Special Membership Issue

ENROL A MATE FOR FIFTY-EIGHT
FAVERSHAM CHAIRMAN’S NOTES

Membership With A Meaning

The accent this month being on membership, here is a true and topical story of membership at its very best—of membership that really means something.

It concerns one of the prime tasks of the League—caring for ageing veterans. You will remember reading in this column last month a plea for volunteer-carpenters to construct a new verandah at the Faversham War Veterans Home. The appeal was well and faithfully answered—in two instalments.

On Sunday, November 17, ten volunteers were early on the job—six from the Meekerling and four from the Railways sub-branch. These enthusiasts spent the whole day at the home, putting up part of the old verandah, cutting stumps, boards and batters, digging stumps and rebuilding the section.

At the end of a tiring day one of the Railways chaps approached me—a Meekerling member made a similar approach to Mick Dodd, of the State Executive—to inquire about arrangements for getting the job finished.

Having watched the men at full pressure all day we hadn't the heart to ask them back again. But I suppose you can guess what happened? Yes, good League members they insisted on finishing the job they had started and made a date for Friday, December 1.

At 8 a.m. that day, with one or two additional helpers, they started, again and by sundown the remaining 80ft. of verandah had been completely dismantled and—believe it or not—entirely replaced with new timber. No jerry-built building at that—event the nails in the floorboards were punched home.

The men who worked this remarkable transformation were Mr. P. and K. A. Burges, G. F. Hepbard, K. J. Kinsman, G. C. Stewart, C. D. Wilby and H. G. Worsdell (all from Meekerling), L. R. Oddy, W. Cush, M. McNaught and E. M. Smith (from Railways), and also the home superintendent L. T. Heald, Mick Dodd and one of the veterans (Vic Bonney).

This is membership in deed rather than in word. By their action these men not only did a sterling job for the old chap but at the same time saved the War Veterans' Home Fund over £200 in labour costs.

Visits, Gifts

Twice during November the veterans were entertained with afternoon tea and music—on the 3rd, by the Canning sub-branch and auxiliary, and on the 10th, by the Meekerling sub-branch and auxiliary.

Donations were received during November from the Australian Red Cross Society (toobacco and cigarettes), the Meekerling auxiliary (curtains), the Waroona auxiliary (Christmas hampers), Canning sub-branch (Christmas hampers), Canning sub-branch (Christmas hampers), Canning sub-branch (Christmas hampers) and Messrs. H. Rston of Brookton (periodicals), and J. England of York (£1).

Seasonal Greetings

The R.S.L. State Executive, the managing committee of the "Listening Post" and the staff at Anzac House extend seasonal greetings to all League members and their families, and trust that the future holds nothing but good in store for all.

FAVERSHAM CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

DECEMBER, 1957

DIGGERS! BUY BETTER FURNITURE FOR LESS at
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and we will be pleased to quote for all classes of repairs, polishing, or re-upholstering to your present furniture.
Dear Member,

The closing of another year provides me with this welcome opportunity of expressing to you personally, my appreciation of your sustained interest and enthusiasm in the work of the League in this State. We are, indeed, partners and shareholders in a mighty organisation, which for over forty years has maintained the highest traditions of Remembrance, Service, and Loyalty.

I know that you are proud of the badge you wear, just as you were proud of the mates with whom you once served. This pride is not a boastful thing, it is more the quiet satisfaction of continuing in peace the service you gave in war.

Much has been achieved - repatriation, rehabilitation, gratuities, war service homes, war service land settlement, are milestones passed, and which are now almost history. We have kept faith with those who died, we have erected memorials to their memory, we are caring for the aged, and those in hospitals; our voice is heard in the affairs of the nation. I am certain that these things mean much to you; no man who has served could fail to be thrilled by that which has been accomplished. The esprit-de-corps and idealism of our serving days have been harnessed by the League into a potent force for good.

But are we doing enough? Are we alert, eager, and enthusiastic for new avenues of service? Are we quick to find those who need help? Do we still retain a stout faith in our organisation? Do we give it the best of which we are capable?

Whatever may be the answers to these questions, may I ask you, with another year just beyond the horizon, to join with us in the tasks that lie ahead. There are still battles to be fought and won in the cause of ex-servicemen and women. The future safety of our beloved country may well rest upon our vigilance in the present.

The strength of our organisation must be built up by adding to our membership wherever possible. A wide field of recruitment still awaits our efforts. There are in this State many former members of the Services who have not acquired an understanding of the League and its purposes, of the struggles and achievements, of atmosphere of comradeship and recaptured memories.

I have mentioned my appreciation of your association with the League in the past. I know you will be with us in the work yet to be done. Membership is one of our most vital tasks, vital not only to you and your Sub-Branch, but to the League, and Australia as a whole. You can play a positive part by accepting a personal challenge to "ENROL A MATE FOR '53." That responsibility is yours, and mine, and that of every member.

May I extend to you and yours the Season's Greetings - may our ways lie in peace and prosperity in the coming years.

Yours sincerely,

W. J. [Signature]

State President
In Peace and War!

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WHY HAVE A R.S.L.?

Have you ever given thought to the reasons for the forming of the R.S.L.
It all dates back to the Boer War when, on discharge, the men were given no consideration by governments of the day— that was prior to Federation.

On the contrary, one State withheld payment of a shilling per day, the amount added to soldiers' pay by the British Government. This action gave rise to considerations of legal action against that State, but was averted by payment finally being made. That lesson, learnt the hard way, was a prime factor in the formation of the League, and when on the return of some A.I.F. members to New South Wales in 1916 they were looked on as undesirables and were about to be neglected, they became determined that lives, health and time were not to be unrecognised. These men banded together to form the Returned Servicemen's Association — the R.S.A.

Their action was furthered in other States and soon it was recognised that unity would give strength, and so the League was born. These men were drafted, presented to the Government and hampered at all times. Things accepted as a right today—though sometimes erroneously credited in their origin to the Government—were the brain-children of the League: gratuities, rehabilitation, repatriation, pensions, housing, land and property, and child education all emanated from the organisation.

