Crowning Glory Is On Again

The League will participate again this year, with Torchbearers for Legacy, in a style-beauty contest with the firm of Decore Ltd, as the sponsoring organisation.

This was decided by the State Executive at its meeting on February 24 after hearing a report from the State President, Mr. Logan, to the effect that the competition organising committee had held the previous day.

Mr. Lonnie said the organisation was very keen on conducting another competition and that last year the League and Legacy had each received about £3,200 from the undertaking.

"As an annual event this competition has had a mighty influence on the affairs of the League," he said.

At the committee meeting he had made the point that the success of last year's competition depended very largely on the League's contribution. Of the 74 entrants then about 60 had been sponsored by the R.S.L. sub-branches.

Expanded Effort

This time it was planned to have an expansion of effort and to bring in other organisations. Torchbearers were prepared to handle the whole of this year's administration.

The suggested opening date was July 1, with the final judging to take place some time in October.

It was hoped to have a more glamorous competition, with prizes, with, possibly, a trip to Singapore—or even the United Kingdom—as the first prize.

Last year's interest in the contest was considerable at the final stages. Early in October 44 contestants had entered, yet by the closing date—October 14—the number of entrants had risen to 74.

Last year's winner was Mrs. Joyce Yarnall of Moora, Piggott enough Mrs. Earnshaw had been sponsored by the Moora R.S.L. and Moora sub-branches jointly.

As an indication of the State-wide interest created by the competition five of the first eight place-getters were country candidates. They were Mrs. Earnshaw (winner), Mrs. Mary Mitchell of Northampton (second), Miss Barbara Beckett of North Cottesloe (seventh), and Mrs. Marjorie Parsons of Kondinin (eighth).

Metropolitan place-getters were Miss Carol Jones of Mosman Park (second), Miss Wendy Cross of North Cottesloe (seventh), and Miss Margaret Dinnott of Mt. Lawley (eighth).

About £7,000 was raised.

The special League prize for most money raised went to Miss Wilma Goosch of Three Springs (fourth), Miss Pamela Blyth of Fremantle (fifth), and Mrs. Marjorie Parsons of Kondinin (sixth).

R.S.L. Services Street Appeal

MEMBERS, you are urged to support the above STREET APPEAL on April 1.

Further VOLUNTEERS are required to collect.

If available, please forward your name and address (and time available) to the R.S.L. Secretary, Anzac House.

Pins and tags can be collected at Anzac House from Wednesday, March 30, to Friday, April 1.

ELECTORS are urgently required for the City of Fremantle area.

The Personal Approach Pays Off

A not uncommon visitor at State Executive meetings is Mr. J. B. Sykes, president of the Kondinin sub-branch.

At the last meeting of the State Executive when called to speak, Mr. Sykes said he had made personal contact with all eligible ex-servicemen in the district, and that all were now members of the sub-branch with one exception.

The exception, he said, was a professional man who, while not yet a member, was nevertheless on the side of the ex-servicemen and was doing whatever he could for them.

The sub-branch has secured practically a 100 per cent membership; personal contact has paid well," Mr. Sykes concluded.

New N.O.I.C. For Perth

Recently appointed Naval Officer-in-charge, Western Australia, and commanding officer of H.M.A.S. Leeuwin—the naval depot and junior rating—training establishment at Fremantle—is Captain Rodney Rhodes, D.S.C., R.A.N., at present Australian defence representative in New Zealand.

Captain Rhodes will assume his new appointment towards the end of June.

Before proceeding to New Zealand in May, 1958, he was captain of H.M.A.S. Healp, the R.A.N. navigation-direction and torpedo-anti-submarine school at South Head, Sydney.

He is a graduate of the Royal Australian Naval College, from which he graduated in 1926, and was appointed to the second war. Among other things he commanded the destroyer Yarrabah, which won the George V. trophy run, and took part in the evacuation of Greece during World War II.

He was mentioned in dispatches for his courage, skill and devotion to duty during the Greek-Bulgarian war. Later in the war he commanded the destroyer Eildon.

In May, 1946, he commissioned the frigate Shoalhaven and in her served as senior officer of the 1st Frigate Squadron.

Rhodes Frigate Squadron. He then became executive officer of the R.A.N.'s newly-established air station in Nowra, N.S.W.

Afterwards he left Australia for the United Kingdom on exchange duty with the Royal Navy to take up the appointment of Commander (D) of the Nore Destroyer Squadron.

As commanding officer of H.M.S. Orion, the squadron leader, he was awarded the decoration of Chevalier of the Order of the Dannebrog by King Frederik of Denmark. The Orion was on escort duty during the State visit to England of King Frederik and Queen Ingrid in 1951.

"Just Call Me Digger"

Cawarrump farmer Bruce McLure has joined the select band of migrants who have been elected president of a sub-branch, and the only former American in W.A. to hold this position in recent years.

Mrs. McLure was stricken with polio in 1950 and is now an invalid.

To keep the farm going (he bought Crown land), Mr. McLure works at a timber mill five miles away, all the time at a loss of property in his spare time—which is not a good deal as he has to look after his family as well.

Mrs. McLure's father is a retired veteran of the Boer War.

With a wry smile and a drawl Bruce said: "Now that I am naturalised I guess you can call me Digger."—Ach-Wille.

Capt. B. Rhodes

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IS YOUR CROWN RED?—OUR FACE IS

Like a lot of chaps, who forget to change the crown on their badges early in the year, we forgot to make the necessary adjustment to our badge on the front page of the February issue of "The Listening Post."

You would be surprised to know that many members noticed our mistake, and lost no time telling us.

Don't suffer our embarrassment—pay your dues and get a 1960 RED CROWN and avoid a red face.
SNIPPETS—from the State Sec.

Ossie wants cars, all models Best prices paid. Thousands of Army, Navy, Air Force Disposals going cheap. Stick together, Boys! Call on Austies of the 11th Bn.

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The Women's Auxiliary (bless 'em) have handed over yet another cheque for £79.79 to the Welfare Officers' Home furnishing Fund. It is difficult to fork out words which adequately express our gratitude to these ladies for the admirable work they do in behalf of the Home. Thanks, boys, your help is very much appreciated.

Karridale-Augusta sub-branch have come to light with a cheque for £25.10 for the War Veterans' Home. Help, boys, your help is very much appreciated.

Sub-Branches who have genuine applications for assistance are assured of receiving consideration from either the Soldiers' Dependents' Appeal or the War Relief Council.

The former, as the name implies, can only be used for the benefit of dependants of World War II servicemen. Funds of the Relief Council are restricted to men enrolled from Western Australia in World War I. Both funds have one rule in common—no payments will be made to applicants who have been gainfully employed before enlistment.

The Blackboy Hill Committee is continuing its enthusiastic efforts to raise funds, and approval was given by the State Executive on February 24 for an approach to be made to sub-branches in support of this committee. The committee has a very worthy object on which it is enabled to be assisted by all ex-service men who are desirous of helping to fill up its plans to commemorate the birthplace of the A.I.F. in W.A.

The presentation of a Life Certificate to Jack Ashdown on March 2, when 53 members turned up to show their support for Jack, who is suffering from tuberculosis, was a great success. The Freemasons and "Vice" Ted Townshend. Of great interest is the news that Northam have guaranteed membership of 201 of 2483, and will thus receive an entitlement of three delegates. Congratulations to Aub Badger and his stalwarts.

