Remembrance, Service, Loyalty too, maintain by Strength in '62

OPEN LETTER to the 5,000 ex-members who've gone ack-willie, and the 25,000 eligibles who somehow never got round to joining the R.S.L.

Dear Digger:

You, I, and all the other returned blokes are a weird mob. Plumbers, parsons, and publicans; jockeys, judges and journalists, barbers, bookies and bottle-ohs... you name the occupation and somewhere on the lists you'll find it.

Among us there's just about every shade of opinion on just about every subject under the sun, but in wartime we suddenly became one solid unit, scrubbing all the minor arguments in favour of the two big things on which we all agreed... that Australia was worth fighting for, and that when the fighting was over we would take a hand to make sure that Australia was the sort of land we'd been fighting for.

The R.S.L. is the one organisation that, without playing politics, has always stood unwaveringly for those exact things, and if it can get your interest now it plans to widen the scope of its service to the community.

With grave problems, all the way from civil defence to juvenile delinquency, worrying our nation, Australia needs the cream of its citizens just as badly now as it ever did. In wartime you joined the services because you were determined to help in an organised way... JOIN THE EFFECTIVE PEACETIME ORGANISATION NOW... JOIN THE R.S.L.

After all, what's really stopping you from joining? It's not the sub (which works out at 4½d. a week) and it's not that you're the kind of bloke who doesn't give two hoots about your country's welfare and your mates. You've proved different, in four wars. And it's not that you wouldn't be wholeheartedly behind such R.S.L. activities as the 1,000 Repat cases it's handled this year, the 450 housing cases it assisted, or the War Veterans' Home it built.

Don't just throw this away resolving to do something about it later; Australia needs the R.S.L. and the R.S.L. needs you—and you, and you. No nomination fees—just contact League headquarters at Anzac House, or get in touch with your local sub-branch.

Thanks, mate, we've missed you badly.

—Returned Serviceman's League
Veterans' Home To Have New Male Quarters

A new accommodation block for 30 additional male residents is to be built at the R.S.L. Veteran's Homes, Mt. Lawley.

This was agreed to unanimously at the State Executive meeting on December 6.

There are already two such blocks, as well as the separate quarters for ex-service women and nurses, and for war widows.

The project was strongly recommended by the Veterans' Home Committee.

On behalf of the committee, Mr. A. Rolle, the secretary, said: "Although the home had only been in operation for about nine months, there was already a waiting list of 18 ex-service men, most of whom were clamouring to get in.

As well informed a number of other residents who had not bothered to apply because they knew there was no accommodation available.

The project was well within the scope of the capital funds available.

The building fund, which was to bear the cost of the new block, was quite separate from the maintenance fund which was being built up from contributions of 10/- per member.

Acting State President E. O. Townshend said that the best support for the home had been coming from sub-branch members and others who had visited it.

One could not fail to be impressed by a visit to the home, he said.

Two recent donations to the home were mentioned at the meeting. They were $50 from the Upper Swan sub-branch and $25 from the Kelmscott sub-branch.

keep would cost less than 920 had been anticipated.

Mr. J. A. Rolle, a co-opted member of the committee and its finance officer, told the executive that the final cost of the main building had been lower than the estimated figure. Now, in response to sub-branches, the committee was in a position to increase the accommodation.

The home was buying food on very reasonable terms and the meals provided were as good as in any first-class hotel.

A Royal Australian Navy carrying out an operation in Indonesia for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Minister for the Navy, Senator Gorton, said last week the Commission had sought the Navy's assistance following an Indonesian Government request that Australian war graves in Indonesia should be centralised at two main cemeteries.

At present Australian servicemen who died in the recent Bali war are buried at Medan and Palembang in Sumatra, Muntok on Bangka Island, Soerabaya in Java and at Makassar in the Celebes.

The War Graves Commission has made the necessary exhumation arrangements, and H.M.A.S. Banks is providing the transport to Djakarta and Ambon, the site of the two central cemeteries.

She was due back at base (Darwin) about the middle of December.

Banks is under the command of Captain A. M. Carwardine, R.A.N., and has a crew of three officers and 12 ratings.

A Word To War II Men

— from G.A.S.

There is now an opportunity for men of the second world war to take their share of the responsibility of ensuring that the sub-branches continue to function as a strong force in the interests of all ex-service men.

After the cessation of hostilities in 1945 all returned ex-service men were keen on obtaining their R.S.L. badge. They really felt that it meant something to them. It showed that they had served their country and were in a war-zone. They placed their country before their own lives.

Many obtained the badge and have worn it ever since without attending meetings or taking an interest in the League's activities.

In other words they obtained the benefits of the significance of the badge without taking any responsibility to see that the League's activities continued.

There were others who wore the badge for a few years and then neglected that they had obtained personally, all the benefits the League had obtained for them, they saw no reason to continue paying their subscriptions.

There are still others who have been best to keep the League flag flying. They could do with the R.S.L. badge. They can make yourself available there is a niche for you there.

Some men who joined soon after returning from war service felt that their children's wives, and later to their families, and gave this, as the reason for not attending meetings. Time has altered that many of those ex-service men who have families that can be left occasionally and therefore they should be available for service in the sub-branches.

If you think you can now help in a sub-branch, go along to the annual meeting. You will not be pressed to attend one of the important offices, but there is room for many new faces on the working committee.

Seasonal Greetings

The State President, members of the Executive and the Anzac House Staff extend cordial greetings and the best of good wishes for Christmas, 1961, to all the League members and their families. May the Festive Season prove to all that can be desired and the New Year bring Joy, Health and Happiness!
1962 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

LEST YOU FORGET

For "You" are the most important person in the League, and without "You", the League will cease to exist.

(1) Have you seen the couple of "ack willie" members named on the card your president gave you?

(2) Did you secure their membership renewal? If not are the reasons written on the back of the card? Or do you need further help?

(3) If a chap has left the district, have you reported his new address?

