The Queen Mother Happy 
To Be With Us Again

"I thank you from my heart for your kind welcome. I am so very happy to be in Australia again, and delighted to be present at the Biennial Conference of the British Empire Service League, for your invitation to declare this conference open was one of the main reasons for my visit to this country."

With these words Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother commenced her address when opening the B.E.S.L. Conference in Canberra on February 17. The Queen Mother continued:

"It is therefore most fitting that my Australian tour should begin with this important engagement in the capital city of the Commonwealth."

"Thirty-seven years ago this month Field Marshal Lord Haig convened an Empire conference in Cape Town. From his conversations with ex-servicemen from the Dominion countries, and in the United Kingdom, he had conceived the idea of a great Empire League of Ex-Service Organizations, linked together, with headquarters in London—the heart of the Commonwealth.

"At that conference the British Empire Service League was born."

"As this 14th biennial conference is held in Australia, it is right that I should remind you that the Returned Servicemen's League of W.A. has today—seconded the resolution that the B.E.S.L. should be formed, and also provided the chairmanship of the committee which drafted its constitution—a constitution which still remains virtually unchanged."

"Since then the league has grown in strength and achievement. Born of the loyalties which emerge from shared experiences in war, the league has continued to help those who have suffered as the result of two world wars—the bereaved, the orphans and the disabled."

"I have always been grateful—and I know that this view is shared by the other members of my family—for the practical interest shown by the member organizations of the B.E.S.L. in the welfare of British ex-servicemen who have migrated to other countries of the Commonwealth."

"At no time can a family stand in greater need of help than on arrival in new surroundings, and the part played by the League in solving difficulties and fostering comradeship has been invaluable."

"As Patron of the Women's Auxiliaries—an office I am indeed proud to hold—I am most conscious of the loyal support which they have given to your association over the years."

"They have undertaken many and varied tasks with conspicuous devotion—tasks which include assistance at your reunions, the care of graves, the helping of the sick, and the postage of food parcels, which meant so much to many of us at home in the time of our greatest need."

"I am especially pleased, therefore, that at this conference—for the first time in the history of the League—the work will be presented."

"On your return to your homes, I would ask all delegates to give my warmest thanks and congratulations to their women's auxiliaries."

"Finally, I wish to mention the outstanding contribution which groups with the B.E.S.L. are making in the field of youth welfare."

"It is, indeed, a fitting form of work, for the battles in which their fathers and mothers gave their lives were not fought only to ensure the physical safety of our country, but to ensure that our British way of life should not perish."

"It is vital that the men and women who served should now bear the value of loyalty, leadership, and of course, should hold them in high esteem."

"In the spirit of this conference, which is the successor to the League of Samoa, we should try to teach these same lessons to the youth of today."

"If they can do this then our young people will be well equipped to face the challenges of the future."

"With all my heart I wish you success in this work."

"I pray that this conference may reach wise decisions, and I hope that the friendships you make here will be lasting and sincere."

"It is now my pleasure formally to declare open this 14th Biennial Conference of the British Empire Service League."

The Anzac Eve Dinner

The Anzac Eve dinner this year will take the form of a sit-down dinner at a charge of £1 per head. Any person who saw service in World War I or II, or in any campaign prior to or since those wars will be eligible to attend, but no ticket will be issued without payment of £1 to League headquarters.

Sub-branches are requested to advise headquarters some time before April 10 of the names of those wishing to attend, and to forward £1 for each name submitted. Whether the amount is to be paid by the sub-branch or the individual is a matter for determination by the interested parties. It may be necessary for reasons of accommodation to prohibit sub-branches from issuing fewer tickets than are applied for. The dinner will be attended by the Governor (Sir Charles Gairdner) and the National President of the League (Sir George Hol-

League Gesture At Departure

From W.A. of Queen Mother

A League parade of 463 ex-servicemen and women marched from Anzac House to its allotted position in St. George's terrace to farewell Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother on her departure from W.A. on the evening of March 4.

Music for the occasion was provided by the R.S.L. Band.

Included in the parade were representatives of 36 metropolitan and 24 country sub-branches, and a contingent of 25 Old Contemporaries' Association members.

Among the many distant sub-branches represented were Mounts Bay, Pennicott, Meekatharra, Wagin, Walpole and Roma Brook-Rosa Glen.

The Returned Sisters' sub-branch and 30 members on parade, and the Returned Servicewomen's sub-branch 25. As well 18 members of the R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary paraded.

In charge of the parade was Col. J. E. Mitchell. On the Queen Mother's previous visit to Perth 51 years ago as the Duchess of York Col. Mitchell attended the Garden Party for the occasion as commanding officer of the 3rd Field Brigade.

Summing up on the parade later the State President (Mr. Lonnie) said it was apparent that with interest at such a high peak it behoved the League to think in terms of a much greater area for future assemblies of the kind.

The picture shows the parade in its allotted position extending eastwards from the lodge gate of Government House.
Resume Of Proceedings Of The Ex-Servicemen's Sub-branch

There were 27 members present at the annual general meeting of the sub-branch at Anzac House on February 13. The incoming president, Miss Perry, gave a full report of a satisfying year's work and thanked her office-bearers and members for their support and service so glad to be present. This service, for which we are proud to hold the Newdegate Cup for the second time on behalf of Anzac Day luncheon to disable veterans who live in institutions. Here we are reminded of By His Excellency the Governor who gives an annual luncheon in our name and our patron, the Honourable Lamond, whose presence is much appreciated. All the income from the service given are the bus drive with special evening meal and entertainment at Anzac House for Lemnos veterans, our rorare of three volunteers to gain places at the monthly meetings of ex-war-blinded men and their wives. Miss Perry, in her report, said she could rely on us to give the same loyal support to the incoming president, Miss Perry. Members expressed their sincere gratitude to Miss Perry for her splendid work and thanked her and the vice-presidents—the Hon. Mrs. O'Brien and the secretary (Miss B. Carter) and treasurer (Miss F. Hall) for their work—M.L.

League Meets Railways Charge

Freight-charges amounting to £216/5/5 on fodder and other supplies, by the Williams sub-branch to Faversham House recently, have been brought before the League. This was stated in a land committee report submitted at the meeting on February 27. The Minister for Railways has been approached for refund of the amount and for an undertaking that in future fodder sent for the home would be transported free of charge on the railways but had replied that neither request could be granted.

Allocations Of Land By Land Board

The following allocations of land by the Land Board were announced recently by the Minister for Lands (Mr. Kelly):

Yilgarn locations 219, 2126, 2127, 10 miles east of Bonnie Rock, to Ethel Benton, of Mukinbudin.
Yilgarn locations 1234, 1247, 1245, and part of each of location 1244 and 1249, 10 miles east of Bonnie Rock, to Loris Benton, of Mukinbudin.
Yilgarn locations 1220 and 1221, 10 miles east of Bonnie Rock, to Miss Mary Carroll, of Mukinbudin.
Yilgarn locations 169, 170, and part of each of location 168 and 169, 10 miles north of Westonia, to George William Casey and Leonard George Casey, of Westonia.
Denmark Estate lot 612, 2 miles north of Denmark, to Edward Bownds, of Denmark.
Victoria location 10485, 5 miles north of Margaret River, to James O'Brien of Box 75, Mullawa.