Ross Steel, of Albany, was another recipient of the State Life Certificate. In a letter to the State Sec. he stated that anything he has been able to do for the League makes him happy, and by his pride in belonging to such a wonderful band of brothers. He is delighted that a comrade-in-arms, Hugh Leslie, is a member of the State Executive and also signed his certificate, "because Hugh is the only man known to him who has served in German South-West Africa as a member of the Kaffir Rifles. Best wishes to you, Ross! Your many good works are fully appreciated.

Two State Executive members have recently decided to have another stint at Northam and will be there at 10 p.m. Sunday 3 pm. (6KY) are the times Rossie Boy Associates will be presenting. On the Saturday night session is repeated over 6KG at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Several new sub-committee appointments have been made recently. Messrs Leslie, Gordon and Macnamara have been appointed to work on the Land Committee, and Hugh Leslie is to work on the Son of Australia Committee. In England, Jim Walmsley is appointed to the Sport and Recreation Committee, and Barney Flanagan—our newest State Executive member—will assist in the Recreation and Fund Raising Committee.

Volunteers are still required for the League's Street Appeal on April 1. Offers may be addressed to Anzac House and there is no reason why the old, male, or female, should be backward in coming forward. Malmed and limbless Association are holding their appeal on April 6. Mr. Perry is also anxious to hear from those willing to assist.

Make '60 much bigger! enrol a new Digger.

Memorial To Be Proud Of

Erected in recent months entirely by working-lads of sub-branch members the Memorial was officially unveiled by the State President on Sat.

Mr. Lonnie was provided with a guard-of-honour comprising 57 members of the Doranup and neighbouring sub-branches.

The dedication was performed by Doranup Road Board chairman Gablerbin.

In attendance was the Bunbury Municipal Band.

The sanctity of the occasion was emphasised by memorial services held in two local churches before the unveiling.

Advance publicity had paid off well; the attendance was gratifying to all concerned. President M. Kellof and secretary J. White and members can look back with pride on the event.

In addition to Mr. Lonnie and his wife, Allie, representing the State Executive was represented by E. D. Townshend (vice-president) and R. Smith.

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THE ONLY ANSWER

NOT THE least of the many worries associated with the administration of the affairs of the R.S.L. is the one of trying to make a little go a long way, and this applies particularly to our welfare work.

Increased membership is the only answer to this problem. A strong membership will provide the finance—by way of the annual subscription—to enable the League to function efficiently and effectively. It strengthens morale and provides the League with the power to impress and convince Governments and authorities.

YES INDEED! Increased membership is an essential ingredient for the continued success of the League, and if we fall short—which heaven forbid—don’t blame the organisation. At least it contains, without question, the most unselfish, the most comradely, and the most service-minded amongst returned men.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor of Victoria recently put it this way when he said: "The R.S.L. contains the best of the best." And by the way, His Excellency made the suggestion and set the lead in Victoria for the current membership drive of each member to bring in a new member for 1960.

THE R.S.L. badge is not a boast of war service but a badge of brotherhood—an indication that the wearer is sharing the great work of assisting the disabled, the aged and the bereaved as well as his mates in need.

YES, THE League is serving still, and the existence of nearly 1,500 R.S.L. sub-branches throughout the Commonwealth—of which there are 228 in Western Australia—provides the assurance of that service being continuing, but there must also be the assurance that the service will be adequate to meet the needs.

BY THE way, is the clip-on your badge red? It should be, you know, it is red for 1960.

Management Of "Sunset" Praised By Nedlands

Here is the text of a recent letter from the Nedlands sub-branch to the Under-Secretary, Department of Public Health:

Dear Sir,

At the January meeting of this sub-branch, while reports on Hospital Visiting etc. were being made to the meeting, a visitor from Sunset Old Men’s Home stated that all was going particularly well at the home.

The inmates, he went on to say, were being looked after very well indeed by Mr. Bradshaw and his staff, and that with their bowls, entertainments, etc., they could not be treated better. This statement was fully supported by the other "Sunset" men present.

The President and members of this sub-branch who visit "Sunset" each Sunday morning are also fully of the many conditions and treatment of the inmates of the home.

Mr. Bradshaw has displayed the highest degree of impartiality and tact in dealing with the men at the home, not giving any one group special treatment to the detriment of other inmates.

We feel that Mr. Bradshaw’s retirement will be a great loss to the home and to your department, and we would like to offer his successor our best wishes in his carrying on the work so ably performed by Mr. Bradshaw.

In conclusion we would like to assure you of the continued support of this sub-branch in the future of "Sunset."

Yours faithfully,
A. J. Abercrombie, Hon. Secretary.
**Message To Members—and Others**

You will have become well acquainted, by this time, with the League's slogan for the year—"Make '60 much bigger; enrol a new Digger."

The League would be able to accomplish so much more if every man and woman eligible to join would do so—but if everyone eligible pulled his or her weight in helping each other.  

The extent of the resources of the League is governed entirely by membership. It is difficult for so many of us to understand the apparent willingness on the part of those who are eligible to join the League to shelve their responsibilities. During the war the thought of bludgeon on a mate was abhorrent. On the contrary, no difficulty was too great; no danger too threatening; no trouble too much to help a mate.

Apart from the almost spontaneous desire to help and the spirit which created this splendid attitude, it was fortified with the knowledge and confidence that the other bloke would do no less for you. There was confidence in a real sense of true mateship.

But although our personal obligation to the other bloke is an easy thing to understand, it appears to be a different attitude with many. It now appears to be a case of "blow you Jack, I'm all right;"

Ask yourself whether this applies to you. If it does, then go to the help of your mates by coming up with the League. If it does not apply to you because you are already a member, then look around for the people to whom it does apply and then do your share to awaken them to their responsibilities and get them to join up with you.

Yes—make sixty much bigger; enrol a new Digger.

And now for a timely reminder—although the financial year for the R.S.L. runs from January to December the constitution allows a member two months by which to become financial. Well, that two months is now up. So if you have not yet got the current year's clip on your badge—the 1960 clip is red—you are not financial, so better hurry that subscription along to your sub-branch or headquarters right away.

**Assimilating Migrants**

The League's continued interest in the assimilation of immigrants—especially regarding the use of the English language—is warmly welcomed by the Department of Immigration.

This interest is directed recently by the Federal Minister (Mr. Downer) in reply to a League communication commenting on the subject and the need for a timely solution on the subject at the last National Congress.

Mr. Downer said:

"If the assimilation of migrants is to be successful, all elements of the community must play their part, and the League holds the position in the community to have a particular opportunity to assist in this work."

The Adult Migrant Education Scheme conducted by the several State education authorities in conjunction with the Department of Immigration is available to all migrants, and efforts of the League through its members to encourage migrants to enrol for tuition would be appreciated by me personally.

**In Peace and War!**

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Tale Of A Tie

"Pardon me, but could you enlighten me on the reason for all those guys wearing ties these days?"

The question came from former U.S. Navy man and current R.S.L. president Bruce McLure at the Busse1ton reunion.

Bruce, who was elected president of the sub-branch in January, did not know that the ties were for R.S.L. members and was impressed with the idea.

On this occasion State representative Jack Serisier missed a sale. On every other country visit that he has, Jack has always had a couple of dozen ties in his pocket, but never used them. One person who is not over impressed with the tie is Capel member Bill Wright.

Bill considers the idea is quite good, but that the tie has to be of better quality and with—perhaps the League badge design a little below the gold stripe.

Discussing the tie with Minister for Education rep. Syd McNamara, the latter was of the belief that the League would not object to paying a few more shillings and getting a design to better material—Ack-willie.