(4) Do you discuss the Sub-branch activities with Mum? Some day she may need advice or help from the League.

(5) Have you ever encouraged family activities in the Sub-branch, or do you leave Mum out of it until you want a plate of eats?

(6) Are you "selling" the League to the best of you ability.

Remember: CONFUCIUS, HE SAY:

"SALESMAN WHO COVERS SEAT INSTEAD OF TERRITORY ALWAYS REMAIN ON BOTTOM ! !"
Help the League to help the Needy

If you know of any returned ex-servicemen needing help, or if you hear of any returned ex-serviceman's family having a problem, you can't go wrong if you suggest that a member of the family should call and discuss matters with the local R.S.L. secretary.

If he cannot be of help from his own knowledge, he will probably know where help can be obtained, and in any case he can contact League headquarters for advice.

Every League officer stands pledged today to render service to the sick, the disabled and the bereaved. Take advantage of this service and see that no family within your area goes without, from a lack of knowledge of the League facilities.

So let the watchword be: "When in trouble, tell it to the R.S.L."

The part played by the R.S.L. in improving conditions under which members of the armed forces operated during the war could not always be made public, and the League at no time sought publicity for its activities. On the contrary it preferred to do whatever work lay at hand quietly, and as efficiently as possible, contenting itself with the knowledge that by its actions things may have been made a little better for those enduring ill health or adversity.

During the war period the League received thousands of complaints from members of the forces and each case was handled in such a manner as to afford quick relief if at all possible.

The League took complaints then, and takes complaints of ex-servicemen now, to the highest possible authority in an attempt to obtain rectification.

Join your local sub-branch. There are no arrears to pay. Whether you have been a member in 1961 or not, the subscription for 1962 is £1. This sum gives you the right to help the League to help those presenting it, and to enjoy the facilities of one of the best clubs in Perth—the Amateur Club.

Civil Defence Moves Afoot At Maylands

At the November meeting of the Maylands sub-branch a report was made on civil defence and members were invited to enrol for classes commencing shortly.

After some discussion it was decided to contact the local Red Cross, Boy Scouts and other organisations to arrange a combined meeting to invite Mr. L. R. Wodehouse to speak to the meeting on civil defence with a view to forming a local group.

A beautiful coloured portrait of Her Majesty the Queen was presented to the sub-branch recently by the ladies' committee. It was gratefully received and a letter of thanks sent to the ladies.

A sum of £73 was collected by sub-branch workers on Poppy Day—satisfactory, but £50 short of the £126 record total. The amelioration fund gains £23.

Finances in the sub-branch were: P. Robinson, £1; W. Hale, 2/6; J. Dale, 6d.

Members are reminded that the final meeting for 1961 will be held on December 21.

The election of officers will take place on January 20, 1962.
Did You Know...?

(asks C. R. Collins)

- WELLINGTON had a short residence on St. Helena more than ten years before Napoleon was sent to spend his life in exile there. Six years' service in India, most of it in the field, affected the future Duke's health. Partly on medical advice, but largely because England was threatened with invasion by Napoleon, he decided to return to England. He left the ship at St. Helena, and stayed on the island for about six months before he resumed the homeward voyage.

- FIELD MARSHAL Lord Allenby, was descended from another great soldier, Oliver Cromwell. The descent came from Cromwell's daughter, Bridget, who married Henry Creton, then a colonel in the Ironsides. Their great-great-grand-daughter married a colonsire named Hinnman Allenby, and they were descended from the future field marshal.

- THE FIRST Australian troops to serve in the Boer War were members of a squadron of the South Australian Lancers. The officers and other ranks of the squadron paid their respects to the men a year's training at Aldershot. The South African War broke out just as the 12 months ended, and the squadron volunteered, and was accepted for active service. After landing at Cape Town the Lancers were attached to the famous killing Dragoons, then commanded by Allenby. Later they fought as a column commanded by Allenby, and remained with the column until October 1900 when their 12-month period of enlistment expired.

- THE EMU PLUMES worn by the Australian Light Horse throughout World War I were similar to those worn by the Queensland Mounted Infantry in the Boer War. In South Africa, the three N.S.W. cavalry regiments—the N.S.W. Lancers, the 1st Australian Horse, and the N.S.W. Mounted Rifles—wore plumes of bottle-green cock's feathers. In those days the plumed hat was not a cavalry monopoly. Emu plumes sprouted from the hats of a Sydney volunteer-infantry regiment, the old Australian Rifles.

- CHEMISTRY was first applied to warfare in the 7th Century A.D. In 688 A.D., a preparation known as Greek Fire was used by the Turkish fleet, then attacking Constantinople. It was a composite of naphtha, sulphur, and tar in the form of a highly inflammable oil. It burst into flames on coming into contact with rain. Water far from quenching the flames, made it increased in fury. Only sand and vinegar had any effect upon Greek Fire. It was launched in red hot balls of iron or stone; or poured over the heads of storming parties. At sea, Greek Fire was used in fire-ships or sworn through long copper tubes from the prows of galleys. Greek preserved the secret of its manufacture for more than four centuries.

A Congress Close-up

Special features of the League's National Congress in Canberra this year were the opening address by His Excellency the Governor-General, Viscount De L'Isle, and a special address delivered by Prime Minister and Dame Patte Menzies.

State Secretary W. Webb said this when outlining the proceedings of Congress to the State Executive at its meeting on December 6. Of the 197 items on the agenda, Mr. Webb said, 71 were carried, 24 defeated, 16 withdrawn and seven ruled out of order. The referred items mainly concerned the Pensions Plan.

- The West Australian items dealing mainly with reparation matters—were carried.

There were several items dealing with housing, defence and a naval base for W.A.

The West Australian motion on civil defence was carried. Congress had decided to send a Delegation to visit Australia by General Douglas MacArthur on his way to Australia for a visit to Australia by General Douglas MacArthur in 1965, with the object of meeting with the Australian and New Zealand delegations that would attend the Peace Congress.