FAVERSHAM CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

February must have been a very trying month for veterans, whether they were our guests at York or the fortunate ones who have homes elsewhere in the State.

February and March are usually so hot and humid that those of us who are feeling the heat of the years do not appreciate the hot weather. It is pleasant therefore to report that the members of the Northam sub-branch visited Faversham on February 14, entertained the veterans with various games and provided some refreshments and thereby took the chaps' minds off the unpleasant weather and made a break in the usual routine. Good for you, boys! Good friends of the Home once again made the month a happy one and our sincere thanks are due to the following donors, who did not fail to turn up: Aust. Red Cross Society (toacco and cigarettes); A. Adolph, Yorke (grapes); Mrs. A. Williams (fags); Mr. B. McCormara (tobacco); Mr. Dillmore (grapes); Mrs. H. Fowler (ducks); Mr. H. Heaton (S/B. 2 cases plums); Mr. Thoxtun and Co. (jellies and port); Thomas S/B. (baled hay, 5 bags oats); Salvation Army, York (pumpkins); Forbes, Harrismith (books); R. Keeling, Riverton (books); Traying-Yelbini S/B. (women's auxiliary ($5).)

NEW NAME FOR B.E.S.L.

The British Empire Service League has changed its name to "British Commonwealth Ex-Services League." This was decided unanimously at the 14th biennial conference held in Canberra recently.

The action was taken because of changes that have come about—and others to occur—in the status of members of the British Commonwealth.

At the conference, which was officially opened by His Majesty Queen Eliza—beth the Queen Mother, 36 delegates, eight associate delegates and nine observers were presided over by the Deputy Grand President (Major Gen. Sir John Marriott) with Sir George Holf-Iand (Australia) as the conference chairman.

One of the first acts of the conference was the re-election of the president, Sir George Holf-Iand (Australia), who has held office since 1946, was unable to attend the conference.

Collie Plans Increase In Social Activities

The Collie sub-branch has decided to expand its sub-branch and inter-sub-branch social activities this year in the hope of increasing its membership.

A good start has been made. The annual reunion held on February 15 was well attended, with other sub-branches well represented and with members of executive members of his executive among those present. On the Sunday in February, the sub-branch and auxiliary conducted a picnic at Collie, with a number of Legacy wards as special guests. A full programme of swimming, sports and games was enjoyed by all.

At the annual meeting on March 4 Mr. G. Whittred was elected president, Mr. Fullarton secretary, Mr. W. Thompson treasurer and Mr. H. May pension officer.

The incoming social committee decided that at the next meeting (April 1) there will be held a cricket and picnics and inter-sub-branch activities.

The Australian is acting vigorously on the League slogan for the year, "Enjoying the life that other sub-branches are enjoying."

The R.I.L. and necktie has been seen and approved by the sub-branch and ordered placed on behalf of members.

New Staff Man: Late work to the clerical staff at Anzac House is Mr. Tom Hennessian. Mr. Hennessian will hold office and is serving with the R.A.A.F. and World War II in England and Australia.

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Memorable Conference

THE 14TH Biennial Conference of the B.E.S.L. recently held in Canberra will remain on record as one of the most important in its 37 years of history.

IN THE presence of a distinguished audience which completely filled the Albert Hall, Canberra, the conference was opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

DELEGATES from 26 nations of the British Commonwealth were thrilled and inspired by the address given by Her Majesty.

HER MAJESTY, in drawing attention to the E.S.L., to its 3 million ex-service members and its seventeen thousand Branches, emphasised that men and women who had served in war could play a part in times of peace.

CONFERENCE itself made a number of major decisions, the most important being the renaming of the organisation. Since 1921 the title "British Empire Service League" had stood unchanged. Recent world events, however, and the changing status of member nations led to proposals for a more descriptive title.

FOLLOWING a brilliant debate in which delegates from many countries took part it was unanimously agreed that the new name should be "British Commonwealth Ex-Services League." Significantly, speakers of all races proudly expressed their wish to retain the word "British."

AUSTRALIAN delegates played a leading part in obtaining Conference assent to a proposal to create regional areas as a means of decentralising administration from London.

IT IS confidently anticipated that this may lead to the setting-up of zones in the Pacific and elsewhere, so that the repatriation knowledge and experience of nations such as Australia and New Zealand could more readily be available to less privileged countries.

RECIPROCAL benefits for Ex-Imperials were discussed at length. The debates were greatly assisted by the New Zealand and Canadian delegations, New Zealand ultimately securing passage of a composite resolution calling upon all Governments to provide a War Veterans' Allowance (similar to the Australian Service pension) within their own respective areas of responsibility.

MALTA made an interesting contribution on the care and sanctity of war graves and war memorials. In view of the early approach of our Anzac Day, Malta's views on individual and branch responsibility for the preservation of all memorials bound ready acceptance with the Australian and New Zealand representatives.

THE NATIONAL President of the R.S.L., Sir George Holland, C.B.S., M.M., conducted the conference with great dignity and efficiency. Delegates were unanimous in their expressions of appreciation of his services.

Perhaps the conference is best summed up in the words of a coloured delegate: "I go back proud of our membership of this great organisation. I shall tell my people that I have found here comradeship greater than I had thought possible and a strength of purpose which will fortify us in the tasks which lie ahead in my own country."

Welshpool Members, Take Note

The Welshpool sub-branch's practice of circulating its members regularly with details of current events, remains of meetings, and so on, is being suspended. The reason for the change is financial—the fall in revenue following the Congress decision to increase the capitation fee paid to headquarters.

The sub-branch intends in future to avail itself of the columns of "The Listening Post" for the dissemination of vital information to its members.

General meetings of the sub-branch are held in the clubroom adjoining the Mechanics Institute Hall, Welshpool-road, Welshpool on the third Thursday of each month. The next meeting is on March 20.

Welshpool A Lure For 5 W.A. Lads

Five boys from Western Australia were listed among the 50 selected from all States of the Commonwealth to enter the Apprentice Training Establishment at Quaker's Hill (near Parramatta, N.S.W.) on January 5 this year.

They are Laurence Kalinowski, of Bunbury; Lawrence Leeson, of Kalgoorlie; Glenn McDonald, of Joondanna; Bogdan Rudkowski, of Wooroloo and Geoffrey Vrieland, of Fremantle.

Intended to provide artisans and shipwrights for the R.A.N., the scheme has been highly commended by leading trade-union officials and the New South Wales Apprenticehip Commission.

It is planned to enter drafts of 50 trainees every six months.
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League Sees Minister On Land Matters

The possibility of surplus farms under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme, finance for a civilian settlement scheme and legal representation at Appeal Board hearings were among matters raised by a League deputation to the Minister for Lands (Mr. Kelly) recently.

The deputation comprised land committee members Messrs. Cameron, King, Lyon and secretary Giblett, and the Minister was attended by the chairman of the Land Settlement Board (Mr. Baron Hay).

The Minister said it was too early to say whether there would be any surplus war service farms and, if so, to detail the manner of their disposal. The Commonwealth authorities might want them for Eastern States applicants, but the matter would be watched and attention paid to the League's request that consideration be given to "near-miss" applicants in Victoria.

Mr. Kelly said the Government had been trying for three years to obtain finance from the Commonwealth for a civilian settlement scheme and such finance would appreciate any assistance the League could render in that connection. He agreed to have the League supplied with details of the scheme put up to the Commonwealth.

