. Lads In Army Trades School

Sixteen of 109 Australian youths selected for the January intake at the Army Apprentices School at Balcombe, Victoria, are West Australians.

They are: J. W. Leith, of Bussandee; W. J. Weavcr, of Manning; H. A. Dugan, of North Inglewood; W. Leith, of Hull; R. J. Coker, of Narembeen; C. A. W. Twomey, of Kojonup; I. H. C. F. Leith, of West Perth; A. E. L. Leith, of Kojonup; N. S. R. Leith, of South Calista; G. M. Leith, of Coolgardie; W. J. Leith, of Coolgardie; H. Thomas, of Bunbury; L. B. O. Leith, of Denmark; S. P. Leith, of Narrogin; R. L. Leith, of South Perth; S. Leith, of Merredin; and A. Randall, of Rivervale.

Perth Man Marked As Leader

A Perth man, Lieut. A. B. Lapham of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, Malaya, was one of three members of the regiment recently mentioned in dispatches.

Lapham was actively engaged in operations against the Communist forces in Malaya from January to April, 1949.

The citation concerning him said:

"He displayed outstanding leadership qualities, which resulted in the success of an operation against terrorists, the death of one terrorist, and the wounding of two."

Special Fare For Troops At Christmas

Special food and extras were provided for all Australian troops on Christmas Day.

Dinner for Malaya and Korea servicemen consisted of cold chicken, sliced pork with salad, mayonnaise, potatoes, jellied beef, spring onions, tomato and onion salad, with boiled eggs, lettuce and pea salad, tropical fruit salad, Spanish jelly and ice cream.

Soft drinks, cold bottled beer, assorted nuts, fresh fruit and cheese were also on the table.

Troops in New Guinea sat down to a meal of turkey, ham, green vegetables, Christmas pudding with brandy sauce, bottled beetroot and Christmas cake.

Native troops of the Pacific Islands Regiment received rice, fresh vegetables, a double beef rations and fruit, plus a special issue of pipe tobacco, cigarettes, soft drinks, boiled sweets and coconuts.

Special gift parcels donated by the R.S.L. and the Fighting Colonies Comfort Fund for every Australian serviceman in Malaya and Korea were duplicated in time for delivery before Christmas Day.

From the contents of each parcel were two bottles of Australian beer.
ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICEMEN
Rates: £2/2/- Per Annum
FEDERATED T.B. SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION—4, Abercrombie Rd, North Perth. 15 Officers. President: Mr. P. M. P,#. Secretary: Mr. W. F. M.

SOUTH AFRICA AND IMPERIAL VETERANS ASSOCIATION—Meets 10A King-street, 3rd Monday in each month at 2 p.m.: President: Mr. A. W. B., Secretary: R. A. McDonald, 20 Kenny-street, Busselton. WA.

19TH LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION—Annex House, 245 Butler-street, Fremantle. President: Mr. E. J. Smith, Secretary: Mr. W. J. Price.

ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION OF WA.—Meetings, Annex House, 245 Butler-street, Fremantle. President: Mr. J. M. Bremner, 38 Butler-street, Fremantle. WA.


11TH BATTALION COMMITTEE—Committee meetings held: President: J. E. Griffin, 56 Carlisle-street, East Perth. Secretary: J. D. Hughes, 72 Elder-street, East Perth.

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BLIND AND BATTLE ROLL-UP.—Meetings held: President: J. E. Griffin, 56 Carlisle-street, East Perth. Secretary: J. D. Hughes, 72 Elder-street, East Perth. Tel. 1953655.

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Gymkhana Helps Hall Debt Reduction

The fine community spirit in Rocky Gully was exemplified at the recent Randwick R.S.L. sub-branch.

Both the State President (Mr. Donnie) and the land committee chairman (Mr. E. O. Davies), who were on their first visit to the area, expressed pleasure at the way the community has banded together to help pay off the hall.

A rather full programme included log chopping (even the ladies tried their hand at it) colour wheel, merry-go-round and races for the children.

The highlight of the day—and of the dance which followed—was the performance of the Freeling Ladies Highland Pipeband.