Mr. Webb said there would be a coverage in next month's "Listening Post" of the items carried at Congress.

Scrap-metal Drive At Narrogin Pays Off

The R.S.I. Institute at Narrogin has started to benefit from a scrap-metal drive being conducted by local members, reports sub-branch secretary J. D. Kidd.

The main hall has had a face-lift and been painted, and the roof has been repaired and painted. Work is under consideration.

As well a week's gleanings from the drive were ear-marked for the building of headquarters for the Scouts and Girls Activity, in other directions has been going on at a pleasing tempo.

A new venue was selected for the annual picnic this year—at Mr. Byron Hardie's farm. Five miles from town, the attraction is a safe creek with plenty of shade. A social evening held a short time ago proved a great success, thanks to the assistance of the "Scotsies" pipe-band, Ray Olsen and the "Premier" (singer) and the support of many members and their ladies.

Other functions of interest have included the Apex Club Night, Diggers' Golden Day, the Poppy Day appeal and the Legacy appeal. Remembrance Day a short service was held at the Memorial Park. The Christmas tree party this year was held on December 15.

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THE GAP

Copies of this outstanding publication are available at Amaze House—price 4/6 per copy, plus postage. Containing 112 pages, the book is designed to promote closer understanding between parents and children.

The main objective is to prevent, or at least reduce, juvenile delinquency, and to assist prominent people with experience in the field of child welfare have contributed constructive articles.

The Governor, Sir Charles Gairdner, has expressed the hope that all parents will read the booklet. In a special message Sir Gairdner says:

"Christmas is particularly a time when it will appear to all those with vision and an interest in the welfare of children destined to be future leaders in the community.

THE GAP
VIIth EMPIRE & COMMONWEALTH GAMES

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READERS' VIEWPOINT

"Thanks for the Buggy-ride"

(To the Editor)

Sirs,—the recent news of the appointment of a West Australian-born airman to the post of Deputy-Chief of Staff of the Royal Australian Air Force brought to mind my first meeting with—
as he was then—Squadron-Leader C. T. Hannah, then in charge of a squadron of Beauforts on Goodenough Island and the Normandy group off the New Guinea coast.

The Island-hopping towards Tokyo was about ready to commence—and my ship, the old coastal freighter that was now Assault Ship Westralia, attached to an American task force for combined operations. Scrambling-net and practice embarkation and disembarkation to ride in a motor barges was the main cause of our being in that picturesque group of its extinct volcanoes, now covered with the pale green kerosene of the jungle growing down to the water's edge—an excellent preview for the days that lay ahead.

The headquarters of the squadron was situated high up in the hills, away from the malaria-infested swamps, on the east side of the island, and a track was the only way up to the post of duty.

Wishing to visit a life-long cobber, Reg Readhead, now with the American Depart at Fremantle, I had got liberty to do so, but how to get to the squadron was the trouble. Luckily, amongst the conglomerate of American stores officers and soldiers along the waterfront I spied a R.A.A.F. jeep. I explained to the driver that I was from the squadron and that it would be returning shortly.

A slim rakish-looking bloke with insignia on his epaulettes came up, and I concluded this was the S.L., as it was. My unit explained, "Hop in the back," and took the wheel.

Well, if the donkey trails over the Himalayas are considered rough, words cannot describe this one. It was bad enough to get a car over bad roads, but in a jeep on the back!

TheNews policy is to legislate for a goodly portion of motor car licences to be paid into revenue instead of roads, should be made to take similar rides—harsh riding over steep inclines and dicky descents, and a driver that seems to be able to walk at the same time.

Perhaps the contrast of riding the sky and driving a jeep was the cause, but with his lips pursed and his judgment we made it, and as he jumped out he regarded the thing about being short of smokes, back on the ship.

The Is:"s of the... · the 1)1ain ·- Yoprs, etc., Joe Saunders.

Floyd-street.
Trigg Island.

Crosses Laid in Memory

Sir,—In your Nov. issue you give an account of a ceremony at the W.V.H. Mt. Lawley, which you state is unique to W.A. by reason of the placing of white wooden crosses in memory of the fallen.

For the past five years, at 10:00 a.m. on the 25th, 83 small white wooden crosses are placed in the front of our memorial in Kings Park by members of our association, and kindred units. Light Horse Regiment, machine-guns, camels and A.M.C., on behalf of all relatives of our cobbers who did not come home.

On these crosses is a flander's poppy, there is no charge for these crosses; their manufacture is a labour of love and remembrance; each one is made so is a fine cobber remembered.

Throughout the night these are jealously guarded by No. 1 Sea Scout Troop, Mt. Lawley, and removed to safe-keeping for the next following year.

The fallen of both 1st and 2nd A.I.F. Korea and Malaya, as well as R.A.N. and R.A.F. are also tended by our members. We have been thanked by the relatives of these boys, and by some of the many hundreds who have stopped in front of our memorial on Anzac Day—Yours, etc., R. G. HUMMERSTON.

3rd Bn. M.G.
1 Parkfield-road.
Maylands.

Move To Lift A "Curtain"

Sir,—A committee, representative of various units, was recently formed to arrange a rally of all Japanese Ex-P.O.W. to be held at the Perth Dinghy Club headquarters, Crawley, on Saturday, February 17.

The theme of the rally is 'Lifting the Bamboo Curtain after 20 years,' and an invitation is extended to all Naval, Army and Air Force Ex-P.O.W. of the Japanese during the Pacific War.

Appropriately this function will be on the eve of the annual Singapore Day service which commemorates the sacrifice made during the Malayan campaign.

Support has been promised by the A.B.C. and television, channels.

The committee intends to work hard to publicise this rally during the next few weeks and feels that during this period of international tension perhaps a little reflection by the public will make them determine not to allow distant and dimming memories to once more become reality—Yours, etc., J. E. Fraser, Deputy-Chef Japanese Ex-P.O.W. Reunion Committee.