Mr. Baron Hay told the deputation he was prepared to recommend, in cases coming before the Appeal Board, where the applicant was not supported by a legal adviser the W.S.L.S. authorities should immediately evolve a plan.

Mr. Kelly said he was not prepared to do more advertising for selection, partly because there was always an abundance of applications for land thrown open for selection and partly because of the cost involved.

In one instance, he said, a notice on the board at the Department of Lands had resulted in 40 applications being submitted.

B.C.E.L. Admits New Members

Admission to membership of the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League approved at the Canberra conference for the Barbados Legion, the Indian Association, the Ceylon Ex-Services men's Association and the Uganda branch of the British Legion.

A move to hold the league conferences at three-yearly intervals was defeated.

After considerable discussion on it a motion for renaming Empire Day "Commonsense Day" was withdrawn.

Wildflowers Flown To Canberra For Queen Mother's Visit

Within a day or two of the Queen Mother's visit to Canberra for the opening of the British Empire Service League conference in mid-February—a consignment of specially packed West Australian wildflowers was air-flighted east for the occasion.

National Headquarters of the R.S.I.—the host-body at the conference—had requested all States to send to a radio to forward local wildflowers for the decoration of the lounge at the Albert Hall, Canberra.

This being the off-season for wildflowers in Western Australia, an approach was made to the Government Botanist (Mr. G. A. Gardner) for any suggestions he could make. Mr. Gardner advised that the swamp Bottlebrush, from Bli Bliker, was probably the larger variety from the Albany area—and Morrison from the outer metropolitan area were probably the only wildflowers procurable at this time.

The Washington Post

Page 4
Civil Defence Today

Effects Of Nuclear Radiation

By H. G. Holder

Last month I dealt with the immediate dangers arising from a thermo-nuclear explosion and now I will deal with residual radiation risks-radio-active decay, radiation sickness and radio-active poisoning.

Fall-out is the result of high-yield radio-active explosions which at first causes gas-inducing condensation on objects and with, dispersed and specialised material which has been sucked up by the scorching fireball where it has touched the ground.

As the fireball rapidly ascends, cools and disperses, the heaviest material strikes at first from the highest cloud and cloud which rests much of it falling back on the earth at ground level.

The lightest material is blown into the upper atmosphere and falls out later downwind.

The development of the fall-out pattern, the radio-active intensity of which decreases with distance and time of arrival around zero, will depend on the speed and direction of the prevailing winds, the winds at a height of four miles, the moving of significant distances and concentrations.

Serious Hazard

Fall-out from a ground burst hydrogen bomb can be very extensive and present a severe hazard to the lives of nearly all persons who did not take protective measures. If a bomb is dropped from an aircraft, the area of contamination extends 220 miles downwind and varies in width for 40 miles.

At 140 miles the contamination was sufficiently intense to seriously threaten the lives of nearly all persons who did not take protective measures. If a bomb is dropped from an aircraft, the area of contamination extends 220 miles downwind and varies in width for 40 miles.

The danger from residual radiation is chiefly in the gamma, beta and alpha radiation. These, although of much weaker intensity than the initial gamma radiation, do not merit attention, or with initial radiation, or over a period, as such radiation is set up. Briefly this is due to the destruction of the body cells and the inability of the body to make good the damage.

A dose of 25 r will cause radiation sickness, and up to 75 r no serious sickness results, but above this, sickness occurs in varying degrees and at 500 r a specific, deadly one per cent of deaths among those so exposed.

Death is rarely rapid, but serious illnesses usually show signs of deep shock, aching joints and weakness. In a few hours of exposure, natives on an island, 170 miles off the coast of Japan, of which the skin and their hair fell out; but the hair began to grow again.

A dose of 800 r is usually fatal. Unnecessary radio-active poisoning is due to radio-active contamination—usually harboured in the body and sometimes manifesting itself in breathing, eating and drinking.

The symptoms are similar to radiation sickness, and the control of exposure to gamma rays within permissible limits will usually prevent poisoning is not likely to be.

Saving Lives

I have now dealt with the main THREAT of thermo-nuclear weapons and it is not a pretty picture. If I wish to emphasize at this stage of the story is the fact of the nature of the problem comes in: thousands of lives and many thousands of casualties will be saved if proper precautions are taken and people know what to do.

Some steps to protect your health include:

1. PANIC must be avoided at all costs and it is up to every member of the community to learn all he can about Civil Defence so that, if required, he can come in and do his bit. Remember that the welfare of your family may depend on you.

2. Next month I will deal with effective measures and suggest that each article on this subject be cut from the Listening Post and pasted in an exercise book. This will be a convenient reference.

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New Rules For Car Park

The State Executive has adopted a recommendation for the re-paving of the Anzac House car park to better with the following conditions for parking:

1. Parking to be carried out on the angle-parking system.

2. During normal office hours the right to use the car park to be confined to State Executive members, staff members, Women's Auxiliary members, and Anzac House staff members. Any perons who are not members of the above categories will be permitted to park on the car park to be confined to State Executive members, staff members, Women's Auxiliary members, and Anzac House staff members.

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Praise For Geraldton Sub-Branch President

A tribute to the services rendered by Mr. W. J. Cunningham in his initial term of office as Geraldton sub-branch president has been paid by the State Country Vice-President, Mr. J. F. Buckle.

Mr. Buckle said at the annual general meeting on February 22 that Mr. Cunningham had given a tremendous amount of time and enthusiasm to the job. He had also given the sub-branch added prestige by playing a leading role in the sponsorship of the Slow-learning Children’s Group.

The Central Vice-President of the R.S.L. (Mr. Bill Howard, of Cowro) occupied the chair for the election of officers. Mr. Cunningham was unanimously re-elected president, with Mr. Buckle as the new secretary. The new senior vice-president is Mr. Andy McDonald, a former president of the Manjimup sub-branch, while the junior vice-president—a veteran of the sub-branch—is Mr. Alf Smith.

Mr. R. V. (“Rocky”) Mountain, who is a Life Member of the League, was re-elected treasurer and publicity officer. “Rocky” conducts a weekly R.S.L. service—Rocky on Thursday nights at 9.30, and does an excellent job.

Mr. Buckle, a member of the sub-branch, has been doing sterling work as sub-branch hospital visitor, will continue with the job, while Mr. Artie Milford has been re-elected pensions officer.

The president paid a tribute to the work of Mr. Milford as pensions officer for the past 20 years and said that during the past year Mr. Milford had handled 208 pension cases.

New Army Unit

Mainly as a result of the efforts of the sub-branch, a C.M.P. unit has been set up in Geraldton. It is a platoon of the 28th Infantry Battalion, with Mr. A. E. Whitney (of the National Bank) as the C.O. The recently appointed Regular Army instructor in Geraldton (Warrant Officer) was made an honorary volunteer to be high among the volunteers. He says the platoon is unique because it is the only one comprised wholly of volunteers.

Athletes’ Visit

A Geraldton R.S.L. Sports Committee headed by Mr. Andy McDonald is working hard for the “Little Olympics” to be held on the Geraldton Showground on Easter Sunday afternoon. All of W.A.’s star athletes will be seen in action, and the Geraldton sub-branch is bringing the star runner, Mr. Elliott from Melbourne for the occasion.