Make '60 much bigger; enrol a new Digger.
Governor-General Made League Life-member

The Governor-General, Lord Dunrossil, became a life-member of the R.S.L. in a ceremony at Canberra on February 8.

The function - at League headquarters - was the first to be attended by His Excellency since his swearing-in.

Lord Dunrossil thus entered a small but distinguished band of League life-members which includes the Duke of Edinburgh, Sir Winston Churchill, Lord Mountbatten of Burma, and Field Marshal Lord Montgomery.

The life membership was conferred on him by the National President of the R.S.L., Sir George Holland, before an audience which included the Prime Minister (Mr. Menzies) and representatives of the R.S.L. from all States.

Lord Dunrossil thanked the R.S.L. for the "very high honour." Lord Dunrossil served in the Royal Field Artillery in World War I. He was awarded the Military Cross, was three times mentioned in despatches, and was wounded.

"I appreciate the way in which Australia has looked after her ex-servicemen, under all sorts of Government," Lord Dunrossil said.

"Many problems beset retired soldiers which are of too intimate a character for mere regulations to solve.

"There is many a wrinkle on the brow of ex-servicemen and their dependants which the blunt finger of Government cannot smooth away and it is in these cases that the R.S.L. can give help."

"There is still room for us old soldiers to bind together and do what we can to help our comrades and their dependants."

I am aware of the great strength of this association in this country, and this is a very proud moment for me."

"I have only been here for a week and a half, but I am enchanted with Australia and the Australians, and I am sure that feeling will grow."

Mr. Menzies said that he had known Lord Dunrossil for 25 years.

Make '60 much bigger; enrol a new Digger.

Lord and Lady Dunrossil

Geraldton May Retain C.M.F. Unit

The G.O.C. Western Command (Major-General Knight) has told the Geraldton sub-branch that he is very conscious of the support given to the Geraldton C.M.F. company by local citizens and that every consideration is being given to the question of retaining the company there.

The sub-branch had expressed concern at reports that the strength of the C.M.F. in Western Australia would be reduced to a regiment of volunteers, and that eventually county detachments would be closed.

"The sub-branch had pointed out that since the all-volunteer "D" company of the 28th Infantry Battalion was formed at Geraldton both the recruiting and the attendance at parades had been high, showing that the town could maintain its strength of a company."

B.J.B.

Pinelly's President Reviews Past Year

Reviewing the past year's activities of the Pingelly sub-branch at the annual general meeting the president (Mr. R. Messinger) mentioned the successful reunion as providing an opportunity for assembling more of the members than might otherwise be possible.

The occasion had been attended by the presence of State President Lord, who had also visited the sub-branch later in the year accompanied by National Congress members.

The sub-branch had been represented at State Congress by President Arthur Kelly, of Quairading, and at the Quairading Group Meeting the Brookton, Narrogin, Dumbleyung and Yealering reunions and the Yealering and Boddington balls.

Membership had increased by one to 68, but there seemed to be scope for a membership committee.

Pingelly had been honoured by the life-members of the League bestowed on Mr. Jack Treasure.

Attendance at meetings had declined to an average of under 12, but was still considered quite good. Attendance by members for two funerals during the year had been greatly appreciated by the families concerned.

There had been a very good attendance at the V.O.D. Day service, but it was suggested that, in future, afternoon tea should be for the attending public.

The hall had been quite successful. The flower show had succeeded in keeping up the efforts of Mr. Tony Eyre, M.C., and those who helped with the time, vehicles and donations to the building project.

Old Mundaring Member Dies

The Mundaring sub-branch lost two members by the death of Mr. Charles Prouse on February 22.

Mr. Prouse died in his sleep at his home in Coppin-road, Gnamma. He had attended the sub-branch proceedings only four days before.

Few have served the sub-branch longer or better than Mr. Prouse, and one of his achievements was the construction of a new hall. Mr. Prouse, and one of his prize acquisitions was a C.F.M.F. member of the 15th Battalion. A.I.F., who had helped with the Mundaring and Districts sub-branch on numerous occasions, and during World War II was an outstanding worker in the district in the raising of money for troop comforts.
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THE LISTENING POST
MARCH, 1960

Did You Know... (asks Capt. C. R. Collins)

• THAT THE first British Regulars to be associated with Australian soldiers on active service were the Gloucester Guards

The New South Wales Sudan Contingent was landed in Egypt in 1882 to act with British troops in defence of that part of Africa against Turkish attack by the Mahdi's followers after the fall of Khartum.

The infantry battalion of the contingent was brigaded with the 3rd Grenadiers. When it became evident that no attack would ever be made on the Sudan, the Australians were given practice in camp, riding with the idea of forming them into a camel corps for operations in the desert. They were paid before they could go into action.

• THAT A lieutenant is junior to a major, but a lieutenant-general is senior to a major-general.

This is because the lieutenant-general originally administered the command of the whole army on behalf of, or in the absence of, the commanding general. The major-general originally was the sergeant-major. The "sergeant" part of the designation was dropped during the English Civil War.

Major generals were mentioned for the first time when Cromwell expelled the Long Parliament and divided England into military districts, each under the administration of a major-general.

• THAT THE A.I.F. was named after Sir W. T. Bridges, first Commandant of the Royal Military College, Duntrros, and G.O.C. of the lst Australian Division, who was mortally wounded on Gallipoli.

Having served in the South African War, Bridges knew the uncompromising nicknames inflicted upon soldiers from Britain; so he was determined that Australian troops should not be so treated.

The best suggestion was "Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force". The initials A.I.F. were actually chinned on baggage covers.

Then Bridges declared that from then on no expiditionary force. The word "expeditionary" was dropped, and A.I.F. remained.

Volunteers To Care For A Memorial

At the February meeting of the Karridale-Augusta sub-branch of the Yallungup sub-branch at their annual meeting unanimously resolved to replace the 20 membership fee to League headquarters this year.

The 5, normally retained by the sub-branch to cover expenses, is to be transferred to the W.A. Veterans' Home fund.

Mr. F. H. Holley was elected sub-branch president.

On any comparative basis the percentage increase of district potential—Dunsborough-Yallungup should take the lead. The membership drive this year.

In existence for less than two years the sub-branch started with an original membership of 25 and had reached a total of 60 last year.

At the end of January the year 42 of the members had already paid their subscriptions.

Mr. J. D. Brown was at top form when State President and executive members went to the sub-branch recently. He even persuaded executive members Mr. Townshend and Ralph Smith to become associate members.

Attendance At Ex-P.O.W. Meeting Disappoints

Despite the warm weather the attendance at the annual general meeting of the Ex-P.O.W. Association—held in the Civilian Maimed and Limbless Men's Association boardroom on Feb 3—was very disappointing.

Owing to the absence of Mr. E. C. Townshend, Mr. B. Hood (past-president). Arrangements were made for the usual annual dinner—always a popular event—to be held in the Augusta Hall on March 12.

Four original Anzacs—Messrs. W. L. Wilson and R. O. Sexton (both of original 28th Battalion), H. C. Smith (artillery), now captain of the River launch Arlene) and Gordon Yates (West Kent Regiment—on return from service in Augusta) have offered their services to care and look after the Augusta War Memorial.

Mr. Yates, elected warden for the present want of cleaning up the site, is to have full co-operation from members for the final objective.

To date the branch has £83 towards the building of walls and making of paths. It hopes to start on the project shortly.

Sacrifice By S.W. Sub-branch

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Book review from "Reveille"

Sir William Slim As Raconteur

"The battles the British fight... are always fought uphill, and always at the junction of two or more map sheets."