Most people were agreeably surprised at the high standard of marching, bandwenda and dancing the ladies provided.

Altogether over £200 was raised to meet the overdraft on the hall, which is the only hall built in the local residents in a War Service Land Settlement project area in Australia.

Many business houses made gestures with cash or goods which assisted the success of the day.

A hall credit must go to a very hard-working committee under the capable leadership of Messrs. Aub, Eric Cook and Ted.

The women's auxiliary took the lead in same the task of catering and earned praise from all sections of the community.

Association Notes

The president of the 11th and 2/11 Battalion Association (Mr. Charles Mitchell) on behalf of the committee and himself extended warm personal and kind wishes to all for 1957 and hopes to see many more 2/11 battalion members at future functions.

The secretary (Mr. A. Croly, of Pakenham Street, Wembly) will be too pleased to receive subscriptions and assist to future events.

Congratulations to Wally Cook on achieving his majority.

Bernie O'Dowd, an original member of the committee, is now a major in the permanent forces and is stationed in Sydney with his wife and family.

Christmas Party Precedent Followed At Northam

In accordance with a precedent established two years ago when the local memorial hall was used by a sub-branch on December 9 again held a Christmas party for Faversham war veterans.

Twenty-four veterans arrived in a bus (hired by the sub-branch) accompanied by the Faversham superintendent (Mr. Les H Miller).

The party were entertained by the sub-branch's secretary's wife (Mrs. E. Collep) who played the piano during the arrival of the Northam R.S.L. Dance Band.

The two Nightingales both in their 91st years were called upon to cut a special Christmas cake made andiced by members of the auxiliary.

This is a precedent of the sub-branch (Mr. R. W. Martin) that a brief speech of welcome with seasonal greetings, Mr. H Miller responded on behalf of the guests, and was supported by one of their number.

The auxiliary handed each guest an envelope containing a Christmas card and a 10c note.

A bus pulled away to the sound of the "Merry Christmas" sung by all present.

Committee Is Doubtful Of Convention

The R.S.L. State Executive in December received a report from its committee for the North-West against the holding of a State League convention in the local town.

After inquiries with sub-branches extending from the Kimberley to the Great Southern, the committee decided that a convention was not practicable.

Instead it recommended State Presidential visits as circumstances permitted, or an executive visit on the lines of that to Kalgoorlie recently.

With the authority of the executive it has arranged for copies of the minutes of its meetings to be sent to North-West sub-branches.

Valle Lady Willcox

The death of Lady-Willcox (wife of Lieut.-General Sir William Willcox) at Balgowan on December 12 cast a gloom over the township. The lady, who had resided there for some years, was born in Sydney and married Sir Henry and later residence extended to the deep and sincere sympathy.

Walpole To Meet On Thursdays

The Walpole R.S.L. sub-branch has changed its meeting-day to the first Thursday of each month.

The change has been made owing to poor attendance at Sunday afternoon meetings.

At the first Thursday night meeting half of the proposed closure of 30 in attendance was in attendance.

There was strong objection by the sub-branch to the proposal of the Ellerker to Nornalup railway line and the secretary was instructed to write to the member for the district (Mr. A. F. Watts) and the minister for Lands (Mr. Hoare) requesting their support in this matter.

Members were reminded of a motion recently carried at a general meeting convened by the Walpole hall committee. The motion had authorised the R.S.L. to deal with matters of interest and concern with the honour board which is to be hung in the hall.

The meeting decided that all personnel who had served with the sub-branch and had enlisted from the Walpole, Nornalup, Hazelvale and Tingale areas be included on the honour board.

To facilitate this, all eligible are being requested to forward their names and service particulars to Mr. E. Clarke, secretary of the Walpole R.S.L. sub-branch.

They Know What To Do With It

News Bulletin No. 20 of the British Empire Service League together with a "line in recipes for the housewife" that the B.E.S.L. sent to all branches.

The bulletin comments: "Surely throughout the Commonwealth there must be some national dishes with which we can vary the menu now and again. Let's have them so that we can either appreciate or contribute to our local fare. One item is alwaysbara -don't tell us what to do 'with whale! We know,"

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