Financing W.S. Homes

The State Executive has adopted a recommendation from its housing committee to press for elimination of the waiting-period for ex-service men, who, with the authority of the War Service Homes Division, purchase existing homes by arranging temporary finance.

There is at present a waiting period of 12 to 15 months before War Service Homes finance is made available to lift the mortgage.

The waiting period on some other categories of war veterans’ homes has now been relaxed—announced in the February issue of the League Journal.

The League’s approach—stemming from the last address by the Commonwealth Government to have the War Service Homes Division lend into a separate Commonwealth department has been turned down.

Last RespectsPaid To Dongara Man

At one of the biggest funerals ever held at Dongara the remains of the late Mr. John Sloper were paid to rest in the Methodist portion of the cemetery on January 14.

The burial was preceded by services at the Methodist Church, the Rev. L. Broadbent of Geraldton giving a lecture at both services.

Born at Dongara 65 years ago, the late Mr. Sloper was a returned soldier of World War I and the Dongara sub-branch was well represented at his funeral.

Mr. C. Stone played the “Last Post” and the sub-branch president, Mr. J. P. Dempster, read the soldier’s prayer: “They shall grow not old as we who are left grow old.”

The pall-bearers were members of the R.S.L. and comprised Messrs. E. L. Wood, T. Bishop, F. Brady, J. Powell, J. Hendy. All were soldiers of World War I.

The casket was borne from the hearse to the graveside by six other ex-service men, J. P. Dempster, R. Clarkson, F. W. Windsor, V. W. Fenwick, R. S. Campbell and R. Prater.

Another Look At Veterans’ Home Move

The League is making inquiries regarding an area of land near Perth suitable for establishment of a war veterans’ home.

Announcing this at a recent State Executive meeting the State President said that an ideal site would be somewhere to the east of the city on one of the main highways leading to the country districts. This would encourage visits (especially) to sub-branch members when travelling to Perth.

The acquisition of at least 1,000 acres was envisaged, Mr. Lonnie said. A move for the establishment of a war veterans’ home somewhere in the metropolitan area was defended at the last State Congress.

A subsequent announcement by the Commonwealth Government that it would in future raise its subsidy on such undertakings from 50 to 75% was accepted by the sponsoring authority as a positive move.
Whole Department Went To War

By John O'Brien

The silver jubilee this month of the Commonwealth Meteorological Bureau brings to mind that the bureau was probably the only branch of the Public Service that volunteered as a complete unit into the fighting services.

On June 30, 1940, it became the Directorate of Meteorology, and from then until the end of the war it took its place as the weather service for the Navy, Army, and Air Force in the South-West Pacific.

The volunteers were formally enlisted and given Air Force rank in April 1941, with Group Captain H. N. Warren as director and Wing Commander H. Grant, now in charge of the Sydney Weather Bureau, as assistant-director.

Before the end of the year they had set up an Australian-wide network of R.A.A.F. and a communications system to meet the needs of the fighting forces. They also had established weather stations at the advanced operational bases Tullagi, Milne Bay, and New Georgia; and in the Netherlands East Indies.

As the war brought Japan closer to the United States, the Japanese occupied the Netherlands East Indies; then the United States, New Zealand, Malaya and the Netherlands.

The difficulties that they faced were tremendous. The Japanese ships were sunk by allied bombers in the Huon Gulf.

Long Trek

When he was ultimately ordered out, W/0 Burd, a small man walked to the Hydro, and crossed the width of New Guinea, over mountains 11,000 feet high, carrying his radio transmitter, theodolite and other instruments, without regular food, to Kerema on the south coast, a distance of about 120 miles. He then walked another 100 miles to Yule Point, where he managed to get a launch for Port Moresby.

At Tullagi they had similarly gruelling expeditions. They operated through the air route, and in a Japanese occupation. They crossed crocodile-infested creeks and then leaped into the sea and were eventually blown away by a leaking wooden schooner.

The officers at Darwin and Broome were bombed out over and over again, and ordered back by a series of miracles.

But after the retreat came the time when the officers were forced to leave the Army and extend out of the stations in Darwin and Broome.

Each of these forced retreats is a story in itself.

On March 31 this month, the Tullagi station was commanded by the met. officer (Flight-Lieut. E. J. M. Roe) after the evacuation of that station.

They suffered the most in the sinking of the Lusitania, during which many died, and were ultimately rescued by submarine more than a month later. Five days out from Timor, a fire broke out next to an ammunition room, and the submarine had to be towed to port. For this brilliant leadership Flight-Lieut. Roe was awarded an O.B.E.

A Big Job

But one of their greatest jobs was the weather service at the Occupation Force to Japan, and others to Singapore, South-East Asia, and to the Netherlands East Indies.

They provided wind and ballistic data for field artillery and anti-aircraft units, and held conferences with engineers on the spot, to eliminate and air attack on the surrounding territory.

In the last campaign of the war, the weather services were decisive factors in the outcome of the battles of the South-West Pacific.

In the last campaign of the war, the weather services were decisive factors in the outcome of the battles of the South-West Pacific.

One of the greatest achievements was the establishment of a direct service between Ceylon and Western Australia.

On Cocos

This meant that men in Darwin who needed to be flown out of Cocos Island, the only outpost which had been hit by the Japanese. The first aircraft taking them to Darwin had been forced to return, but it was only through the guidance of Lt. Col. Hogan, now Assistant-Director of Meteorology, that the aircraft reached base with both fuel and oil.

The men who eventually reached Cocos had one of the toughest jobs of the war. The aircraft, to attack the first Cocos, then Liberator, then the longest hop in history, with an overload of fuel and in radio silence, through a series of landings, to sudden tropical cyclones and monsoonal winds. As a result of this the forecast was so accurate that no less than 13 ships, with more than 1100 men, were saved from some of them taking as long as 32 hours. Not one attack was lost during the war, when a Lancastrian disappeared in 1946.

After hostilities ceased the weather force went to the Occupation Force to Japan, and others to Singapore, South-East Asia, and to the Netherlands East Indies.

During the war the operational strength of the directorate was 69 officers and 86 assistants to 212 officers, 239 assistants and 300 men. The directorate was involved in the number of operational stations from 34 to 66.

Despite the widespread service of the directorate generally than the victories of the Coral Sea and Midway, for both of these battles were won through superior knowledge of weather information.

One of the greatest achievements was the establishment of a direct service between Ceylon and Western Australia.

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THE REASON FOR COMBINED REUNION

The Murray, Mandurah, Coolup and North Dandalup-Keysbrook branches of the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia will this year hold their combined reunion in April, instead of March as in prewar years.

The host sub-branch for this year, North Dandalup-Keysbrook, decided on this change so that the date in April first suggested was the 28th, but as this was the day after Anzac Day it was decided to hold it a week earlier—on the 19th.

The combined reunion was originally agreed on by delegates from all four branches to hold the combined show in April and not to clash with other South-West activities.

Combined reunions have proved most successful from an entertainment and good attendance the holding of each centre in turn means that each sub-branch has only to conduct it once every four years—"Ack Will."
Dongafr President's Report

At the annual general meeting of the Dongara sub-branch on January 20 the president (Mr. J. P. Dempster) reported as follows:

"In presenting the Annual Report I should like to say my sincere thanks to all office-bearers and members who gave the sub-branch such loyal support during the year.