So runs one of many a lighthearted comment by Sir William Slim in his third book, "Unofficial History," a collection of nine narratives recalling "the little battles and unimportant skirmishes" of a long and distinguished army career.

There is, of course, soldierly activity aplenty. Fighting and actions against the Turks in Mesopotamia; attacks during the First World War against Italian positions in Abyssinia, and French in Syria; a brigade sortie across India's north-west frontier; and fraternal visits with Soviet troops in northern Persia.

Unforgettable

In Private Richard Chuck—isolated with the Red Army and weather-beaten—the author has drawn an unforgettable episode. Chuck met Turkish when examining a company of conscripts. "What was your trade when you were called up?" he asks.

"I've got one."

"What?"

"Unemployed."

"Sright?, nodded Chuck.

"Well, what was your trade then?"

"Adn't got one."

"Ever been in the Army before?"

"No."

"Quite sure?"

"Quite sure."

I looked at him baffled as he stood there, his great hands hanging loosely in front of him. Then on one wrist I saw tattoo marks. "Sailor!" I asked.

"I was admitted with a slow grin."

"Got your discharge certificate?"

"I tore it up."

"Why?"

"Cause I was discharge as an incorrigible rogue."

Private Chuck's later descriptions of a nervous blindfolded man is an uproarious piece of fun; and his comment on the issue of separations, Indian flour, ginger and turmeric, in lieu of bully and biscuit, was deviations.

"They marches us like buckin' mules, they loads us up like buckin' mules" he raised his hands to an altered heavenly, "now, by the grace of God, we are like buckin' mules!"

But when in Mesopotamia they are being swept by a singing/dancing band of Turkic-shrapnel it was Chuck who rallied the wavering lines. And when the phrase, he roared in a voice like the last trumpet, an irresistible appeal to regiments home... Police, soldiers, Hindus, Moslems, civil service... the subdued hurr... enrol a new Digger."

Membership Buoyant At Floreat-City

At the end of 1959 membership of the Floreat-City Beach-sub-branch, which is relatively new, stood at 110 full and two associate members.

This was stated in the report of the president (Mr. G. Allen) and general committee of the annual general meeting of the sub-branch.

Dramatically the year, the report said, the transfer from the district of several members resulted in a decrease of about the number of the membership.

The death of three members during the year was recorded.

The sub-branch, which in the previous year had won the best sales of Remembrance Day poppies, had again been well to the fore with a total of 3,523 poppies sold.

The big part played by the volunteer members had contributed in no small manner to the excellent results achieved.

There had been a series of successful talks and films at meetings throughout the year, and at each meeting there had been a lucky member draw for the members present, the prize being a dinner at a dressed fowl or duck.

The sub-branch had entered a petition for the first time.

Twenty-four years later, a divisional convoy drove 600 miles to Hafia to return to the thirites with "most admirable Australian been.

To some readers—surely only a handful—Sir William's first book "Defeat in Victory" was overcome its battle descriptions usually repetitive. Even to those who enjoy sparkling dialogue in "Unofficial History," the variety of scene and incident, above all, the light-heartedness of these "true impressions of actual happenings will come as a delightful surprise.

Sir William is indeed an accomplished raconteur."

("Unofficial History," by Sir William Slim, Cassell, 27/6.)

Close Check Kept On Renovations

Refurbishment in the club, ventilation of the barroom, lighting and equipment, which are among matters that the Anzac Building Committee had had under its paruv in recent weeks. This was reported at the last meeting of the State Committee by the committee chairman (Mr. J. A. Rolfe). Mr. Rolfe said the committee had not met during the week, and the course of the structural alterations.

The executive agreed that negotiations should be put in train for the letting of the basement and mezzanine floor.

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THE LISTENING POST

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Make '60 much bigger: enrol a new Digger.
Many Sub-branch Contacts Made on Weekend Tour

(This account from official sources)

Over the last weekend in February a State Executive touring party comprising president Bill Lonnie, vice-president Jack Rolfe, country vice-president Bob Duncan and staff officer George Sherrington made contact with the representatives of 16 sub-branches and attended 12 sub-branch meetings.

Leaving Perth at 4 p.m. on the Friday the party arrived at Wongan Hills on schedule (6.45 p.m.) to be met by sub-branch president J. Fowler and secretary W. A. Smith.

The Ballidu sub-branch had combined with Wongan Hills for the occasion.

During a general discussion of problems, the current year’s programme was outlined.

An interesting facet came to light here—the members of the sub-branch are members of the local road board.

A pleasant feature of the meeting was the attendance of three Pithara sub-branch members who, on short notice had travelled 35 miles from Kalannie to be present.

The meeting was adjourned to Mr. Ken Campbell’s home where tea was served with discussions on current activities, including Anzac House and the War Veterans’ Home. The State President gave a general discourses on R.S.L. matters with an emphasis on the difference between membership and sub-branch affairs. He also outlined the forthcoming activities and projects of the sub-branch affairs, particularly for country affairs.

The tour then continued to the possibility of the Pithara sub-branch, becoming operational. Pithara is a small town, usually as there is a group of R.S.L. members at Kalannie who could be relied upon to cooperate with the Pithara sub-branch.

Conducting The New Home

The State Executive has appointed a sub-committee to prepare a plan for the running of the new War Veterans’ Home. The committee will consider whether the formation of a War Veterans’ Homes Trust such as the one operating in Victoria, is likely to be suited to local conditions.

It is considered that to cope with 80 veterans in the home will be a major task.

Another $100 Sought For Veterans’ Home

State President Lonnie was told at the recent annual reunion of the Mundaring-Jarradale sub-branch that sub-branch members had set themselves a target of $100 to be raised this year to furnish a room in the new War Veterans’ Home.

With the State President at this function, which took the form of a buffet dinner, was executive member R. Smith, Staunch League supporter and ex-President of W.A. Sir Ross McLeary, of the Cockburn R.S.L. who was amongst distinguished visitors welcomed by sub-branch president Jack Richardson.

Secretary T. Watkins told the public that the sub-branch membership figures looked promising; already five new members had been enrolled, and Murray, Armadale, North Dandalup, Keysborough, Mandurah and Highbridge sub-branches were represented at the function.

At Pergunori

Picking up time we arrived at Pergunori ahead of schedule and were immediately surrounded by some of the keenest R.S.L. members in the State.

At Geraldton the official party spent discussing sub-branch affairs with Jim Buckle, Andy McDonnell and several committee members before the big R.S.L. dinner (reported elsewhere).

The evening was one of the most enjoyable of the trip. An animated discussion was followed by a tasty luncheon provided by the Pergunori auxiliary.

A general discussion ensued which was treated with interest by many members. It was an important discussion on the history of the sub-branch and its future.

At Morawa we were met by president A. Palmer and secretary G. Taylor and a general discussion on the progress of the sub-branch was held.

At Mingenew the sub-branch affairs were not all they could be in that area, which is surprising for a town that has been a country leader in practically everything to do with civic and community welfare.

A special effort will be made by the Pergunori sub-branch, so don’t be surprised to see Morawa one of the most active in future.

Before leaving Morawa all call was made on former Sub-branch president V. Townshend and his wife.

At Grafton, in a temperature of over 100deg., Bill Lonnie was welcomed as the first State President to visit the local sub-branch. Here you have a sub-branch small in numbers but large in quality and spirit. When you get a bunch of chaps like Dick Sasse (secretary), Maitland Martin (vice-president), brothers Irwin and Mark, Frank Barnes, Len Morris, Jack O’Shea, you can expect things to be buoyant and co-operative and wide-wide-wide.