Some pension dischargees from the Australian services received some benefits from the States, but it is only reasonable, therefore, that every ex-service person should wear the Badge and carry his share of the financial and physical burden required to retain those benefits.

Achievements

The magnitude of the achievements in numerous activities is manifested by the following figures to December 31, 1956:

Gratuities—approximately £54,000,000 paid out.
War Pensions—£44,199,838 paid out.
Service Pensions—£4,976,937 paid to 37,161 persons.
Medical and Nursing: 2,000 outpatients attended; 27,2835 visits; 1,050 mothers and 9,195 children.
Pension tribunals: 135,199 assessment cases; 77,795 entitlement cases.
Vocational training: 122, 101, 172, 154, 141 and 49,297 children approved for training.
Housing: 45,971 homes costing £242,631,855.
Relief (for widows and orphans only) increased during 1957—813 cases at a cost of £83,945.

W.S.L.S. (in W.A. to date)—1,079 farms available; 800 occupied or about to be occupied.

Pension Rises
Through continued pressure by the League during 1957 the following pensions were achieved:

F.E.I. rate up by £2/10s to £2/22 a fortnight.
• The 100 per cent rate up by 15/ to £10/5/.
• Service rate up by 15/ to £8/15/.
• Service-on-age grounds rate up by 15/ to £8/15/.

* * *

A.L.I.F. increase: 100 per cent pension rates by 15/ to £8/15. The claim for increases for dependants was disallowed.

Housing

The year's housing allocations for Australia was increased by £5,000,000, the State's share being £700,000. The Minister advised that if the increased allocations could be maintained the lag in building would be over-taken in two years.

W.A. Progress

Some achievements of the W.A. branch in 1957 were as follows:

Pensions: The pensions of 173. veterans of all branches of the Service were increased by £5,400,000.

Festivals: The following festivals were inaugurated by the League:

Civil Defence: Training in Civil Defence continued to be urged for all Sections, not only for youths but for all adults.

Women's Auxiliary: Support for the formation of auxiliaries to promote a better social atmosphere.

Group Meetings: Nine State branches were established in all States, with an estimated 5,000 members.

Sub-branch Contact: There were four meetings of presidents and secretaries of all metropolitan and provincial branches.

Targets For 1958

Following are the main items in the State branch's target for 1958:

Anzac House: Paving into effect extensive alterations, additions and extensions, building a new ward, erecting additional floor space and equipment, and widening the main entrance at a cost of £150,000.

Anzac Club: Provision for the following amenities—bathrooms, dressing rooms and bar service; ladies' rest room; reading room, with possibilities of separate reading room for women; dormitories and dormitory staff; rooms for secretaries and all up-to-date facilities. The Club will be based in the Eastern Hotel.

In this, it has been suggested that sub-branches (Continued at foot of next column)
You NEED The League

WHY THE R.S.L.

Continued

You NEED The League

The League Needs YOU

- Because you want your rights and privileges as an individual veteran protected.
- Because you want to make certain your fellow-countrymen and their children are protected to which they are entitled.
- Because you want the security of knowing that the League is ready to help a comrade in distress.
- Because you may need the aid of a rehabilitation expert on matters pertaining to hospitalisation, pensions or compensation.
- Because you want to make certain the doors of help will be always open to your widows and children if circumstances require.
- Because there is no real substitute for League comradeship.
- Because there are sub-branches of the League all over the States. On-the-spot service is available in all localities.
- Because in very many centres the activities of the League, the League branches, the League's role are those of the community.
- Because your problems are the problems of the League and their officers are trained to relieve you of them.

With acknowledgments to "The Road Back"—the ex-servicemen's handbook.

SHOW THIS TO NON-MEMBERS

WHY THE R.S.L.

Continued

Looking Back—With Resolve

Again, as the year comes to a close, we look back on the various aspects of the League's work through the preceding months—on some with pride, on some perhaps with misgivings, and on one Membership, with uneasiness.

Despite the new sub-branches—Mt. Pleasant—Brentwood, South Fremantle, Floreat—City Beach, Police, Immanuel-Kilpin Arney—and the re-formed Ravensthorpe, Port Hedland, Karratha, Graylands sub-branches we close the year with about 16,500 members.

Many members forget to renew their subscriptions through the influx of time, just drop out. Generally, a timely word is all that is necessary to retain their membership. Again, if sub-branches gave wider publicity to the payment of subscriptions by bank orders on current account many ex-service men would avail themselves of the opportunity of always having their subscriptions paid. As well as those lost through inertia is the vast untapped source of membership. About 40,000 local ex-service persons are eligible to join the League. About 33,000 of them are Australian-born. Most of the rest have been brought to this country by all of those who have been and are serving in the League. And many of these who have not joined the League.

Concentrated drives through sectors of districts in turn would probably enrol a surprising number. The League is a unique organisation. Unlike others, no strings can be pulled to gain admittance. Membership must be won by service.

It is a remarkable fact that so many who are ineligible have co-operative spirit and want to join the League. It would sacrifice many members to see that many things to wear the badge. The League would be a better organisation if we would be more willing to change places with the many who have earned the right to wear the badge but have neglected to take advantage of it. It behoves all those eligible to join the League to strengthen its ranks so that the League may hold that which it has.

To the end let each resolve to enrol a mate for fifty-eight.

For Bowlers: The Diggers Bowling Carnival is to be conducted at Claremont early in January.

Sub-branches and individual members of the League are requested to support our advertising. Help them to help us.
MEMBERSHIP OF LEAGUE

Set out hereunder are the conditions of eligibility for membership of the League. Attention is drawn to the new clauses embracing Malayan Force and R.A.A.F. Air Training Corps.

Where there is any element of doubt complete papers should be sent to the State Secretary for decision.