"The year under review has been reasonably successful from the League angle thought it could have been a deal more so. Our membership has remained small—we had 23 financial members, which I think is a fall on the previous year. I would suggest that in this direction we have not certained drive this coming year. There must be more eligible people in the district, and it is up to us to get them into the League, the strength of which lies in the number of its members.

"Against our small membership there has been the good attendance at our monthly meetings—we have averaged 20 per cent. Our main project has been the Honour Board for Real Boarding. We have not had the best cooperation from our local board in this matter; the fact I have been deeply disappointed in their attitude. But now stands is that the board will meet the cost of the Honour Board to July 1 of this year. This means that, as the estimated cost is £50, the R.S.L. will have £20—or nearly £4 per head of our financial members—to find.

"I have maintained all along that the Road Board ought to hide their heads in shame. It has been long to consider erecting such a small tribute to those who offered their lives, without calling on a small body such as ours to finance half of it. However, we have paid £30 towards our share into a separate account to await the completion of this work. I have interviewed the manager of the N.S.W. Bank in Geraldton, and the bank will lend 80 for the job until July 1 so that the work can get under way immediately and perhaps be ready for April 1.

"But the board will have to give the word under way and give a definite guarantee of their £80 by July 1. Our annual ball was a great success. Here again our members were down right lightly but net profit up. I would like to thank all the womenfolk who worked so hard to make it a success.

"Our ladies' night I think was eminently a success. We have plans for the use of this room, which he has so kindly allowed up to June 30. I would suggest that the sub-branch show appreciation by voting a subscription to Pearson an honorarium.

"I thank you for your attendance, gentlemen, and hope you will be the incoming office-bearers even better support than you did those bearing office during 1957."

Sub-Branch Officials

Sub-branch presidents and secretaries recently confirmed in office by the State Executive are as follows: the president being named first in each instance.


An alliance between the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps and the Queen Alexandra Royal Army Nursing Corps (England) had been approved by Her Majesty The Queen, the Minister for the Army (Mr. Cramer) said recently.

Approval of the alliance had been supported by the Queen, in her capacity as Colonel-in-Chief of the Australian Army Nursing Corps; the Duchess of Gloucester; Honorary Colonel of the R.A.A.N.C.; and Princess Margaret, Colonel-in-Chief, and Colonel Commandant Bridgadier Darr Helen Gillespie, of the Q.A.A.N.C.

MARCH, 1958

Superintendent Needed

On the back page of this issue there is an advertisement of interest to ex-service men with the necessary qualifications to fill a position which will become vacant in May of this year.

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THE WATCHDOG

(By E. S. W.)

"It is now over four years since the cessation of the greatest of all wars. For the whole of this period, and previously, the Returned Digger has been the ex-fighters' watchdog. It has barked loudly, and because its demands were at all times reasonable it has achieved wonderful results.

The thought of what would happen to the unfit Digger, the widows and the orphans, if their watchdog developed a somnolent attitude on ex-service questions is chilling to consider.

There was a strong movement on foot in Federal and State political circles recently to ensure that the ex-servicemen were returned to their own, and that the Repatriation Department was abolished. The ex-Diggers, however, showed their teeth and snarled, with the result that it is now generally accepted that the Repat will remain intact.

The need for retribution was indicated over four years. The Department's activities certainly have, and will do so, but the Commonwealth is responsible for the welfare of the orphans, children, will last for more than a generation. As time passes and the people, and with them the politicians care less about the welfare of the nation, the need for a powerful watchdog becomes greater.

It behoves the unfit Digger to remain in the League for his own sake, and the fit Digger to assist the League for the sake of the unfortunate comrades.

It is the aim of the League to bring all war sufferers to peace of mind that they may obtain, through freedom from the more solid cares, and to retrench that valuable comradeship, which was cemented during the horrors of battle.

Let no paltry prejudice have the effect of clouding the real issue. —March, 1935.

What's Cookin'?

Two old "cockles" sat in a back fly-away in the bush. No feminine presence ever passed that tended campaign and domestic arrangements were remote and evasive.

The men drifted from politics to cooking, and one of the confirmed bachelors said: "I got one of them there cookery books once, but I never could do as well as you do "Too much fancy work about it," asked the other. "Everybody can't do as you do;” and that settled the matter at once. -March, 1925.

THE LAST POST


THE LISTENING POST

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THE STORY OF "HENRI"

No. 4 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, was a very proud unit by the end of World War 1, and with good cause. For, although it had less than half a year in action on the Western Front, the unit had destroyed 232 enemy aircraft and 32 balloons—the highest total of the war by an Australian single-seater squadron. In this splendid service there was also a high individual distinction—Captain Harry Cobby, D.S.O., D.F.C. and two bars, was officially credited with 24 enemy aircraft and five balloons; the biggest bag by an Australian serving in an Australian air unit. Yet another cause of No. 4's gratification was the fact that theirs was the only Australian squadron chosen to serve in the Allied Army of Occupation in Germany. And the unit was ever-ready to boast about the martial and personal qualities of its C.O., Major Les Ellis, M.C. He was more than popular, he was beloved by most of his men. There was also another and an unusual cause for squadron pride—its mascot, "Digger."

Only one man can tell you the true story of Digger. He is Tim Tovell, of Brisbane. Before he tells it, you should know a little of him. In 1912, when he was thirty-two, he left his native England and came to Australia. He was married and had two children when he entered the A.I.F. No. 4 Squadron of the Australian Flying Corps. At forty-one, he was the oldest pilot in the squadron. A well-built six-footer, he was a quiet, steady man, with innate dignity. Then, as now, he was deeply religious, and in his speech he used many expressions more English than Australian. He was something of a martial dandy, and his white silk, black waistcoat, and broad-brimmed felt hat lent him a touch of innate dignity. Then, as now, he was deeply religious, and in his speech he used many expressions more English than Australian. He was something of a martial dandy, and his white silk, black waistcoat, and broad-brimmed felt hat lent him a touch of innate dignity. 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and coaxing it from the kitchen and giving it to the little Runcs. By then, he’s the most popular kid about the place.

“You know, in a few days I’m loving Henri. He’s really into my heart’s favorite. But some of our chaps are taking him out on outings and adventures. He’s been the dog of food and things, or pulling up the kid when his hands are free and all the other kids are pulling him spring to attention. So I go to the C.O.—he’s a big man and the white man. If ever there was one—and tell him. And he makes out a formal order saying I’m the official guardian of the scoundrel mascot, and no-one is to interfere. Also, I’m the only one he can’t look at. You see, I’m a father and I know kids need not only living but a friend. It’s to be with a strap, and there’s a maximum of six weeks. But we’ll see. And I think the ‘B’ Flight, and together we decide on a dixie strap. And most of all we don’t want the punishment business. I put the Dinkum Oil” in the letter, and ‘Tell him I’ll know when he’s getting the dinkum oil. I’ve just got that strap.

French Poodle

“One day, Henri, Henri is all excited, and one of those French poodles. It belonged to one of the French she said. He’s not been from France. But when Henri heard it was, he said it was in the house. The dog is happy and it attaches itself to Henri. All he says is that Henri says that.

That a moving sight. I go to the site. It is a big fire in the bust of Napoleon near his head, and the French flag was on it. So I feel. And the French poodle is sleeping on the other end of the bed.