Here Bob Duncan spoke on the 1960 Miss Crownig Glory competition.

At Mullawwa

At Mullawwa there were ten members of the sub-branch present and the members did all they could to make the trip a success. A general discussion was held.

Mr. Evans (chairman of the Mullawwa Road Board), welcomed us and praised the wonderful work done by the sub-branch and the services that were discussed, amongst them personal problems including housing.

The trip was a great success and the open discussion of problems affecting sub-branches was appreciated. The official party also had the opportunity to explain the work and plans of the State Executive.

PICTURED here with the "Rolla" at Three Springs are (from left) League stalwarts J. H. Cousins, R. Duncan, W. S. Lonnie and J. A. Rolfe.
Riverton Carnival
Is R.S.L. “Baby”

(From sub-branch president Meru Schofield)

The Riverton sub-branch recently achieved a four-year-old ambition in respect of the R.S.L. youth-welfare campaign by sponsoring an under-taking of the Riverton Swimming Club (Inc).

For the last three years this sub-branch has conducted an annual aquatic carnival at Riverton with the assistance of members of the newly-formed swimming club.

This year saw the club conducting the carnival with R.S.L. assistance. The carnival, which has always been the biggest event of the year for Riverton, has improved in efficiency each year and this fourth (club-run) carnival is almost embarrassing to admit—was no exception. We taught the club how to run a carnival, and they have turned round this year and done better—than we ever did.

The events went smoothly from 1.30 to 5 p.m. An estimated 1,700 people lined the bridge and the river shore to witness a smooth-running, action-packed afternoon’s entertainment—no charge, either.

All the carnivals have been a success socially, but have entailed some expense to the sub-branch—which is well invested considering the happy, healthy entertainment given to the contestants, most of whom are in the primary-school age group.

The success of the function was largely attributable to the organising ability of T.W. (Bill) Scott, the club president and sub-branch vice-president.

This tireless worker for R.S.L. aims and objects has battled on with all measure of help, and it has been a team of helpers throughout each year, and gathered in a few of the members and voluntary workers of the carnival to conduct still another successful fixture.

The swimming club are Dr. M.S. Lekkas and Mr. J.W. Cole, and both have lent their weight to the success of the carnival. Trades people in the district have donated generous amounts with both funds and prizes for events, and in many cases helped physically in running the day.

Official duties such as starter, judges and time-keepers were staffed by the W.A. Swimming Association.

The association secretary (Mr. Jack Howson) has always been most helpful throughout the struggling years of the club.

The Canning Road Board, under the chairmanship of Mr. S. Cole, has provided much assistance, including providing sand to improve the swimming and beach areas, and is usually quick to act on sub-branch recommendations.

The swimming club now on its feet under the sub-branch will not forget its responsibilities to assist, advise and encourage the growth of youth welfare of a constructive nature.

Below is a scene this year’s carnival.

So Near—
And Yet So Far

The Childlow sub-branch has been given land which it wishes to dispose of.

Its aim is to place the proceeds from the sale of the land towards the acquisition of more suitable land for memorial purposes.

But the land which was donated to the sub-branch is held on a conditional purchase lease and the League has been informed that the sub-branch can only obtain a clear title to it by complying with the terms of the lease.

This would involve it in the clearing and cultivation of a quarter of the area or the erection of a fence at least three wires.

Moreover, if these improvements are not carried out within the prescribed period the sub-branch could forfeit its right to obtain possession of the land.

This is the substance of a statement made at the last meeting of the State Executive on behalf of the trustees for the League.

Finances Show Improvement

The annual audit of the League’s accounts is now proceeding and is further advanced than it has been at this time in years.

The executive financial officer (Mr. R.B. Morris) said this at the last meeting of the State Executive.

Mr. Morris said the finances for 1959 were in an improved position, and that last year’s loss should be reduced this year.

Canteens Benefits For Afflicted Children

Among the benefits being provided by the Services Canteens Trust Fund for ex-service men and women of World War II is financial assistance for the treatment of afflicted children.

The treatment must have been prescribed by a doctor, and have been certified as offering a reasonable prospect of cure or alleviation of the disability, or as means of preventing re-occurrence in the child’s condition.

In special cases assistance may be granted for a child to obtain, in another State, treatment or diagnostic opinion which is not available locally, providing such treatment is recommended by an appropriate medical authority.

It is expected that the facilities of public hospitals should be used where possible, but assistance may be granted for private medical treatment where the medical evidence justifies.

Where assistance for private medical treatment is sought, a letter from the doctor indicating why it is necessary that the child should be treated privately should be attached.

Where the family is excluded from public hospital treatment under the means test, a letter to this effect should be obtained from the hospital.

Assistance may also include:

• Travelling expenses and fares incurred by the child and escort to enable the child to attend for treatment, diagnosis or fitting of equipment as prescribed by the appropriate authority or medical adviser.

• Special equipment certified by medical authority to be essential for the child for treatment, education or recreational purposes.

These service fees must be paid to institutions for blind, deaf, and mentally-retarded children, and fares to the institution.

Normally, assistance is not available for expenditure previously incurred except in case of emergency.

A reasonable income means test is applied, which takes into account the number of dependants.

Where it is considered that a parent should contribute towards the expenses involved, a proportion of the expenses involved will be approved.

Application forms may be obtained from the Services Canteens Trust Fund representative at Swan Barracks, Perth. Attached to the form should be—

(a) Certificate of discharge, or other evidence of service.

(b) Letter from doctor, or medical superintendent of the public hospital, giving details of child’s affliction and of treatment required, and the anticipated costs.

(c) If application is for special equipment, quotes for this should be submitted.

(d) Certificate from employer showing gross weekly earnings, including overtime. (If self-employed last income tax return should be submitted.)

Where the child is under the supervision of the Handicapped Children’s branch of the Education Department, the opinion of the Council of that branch should be obtained and submitted with the application.
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THE LISTENING POST
MARCH, 1960

BOOK REVIEW (from this month's issue of Reveille)

Gallant Fighting Battalion

Embosed on the battle-flag of the 2/16th Battalion A.I.F., are some
stirring names: Litani, Damour, Kokoda, Gona, Markham, Ramu, Shaggy
Ridge and Galikpan.

Members of the battalion in the last war won 94 decorations: three D.S.O.s, three M.B.E.s, six
M.C.s and one Bar, five D.M.C.s, 17 M.M.s and one
Bar, and 58 Mentions in Despatches.

Its casualties in Syria were the highest of any of the
Australian units engaged there—22 officers and
245 other ranks.

Along the Kokoda Trail, the battalion went into ac-
tion among 19 days, later, only 143 answered the
roll-call; and after Gona

So narrow and steep-sided was the approach to
Shaggy Ridge at 2/16th's attack could only be made a man at a
time and greedy with exposure to sprinkled by ropes or poles to
winkle the Japanese out of their hillside fox-holes.

Local Writer

The historian of such a battalion clearly has much to
relate, but Malcolm Upton, West Australian journalist
and former war correspondent, has "At War" has ably
tackled the challenge.

Challenging, undoubtedly, is, for although the 2/16th
began to think of a battalion history long before the
end of the war, and later a

The point no doubt will be a further challenge, the
history of the battalion will be of interest only to its survivors and
their families and friends. This would be a narrow and
miseducating conclusion, for "A Thousand Men at War" could well be read as

Kokoda Trail

Late in 1942, the battalion began its move along the
Kokoda Trail.