WORLD WAR I

(a) Any person attested or accepted for active service, who has, during the period 4th August, 1914, to 11th November, 1918, served in a theatre of war in the Great War of 1914-18 and has been employed and paid by any naval, military or air force of any part of the King's Dominions, provided that any member of the Australian Imperial Forces or the Australian N.I. and M. Expeditionary Forces to New Guinea shall be deemed to have served in a theatre of war if he embarked and left Australian waters, provided that he arrived in the above, being a member of the Naval Forces served in the theatre of war as a minesweeper, or has served in a theatre of war during and war at any time and been employed and paid by any naval, military or air force of any part of the King's Dominions.

For the purpose of this clause, war-time qualifying dates covering the various periods of action, theatres of war are defined as follows:

1. Western European theatre (France, Belgium and Italy).
2. Balkan theatre (Balkan Peninsula, Gallipoli).
3. Russian theatre.
4. Egyptian theatre.
5. African theatre.
6. Asiatic theatre.
7. Australian theatre (operations against German Pacific dependencies).
8. Any person domiciled in Australia who, though not attested, served with or without pay in a theatre of war in the Great War, 1914-18, with the British Expeditionary Forces as a member of a "Women's Auxiliary unit", on production of proof to the Imperial War Office.
9. Any person eligible for membership in any constituent part of the British Empire, as specified in the above, who, having served overseas, is officially recognised by the Imperial War Office.

(c) Any person eligible for membership in any constituent part of the British Empire, as specified in the above, having served overseas, is officially recognised by the Imperial War Office.

WORLD WAR II

(a) Personnel of R.A.N. who served a minimum of 28 days on active service prior to 15/8/1945.
(b) Personnel of A.I.F., R.A.A.F., R.A. and other women's services who served overseas prior to 15/8/1945.

(d) Militia personnel who served in the Darwin area between 15/2/1942 and 31/3/1944.
(e) Personnel of R.A.F. on duty to Iceland, or patrolling the English Channel, in效能 of the Channel in possession of campaign stars and medals.
(f) Personnel who served on islands beyond the coast of the United Kingdom and who are in possession of campaign stars and medals.

NOTE: Personnel serving in the United Kingdom of the exception of R.A.F. personnel mentioned in (e) above are not above are not eligible.

BRITISH EX-SERVICES

(a) Personnel of R.A.N. who served overseas during the war, as specified in the above or in the United Kingdom.
(b) Personnel serving in the theatre of war in the United Kingdom of the exception of R.A.F. personnel mentioned in (e) above.
(c) Personnel of the R.A.F. stationed in the United Kingdom who took part in or supported military operations overseas or in the theatre of war.
(d) Personnel of the R.A.F. stationed in the United Kingdom who took part in opera- tions overseas or in the theatre of war.
(e) Personnel of the R.A.F. on duty to Iceland, or patrolling the English Channel, in possession of campaign stars and medals.

NOTE: In both cases applicants must have qualified for the issue of relevant campaign stars and medals.

DOMINION EX-SERVICES

(a) Personnel of Dominion services serving in their own country, prior to 3/9/1939 and 8/5/1945.
(b) Personnel of Dominion services serving in their own country, prior to 3/9/1939 and 8/5/1945.
(c) Personnel of Dominion services serving in their own country, prior to 3/9/1939 and 8/5/1945.

ENROL A MATE for Fifty-eight
Tried Bex with wonderful results

Mr. C. J. O’Brien, 15 Byron Street, Campbell, N.S.W., writes:

"I have suffered headaches continuously for the past four years. I had a big operation for which I had gastric ulcers removed—very expensive, I might add. I made all the usual checks, and I was told that Japanese merchant seamen were responsible. I was not happy and decided to have the problem investigated. It was then that I obtained a supply of Bex Ethereal Tonic, and I have never looked back. The recovery has been complete, and I have been able to work without discomfort."

Mr. C. J. O’Brien.

Recent photograph of resort. I tried Bex with such wonderful results none but myself can tell. I never travel without Bex. I consider that I am indebted to Bex for all time."

Bex users are enthusiastic

Grateful users from all over Australia write praising the relief they obtain from Bex. All tell the same story of how Bex has brought relief to them, and how they have been able to return to their normal lives after suffering from various ailments.

Many users have reported that they have never felt better. They have been able to work full-time again, and have even been able to return to their hobbies and interests.

Poppy Day Sales At High Peak

It is estimated that Poppy Day sales this year reached unprecedented levels.

Reported by the State Executive on November 20, the chairman of the Poppy Day Committee, Mr. D. Watters said that 180,000 poppies distributed, 24,000 had been returned, and a further 6,000 or so were expected to be returned.

This would indicate that 150,000 poppies were sold—many more than last year.

As well, of 3,000 stickers sent out only 650 had been returned, a considerable improvement over last year’s figures. It is expected that 500 stickers will be returned. The Executive recorded its appreciation of the organisation of the day this year, and of all those who had contributed to its success.

New Year Resolutions

- I will pay my quit right on time and never be overpayed.
- I will attend every meeting of my sub-branch, and on time.
- I will not castigate the office-bearers of my sub-branch.
- I will shell out shekels to local funds in my sub-branch with a smile.
- I will use the Anzac Club whenever I need a glass of tea.
- I will be the first to attend and last to leave all sub-branch workings.
- I will love. State Executive members as my brothers and not blemish the character of their ancestors.
- I will enrol a mate for fifty-eight.

These crunchy, nutty-flavoured biscuits are delicious with that morning or afternoon cup of tea.
Ex-Servicemen Owe Much to League

All benefits received by ex-servicemen since World War I have stemmed from the activities of the League, formed in 1916 to secure the rehabilitation of returned men and women and the care of widows and children of the fallen.

The State President, Mr. Latte, said that the group meeting held at Geomalling recently, Mr. Latte said that the League was watchful of the present and planning for the future of the country.

Six sub-branches—Wundowie, Baker's Hill, Toodyay, Northam, Wyalkatchem and Geomalling—were represented by 32 delegates and observers, and the State Executive, by Messrs. Longie, E. O. Dunn, Way, T. C. Coults, D. C. D. Henwood and E. MacLeod. A free reception was accorded by the chairman (Mr. Waterhouse) and members of the Geomalling Road Board.

