League States Case On Nation's Defence

In a recent submission by the League's National Defence Committee—led by the W.A. State President—to the new Defence Minister, Senator Paltridge, special importance was placed on the suggestion that the C.M.F. should be given an overseas role in support of Australia's international obligations.

Announcing details of the League's case, National President Mr. Lee said this proposal would require an amendment to the Defence Act, as at present the C.M.F. could only be used aboard in the event of a declaration of war.

He said: "It is high time that the role of the C.M.F. was clearly stated and that it was given greater responsibility in the overall defence structure of Australia." The C.M.F., said Mr. Lee, was the backbone of the armed forces in the two world wars. The role it could play now in Australia's defence had not been fully explored.

As a further encouragement to the C.M.F., pay earned by its members should be exempt from taxation.

Other submissions were:
1. That National Service training be restored in a new form under which Australia's youth, when trained, would play a part in building up the regular forces and so provide an opportunity to young men to participate in the defence responsibilities of the nation.
2. That the Government's plan for expansion of the Territorial volunteer reserve to an all-race C.M.F. organisation be financed and assisted by the provision of more full-time instructors and staff to cope with the increased recruitment together with the use of modern weapons and equipment for the new units.
3. That the provision of adequate bases for the three services in the territory was essential to the expansion of the armed forces there, both for training purposes and for use in an emergency.
4. That the Pacific Islands Regiment should be increased from the present one battalion strength to three battalions.

CADET UNITS

The league stressed the need to remove restrictions on the number of cadet units in Australia.

It was felt that the present quota of 40,000 was inadequate. Many schools would introduce units if the quota limit was removed and so give the cadet training to a greatly increased number.

The League's contention was that cadet training, being the introduction to military service, was a most valuable element of the Army's training programme.

Mr. Lee said the Minister had undertaken to examine the proposals and to advise the League of the results of his investigation.

A Repatriation Point Has Been Clarified

In response to a League request the Minister for Repatriation last year examined a number of applications for repatriation benefits which had been rejected and which, in the League's view, represented cases in which Section 47 had not been administered correctly.

To examine these cases the Minister set up a sub-committee, and it was the impression at the time that this committee would automatically operate for all cases referred to the Minister.

The Minister has now clarified this point in the following letter to national headquarters:

Dear Mr. Keys,

I refer to your letter of the 15th April, conveying a request by the National Executive that official League advocates should have the opportunity to be present when cases in which the League considers that Section 47 has not been applied are investigated by a committee of senior officers of my department.

Your letter raises some very important matters of principle, and would appear to be based on a misunderstanding of my letter of the 15th October last.

My letter of 15th October sets out the circumstances in which I had asked the committee of senior departmental officers to investigate a number of cases submitted by the League in support of its view that the provisions of Section 47 of the Act were not being applied.

SERIOUS CHARGE

This was a serious allegation, and the committee was appointed to assist me in investigating it.

It was not set up as, nor is there any intention to create, an additional appeal body of an administrative character. This would be in conflict with the Australian Repatriation system, which already provides for two successive appeals to independent authorities appointed under statute from decisions of repatriation boards which themselves have a similar statutory independence.

ABOVE BOARD

My review of the cases submitted by the League confirmed my belief that repatriation boards and the appellate bodies are properly applying the clear requirements of the Act, and indeed there seems no reason at all why they should not do so.

However I would point out that it is always open to a member to test this issue in the Courts if he feels that a Repatriation Board, the Commission and an Appeal Tribunal have each successively failed to apply the law.

Yours sincerely,
R. W. Swartz.
**Specialist Medical Treatment**

Any former member of the armed services who has, or has had, a claim for compensation admitted under the Commonwealth Employees' Compensation Act is entitled to receive necessary specialist treatment of the disability concerned. The Repatriation Act also provides for free specialist treatment for ex-servicemen of the two world wars, the Korean War and other "Special Areas" with accepted disabilities.

This was stated by Defence Minister Fairbridge recently in reply to a League request for the provision of free treatment in such cases.

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**League Receives Answers To Questions On Housing**

In a recent approach to the Commonwealth Government on housing matters the League made the following submissions:

- That borrowers under the War Service Homes Act should receive further assistance under a mortgage insurance scheme up to 95% of the value of a home.
- That assistance under the War Service Homes Act should be extended to single and widowed returned ex-servicemen.
- That the waiting-time for advances under the scheme for the purchase of old homes should be eliminated.

A reply has now been received from Housing Minister Bury in the following terms:

You will remember that I discussed these matters with members of your Executive on 11th March, 1964. I have since had an opportunity of examining your proposals more closely and the following comments may assist your executive in its further deliberations on war service homes arrangements.

As I intimated, during our discussion, the proposals that an insurance scheme should be provided for second mortgages on war service homes and that a scheme for the insurance of housing loans made by approved private lenders should be considered in conjunction with the Government's proposal. The scheme was proposed by the insurance companies provided under the War Service Homes Act and should be extended to ex-servicemen and women in connection with their home service.