At our end of the drome we had to have a plague of rats. But Henri soon fixed that. His scheme was not to do anything, but to burn or blow them out of their holes. He’d pour petrol down a rat-trap, and he’d set fire to it, and—point. And the rat did get out, but then it was sitting waiting for it. There was also a fancy touch to Henri’s campaign. One of the squadron mechanics fixed a special rat cart for him. There was a kind of wire-netting for a pair of aircraft landing wheels and built a kind of trap to catch the rats. And then in a two-gallon tin of petrol. It was funny to see the kid start, but he knew that Henri thought it was a rat-catchning, and he and his cart; and his dog. Some time later we discovered there’d be bits of rat-flying everywhere. At first the dog made the mice take of nuzzling at the rats before Henri lit the train, and he got his nose scorched. That taught him to wait for the enemy before he used the train.

“By the end of the day the little chap had really decided to adopt him as my own. I wrote to the lady and brought him back with me. I was a great little thing. In the family wouldn’t make that happened. When I learnt that the day I wrote the letter my little hound had died of meningitis.

“When I heard this I was more determined than ever to get Henri back home with me. I sent my wife a photo of the kid in his uniform. Oh, yes, we’d had a made. Two issue overcoats and a Digger hat were in the mail. I looked them over carefully. Murphy is a little dog, and he used to the hat. He cut up the one and souvenired and sewed out, poor kid, you could have been there. The kid had new shoes. Captain George Johns fixed them with a little orchid, and Captain Jones, who was going to the hospital, left the kid new shoes with him, and jumps in a pair of smart Italian shoes.

“Who paid for them? When you ask that you show how you don’t know George Johns.

Oh, well, as I said, I told the C.O. I want to take the kid back to Aussie. He said, ‘Don’t talk such rot. Time I can do such a thing? Anyhow, I gave away a document, giving full charge of the boy. Major Ellis always called him Digger. So did most of the boys.

Digger was always willing to tell about him. When I go back very far. Eventually this is the story we tell together.

Retreat From Mons

“In the retreat from Mons the Battery of the Royal Field Artillery was at Lens where a tiny boy wandered along. He didn’t have a word of English, but the Tommies soon understood he was hungry, and homeless. They adopted him. He was with the battery for nearly two years. In 1918 he was wounded; he got a hit on the knee. He was treated at a Tommy casual clearing station, and then had two months in the Army hospital. Don’t you think I was worked hard. But this unit was Permanent Army, and you can’t beat the soldiers for wangling things.

“Anyway, the story goes that in this battery the kid’s best friend was an of ficer, and when he was killed the battery decided it was time Digger was kept out of danger. So they let him to the Tommy battalion. But the kid left and told Howard to join up with an R.F.C. squadron. Then he drifted from unit to unit, until in the Lens district got the kid’s early history. His mother had been killed in action. His mother died in a bomb-shelter. There were no other family ties and no-one wanted the little walt. So the unit which had found out all this sent him to an institution.

Life Too Dull

“From what Digger told me later it must have been a long tussle with his average brain. He said that he was a Digger with a high wall all round it. He stayed there for a time, and then came back for a rest. One afternoon, he was playing on the lawn with the other children, and the old gardener noticed a Digger. He fixed up some work there and in a ditch beside a hedge. At dusk he wandered on the direction of the howitzers’ guns in the distance.

“For two or three days he lived on turnips, blackberries and other things that were plentiful in the fields in the autumn in France. Finally he came across a French Labour Corps working on the roads. They gave him food. Then he joined the Army Service Corps and came along on its way to the front with rations. He climbed aboard a wagon and hid himself under a carpannel. He almost got to the front line—why he wanted to get there goodness only knows—but the troops sent him back the next day. Then he attached himself to a balloon, and took this with him back to Australia. I was going to bring him as my son. But I didn’t know his age, and he couldn’t tell me. Major Ellis thought he was about seven; I took him to be about nine, though the hard life would not make him look a bit older. ‘Tim, I’ll tell you what I’ll do,’ said the Major. ‘I’ll get the doctors and the dentists to give an opinion.’ They gave him a good one, and I think there were three doctors and two dentists. The majority verdict was that Digger was about seven. (Continued overleaf).
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JOHN CAMM, State Manager

MARCH, 1958

THE LISTENING POST

It's "In the bag and over we go..."

eleven. So eleven he was, I fixed his birthday—on Christmas Day, the day he joined us.

"In February, 1919, our occupation duties at Cologne came to an end and the squadron left for Le Havre. I took Digger with me, openly. There are lots of our chaps at this big Allied military base and Digger is something of a sensation. "An A.I.F. pedigree. Reverend Gault, gets to hear about it. He's a very wealthy man from Melbourne, a fine chap. He meets Digger. He's very interested in him. He says to me, 'What are you going to do with the little boy? I say, 'He's our mascot, and I'm taking him home to The Listening Post to live with us.'"

"The Reverend says, 'Don't talk so silly. The war's over. You don't need to bring a boy from this country back here. Buy a dog.' I say, 'Listen, Mr. Gault. If you don't mind, keep out of it. I've got to work, and I'll show him to you in Australia. I come from an old family, and we had wrecks, too. I went to see James on a sailing ship when I was nine. I'll look after the smuggling: I'll get this kid home.'"

Grave Risk

"The Reverend says, 'You're taking a grave risk. Now, if you leave the little boy with me I'll get him placed in a home for refugee children. That's all right, sir—I take the risk for I love the little chap, and he's going to be our son.' I could have told the Padre that I knew from experience what it was to be very young and up against it. You see, I was orphaned when I was nine, and there were thirteen younger than me in the family.

"At the Le Havre embodiment I had to work out how to get Digger on to the ship taking us to Blighty; that was our next move. First I thought of smuggling him in my kit bag. But that was too small; Digger couldn't fit in. Then I spotted in the camp an empty 100-lb. oat-bag; the enemy had it. In the end, when nobody's about, I put Digger in it, tie the top and cut off the bottom. For Digger's sake, put him in the bag and lock up tight. That is what I did.

"When we got on the ship, I cut the bag open and he got out. He gave me the sack, and I had him on deck. I had the bag up on my back. That is what I did."

In Secret

"That way, you can see human lines in the bag. So I put a blanket in the bottom. Then, with a little heft of the weight, it over my shoulder. And the bag, stand in front of the mirror, there's a big one in the hut—and, after the looking over the report, I say, 'You look all right, Digger.' But the kid didn't like these doings, kept starting to say, 'I'll tell you what this is. If you do that, Digger, you stay here.' That's all I can say. And when we get to the States, well, it's all done in secret.

"We leave for Le Havre camp at 4 o'clock one afternoon. After we'd had fallen asleep, each man picks up his kit and gets out and lines up. All except me. As soon as the others have left, the kids of the bag about. Digger, pop him into my bag, heave it over my shoulder, and go to the lorry that is taking us to the wharf."

An Invitation...

At the wharf, I stand the rest of the bag in front of me. When the gangway comes down, we go aboard the cross-Channel ship. It's empty, Digger and I. I see a hold, and I go down; it's empty. I nip up deck, grab my hands, heave back the lid; open the bag and take Digger out. I push him under a seat and hide him. That answers the purpose. Then I take the ship and throw it over the side. I stay in the hold all night, keeping watch over him and acting as cover; you have to know what I mean.