The conference was opened by the Geomalling President (Mr. N. Job) who, after the customary mark of respect for full comrade-rades, handed over the meeting to the State President.

Aid For Veterans

Mr. Townshend spoke of the Faversham War Veterans' Home, drawing attention to the cost of constructing it and asking for assistance in any form—cattle, feed, wood or vegetable. "Assistance for the old chaps is not a privilege but an obligation and duty," he said.

Mr. Townshend said he would like to see sub-branches visiting Faversham whenever possible.

Mr. Waterhouse suggested that the funds might consider inviting a veteran to their homes for a few days. Mr. White asked for sub-branches to urge their members to send in items of interest and jokes, for the weekly Sunday evening broadcast (from 6KY) entitled "Anzac. House Presents."

Referring to the "Listening Post," he appealed for more sub-branches to make more use of this channel of publicity and said that no complaint had come to Congress over the last two years that there seemed to be little or no mention of it in the journal.

On hospital visiting he said for country branches to notify headquarters as soon as any of their members was admitted to city hospitals.

Mr. Henwood stressed the need for enrolling new members, and for planning bright meetings and social occasions to encourage recruiting efforts. Mr. Davies discussed land settlement, urging sub-branches to encourage those who had applied for farms but not yet settled to keep their names on the list.

He advised members not to take on land as freehold until sure that sufficient cash was available to carry them through the years. A point won by the League, he said, was that properties might now be revalued and that an appeal had been set up to revalue cases.

Mr. Ferrier spoke on Poppy Day—reminding members that the money received from the sale of poppies was used for amenities, sub-branches and for the Aged Soldiers and Sailors' Fund and on the Festival of Remembrance.

After the meeting delegates made their way to the town to the R.S.L. Memorial Hall where the State President laid a wreath on the Roll of Honour.

An informal social was held at night.

USE OF A WORD RESTRICTED

In future the use of the word "Anzac" in the naming of streets or parks will be restricted to those leading to or in the immediate vicinity of a war memorial. The restriction was sought by the Attorney-General, and for the Victorian branch of the League.

The League has been advised that the Commonwealth has approved of the request and that an amending rule is now in the course of being drafted.

All Goes Well At Gascoyne

A guest of the State Executive at its meeting on November 20 was the Secretary of Gascoyne sub-branch, Mr. Fullarton.

Mr. Fullarton told the executive that his sub-branch had taken delivery of 400 poppies for Remembrance Day and that he had sent down 45,000 to headquarters.

He said a cinema was considered for enrolling new members, and for planning bright meetings and social occasions to encourage recruiting efforts.
Wreath-laying Policy of The League

The League’s view on wreath-laying is simple and direct—that one of the duties of a visiting dignitary should be the laying of a wreath on the national or some other war memorial.

Mr. Lonnie said this from the Chair at the State Executive meeting on December 4 during discussion of two letters of protest at the laying of wreaths on the National War Memorial (Canberra) by the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Kishi.

The National President of the League had pointed out that the R.S.L. policy on the matter had been laid down at Congress in 1952 and reaffirmed this year at Hobart.

“We don’t protest at wreath-laying but we have protested on this occasion as a reformation was not made,” said Mr. Lonnie.

Quizz For Members

Address these questions to yourself; seriously consider and honestly answer each.

- Having been responsible for inaugurating gratuities, rehabilitation, repatriation, pensions, war-service homes and other benefits, should the League continue to watch ex-service men’s interests and remind governments of the responsibilities in these matters?
- Should Anzac Day and other ceremonies to commemorate a famous dead be maintained?
- Is it necessary that our country be sufficiently strong in defence to ensure against attack?
- Are you in favour of developing Australia’s natural resources and expanding primary and secondary industries?
- Do the friendships formed in war mean anything to you?
- Does social activity with others, who by their service form a memory, appeal to you?

If your answers are “yes,” and it would be helpful if they are not, you confirm the League’s principles and obviously agree that it is necessary that the League not only continues to function, but to increase in strength.

If the answer is no, then take it from there and resolve to absorb the year’s slogan and enrol a mate for Fifty-eigh‘!

Enrol A Mate for Fifty-eigh’

Brighten Your Meetings

Among us all are those who like nothing better than a debate and who so cheerfully discuss League affairs all night. But fortunately, perhaps, they are in a minority.

The average chap is prepared to do his share towards the serious work of the organisation, but also wants a lighter angle in recreation. He is in the majority, so give him what he wants and ensure that he looks forward to meeting his friends and neighbours.

Don’t waste the time of members with minor details and “back” work which should be done by the committee and summarised in a brief report. Deal with things in the main and let committees sort out how to carry them out.

A well-planned agenda conducted by an able and efficient chairman will efficiently and expeditiously cover the normal business and will allow the meeting to be closed early enough for eating or social events to take place and still see the members home at a reasonable hour.

League Given Land at Blackboy

One and a quarter acres of land on the old Blackboy Hill camp site is to be vested in the League as an A-class Reserve for the construction of a memorial.

This was announced at a recent State Executive meeting by the chairman of the housing committee (Mr. C.J. Stoddart).

Blackboy Hill was the training camp of the first A.I.F. in this State, and thousands of Diggers passed through it.

Action to procure the land was decided on at the last State Congress on the initiative of the Swan View Branch. The action was directed to proceed with negotiations.

The State Executive is now considering the matter of the memorial, the Blackboy Hill area to make suggestions as to the form of the memorial should take.

The State President (Mr. Lonnie) said at the meeting that the State Executive was acting on the action of a small sub-branch at Congress and has ordered action to procure land.

Seasonal

The League’s usual afternoon party for the Christmas season will be held at the Anzac House ballroom from 1.30 to 5 p.m. on Friday, December 20.

Giant League Badges

The League has ordered a number of giant-sized R.S.L. badge plaques with the idea of them being to sub-branches erecting new premises.

The idea is for each sub-branch that receive one to affix it in a prominent position to the walls of its headquarters.