83 Alexander-street, Wembley.

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HOME FOR VETERANS

The first indication that the R.S.L. was interested in establishing a home for the care of war veterans appears in the minutes of a meeting held on 21st June, 1944, when the president, Mr. Anderson, read "a memorandum which he had prepared giving information about the homes in other states."

On 2nd August a report, prepared by Mr. Olden was accepted in principle and it was decided to be prepared on the basis of the three sections of the report referring to the appointment of a committee of sub-branches to be held on 23rd August, a meeting of representatives of well-known League branches who with a view to seeing what finance is likely to be available, he fore, difficulties.

This meeting was held on 23rd August, and a report for raising funds was "officially launched at sundown, 24th August." Monday, 23rd August at 7 p.m. in Anzac House.

This appeal was made by the Lieutenant-Governor in the presence of 385 guests. The function was a complete success, 27 sub-branches being represented and 22 women's auxiliaries.

Fund-raising

Approaches were made for funds to women's auxiliaries, outside organisations and the general public, by means of posters, newspaper, and slide advertising. By the end of June, 1946, almost $33,000 had been subscribed.

The large amounts were contributed by a 'Miss Australia' competition ($11,000), the Australian Comfords Fund ($6,000), the Aged Soldier's Fund ($5,000), community concert held at Sanatorium, and the proceeds of a dance at Ballarat. The Willoughby Guild ($1,500) and Boonah ($1,000) also contributed.

During this time plans were drawn up and many solicitors were appointed to commence the project immediately. There was a great deal of enthusiasm associated with this owing to the shortage of building materials and labour. But it was realised that with priority being given to housing, it would be impossible to start the building before the actual construction could take place.

Definite views on finance and administration were held, as Mr. Anderson stated in 1947:

"I would point out that the appeal was for the purpose of setting up the War Veterans Home in a separate entity and not to be incorporated with any other scheme in the future. This is important because contributions were given on this assurance. The hope is to maintain the home in a position as follows:

(a) Fees paid by guests at the same rates as paid by Allied veterans.
(b) Annual grant from the Aged Soldiers' Fund.
(c) Sponsoring of rooms or the purchase of new homes for the League and Women's auxiliaries.
(d) An annual street appeal, similar to that of the most successful organisations.
(e) Donations from the public on a voluntary basis. This as it was intended to proceed with the appeal on these terms as soon as practicable. Meanwhile, representations had been made to the Ministry of the Army to take over "Faversham" at York."

Faversham

This had been originally the home of Mr. A. J. Moncrieff, who donated it to the Department of the Army for the use of ex-service men. During the World War II it was used as a convalescent home by the Army, and during the period it was in use the Dutch Government for the benefit of the Dutch veterans. It was intended to make it available for convalescent ex-service men or for those who were in need of a holiday or rest. The efforts were successful.

The building was furnished with equipment and furnishings and the Red Cross Society, provided the necessary furnishings and fittings. Negotiations were finalised in August 1946 and the home was opened by the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir James Mitchell) on 15th December 1946.

As a result of the 1949 Government decisions, the home found itself free from financial difficulties, coming from:

(a) Interest from the Red Cross Society.
(b) Interest from the War Veterans' Home Fund.
(c) Donations from the R.S.L. for the financing of the subject and the Family Day.

Generous donations, both voluntary and in kind, were much appreciated. During the year that followed, the home gained a remarkable average of about 57 residents, and it was popular with the conductors. The Government, who had agreed to financial problems but these were temporary.

In 1957 the thought of many members of the League had been turning again towards the desirability of constructing a home in the metropolitan area. With the funds that had been raised in 1945 from the appeal, the Government suggested a scheme to the Governor that it would be better to raise the amount of £2,000 for £1 for the appeal. The Government therefore decided to remain with the appeal. The Government accepted the principle of the scheme and the home in the metropolitan area, and the committee formed under the chairmanship of Mr. Rolfe continued the search for a suitable site.

City-words

A committee under the chairmanship of Mr. R. Green, began making inquiries into the suitability of various types of buildings, costs and sites, including some in the metropolitan area.

The Congress of 1958 accepted the principle of the scheme, and the home was opened in the metropolitan area, and a committee formed under the chairmanship of Mr. Rolfe continued the search for a suitable site.

The site was inspected by delegates and plans were made to accommodate 60 returned services men and 24 returned services women. On 24th November, 1959, a proposal was made by the Government for the building of the veterans' home at Frankston, Victoria, was retained.

During Congress of 1959, the site was inspected by delegates and plans were made to accommodate 90 returned services men and 50 returned services women. On 24th November, 1959, a proposal was made by the Government for the building of the veterans' home at Frankston, Victoria, was retained.

The responsibility was then put to the R.S.L. and the Government, and the Government made to raise the necessary funds.

The new home was designed by Mr. H. A. Butler, an architect associated with the proposal, and the building was begun in 1960. The new home was completed in 1961 and opened by the Governor-General, Sir David, Brand, in 1962.

Thus were realised the hopes and dreams of a large number of the League's members, and the building of the veterans' home at Frankston, Victoria, was retained.

The responsibility was not ended there, however, and it was necessary to raise the funds to maintain the home. This responsibility is now being shared, and the Government has been made to release funds to maintain the home.

An interesting record is a 16mm. colour-sound movie showing the activities of the planning, building and operation of the home. This became available for showing during the year.

New branches, women's auxiliaries, the State Lottery Commission, and the Australian Football League, have made substantial donations to the project. The total capital expenditure of the new home is estimated to be £20,000, including Government subsidy, so that the new home is now one of the most successful achievements of the R.S.L.
Membership Is Vital To The League

League Gift Cherished
A letter of thanks on behalf of the volunteers of Clarefield (Eng.) for a £500 donation from the League has been received from the Agent-General for Western Australia in London, Mr. E. Hoar. Mr. Hoar said he had handed over a cheque for that amount and that the vicar and parish were very grateful. The money will help in the completion of an Australian War Chapel adjacent to the church. To construct the chapel and restore their church the villagers themselves have raised £8,000 over ten years.