That first day, writes the
Uren, "Was a struggle even for tough troops . . .
but the second day was

After the morale of the
harrowing battle between the
Japanese and the
infantry of the
infantryman joined in
the fight. The fight was for the
cliff of Shaggy Ridge, where a number of
M.C.s was fought. One man was
killed.

Make '60 much bigger.
Enrol a new Digger.
Narriquin's £314 From Contest Was Best Sub-branch Figure

The £314 raised by the Narriquin sub-branch in last year's Miss Crownin Glory competition was the best sub-branch figure in the State.

Narriquin president G. Beazley said this in his report for 1959 at the annual general meeting of the sub-branch last month.

The sub-branch's success in the competition, Mr. Beazley said, had been largely due to the efforts of local secretary-organiser H. Digwood.

Mr. Beazley said that 1959 had seen the installation of internal gas-heating for the clubrooms. The innovation had caused a great comfort to those attending meetings during the winter months. The quarters of the caretaker had been renovated and the kitchen painted and fitted with new lino and gas stove.

Through the efforts of a well-attended working-bee, the club had been largely dressed and work on back fence completed.

The huge increased membership had been a failure, the enrolment dropping from 178 in 1958 to 172 in 1959.

1960 bigger by each enrolling a new Digger. The annual reunion—held much earlier than usual—had proved a great success. It had had the picnic and Christmas party.

Though the finances had been drawn on heavily for improvements to the premises, the sub-branch was in a happy position of having its liabilities covered by a stock fund which had been in operation for some time.

This means of fund-raising had been made possible by the generosity of a few town members and the co-operation of other members who were padocking the cattle until fit for market.

As in the past, the women's auxiliary had been a powerful strength to the sub-branch. Its three street appearances—Groundhog, Legacy and Poppy Day—had all proved successful.

The sub-branch had had the misfortune to lose, by transfer, four hard work members all together and makers.

The Members Enjoyed Rockingham Outing

(To The Editor)

SIR,—On behalf of the members of the City of Perth sub-branch I wish to thank the Rockingham Caravan Park Committee for making its parking area available to the sub-branch for the annual picnic, which was held on February 14.

Mr. Dick Morris, a member of the committee, was most anxious to assist us, and the park supervisor, Mr. Ken Gray, did all he could to make the day a success.

The picnic was held on the beach in front of the caravan park, and the excellent swimming facilities were appreciated by both young and old.

Shade was a problem, but Mr. Gray overcame this by supplying frames and timbers for sub-branch tarpaulins, and a large group of families appreciated these facilities. Hot water was also made available. If the ablation block facilities were appreciated.

This site is excellent for games, and the races on the beach and in the water caused much enjoyment and amusement.

This picnic was the best City of Perth has had since the war, and full credit is given to the R.S.L. Executive for its foresight in developing the caravan park.

Most of our members knew of the caravan park, but few had seen it and all were pleasantly surprised with the improvements made and the work still being done. Several inquiries were made regarding rentals, and it is to be hoped that the League members will spend their holidays in these enjoyable surroundings.

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Changes Of Personnel On State Executive

Mr. W. G. Allen has resigned from the State Executive and his place has been taken by Mr. B. J. Flanagan, an active member of the Floreat-City Beach sub-branch.

Mr. Allen's reasons for resigning were the difficulty of finding time for the adequate discharge of his responsibilities. He also said he would be undergoing hospital treatment shortly.

Mr. Flanagan was one of the two supernumeraries for executive office as a result of the ballot at the last State meeting. The other, Mr. J. Walmsley, recently took his seat following the resignation of Mr. R. Boekeman.

Two other members of the executive plan to leave shortly on extended trips abroad. They are Miss S. W. C. Cook, Past President, and Mr. Stoddart and Mr. J. Serlser.

Message From Subiaco

For the City of Subiaco sub-branch the year has commenced well with subs, rolling in good style, but there are quite a few to come yet, and with 5d. postage to pay on reminders any back-siders are requested to slide forward pronto and save the sub-branch funds.

At the annual general meeting in January retiring president George Bowman gave all and sundry a pat on the back—with especial notice to sub-branch stalwarts, Mr. S. S. Powell and Harry Orchard.

Joe Burgess was elected president for a third term, with Geo. Bowman and Bunny Young as vice presidents.

Joe Newman was retained as Hon. Sec. with Lou Rogel (newly promoted to Captain rank) as assistant.

G. Potter takes over the treasury. Norm Powell is sports director, Geo. Wilson (newly appointed as sub-branch manager) and the committee (Ministers without Portfolio) comprise Messrs. Bannigan, Black, Harrison, Kingdom, Kluge, Monk, Orchard and Witcomb.

A haphazard atmosphere pervades the meetings these days; talking ends early and the popular game of whist is the popular game with a side attraction in table tennis.

Joe Potter takes with Ted Monk as chauffeur, still visits Hollywood consistently and keeps us in touch with members on the front line.

That noted annual, the subject of Anzac Day, was brought up at our February meeting and there is little hope of delegations to Congress having a holiday from the topic this year. J.N.

Davies are League trustees. With no more remuneration to be drawn on it will now be necessary, if the Supreme Court is not filled, for the State Executive to make direct appointments. This is provided for in the League constitution.

Consequent on the recent changes, the State President has announced the following re-allocation of duties:


Fund-raising and Repatriation: Mr. Flanagan.

Games and Hospital Visitors: Mr. Walmsley.

Anzac House Building: Mr. F. Graham and Mr. J. Serlser.

Perth Men In Exchange Trip To Pacific

Two Perth men were among a contingent of 16 Australian Army officers to leave last month on a month's exchange visit to United States forces in Hawaii.

They are Major G. Sharpe of the 3rd Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, and Major B. F. James of H.Q. Western Command, Perth.

The leader of the contingent is Lieut.-Col. A. D. Watt of the Directorate of Military Operations, Army HQ, Canberra.

The Australians were to join a party of New Zealanders in a R.A.A.F. Air Force aircraft in Sydney on March 15 and return by United States aircraft on March 17.

They were to take part in a large-scale U.S. Army exercise and be shown U.S. Army installations.

The 15 United States Army officers were to arrive in Sydney in the New Zealand Air Force, and return to Hawaii on March 20.

While in Australia they would see Australian Army field force units and training installations in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and the Australian Capital Territory.

The exchange visit began last year when a similar number of officers visited Hawaii, and the results of an invitation by General D. White, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army in the Pacific.

They are important as they transform exchange of training techniques and ideas between Australians and the United States field force troops in the Pacific.

Outlook Bright At Bunbury

Membership at Bunbury looks like striking an outstanding record this year.

The State President learnt recently of the death of Mr. Harold Birch at the Dardanup War Memorial Memorial Hall, Bunbury.

"The drive for members is really on," said Mr. Birch. In fact, I have a pocketful of quilts right now."
**The League Story At Glen Forrest**

"Thank you for all previous insertions and for publicity over the air. It maintains interest in the League in the sub-branch and among the members."

So writes Mr. A. R. Field, publicity officer for the Glen Forrest sub-branch. He proceeds: "Our last meeting was held on February 18. Our president (Mrs. L. O'Brien) gave a return of show in the sub-branch. Our president will give the address. The service will be held at the Glen Forrest Hall opposite the recreation ground in Stuart Road..."

**Dwellingup Doings**

Annie House, had a visit from John Cloutt. Dwellingup sub-branch president, recently, John is very keen and is really doing his utmost to make the Anzac Day service in his "neck of the woods" something outstanding.