Made locally the plaques are coloured, weatherproof, and about 18 inches high.

The League decision was made at the meeting of the State Executive on November 20.

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THE SWEET FOR ALL OCCASIONS

Lower Tariff At Nurses’ Hostel

The tariff (bed and breakfast only) at the War Service Nursing Hostel has been reduced from £1.50 to £1.00 a day.

Full board is no longer available.

This has been reported by the hostel committee.
THE LISTENING POST
DECEMBER, 1957

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Colourful Spectacle Ushers In Day Of Remembrance

Remembrance Day this year was ushered in with the
colourful spectacle and deep solemnity of the Festival of Rem-
embrance at the Capitol Theatre, Perth, on the evening of Sunday, November 10.

As at the initial ceremony last year again started queuing up early for the
festival, and at the curtain-rise at 8 p.m., the
theatre's seating capacity (about 2,500) was fairly
fully occupied.

The signal for the start of the proceedings was the arrival of
His Excellency the Governor (Sir Charles Gairdner) and the Honorable
Lady Gairdner, who were conducted to their places by
the President (Mr. Lonnies) and escorted to their places by
the Mayor and Mayoress, of the three lighting services.

The first part of the ceremony was the assembly on stage of representatives of the R.S.L., the nursing services, women’s war services, the unit associations—23 of them including the Polish ex-service representatives and Korean veterans—the armed services and Red Cross members.

As the British Commonwealth section included representatives of India, New Zealand and Wales, in national costume.

The identity of the various groups and the unit associations was announced as they entered the theatre, and the programme of the Kipling Recitational—played softly by the R.S.L. Memorial Band—ac-
companied by the voices of the three armed services
in slow time, to the stage.

At intervals during the reading of the “tableau” there were some apt and sensitive renditions by the Commercial Travel-
ners’ Association Choir under the baton of Mr. O. G. Campbell, with
Mr. E. C. Townshend in the role of
sofor, and a stirring medley of war time-theatroings by
Sidney’s Tenor's.

Interludes were provided at the interval by Alan
and his audience joined in a rendition (“Anzac
Requiem”) by Mr. R. M. McPherson and solo items were climaxed by the sounding of “The Last Post” followed by a
solemn silence during which 100,000 poppy pots of remembrance—sent by Australians who
made the supreme sacrifice in war—flurried li-
early down from the dome of the theatre ceiling.

Then were recited the poem “In Flanders Fields” and the verse “They shall
grow not old, as we that are
the bugle-call. “Revelle.”

Vital Elements

Colour, symbolism and sentiment—these were vital elements of this (Perth’s second) annual Festival of Remembrance. And the
pageant has made its mark. In the large audience, we saw people of all ages, gathered
to do homage to great deeds and to the men and women who died in their performance.

The programme was carried through without the
hitch and reflected credit on the efforts of the producer (Mr. R. Stodd-
dar), the director (Mr. E. McGee), the stage man-
ger (Miss Henry Guy) and the many others who contributed to its presentation.

Earlier in the day the ex-service men, of both world wars, marched through the city to St. George’s Cathedral for the annual Remem-
berance Day service there.

Led by the City of Perth’s Regimental Band, members of the R.A.F., Ex-Ser-
vice Association and the R.A.I., the 31st Battalion, marched from Forrest Place to St.

George’s terrace, where His
Excellency the Governor, presented the medallion of the Royal British Legion.

Next morning, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in the tradi-
tional bell of the World War I armistice, the State Presi-
dent and representatives of the three armed services laid wreaths on the State Memorial in a simple cere-
dmony in memory of the war-dead.

As the hour struck, a bug-

tyling the Capitol Theatre, Post,” and people in the
city and suburbs, and the State, paused
for their labours for the traditional token of remem-

bance—the two-minute silence.

After the wreath-laying the Retiring Chief Warden (Mr. W. C. W. Scott) handed over his duties to his successor, Mr. H. M. Arnold, the new State President of the League.
Mr. Hunt will retain the

in the “Colours” section, and the

wardship until Remembrance Day next year.

Work And Play At Cottesloe

A win over Subiaco at a sports meeting held at the Cottesloe Recreation Club recently has been reported by the Cottesloe sub-branch.

A good night was spent by all and many were the war remembrance exchanges.

The sports directors of the opposing teams had fought side by side through several

The attendance at the Novem-
ber meeting of the sub-branch was good consider-
ing the counter-action of Guy Fawkes Day. At the last meeting, Mr. D. M. Hunt expressed his appreciation of visits and parcels he had received in hospital from members, and donated a

sum of money to the sub-

A donation of $25 from the R.S.L. Women’s Auxiliary for the sub-branch hospital fund was received recently.

The sub-branch reports a successful Poppy Day and expresses its thanks to the Auxiliary and members and friends for their co-oper-

At the November commit-

the Governor (Sir John Stanmore) presented Mr. L. Chauffey with a certificate and medal

royal Liberty Saving Society (London).
A recent visitor was Mr.

Richards was given a

sub-

branch, Mr. Richards was

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League Flashbacks

WHAT THIS JOURNAL WAS SAYING 35 YEARS AGO

Midland Junction Sub-branch

Poppy Day results were a disappointment, owing to late starting sales on the previous morning. Something must be done in the interests of suburban branches to bring about uniformity of time for launching appeals.

Re desecration of Honor Board, not to say curt, replaque comforting for Railways, to correspondence on this matter, the branch has no complaints made by eye witnesses (who are prepared to testify on this matter) and sent the Commissioner, giving him names of parties responsible for the desecration. We now await a reply, pending taking matters further.

Branch has written to executive re Comrade Hanks, of Cannington, asking them to use every effort to have his unfortunate digger's pension restored. His case is a standing disgrace to the powers that be.

Big efforts are to be made this year to make Anzac Day a memorable one. The committee has been formed to frame a programme on broad national lines. It is hoped that means to save Midland the mortification of having members on leave, and no power to stop it.