On Anzac Day, each year the children of the village lay posies on the graves of 120 Australians who died at the Harefield war hospital during World War I.

Cadet-training Aims Up For Revision
A more positive effort to interest school Cadets in continued military training after leaving school was announced recently by Army Minister Crainer.

In the first instance, this would be achieved by a revision of the aims of cadet training. The new aims would be:
1. To give a foundation of military knowledge and discipline.
2. To develop the qualities of leadership.
3. To develop a sense of citizenship and patriotism.
4. To develop an interest in the role of the Army.
5. To encourage Cadets, by association, to continue some form of military service after leaving school.

The main difference in the new and old aims was the more positive approach to encourage Cadets to carry on voluntary military service. There would be no change in the status of the Cadet Corps nor any basic change in their realistic training programme. Rather more emphasis would be placed on the role of the Army in national life and on the prospects it offered to Cadets after leaving school.

The new aim had been made desirable by an increase in the Cadet Corps strength throughout Australia and the need to maintain the strength of the Citizen Military Forces on a voluntary basis.

The age of enlistment in the C.M.F. was now 17 years. This enabled many Cadets to continue training without a break in service.

The Army looked to former members of the Cadet Corps to provide a substantial number of junior leaders. Quite apart from the provision of leaders, a school Cadet who subsequently joined either the Regular Army or the C.M.F. was a much more valuable recruit than a youth without previous training.

Extension To Term Of Commissioner
Mr. J. C. Neagle's term as a reparation commissioner has been extended to June, 1962.

He has represented ex-service organisations on the Repatriation Commission for the past five years. Mr. Neagle was National Secretary of the R.S.L. between 1946 and 1956, and was awarded the C.B.E. for his work for ex-service men and women.

He served with the 6th Light Horse, A.I.F., in World War I. He lived in Sydney until his appointment with the R.S.L. when he moved to Melbourne and later to Canberra.

Mr. Neagle, who was born at Grenfell, N.S.W., is a former State President of the R.S.L. in N.S.W.

EXECUTIVE CHANGE
The State Executive has accepted with regret the resignation, because of ill-health, of Mr. W. Gummer. Mr. E. A. Podd has been reap-pointed to the executive for duty on the Membership Committee.

New NOIC For W.A.
Captain W. B. M. Marks, C.B.E., D.S.C., is to take over as Naval Officer-In-Charge, Western Australian area, in February.

Captain Marks, at present Director of Naval Reserves at Navy Office, Canberra, is to receive Commodore's rank when he takes up his new Australian appointment.

A former Australian Naval Attache in Washington, he was awarded the C.B.E. for his work as chairman of the Joint Services Committee which made arrangements for the second atomic test at Monte Bello Island.

Christmas Message From Sunset
The returned ex-service men of Sunset will convey Christmas and New Year greetings to the State Executive of the League, the R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary and all members of sub-branches.
Dalkeith Entrant Wins Hair-beauty Contest

The winner of this year's Miss Crowning Glory contest was Miss Janet Lovett, nominee of Riddells Salon, Dalkeith.

Miss Lovett's main prize is a holiday trip for two to New Zealand and South Sea ports in the metropolitan area, with prior air-travel to Sydney.

As well as she has qualified for a modelling course conducted by the Joy Spier Modelling School.

Second prize—a wardrobe valued at £15—was won by Miss Shirley Ingham, nominee of the Shackleton R.S.L. and auxiliaries.

Third prize—a wardrobe valued at £25—went to Miss Mimi Da Motta, who was sponsored by Torchbearers for Legacy.

The remaining five place-getters each qualified for a wardrobe valued at £5.
They were:
4th: Miss Judith Pearson (R.S.L. State Executive wives)
5th: Miss Dorothy Thomas (P.M.G. sub-branch)
6th: Miss Joy Bell (Claremont sub-branch)
7th: Miss Kay Brown (Geraldton sub-branch and Torchbearers)
8th: Miss Fay Mitsopoulos (Boons Social and Sporting Club)

SPECIAL PRIZES
A special prize (a margaret watch valued at £25) for most money raised in the metropolitan area was won by Miss Lorraine Percival, sponsored by the Fremantle R.S.L. Club "Wyola"—the amount raised being £500.

That for the country area was won by Miss Robyn Hardisty, sponsored by the Waroona auxiliary—the amount raised being £315/5/0.

Gold watches valued at £25 each were awarded to the following organisations for having raised £250 or more each:
Fremantle R.S.L. Club "Wyola" (£599)
Claremont R.S.L. Club (£510)
Anzac Club (£400)
Bellevue R.S.L. (£375)
Waroona auxiliary (£315)
Boons Club (£251)
Bruce Rock auxiliary (£250)

THE CROWNING
Twenty-eight candidates faced the judges at Anzac House on November 18. The following night, before a large and enthusiastic gathering in the ballroom, the Premier (Mr. David Brand) assisted by Miss Hy Hazell (star of the musical, "Lock Up Your Daughters") crowned the queen and presented her to the audience for a well-merited ovation.

The results of this year's competition were most satisfactory, indeed, largely as the result of extremely active work by the Fremantle R.S.L. Club, "Wyola," and the Navy Club of Fremantle, who raised £599 and £510 respectively. The total raised by all candidates was £5,090.

With sundry donations and incidental amounts, the gross sum collected for the year was £5,594.

Expenses, including prizes and other incidental costs, are in the vicinity of £300, which leaves about £4,400 to be distributed equally between the War, Veterans' Home and Legacy.

With this year's distribution the Miss Crowning Glory competition has raised over £18,000 for the two organisations since its inception three years ago.