The sub-branch has combined with the Murray sub-branch to hold the March and Service in Pinjarra in the morning and repeat it at Dwellingup in the afternoon. The Perth City band will be in attendance.

Len Warne, headmaster of the Dwellingup school, a keen supporter of the League, operated admirably. Already he has the schoolchildren practicing for their part in the observance of Anzac Day.

Dwellingup is an example to many other sub-branches, with a membership of 40 odd all keen to make the sub-branch one of the best in the West.

Onemust not leave Dwellingup without mentioning the round-up by Bill Wagland, who had to retire recently for health reasons.

Always a tower of strength, he has been secretary for the last two years. In the past he has filled all offices up to the top Bill that made the R.S.L. the power it is today - Staff Officer.

**Meeting Of Women's Sub-Branch**

The annual general meeting of the Returned Ex-Servicewomen's sub-branch was held on February 19 at the residence of the president, Mrs. L. O'Brien, with 24 members present. The president's report covered many of the activities of the sub-branch, among them the de-tabling of 37,000 poppies - an enormous undertaking done willingly by the members - the two parties given to men of the Navy from visiting warships, supper served at meetings of blinded ex-service men, the Anzac Day luncheon for disabled ex-service men, and the stall held by the Hollywood Hotel to raise money for the women's wing of the War Veterans Home.

The president expressed her sincere appreciation of the loyal support she had received from office-bearers and members throughout the year, and felt that the spirit of service had been maintained.

Deep regret was felt at the absence of Miss Mary Meares owing to illness.

**No End To Service In League**

For members of the League the term "ex-service woman" required a lot from them - orientating the State President (Mr. Lonnie) at the annual reunion of the Geraldton sub-branch at Birdwood House on February 9.

League members had served their country in war and were continuing to do so in peace, he said. Members should be prepared to serve their country at all times, remembering that as well as symbolising the League the letters "R.S.L." also stood for remembrance, loyalty, and service.

State Vice-President J. A. Rolfé said the new £40,000 War Veterans' Home project would provide for the accommodation of 61 men and 24 women. The State Executive to close Faversham, he said, "would assist the new undertaking. Faversham veterans realised the reasons for the change and most had already accepted the new accommodation offered to them.

Mr. Rolfé also gave an outline of the Anzac House alterations and referred to the executive decision to re-extend the Miss Crowning Glory competition this year. Certificates of Service were presented to Messrs. W. J. Cunningham and H. Lock.
Leadership Change
At Katanning

At the annual meeting of the Katanning sub-branch Mr. M. T. Beeck succeeded Mr. F. E. Kowald as president.

Other officers elected were: Vice-president, F. Seaton; J. Lindsay, secretary; Baxter, treasurer; A. Trench, committee; R.缗, P. Seaton, Postmaster; J. L. Badger, A. Day, J. Varis, L. Thomson; M. Petherick, E. Grover, E. Smith; auditors, H. Tylor, T. Wright; War Memorial Wardens: N. G. Beeck; caretaker, S. Broderick; stewards, K. Pattington, V. Todd.

There were 37 members present at the meeting.

In his report for the past year (read in his absence by Mr. P. Seaton) Mr. Kowald said the sub-branch had had a membership of 450 but that the average attendance at the 11 meetings held had been only 20. He appealed for better attendance.

An average attendance of nine at committee meetings held in the year was regarded as excellent.

Six members had died during the year.

The Dawn service on Anzac Day and the Remembrance Day service had been well attended, but attendance at the annual Diggers' Day golf tournament, although it had been hailed as the Great Southern Diggers' Day, had been rather disappointing.

The sub-branch had been represented at Congress by Messrs. Kowald and Matthews.

During the year the sub-branch had been visited by the New Zealand R.S. representatives — Messrs. H. Carr and B. McKay— and members of the Papua-New Guinea Stake branch and Victorian Country Vice-President P. Hayes.

W.A. State president Long and executive member Rolfe had attended the annual dinner of the sub-branch.

The state of the hall finances was very good and during the year 15 members who had acted as guarantors had been released from their contracts.

Improvements to the premises had been made, including a start on the small hall and the planting of pencil pines at the hall and memorial.

A site had been procured on the corner east of the Clive-street crossing for a memorial rose garden and it was hoped to start preliminary work in the near future.

The women's auxiliary had done good work on fund-raising, and in particular the children's picnic at Tambellup had been fairly well attended.

The report concluded with a tribute to the good work done by the secretary, treasurer, and members.

Fresh Start Made At Bayswater-Meltham

After having been in recess for some months the Bayswater-Meltham sub-branch got away to a good start for 1960.

At the annual general meeting, with 24 members in attendance, Mr. E. Townsend, representing the State Executive, installed the duly-elected officials of the branch.

They were: President, Mr. J. Wagland; vice-presidents, Messrs. Stewart, Osborn, and Bowra; auditors, Messrs. Carpenter and Osborne; trustees, Messrs. P. Gillham and R. Chapple.

The sub-branch had been formed consisting of Messrs. Deane, Bowra, Chapple, Hambidge, and Mr. W. Massey was elected to the position of assistant secretary.

Mr. H. Rudland, who had performed a sterling job as president for the last two years, declined office on the grounds of ill-health.

Mr. Townsend gave a very interesting talk on League matters, expressing succinctly what was expected of every member.

At the annual general meeting, the hall was filled to capacity and members put their shoulders to the wheel and assisted as much as possible.

The hall project is still going forward and should be completed in the next couple of months.

More members are required at meetings to swell the roll, and a meeting was arranged to do both within the sub-branch and the district in general.

Meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday each month.

Government Is Considering The Question Of Preference

"The whole question of ex-service manic preference is currently being considered and is not receiving the attention of the Government and your letter will be taken into consideration."

This is the reply received by the League from the Prime Minister (Mr. Menzies) to its representations to the Commonwealth Government on the preference issue.

The representations concerned a resolution made at the recent National Congress of the League— held in Perth last October— by the members of the Australian National Congress.

"That this 44th National Congress asks the Commonwealth Government to support an appeal to the Privy Council against the High Court decision nullifying the preference provisions of the Re-establishment and Employment Act invalid, and further, that in the event of the failure of the appeal, State Governments be requested to provide legislation to give adequate preference in employment for ex-service men."

Salesmanship

Small in membership, but big in ambition and keenness, Dardanup does not miss any opportunity to sell its sub-branch.

At the recent reunions of the Capel and Busselton sub-branches (held on the same night) it was arranged for Dardanup representatives to be present to let these sub-branches know that it existed.

At both reunions the representatives repeatedly advertised that Dardanup would be holding its war memorial unveiling ceremony on February 13.

Though both State Executive members present—Messrs. P. Prime Minister and Jack Serler—assured them that there would be good representations from headquarters for the occasion, their invitations to other sub-branches to have representatives present were repeated frequently. —Ackwillie.

Rumour Hath It

It is rumoured that the Canning sub-branch is now working on the project of the record membership figure established last year, with not many new names having been added—and quite a few others are expected to appear on the roll in due course—receipt forms are very shortly.

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WORD FROM UNIT ASSOCIATIONS

16th Battalion

Among the business dealt with at the February committee meeting of the 16th Battalion Association was a letter from the Railway Institute manager notifying them that the hall would be available for the after-the-Anzac Day march, gathering on previous years. Other unit associations are in the same position. The committee will do every endeavour to engage another hall in time to let the members know.

Up to the time of this issue going to press no hall has been secured.