In spite of the Government's cry of preference to soldiers, notice has been given to some of our comrades in the workshops, and single "objects" are being kept on. This matter has been referred to Executive for active for action, and it is to be hoped these men will be reinstated and some "homely fire-stokers" given the holiday. — December, 1922.

An Enthusiastic Meeting

The Claremont-Cottesloe district was the scene of an enthusiastic meeting of members on Thursday, 30th November. The president of the local sub-branch occupied the chair, and his remarks set out a demand for active co-operation to enable the League to achieve the objects for which it was formed. The local branch, as in nearly every other district, was greatly in need of active participants. In the work to be done.

The women's auxiliary was a good active auxiliary to the League, and it was necessary to get together to organise a Christmas party for the Children. A picnic to be held on Boxing Day, and also arrangements will need to be finalised for the children to "demonstrate" on Anzac Day, next in the Showgrounds. Mr. Humphreys, who was present, spoke on the proposed "Not-Forgotten Day," to follow out the formation of those similar organisations working in old country. He hoped the work done "by the executive during the period for which they have been in office, will come when, as an old man, one will have, hope, ambitious time to rejoice in such things. I think you know without my repeating it here, that this was the last year in the field of the Western Australian soldier from South Africa. The men who first met him in the field in the 3rd and 4th Brigades—an opinion and feeling has had no reason to alter, for, provided himself to be of the very best.

"Good wishes to you and any of my old comrades you may be seeing." — December, 1922.

Soldier Civil Servants: The R.S.I.L. was given the position in regard to the provision for sick leave, which in some cases resulted from war disabilities. The executive conferred with the Civil Service and the Teachers' Union, and one case in particular was discussed, where a returned soldier applied for leave for a disability attributable to war service; but no concession was made, on the score of the nature of his disability. The regulations rule that a definite period of leave which may be availed of, or otherwise.

It is suggested that the regulations should be so amended as to provide for leave in any period of not exceeding three months. — December, 1922.

LEST WE FORGET

Land of forest, land of plain, Land of great and mighty men! Now this thunder cloud is past, Shall our thoughts be never of war? Tho' too near to know as yet, Will we forget? Will we forget?

The land of rugged rocky mountain, They fortified in times of night, The "Peg" and the "Lone Pine Hill," Are there to mock our fallen hill. While crosses on that breast are set, Can we forget? Can we forget?

Tho' blood and spirit won the day, What is now the price to pay? Can a nation ever erase The memories of those bitter days? If pride has drowned our hope, set Should we forget? Should we forget?

Those men who wrote Australia's name On the highest scroll of fame. The fate of those who bought their lives, Had mothers, sisters, children, wives, And the greatness of our debt, We'll never forget! We'll never forget. — December, 1922.

A Message From Birdwood

The following is an extract from a letter written by General Sir William Birdwood to Colonel Collett in acknowledgment of the receipt of a copy of the History of the 28th Battalion: "I have not forgotten any of my old affection for my beloved 'digger' companions. My memories of them, and the many good things I have heard and such records as you have now sent me, will be a great comfort to my old friends..." December, 1922.

Picnic Success: The Wingate and Condon necklace of South Perth was a huge success. A fine muster of members and friends attended. Sports and popular competitions were the order of the day, and catering was of a liberal and enjoyable nature, reflecting much credit on the military ladies in charge of that section of the proceedings. — December, 1922.
Affairs

The Midland Junction sub-branch reports great success with a cake stall conducted outside the Court House on Saturday, November 16. It also reports the sale of over 2,000 poppies on Friday, November 8.

The sub-branch has expressed its gratitude to all who contributed to the success of the undertakings.

Co-opted: Two former highly-placed officers of the State Housing Commission have been co-opted as advisory members of the League's housing committee. They are Messrs. H. V. Telder (former Under-Secretary) and Fred Graham (former officer in charge of administration).

Rail Closure Costly To Hyden Farmers

Because of the closure of the Hyden-Lake Grace railway service, farmers east of Hyden will have to pay as much as 2/4d a bushel on the cartage of wheat to Kondinin by road.

They will find this a crippling impediment to full production.

This was reported to the State Executive recently by Mr. H. J. Sykes, Kondinin.

Mr. Sykes was seeking the help of the League in having the service restored.

He said that cartage costs would be prohibitive for grain-growing in the district. The farmers would be saddled with the increased cost of getting their grain to the new delivery point but also with that of the basic-cartage of superphosphate and other requirements on to their farms.

To drop grain production and concentrate on sheep raising was not a practical alternative. In the Hyden district grain and sheep production were complementary.

There were 60 soldiers settlers in the area originally, and settlement extended 45 miles beyond the town. Moreover, the Government had encouraged settlement by promising a railway service.

Production in the district was considerable and had been expanding. From 1945 about 2,000 acres of land had been cleared, sheep numbers had risen by 137,000 and wool production by 3,712 bales.

If the farmers were given an incentive those figures could be doubled in a reasonably short time.

There had been a number of new settlers since the war, including some ex-service men.

The district had been pinpointed on the promise of a railway, and the settlers had the right of being treated on a comparative basis with settlers elsewhere.

Mr. Sykes said that before suspension of the service the line was reported to be in good order. The district then had four mails in and out on separate days each week, but this had now been reduced to two.

Property values were bound to be adversely affected by the closure, he said. No one would think of going out there to start a farm under the present conditions.

It had never been supposed that the railways would pay, and on the criterion of profitability there would be no railway in the metropolitan area. There could be no doubt about the importance of agricultural production for the general development of the State.

Mr. Sykes's sub-committee, which was supported by statements from Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd., were referred to the land committee.

League Aim On Petrol Not Shared

The League's desire for a uniform price for petrol throughout the State is not shared by two other large organisations.

They are the Royal Automobile Club and the Farmers' Union.

At the State Executive meeting on November 6 the chairman of the land committee (Mr. J. F. Milne) reported approaches he had made to these two bodies.

The R.A.C. had replied that it did not think petrol should be regarded as different from other commodities: the Farmers' Union felt that a uniform price might be a disadvantage to country users.