*PICTURED below are the first three place-getters from left to right Misses Mimi Da Motta (third), Jan Lovett (first) and Shirley Ingham (second).
Geraldton Members In Annual Pilgrimage

Servicemen who were killed or died in the Geraldton area during World War II were remembered on Sunday, November 12, when members of the local R.S.L. sub-branch made their annual pilgrimage to the war cemetery at Utaharra.

The pilgrimage is made on the Sunday nearest to Remembrance Day. Flowers were placed on the 83 graves, and then a simple, but solemn wreath-laying ceremony was held at the war cemetery memorial under the leadership of sub-branch president Andy McDonald, who led the gathering in the recitation of "Lest We Forget!"

Forty-two of the graves are of R.A.A.F. personnel, and include six airmen killed on the one day when stationed at the big training centre at Geraldton. Others buried nearby include 16 army men, 15 from New South Wales, 15 from Victoria and one from Queensland.

The members also took the opportunity of visiting the nearby general cemetery and placing wreaths of poppies on the graves of two former life-members of the R.S.L., Mr. Herbert A. E. O'BRIEN, J. W. S. 48th Bn., City of Perth.

From Marble Bar sub-branch secretary Mr. Smith comes the following account of R.S.L. affairs in that area.

On November 11, we observed, with a small gathering, the two-minute silence and the raising of the flag ceremony. The sale of poppies exceeded our expectations, and we are proud to be able to donate our share of the proceeds to the aged service- men's fund.

Though our small but active sub-branch is going ahead with a couple of projects we have not done anything spectacular, this last month.

As it is the end of the year once again we have already planned our membership drive for the next year. Our aim here once again is rather high, but owing to the almost constant change of population we can only work and hope, and keep an eye on all newcomers in our far-flung district.

Our January meeting will be the annual general meeting. canvassing is going on quietly for new office-bearers for 1962.

By the time this appears in print we shall be well into December; we take this opportunity to send our best seasonal greetings to all our known and unknown friends and comrades.

Old Marble Bar-ites, we would love to hear from you!
VETERANS' HOME VIEWPOINT

Valued Donations From Upper Swan Visitors

Accompanied by their wives and children, members of the Upper-Swan sub-branch paid a visit to the Veterans' home on a recent Sunday afternoon.

During afternoon tea the president of the sub-branch handed over a cheque for £20 as a gift to the home, and sub-branch members presented a further gift—a box of dried fruit specially prepared for the Christmas cakes and puddings, and also a case of oranges. These were gratefully accepted by the housekeeper.

In the Visitors' Book one member wrote: "Much better than I ever thought." This summed up the general comment on the home and its facilities.

Another D.S.O. Subaltern

From 28th Battalion Association secretary W. J. Reed comes the following interesting commentary:

In the November issue of the Listening Post you published an article that the late Dick Cornish was due to be decorated with the D.S.O. Hereunder are particulars of LIEUT. J. SHERROCK (28th Battalion, A.I.F.) taken from official records and the London Gazette dated 11th January, 1919.

SHERROCK, J., Lieut.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty this officer led his platoon in the attack with the greatest dash.

On one occasion, well ahead of his men, he jumped into a trench, and single-handed captured 20 men and 2 machine guns. A few days later when the advance was held up by strong opposition, he worked round to a flank and again single-handed captured 10 men and 2 machine guns.

The most daring actions saved the situation and enabled the advance to continue.


Games Win For Glen Forrest

The monthly Townshend Shield games were held in the Mundaring Hall on November 20. Glen Forrest took the honour with 9 points and while last year's "champs," Chidlow, were well out in front in the points aggregate with 24, an interesting position exists with Glen Forrest, Darlington and Mundaring sharing second place with 15, with Mt. Helena next on 12 points.

It was an enjoyable evening.

The next games contest is scheduled for Glen Forrest on Thursday, January 18, 1962.

The Mundaring ladies committee had discussed the catering aspects of the sub-branch reunion and dinner to be held on January 20.

Officers elected at the annual meeting on December 18 will be installed at a short meeting which will be held on the evening of the dinner.

Presentation Of Trophy

A handsome trophy—indeed, a trophy of the sub-branch raising most money for the Veterans' Home on a basis of membership—has been presented to the League by Mr. Merlyn Williams of Goorow.

Standing about a foot high, the trophy represents a column rising from a pedestal bearing, on its circumference, the shield of the sub-branch. Surmounting the column is a symbolic torch of service.

Handing over the trophy to Acting-State President Townshend at the executive meeting on December 9 Mr. Williams said he hoped it would boost the amount of money raised for the home and also serve as a goad for the work the sub-branches were doing.

Said Mr. Townshend: "The League as a whole owes a great debt to Mr. Williams. The sub-branches lucky enough to win this trophy will indeed cherish it."
Best Northam Dinner For Many Years

The annual ex-servicemen's reunion dinner organised by the Northam sub-branch was held in the Northam Memorial Hall on Friday, November 24, under the chairmanship of President Fred Killick.

About 100 people were present including State President Leonard Loveday, Mrs. H. C. Boardman, and the Mayor of Northam (Mr. A. H. Rushton). Mr. K. H. Hogg, M.S., President of the R.S.L. Sub-Branch, was the Master of Ceremonies.

The catering, undertaken as usual by the women's auxiliary, was excellent, and it was generally agreed that the function was the most successful of its kind for some years.

Outstanding among the speakers was the State President, who outlined the achievements of the R.S.L. and stressed the need to maintain the strength of the League in an order that it may continue to reflect an expression of pride in the nation.

Another outstanding speech was that made by Mr. Jack Bulloch of Northam in proposing a toast to the women's auxiliary. Concisely but effectively he outlined the magnificent achievement of that numerically small but dedicated body.

During the evening the State President presented Mr. A. V. Badger—president of the sub-branch and State Country Vice-President of the W.V.B.—a Certificate of Service as a token of appreciation of his work for the sub-branch and the League during his three years as president.