In England

"Early next morning I'd taken to the train, and my mother and two friends had picked up the boy and the bag and left the house. Husk and I sit on the train, and the boy and the bag are with me. I change at Dover, and that answers the purpose. Then, the train is here and Digger is on the platform. I put mine on the platform and see Husk. I say, 'Yes, I'm a big boy, and I've got him this far, and I'll get him the rest.'"

"On the train, we stack the kit-bags on the platform. I put mine on the platform and see Husk. I say, 'Yes, I've got him this far, and I'll get him the rest.'"

The train doesn't come for two hours. As soon as it is, I go and Digger and I are on the platform. I put mine on the platform and see Husk. I say, 'Yes, I've got him this far, and I'll get him the rest.'"

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ANZAC CLUB NOTES

By Doug Dargie

First of all a reminder—don’t forget to con- tribute for 59. Remember, that membership of the Anzac Club entitles you to paying your subscription to the League. That is all it costs you, and once a year to your nearest sub- branch.

For anyone seeking a financial member of the League, have you availed yourself of your chances, which await you? When next in the city arrange to meet your friends at the Club where drinks, you will find, are as cheap as anywhere. Before you leave to go home purchase that couple of bottles which your man wouldn’t expect.

Should members of the Goldfields want a recommendation to the hospitality of the Club, I would suggest they contact Harry Guinny, a commit- tee member of the Boulder Club, who recently spent three weeks in Perth with a fifty-fifty subscription to the Anzac Club in the form of Jim Walsme. Harry, I feel sure, would give any good recommendation as he has frequently seen about the Club himself—as also were his wife and Mrs. Walsme at the Sword of Honour functions on the Roof Gar- den.

Whilst mentioning the Roof Garden, it would be opportune to mention that the function held every Saturday night, are proving very popular. Many parties are made up from sub-branches with members bringing their wives and friends along for a most enjoyable evening. Wedding anniversaries and birthday parties are a regular feature. Bring your own supper and we do the rest, even to providing the music for dancing, free of any charge.

The Anzac Club will play host to all ranks from the visiting fleet during their stay at Fremantle this month.

A WARNING

It is regrettable that such notices should be brought to your attention at all, however, it is felt that mem- bers should make a serious effort against the practice—of a minority of League mem- bers who have engaged the services of other clubs, to leaving their financial aid to unqualified individuals. A very heavy penalty can be im- posed and the person loaning the hedge is liable. The Club committee is dealing very severely with such cases.

News for billiard players—repairs and improve- ments to both tables will be carried out this month in preparation for the forthcoming competitions.

Darts: The 1958 round of competitions is due to start in April. At the moment, teams are competing for the Swan Brewery Shield.

We are very happy to have received visitors from as far afield as South Africa during the month. They were:


In addition many ratings are in the visiting war- ships.

Goings-on At Murray

By “Ack Willie”

Attendances at Murray sub-branch now hover around the 90-mark, which is over a third of the total membership.

Dave Atkin’s transfer to Beverley will be a loss to the sub-branch. On the credit side we have three new members.

Plumber member (he’s a very good member of the All-Trade) Jack Pot- ter, has fixed up sinks and cupboards in the kitchen for the auxiliary, and is just about the most popular boy there is.

Arthur Dunstan, who has renovated the Memorial Hall, is not satisfied with getting the town of Murray going the way he has now gone mad planting flowers and shrubs.

His latest effort is grouping in (threes) brightly coloured drums of shrubs he has been scraping around the town. (Off the J. O., one is game to knock him back. He is the Health, Traffic and Building Inspector).

Ken Payten and Arthur Harries have another volunteer helping with the sub-branch. The caretaker of the club will enable one man to be on hand every three weeks. Harry is also the honorary secretary.

Incidentally, there is not a working bee that goes past that Mr. Fletcher doesn’t find and encourage for the “brew and eats”.

A good job well done is the complete dressing up of the sub-branch building. This was done with the assistance of a contract worker engaged on Main Roads work. It only wants the centre filled with sand, and then the lawn goes in.

Not so slowly and very surely, the area is building up into something decent. The ferns, ferns, ferns picnic fund has now reached £120. Following Jack Po- tt’s opening donation of a "temper," foundation member Tony Fotherby and Ravens- ton and Hornsby Sessions House, Hornsby (who is a member of the sub-branch), each donated £10 in a "Save Social nights—run once a month and open to the general public—have exceeded all expectations. Apart from the financial gain these evenings are so successful and popular that requests have been made for them to be run twice a month. All due credit goes to the social committee for running the "save." There is a rumour that President Bert Crowley may be leaving Pinjarra. It is hoped this does not eventuate, as the sub-branch is his "baby.”

If he does get transferred the sorriest man will be the former president.

What is unusual, and probably unique, in sub-branch circles is Murray having as members three persons and three publicans. Added to this is that a barman from each of the three hotels is also a member.

All of them are very active in sub-branch activities.

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

GRANITA BISCUITS

A TREAT TO EAT AT ANY TIME

“Couldn’t have done without Bex”

Mrs. D. O. Martyn, 4 Wilson St, Pinjarra, P.S., writes:

Re-photograph by Mils & Ware’s

“I don’t know what I would have done for my Bex Powders this week. I have just had all my bottom teeth out and the pain has been insufferable. But your Bex have been marvellous. Words couldn’t express the relief they have given me, and I just couldn’t have done without them.”

Bex is the ideal family pain reliever

The safe, quick action and dependability of Bex make it the ideal home pain reliever. Bex is so pure that it leaves no harmful after-effects, its formula so designed that there is no digestive upset.

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"The above testimonial may be inspected at the Head Office of Beckers Pty. Ltd., 560D Hannan Street, Fremantle."
Bellevue President’s Report

The annual report of the Bellevue sub-branch president (Mr. T. Robinson) for 1957 was as follows:

“During the past twelve months the committee has been very active; attendance at the monthly meetings was never less than fair; once again I appeal to all members to make the meetings their business. By doing this we are making the task much easier for the committee. If possible, I hope someone else will join our sub-branch. The League has embarked on a big drive and we as a sub-branch are asked to ‘earn a mate for 53’.

“The branch, as is the annual custom, paid their tribute to the men of Anzac Day. It was a grand gathering, and the people of the West greatly the way the service was conducted. My thanks are due to all members who turned out on Parade and to those who assisted in the preparation. Special thanks go to our old friend the Rev. Quinnian who assisted so ably, also the Midland Scout Pipe Band.

“Due to our term as president this organisation has done a really magnificent job. We are greatly fortunate in having such conscientious and industrious body of workers in our women’s auxiliary, the president and secretary, to all the members of the women’s auxiliary, I say ‘Thank you ladies for your loyal support.

“Throughout the year the committee has attended numerous functions arranged by various sub-branches. The branch held its annual dinner, I wish to express my thanks to all members, who attended efforts also to the lucky draw. The program was very successful. Invitations to members and to those who acknowledged our invitations. The dinner and the events was a great success.

Event Of Year

“I think it is most fitting at this stage to make some comment on the outstanding events of the year, namely the Bellevue Memorial Infant Health Centre. When compared to what is being done that this branch will be proud of. All the activities of the branch, though in their way, require a great deal of organizing, and I believe we have been something that this branch will be proud of. All these activities of the branch will be proud of them. I believe we have been something that this branch will be proud of.