By Congress item No. 38 of this year the League is committed to seeking a uniform price for petrol.

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GROUP MEETING AT COLLIE
By our ROVING REPORTER

On Saturday, November 23, the State President (Mr. Bill Lonnie) led a delegation comprising seven of his executive, including Mr. Tom Davis (a Country Vice-President) to the group meeting at Collie.

The sub-branches represented were: Collie and Cardinal (in host role), Darlington, Donnybrook, Boyup Brook, Klrup, Capel and Busselton.

A civic reception by the Collie Road Board chairman (Mr. Norm Coote) and members was tendered to delegates. The conference opened with a welcome by the presidents of the host sub-branches.

Introducing his delegation Mr. Lonnie said the main purpose was to find out about the problems and grievances of members and get the local community to do something about them.

He gave an outline of the league's work and stressed its force in the community. Among the items he raised was better traffic control, better homes, land settlement, pensions, rehabilitation, representation and defence. Many questions were put by the sub-branches and either answered or noted for inquiry.

Much information was supplied by the sub-branches from points raised, and several ideas were produced.

Some of these were:
• That for guidance of sub-branches, notes for an Anzac Day address be prepared and circulated. It was suggested that record-ings of "The Last Post and "Revelle" could be produced (Darkan and Collie).
• That dates for annual meetings and election of officers be uniform, and that incoming presidents and secretaries attend a meeting in Perth for a briefing on the year's work and for introduction in management (Harvey).
• That, to encourage visits between sub-branches, headquarters liason should be used in determining dates—for main functions—that do not clash (Collie).

Executive members who addressed the meeting were: Mr. Jack Milne (war-service land settlement).

Sir George To Be Here
For Anzac Day
The National President of the League (Sir George Holland) will be in Perth for the Anzac Day observances next year.

His acceptance of a formal invitation to visit W.A. for the occasion was received recently by the State Executive.

Original overtures for his visit were made personally by the State President Mr. Lonnie when in Canberra. On League business a few months ago.

ENROL A MATE FOR FIFTY-EIGHT

A Tribute: The State Executive recently paid a tribute to Mr. F. C. Townsford for his services as Deputy Chief Warden of the State War Memorial, and re-appointed him for a further term.

Ex-A.S.C. Men's Dinner

Some 40 members of the Ex-A.S.C. Ex-servicemen's Association downed their fifth annual dinner, once again held at Wenthworth Hotel, on November 15.

Among those who partook was the secretary (W. Bale) and representatives were the R.S.I. State President (Mr. Lonnie), the D.A.S.C. and T. Western Command (Major D. Wright), and Mr. R. Woods, representative of the R.A.F.F.

After dinner Mr. Lonnie gave a short address well smacked with wit and wisdom.

It was good to see two old Diggers who had come specially for the meeting trying hard to cover some 30 or 40 years of happenings with their comrades of the metropolis.

Members are being reminded to send to the next Anzac Day march and afterwards the annual general meeting and dinner at Monash Club, Kingstreet, Perth.

All R.A.A.S.C. ex-service men are asked to send their names and addresses to the secretary (W. Bale), Royal Gladstone Avenue, South Perth.

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Battalion Association Says “Later” To Belated Invitation
At its November meeting the committee of the 16th Battalion Association decided to defer the proposed Anzac Day visit to Adelaide until 1959.

It had received a belated invitation from the South Australian government for a delegation for next Anzac Day.

The reason for the postponement was to allow more time for mailing arrangements.

The meeting received reports of visits to various kindred associations and the secretary (Mr. A. Newick) reported that the financial loss on the annual reunion had been about average.

A letter from the Railway Institute confirmed bookings for next year.

The committee agreed on a donation to the Red Cross Society for its help in arranging the return trip to Faverham. (The women’s auxiliary has taken similar action.)

The president (Mr. Waterman) asked members to let the association know when they became ill so that visits (at home or in hospital) could be made. He reported association representation at the South African veterans reunion in King’s Park and at the Festival of Remembrance.

A suggestion from the Cameron Highlanders for repealing the Bullecourt anniversary next year was agreed to.

It was decided to seek approval for the display at the Australian Club of a list of association officials and the names of those members who were reported to be in Ward 2, Hollywood, Hospital.

Omission From Report
A letter from an officer of the 7/13 Field Ambulance expresses pleasure at the coverage given in the November 19 edition of this Journal to the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps pilgrimage to the Western Front Memorial on November 3.

The letter also refers to an aspect of the anglophone media mentioned in the report—that that story was written by the D.D.M.S., Western Command (Col. R. R. Anderson) who was the senior Medical Corps Officer present.

Project Approved—Plans for the League’s holiday resort project at Rockingham have received the approval of the local authority. The chairman of the project committee (Mr. G. H. Gorton) reported this to the State Executive at its meeting on November 20.

Members farewelled Mr. J. Cutmore on the eve of his departure for a holiday in the Eastern States.

The meeting ended late, but with a happy note as auxiliary members had stood by to serve tea and cakes.

The auxiliary had a very successful sale of work in the Westminster church grounds, Perth, on November 7.

The president and committee of the association the auxiliary wish all members a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Mr. Len Rzeszowski and Mr. Thompson, both South Australian members of the old battalion, were in Perth on December 9 for a brief holiday.

Goings And Comings At Murray
At the last meeting of the Murray sub-branch 40 members were present to say goodbye to Mr. Alec Ball on the eve of his departure for England.

Mr. Ball has been principal of the Norbury Fairbridge Farm School since 1952. Originally from Harvey he was a past-president of the League and former president of the Harvey Repatriation Commission. He was also chairman of the Harvey Executive Committee.

Also attending the meeting were the new principal (Mr. H. R. Allan) and Patrice Hodge, the new clergyman at the school.

Both are members of the League. It was the first R.S.L. meeting attended in W.A. by the former South Australians.