Mr. Badger continued his service to the sub-branch by presenting to it a splendid shriner—designed by the State War Memorial—similar to those in use by several other sub-branches.

President Frank Killick presented the shriner on behalf of the sub-branch and expressed the thanks of the members for such a truly magnificent gift.

Reunion At Leederville A Great Success

The annual reunion of the West Leederville—Wembley—F lorest Park sub-branch, held in the Memorial Hall, Canning Street, on October 27th and was a great success with over 90 members in attendance.

President Ernie McGuckin, after paying tribute to Fallen Comrades, extended a warm welcome to all visitors. The State Government was represented by M.L.A. Mr. John Vogel and the City Council by councillors Keith Frame and Mr. P. J. O'Kearney. The acting representative of the State was Mr. Bob Duncan. An apology was received from the district's Federal member, the Hon. Paul Hasluck, who was detained in Canberra.

A friendly atmosphere in such a large room was a great height of oratory, and all speeches were well received. Items were provided by Jack Christie, Johnny Morrison and Jack Ward, who always harmonise so well—their efforts called for an encore—and by Eric Elsog, who always delights his audience.

During the evening a dozen bottles of wine, very generously donated by the working secretary Charlie Laming, were distributed to holders of lucky-number tickets.

A happy item which brought well merited acclaim, was the presentation of a framed message of appreciation to Bob Downey for the willing way in which he has carried out his job for the last three years.

No report would be complete without expressing thanks to the ladies auxiliary which again did outstanding work to make the evening a success.

Sunset Visited By N.E. Fremantle

Dinner was laid out for 75 old soldiers at the Sunset Home last month by a visiting party of Northam auxiliary members.

 Addresses by the home's president (Mrs. Massie), auxiliary president Mrs. Briagge and N. E. Fremantle R.S.L. sub-branch president Fort were given a wonderful reception.

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Northam Poppy Sales Better Than Ever

For some years past the Northam sub-branch has been ordering 1,500 poppies annually for disposal on Poppy Day, but this year the number was increased to 1,600 and—thanks to the efforts of a small but devoted band of sub-branch and auxiliary members—a complete sell-out was effected.

Shortly before 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 11, representatives of the R.S.L. sub-branch, Post Horns Association, town and shire councils, local social and service organisations and members of the public, gathered at the Northam Memorial Hall.

The official representatives formed in line before the Shire Regimental Standard in front of the hall with League members behind them and a general Cribb group on either side.

One after another the representatives advanced to the wreaths, stood in silent homage for a few moments and returned to their places in line.

At 11 o'clock a Salvation Army trumpeter sounded "The Last Post" and, as the last long "G" note faded, all heads were bowed while silence was observed.

As the brisk notes of "Revelation" filled the air, the silence the Australian flag flying over the roof of the hall was raised to the top of the mast and the ceremony was over.

Brief though it was, this ceremony was sincere, and it was also hoped that it would be a symbol of remembrance for all.

But this was not over. The tradition was lived up to, and a"pride" was formed, those whose honour it was held that they could not say they appreciated it more than the many much more elaborate ceremonies.

Mr. Gottschalk presented the Commonwealth is not a lover of display but, like nature, he would like to think that when he had gone he was not forgotten.—R.G.E.

Christmas Surprise For Bellevue Members

It came as a surprise to members of the Bellevue sub-branch to learn that 216 children (123 of them girls) were to be catered for at this year’s Christmas-tree.

The occasion was held earlier than usual this year, and a good time was had by all.

Sub-branch officials are proud that once again members and their wives gave wonderful support to the candidate in the Mission Crownings Glory appeal and having been handed in.

As well the sub-branch appeal for bursary relief raised nearly $100, and a domestic appeal to assist the widowed members of a deceased member raised about $50.

On November 18 the Bellevue Ex-Services Club held its annual dinner, and it was decided by the committee that only half the expected number attend the function, which was once again a marvellous job in catering for the guests.

Among the guests were Sub-Branch President Mrs. Leonard, Miss Mabel Pelz, Mr. and Mrs. Geoff Bullen, Sgt. Charlie Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Brown, Constable Savage of the Midland Police and Mrs. Brown.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Ballard will have done a wonderful job in preparing the club bowlding green.

The League Is Not Associated With ‘Gaba’ Tepe’ Must

Muster Of 44th Men At Bunbury

There is to be a muster "mess-parade" at the R.S.L. sub-branch on January 30 of men of the old 44th Battalion, which was disbanded in 1945 in order to transfer its highly-trained and efficient personnel to units requiring reinforcements.

The object of the "musters" is to give these men an opportunity of meeting once again and going over the events of the past—and of the uncertain future.

The wartime commanding officer of the unit, Col. Brendan Garner, has been informed of the reunion and will attend. A subscription for the occasion has been fixed at $1.

Anyone interested in attending the "parade" is asked to communicate with Mr. L. Nibbett, 36 Hands Crescent, Bunbury (or P.O. Box 20) Bunbury.

Mr. Nibbett says that arrangements have been made for any old member wishing to stay overnight.

Work And Play At Lake Grace

Twelve members attended the December meeting of the Lake Grace sub-branch—presided over by Russell Eggers.

Business—dealing mainly with the question of eligibility for retirement-housing treatment—was soon dealt with and was followed by a table-tennis honor for the night went to Charlie of the sub-branch, with his match with youthful visitor Colin Watson.

One temporary problem was overcame when Alec O’Neil produced a bottle-opening that has a history dating back to the "desert push."

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Unit Association Notes

11th and 2/11th Battalions

There were 160 ex-servicemen present at the roll call at the recent South-West reunion of the 11th and 2/11th Battalions Association at Bunbury, and the R.I.L. Hall was packed. Before proceedings came to a conclusion so were a lot of the boys. However, the weather was quite a bit too cool for the infantry and a couple of them decided to check back to Bunbury. The committee made a very interesting speech, and a lot of fun was had by all.