“The committee plans to meet on the 1st of February to discuss the future direction of the branch. I wish to express my thanks to all members who attended efforts to the lucky draw.

Feature Of Gallup Retained

The existing practice of involving retiring members of the branch by asterisks on the ballot paper is to be retained.

The committee, at its meeting on February 27 on the recommendation of the constitution committee, voted to retain the existing practice. The committee noted that the introduction of the practice had been delayed due to the need for nominations from the membership. The committee noted that the practice had been delayed due to the need for nominations from the membership.

Ex-service men

NOTE!

A HOME CAN BE YOURS NOW IN PALMYRA FOR

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Further details will most likely be published in the Press.

The following deaths were reported:

Mr. Jim Couttore was reported to be in hospital.
Mr. Joe Mitchell, in hospital.

Moves To Help “Imperials”

The British Government is to be asked to lift the service pensions and retired pay received by former members of the Imperial forces.

This was decided on by the British Commonwealth Ex-service men’s conference in Canberra.

Conference also resolved to seek the establishment of a Department for ex-service men under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defence, through which British ex-service men could apply for pensions and appeal against assessments on the same footing as members of the Australian Commonwealth Forces.

It was viewed with anxiety that the outstanding ex-service men in India and Pakistan, and on service with the ex-service men of those nations “with a joint policy for the future.”

Conference also called on the Commonwealth Government to persist in its efforts to ameliorate the sufferings of ex-service men in the Colonies.
League Names
Three For Board Post

The R.S.L. State Executive has nominated three of its members as candidates for the position of ex-Servicemen's Representative on the Repatriation Board in this State.
The present occupant of the position is Mr. J. E. Fitzharris.
All World War II men, the League's nominees are Messrs. W. Walls, R. A. Dodd and J. A. Rolfe.

ASSOCIATION OF EX-SERVICEMEN
Rates: £2/2/ Per Annum


10th LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION—Meets bi-monthly, fourth Thursday, 96 Stirling-road, East Perth. Hon Sec, T. Scott, 133 Melbourne Road, East Perth.

ROYAL KINGSTON MEMORIAL LAMBERT STUDENT HOUSE, 110 vienna-road, East Perth. Meetings are held in the House on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.


16th BATTALION and 4th BRIGADE ASSOCIATION—Meets monthly at Railway Institute, Perth. President, W. Waterman, 121 Broom-street, North Cottesloe. Secretary, W. R. J. Brown, 39 High-street, Mount Lawley.


ANZAC MEMORIAL FOR MALTA MOOTED

A move at the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League conference in Canberra for an approach to the Imperial War Graves Commission for an Anzac memorial in Malta was referred to the Empire Council of the league for investigation and a report to constituent members.

The question was raised by Major Mercieca (Malta) who said that an Anzac Day service was held on the island each year at the World War I memorial. But there were many Anzacs with unknown graves—gallant airmen who during the blitz on Malta in World War II had been shot down over the island.

Malta had a close connection with Anzacs because it had had two battalions on Gallipoli, and many wounded Anzacs had been received there.

There was a memorial panel bearing the names of 283 Australian airmen on the memorial to airmen who had lost their lives over Malta and the Mediterranean—those which had been unveiled by Her Majesty the Queen on her return journey from Australia in 1954.

At the request of the Malta delegation the conference agreed to ask the Imperial War Graves Commission to have war graves on Malta better tended.

Sub-branches Can Apply For Blocks

Sub-branches can now apply to State headquarters for the purchase of beach blocks in the Rockingham project area.

This was decided by the State Executive at their meeting on February 27.

Sub-branches will be given a year from the date of official notification in which to apply.

After that the land not allotted to sub-branches will be offered to financial members of the League.

The executive has accepted a tender for the construction of toilet and ablution facilities in the area.

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THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE
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Hostel Superintendent.
A Superintendent will be required on May 1st for St. Christopher's House, the Church of England Hostel for boys attending Northam High School.

Particulars of duties etc., are available on application to the Secretary, The Church Office, Cathedral Avenue, Perth. Applicants must be male, (although a married couple might be considered), must be capable of maintaining discipline among 80 normal, healthy Australian school-boys, must be a communicant member of the Church of England and have had experience in similar work.

State salary required.

Redress Of Pensions Anomalies Sought

Widows of Imperial disability pensioners of World War I who died—as a result of their war service—after September 3, 1939, are eligible for the war-widow's pension.

But those whose husbands died before that date are not, unless they were married before the pensionable disability was incurred. The claims of the latter group of widows formed the subject of a resolution of the British Commonwealth Women's League at its recent Canberra conference.

It was resolved to press the British Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance to reconsider the position of those widows.

Recognising that the claims of the widows in the past had been rejected because of administrative difficulties, the conference further resolved that if no other method proved feasible, a small weekly payment be introduced for needy widows who qualified.

The initiative in the matter was taken by the Canadian delegation.

Mr. T. C. Hamilton, (Scotland) said administrative difficulties should not prevent a war-widow from receiving her rights. Cases in which the Ministry had held that the husband had died as a direct result of his pensionable disability should present no difficulty.

The responsibility of providing evidence to support a claim that the husband's death was solely due to the pensionable disability rested on the widow, and there was no reason why the pension should not be granted if she could prove her case, he said.

Another resolution sought the remission of income tax on widow's war pensions. Discussions on the question suggested that in the United Kingdom and South Africa such pensions were taxable.

Good Start For Year At Osborne Park

Meetings of the Osborne Park sub-branch have been well attended this year with an average of 20 members present.

Games were played—with gusto after the March meeting—and a feature of the February meeting was an address on "Civil Defence" by Mr. Harry Holder.

The sub-branch picnic was held on March 9. On their reappearance at meetings after being in hospital Messrs. Bill Sim, Sonny Conway and Merv Girdwood looked fit.

First Catch the Prize—Then Pluck It

A tarpaulin muster on behalf of Legacy was a feature of the February meeting of the Victoria Park sub-branch, and the prize for the month was a pair of fowls which the winner—Mr. Jim Wood—was required to catch and pluck.

The meeting was a huge success, with an attendance of over 80. Older members such as Messrs. Dick White, Tom Fitzsimmons, Oliver Strang and Harry Timms were a leading part in the debates.

The sub-branch was unexpectedly visited by Mr. E. A. Dodd, of the State Executive.

The committee-room, which had been re-decorated over the Christmas period, was thrown open and was voted a grand effort. The floor-covering was given to the women's auxiliary—a service greatly appreciated by members. Also, each member's chair had been re-covered with a new cushion donated by a well-wisher.

The sub-branch sportmaster (Mr. T. M. Morris) has been looking around for sportmen, with the idea of arranging Victoria Park up the table a bit this year.

Awards will be made for all games among members. The rifle range looks a good thing and should prove helpful to members. The offices of the Committee have been making suggestions for boosting the sub-branch and will give close attention to any others that may be forthcoming.

New members have been coming along but not fast enough for the secretary's liking. He stressed the sub-branch slogan: "Be a mark and join the Park!"

At the March meeting (Tuesday, March 30) discussion of items for Congress will be the first order of the day.

Arrangements for the Anzac Day observance are well in hand.

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