The hall will be available for monthly meetings, and the first meeting this year.

An invitation from the Ex-Naval Men’s Association for representatives to attend their annual conference held in Fremantle was received, and the service attended by Messrs. W. Newick and O. Young. A letter from the Blackboy Hill Commemoration Committee acknowledging receipt of £10/10/0 was received. The association supplied the committee with the names and addresses for the Blackboy Hill fund.

The shield won by the association’s representatives in the recent Diggers’ Bowling Carnival was on display at the meeting. The committee has the hope to keep it in the battalion for some time.

Following members are in hospital during the past month of Mr. C. G. Wyman, A. F. Longson, J. Cutmore, H. Klopfer, and F. Watts. Mr. J. Cutmore left for a holiday in England on the Orontes in February. All members wish Jim bon voyage.

Rumour has it that “Fat” McPherson will be in Perth for Anzac Day, and “Fat” will be made very welcome.

After the meeting members attended a women’s auxiliary meeting place and enjoyed tea and cake. Mrs. Young was congratulated on the birth of a new baby.

The death of Mr. E. G. Smith (privately cremated) was reported.

One of the battalion’s most colourful figures in Mr. T. Caldwell died on Feb. 23 in his 81st year. Tom had been on the sick list for the past few years.

28th Battalion

The 28th Battalion Association picture night and barbeque held at the Cottesloe residence of Mr. and Mrs. Sloan, on February 9, was well attended, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

President Jack Williams welcomed 2/28th president J. MacGillivray, who were guests for the evening.

The function was a testimonial to Mr. and Mrs. Sloan for making their home available for the occasion. Mr. Sloan was presented during the evening with the 28th Battalion Services for services he has rendered to the association over the past years.

Request For Concession To War-Widows Refused

The League has been informed by the Postmaster-General that its request for concession of television licences for war-widows will not be granted.

The request was made as a result of a resolution carried at the last National Congress of the League of Australian Women, and television licence concessions are granted only to totally and permanently incapacitated ex-servicemen and to persons who receive pension or invalid service allowance.

The Postmaster-General said he would like to consider other any other group could if it were granted the Government would be obliged to extend the concession to many thousands of other cases and it would be a serious detriment to the revenue required to finance the war-effort and broadcasting services.

If licences at reduced rates were justified for war widows, he would be willing to examine claims for similar consideration from other groups, he said.

From the League point of view, it is questionable whether any other group could have equitably cegent claims.

Latest Developments At Holiday Resort

For the present, development of the League’s seaside holiday resort at Palm Beach will be confined to an area within 200ft. of the present ablution block.

This was decided at the last meeting of the Executive on the recommendation of the Rockingham Women’s Club. The Rockingham Women’s Club agreed to this for proposals for the sealing of 400ft. of roadway and for obtaining the requisite building permit. (Mr. G. Gordon) said that to allot caravan sites beyond this limit would have been totally inconsistent with the requirements of the public Health Department, and it would be necessary to erect additional ablution facilities at considerable cost.

There were still quite a balance on hand.

ASSOCIATION OF EX-SERVICEMEN

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SOUTH AFRICAN AND IMPERIAL VETERANS’ ASSOCIATION (W.A. BRANCH) — Meetings 2nd and 4th Monday. President, Mr. T. E. R. Alford, 117 Advocate-street, Perth. Secretary, Hon. Mr. H. A. Coop, 114 Hay-street, Perth.


ROYAL ARMY LEAGUE OF W.A. — Meetings, 2nd & 4th Thursday each month. President, J. E. Moseley, 200 Stirling-street, Perth.


16th BSA. AND 4TH BRIGADE JOINING COMMITTEE — Meetings 2nd & 4th Tuesday each month at Railway Institute, East Perth. Hon. Sec. Mr. D. Young, 43 Bagot-road, Subiaco. Tel. 2914. President, Mr. R. T. Young, 36 Bagot-road, Subiaco.


2/22nd BSA. A.I.F. ASSOCIATION (W.A.) — President, Mr. C. M. Hamilton, 212 Beaufort-road, Joondalup. Secretary, Mr. R. B. Adams, 212 Beaufort-road, Joondalup. Treasurer, Mr. R. W.坡, 212 Beaufort-road, Joondalup. 2nd & 4th Tuesday each month at Railway Institute, East Perth.

44TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION — Meetings when called. President, Mr. G. Gordon, 79 Mcdonald-street, Applecross. Secretary, Mr. I. C. Kloppe. 2nd & 4th Tuesday each month at Railway Institute, East Perth.

22ND BATTALION ASSOCIATION — Meetings second Friday in Feb., May, Aug and Nov. President, Mr. W. A. Ralph, 115-117 Stirling-street, Perth. Secretary, Mr. G. M. D. Dickson, 115-117 Stirling-street, Perth. Treasurer, Mr. C. R. A. Young, 115-117 Stirling-street, Perth.


TOTTALLY AND PERMANENTLY INCAPACITATED SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION — President, Mr. W. B. Westley, 72 Missouri-street, Vic. Park. Secretary, Mr. J. R. Westley, 72 Missouri-street, Vic. Park. Treasurer, Mr. J. R. Westley, 72 Missouri-street, Vic. Park.

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Faversham Closing Down This Month

The Faversham House War Veterans' Home is to be closed down towards the end of this month, or as soon after that as practicable.

This was decided by the State Executive on February 24 after consideration of a report from the Faversham House Committee supported by executive finance officer R. M. Marrs.

The report said that alternative accommodation had been arranged for all of the present inmates who desired it.

Factors which influenced the executive in arriving at its decision are:

- The financial losses sustained in maintaining Faversham have so far been made good from interest derived from the War Veterans' Home Fund investments. Such income, of necessity, ceases with the spending of the capital funds in the erection of the new home.
- The formalities of terminating the existing lease, together with the responsibility of conforming to the conditions imposed therein, including the handing back of the property in a sound state of repair.
- Sundry facilities, such as the cool-room, will be suitable for inclusion in the equipment of the new home, and their removal at a reasonably early date will be necessary.
- Members of the committee visited the home the following evening to discuss the permanent and moving arrangements and signified their willingness to seek other accommodation.
- All the sources of the funds the League are to be utilised to ensure a smooth change-over and that none of the veterans will be called upon to suffer other than minor inconvenience.

The report said that the Faversham House Fund is now being depleted by the erection of a new home and that none of the veterans will be called upon to suffer other than minor inconvenience.

Cessation Of Unit-grants

By a decision of the Military Board, grants from a unit trust fund, which was established in 1944 to assist unit associations with the publication of unit war histories, are to cease at the end of this year.

Advice to this effect has been received by the League of the Department of the Army.

The fund is known as the War History Trust Fund.

Busselton And Capel Fixtures Clash

Attendances at the Busselton and Capel reunions this year suffered somewhat because the two functions were held on the same night, and also because of the date chosen clashed with that set by the Busselton Trotting Club for its meeting.

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These will be of material benefit to country members when they are visiting the district.

It is a pity that thought has not been given to the setting aside by these two sub-branches, which are not too far distant from each other.

The reunions could be held at each town in turn, with the host role reverting from one sub-branch to the other, year by year.

This idea, which has provision for the representation from head-quarters, and save time and expense for State Executive members.

When told of it Busselton president Alex Price admitted that the idea merited, and it is possible that the matter may be discussed by the two sub-branches. — Ackwillie.

NAME-CHANGE: An application by the Applecross and District Association for a change of name to the Applecross sub-branch has been approved by the State Executive.