During the evening a considerable number of new members were enrolled; the list now exceeds the 1,000 mark.

Those members who have received a history synopsis are requested to return same to the committee as soon as possible. Each member is entitled to two copies, along with their comments. Criticism and anecdotes—particularly of a historical nature—will be of great assistance in the preparation of the history. Let him be the judge and send in all the material available, as soon as you can.

The president and committee wish all members and families of the 11th and 2/11th Battalions to have a happy and prosperous New Year.

28th Battalion A.I.F.

The 28th Battalion Association has a most successful year considering the number of members who took active part in association affairs. The annual reunion was well attended and kindred associations were represented in full, including the R.I.L. State Executive. All members of the battalion are requested to forward names and addresses of the family members to the secretary.

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21st Battalion

The annual reunion was well attended and kindred associations were represented in full, including the R.I.L. State Executive. All members of the battalion are requested to forward names and addresses of the family members to the secretary.

16th Battalion

Members of the women's auxiliary attended this month's committee meeting of the 16th Battalion Association—for an exchange of Christmas greetings and to discuss plans for the future activities of the year. Apart from the sad loss of Mr. Newick (secretary for many years) the association has had a very successful year.

The committee looks for continued support from members, as in the past, despite financial difficulties.

The secretary has been authorized to make inquiries throughout Australia aboutcolour badges.

The auxiliary needs a large sum from the general public. It is believed that a man has offered some materials for the new edition of the history. The members conducted a luncheon at the Kings Park Restaurant on November 24.

Mr. J. Colgate—one of the original members—died on November 24. A. A. Slater has conducted a luncheon at the Kings Park Restaurant on November 24.

Mr. George Whitting passed through Fremantle on his way home on December 15.

Committee members of both the association and the auxiliary are requested to participate in both a happy and prosperous festive season.

51st Battalion

The old battalion suffered a severe loss in the recent battle. The President, Ross Alexander Keeng and his wife, Ross had been president of the association for the past 12 years and had given wonderful service. The interment was conducted with a full military service at Karrakatta.

Ross Keeng's sympathy goes out to his family in their loss.

The going down of the 51st Battalion will be regretted by all who were associated with it.

BADGE LOST: Would anyone finding a bronze first-class unit badge, lost in Perth, please have it delivered to the R.I.L. State Executive, Anzac House, Perth, for return to the owner.

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Sub-branch publicity officers and individual members, this journal provides you with an opportunity of addressing League members throughout the State! If you have anything of interest to do with your sub-branch and its activities, or by way of personal reminiscence, send it in. But note the deadline for any issue—the 28th day of the previous month. Submissions must be in the hands of The Editor, "The Listening Post" Anzac House, Perth. by that time.

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Anzac Delegates To Go By Air
Next year's Anzac Day delegation to New Zealand will travel from Sydney to New Zealand and return—by air.
The six days thus saved in travelling time will be added to the itinerary for New Zealand.
The delegation will be divided into three parties— one bound for Wellington, one for Christchurch and one for Auckland—which will leave Sydney on Thursday, April 18, and re-embark for Sydney on May 6. The return fares from Sydney are to cost £74.92. In addition, hotel accommodation in New Zealand (18 days) is expected to cost about £70 and internal travel about £20, making a total of about £124/2. To this must be added travel costs to and from Sydney, and accommodation there. The baggage allowance for the air travel is 44 lb. per member. No arrangements are being made this year to include—wives in any of the functions, in accommodation—bookings or in the itinerary. They are to be added to the itinerary in any way whatever. Applications for inclusion in the delegation are requested to supply a doctor's certificate of fitness. Applications close at League headquarters, Canberra, on Thursday, February 24, 1962, and should be accompanied by a deposit of £10 for each person. Application forms may be obtained at Anzac House, Perth.

New Civil Defence Course Shortly
The League's Civil Defence Committee aims to conduct a new series of lectures (Instruction Course No. 3) at Anzac House commencing on Thursday, February 15, 1962. The course will be limited to 40 persons. Further details will be published in these columns next month. The lectures are both interesting and revealing and offer members a fine opportunity to prepare themselves for any emergency.

A SLOGAN TO LIVE UP TO
The League's slogan for 1962 has been chosen—you saw it prominently displayed on Page 1 of this issue:
Remembrance, Service, Loyalty too,
Maintain by strength in '62
Surely a slogan to be lived up to by League members, everywhere!
And, at the request of the competition-entrant who submitted it, the £5 prize it won has been placed to the credit of the War Veteran's Home Fund.
In sentiment and verve it ties in admirably with the League's current full-scale drive on membership.
Said Acting-State President E. C. Townshend after this month's executive meeting: "This is indeed an admirable slogan. Let us all resolve how to maintain by strength those things for which the League has always stood, and which strength alone can secure. Let us build up our strength for the job that lies ahead!"

Sub-branch Handbook
The production of the R.S.L. Sub-branch Handbook—a long-awaited manual of League activities—has been completed and all members selected by lot have been dispatched.
The booklet contains 70 pages crammed with information and designed to assist sub-branch officials.
Efforts have been made to condense the material into a form which is both expository and concise, and with simplicity as the keynote.
The handbook is of a loose-leaf type, to allow of the inclusion of additional pages and when required, measures 8 in. x 5½ in. and contains an index for easy reference.
Sub-branches which have failed to lodge an order are urged to do so immediately, as stocks are limited. Price is 12½ per copy, plus 1/ postage.

Still The Same
"Lou" Seriser, brother of State Executive member Jack Seriser, has experienced a long bout of illness, but is still his old cheerful self. His many friends will be able to visit him in Hollywood Hospital shortly, following his transfer from the Katanning Hospital. All the best, Lou!

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Printed for the R.S.A.I.A. (W.A.) Branch by David Henry Melville McCulloch at the West Australian Office, Newspaper House, St. George's Terrace, Perth and published by the Periodicals Division of West Australian Newspapers Limited.