On behalf of the sub-branch (Mr. Bert Crowley) extended best wishes to Mr. Ball and welcomed the new members Harvey member Ivan Manning, M.L.A., supported him, and on behalf of Mundaring Mr. Harold Hardy added the remarks.

Visitor: The State Secretary of the New South Wales branch of the League (Mr. R. R. Janssen) was entertained informally by State Executive members here during his recent visit to Perth.

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**ANZAC CLUB NOTES**

By DOUG DARGIE

A gala Christmas social for club members, ladies and friends, has been arranged for the evening of December 17 (8 p.m.) in the Anzac House garden room.

Let us have your company on this very special occasion.

The presentation of club trophies will take place that evening. The club has been attractively decorated, and your — comments — when you come along to purchase your liquor requirements — would be greatly appreciated.

The club committee extends to all members sincere greetings for the coming festive season and trusts that the New Year may bring prosperity and happiness to all.

This opportunity is taken to thank all those supporters who have generally patronised the facilities of the club, and to further a greater effort in 1956, the committee has endeavoured to provide you with all your necessities by allotting various functions, such as socials, darts, billiards and snooker. All these events have been well patronised. However, we are alive to the necessity for providing further facilities and better appointments, and every endeavour will be made to cater for these in the coming year.

Until the appointment of a new club manager has been made, Mr. G. Schneider, of Casino, N.S.W., will continue as temporary manager. Mr. R. Read, of the newly formed S.A.S. Cootamundra Club, has been appointed as Mr. Schneider's deputy. Mr. Read has previously managed the Cootamundra Club and has been very successful.

Mr. J. Schneider, of Casino, has been appointed as temporary manager of the club. Mr. Read will assist Mr. Schneider in his capacity as deputy manager.

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W.A. Had Some Successes At The National Congress

West Australians' motions fared reasonably well at the National Congress of the League in Hobart, the State President (Mr. Lonnie) reported to his executive on his return from the major League function of the week.

The Edward Milen Home motion (seeking to perpetuate the use of the premises for the welfare of ex-servicemen) had been among those carried.

Sir George Holland had been returned as National President, and Mr. Lee of South Australia had been elected Deputy-President.

The resolution of support for immigration, with preference for those of British stock and for the setting up of a sub-committee to study all implications, was a West Australian motion.

Another W.A. motion that had "got through" was for the investigation of alternative sources of fuel for wartime use.

The New South Wales delegation had been strongly supported in a motion for the banning of the Communist Party. The resolution carried was to the effect that the party should be declared a subversive organisation.

In its Defence aspects the conference had been a memorable one, and W.A. had played a reasonably prominent part in the debates. This State's policy had been:

(1) To support and encourage national 'service in the armed forces.

(2) To bring pressure on the Government for voluntary recruitment for those drawn in the ballot.

(3) To have a national defence plan.

(4) To press for civil defence training in the field of national service.

On the case for a naval base here the W.A. delegation had pressed a strong argument which Congress accepted unanimously.

The matter would now be submitted to the National Defence Committee of the League.

Mr. Lonnie said that on his return from Congress he had inspected the new war veterans' home at Frankton (Victoria).

The £80,000 administrative block was equivalent to a first-class residence and it had served four or five residential blocks each with 200 beds, and the providing accommodation for 31 veterans.

The educational block was equipped on a lavish scale, with bedlamps, radio sets, and all other essential equipment.

The institution was situated in 50 acres of land now being landscaped.

Bill spoke on the plans for the future and the re-establishment of soldiers' and was so filled with enthusiasm that the chairman asked him to explain what he had been speaking about: the future and the re-establishment of the League or give his lecture.

The report of the day was won by the day, and Bill was asked to continue. He did, and brought the 400 members present up-to-date with current executive work and plans for the immediate future.

Southern Area Impresses

Reporting to his executive on a trip he made recently to inspect the State President (Mr. Lonnie) said that a great tract of country he passed through from Ravensthorpe to the port had unexplored prospects for development.

The country was similar to that being developed to the east of Esperance by the Chase enterprise, he said.

Settlers of three or four years standing in the Ravensthorpe-Esperance district had three sheep to the acre, and one man was carrying 1,500 sheep and a hardy herd of cattle on 800 acres.

There were thousands up there waiting to be ploughed and brought into production.

NEW HALL

Reports from the opening of the new memorial hall at Ravensthorpe confirmed Mr. Lonnie said the building had been constructed almost entirely with volunteer labour.

Most of the assistance had been given by non-retired men, he said.

The dimensions of the hall were 80ft by 40ft, and its capacity was about 8,000 people.

Mr. Lonnie said he understood that only about £2,000 had been subscribed and that the prospects for raising revenue from it were regarded as bright.

"This sub-branch is bang on the ball," he said.

Sidetracked By His Own Eloquence

By our ROVING REPORTER

Although he arrived at the October meeting of the Narrogin sub-branch as guest speaker equipped with a large map and a long and business-like pointer the State President (Bill Lonnie) had no occasion to use them.

It had been his intention to address the meeting on his inquiry into the conditions of service in Malaya—he instigated the investigation on behalf of the League last year and made a voluminous report—but he was sidetracked by his own eloquence.

Introducing Bill the local president (Mr. Stockman) invited him to say a few words first of all about the League.

Bill spoke so informatively—of the formation, the planning for the future and the establishment of soldiers' homes—and was so sited with questions that the chairman asked the meeting whether the speakers should be asked to continue to talk after the League or give his lecture.

The interest already created won the day, and Bill was asked to continue. He did, and brought the 400 members present up-to-date with current executive work and plans for the immediate future.

For Home Applicants

In future it will be possible for war-service home applicants to arrange through the War Service Home Division of the State to arrange for a report on the suitability of a proposed building site.

Mr. Stoddart, the chairman of the League's housing committee (Mr. R. J. Stoddart) reported that the State Executive recently.

Mr. Stoddart said the War Services Home Division of the State had agreed to a League request for the granting of this right.

The State President (Mr. Lonnie) said that probably the greatest advantage that would be grateful to Mr. Stoddart for taking up the matter.

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