The second proposal contained in your letter provides for the extension of benefits under the War Service Homes Scheme to single and widowed ex-servicewomen.

I am told that this has been League policy for many years and that a considerable number of resolutions have been submitted to the Government over the years in connection with this matter. The League has been advised on each occasion by the responsible Minister that while there are numbers of ex-service personnel eligible under the provisions of the Act those are by far the existing conditions and they are waiting for loans which would not be available for the purchase of a home and therefore fall within the scope of the scheme.

**FIRST PRIORITY**

This matter was carefully considered by the Government during its review of war service homes arrangements at Budget time last year. The Government concurred, however, that the elimination of the waiting-period for loans to single and widowed ex-servicemen should be accorded first priority and it resolved that the eligibility provisions of the Act should not be extended.

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**Invitation to... RSL**

**Family Participation**

*Is an invitation to members and families to support the R.S.L. Shop, whose operation is solely for the benefit of the War Veterans' Home.*

"Dress up" the family at the R.S.L. Shop and you support a worthwhile cause.

The RSL Shop
570 HAY ST., PERTH
Phone 23 4883

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**Extending The Games Circle**

Competition has reached a very interesting stage in this year's Archbishop Ridley Memorial Shield games, which are being supported by seven sub-branches in the metropolitan area.

The top four at present are City of Perth, Mt. Lawton, Nelders and Wembley-West Leederville, with Floreat-City-Beach and Swanbourne knocking at the door.

At the last meeting of committee members and sports directors, it was decided to make an early effort to enrol more sub-branch teams for the 1965 season.

It was pointed out that many new members may not be aware of this social side of the League's activities.

Any member, or potential member, of the R.S.L. Shop's toys darts, small-bore rifle shooting, table tennis, bridge or golf, is invited to contact his local sub-branch secretary.

Further information may be obtained from R.S.L. Games Secretary, Anzac House.
The 48th State Congress

This month the State Congress assembles once more and the number and variety of items on the agenda show the keen interest ex-service men and women are taking in League and national matters.

As is natural—with trouble brewing in nearby countries—the average ex-service man is vitally interested in national defence. There are 23 items on the agenda under that heading. Under the Including five general-business items there are, in all, 109 submissions for delegates to deal with.

The VALUE of these assemblies can best be assessed with the welfare of ex-service men and women in mind.

COME what may there can be little doubt that this year’s deliberations will be marked with the same spirit of intelligent and constructive endeavour which has actuated Congress proceedings throughout the years.

The Ex-P.O.W. Reunion

Interest is rapidly growing throughout Australia in the proposed reunion of ex-P.O.W. in Perth next year.

It is the intention of a number of delegates attending the conference to bring about a reunion to Perth. Already 50 are coming from Tasmania. Repatriation Minister Swartz, an ex-P.O.W., has accepted an invitation to the Reunion Dinner and will also attend the wreathlaying ceremony.

Matron Bulwinkel and Padre Harry Thorpe are looking forward to revisiting the West.

The support being given to the latest sweep, with its prize of a return flight to Melbourne, is very pleasing.

The next meeting will be held at Anzac House on Monday, July 27 (8 p.m.), inquiries to secretary H. Brown, 122 The Strand, Bedford Park.

Rail & Bus Passes

The renewal of railway and bus passes issued to disabled ex-servicemen began on June 22. The passes are being issued between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays inclusive in the main hall of the Treasury Buildings, St. George’s-terrace entrance (ground floor).

The League Gaining In Numbers

League membership in Australia and New Guinea is at its highest level since 1932. The official figure is 257,000, along with 31,520 members of women’s auxiliaries.

National President A. J. Lee said recently that the figures were extremely encouraging, and he hoped that the increase would be maintained.

The result was all the more remarkable, he said, when considered against the increasing number of first-war members who were passing on.

He believed that more and more ex-service men and women who had not previously belonged would join the League and assist its work.

The League had important work to do not only on behalf of ex-service people but in matters of national importance such as youth welfare.

Barunga Boys Meet Again

On July 18 the Barunga Boys will be holding their annual dinner at the Criterion Hotel, Perth. This will be the 46th anniversary of the torpedoing of troopship Barunga (D16) in the Bay of Biscay in 1918.

Letters are on the way notifying all concerned, and the organisers will be pleased to see another good muster (18 out of 25 last year).

A. Robinson (Kalamunda) and Jim Keighty (Rockingham) — both well over 80—are sure to be there.

Would any who are not on the list please get in touch with Norm Stehn, 53 Robertstreet, Como (60 3415).

Congress Opening

The Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Dwyer, will officially open the 48th R.S.L. State Congress in the Anzac House ballroom on Monday, July 20.

Proceedings are to commence at 8 p.m. and a large gathering is anticipated.

NEW LEAGUE TIE

Now Available—Apply at Anzac House Office

Prices:

TERYLENE . . . . 14/6
SILK . . . . . . . . . . . . . 18/6
WOOL . . . . . . . . . . . . 18/6

Plus postage

All the world enjoys

SWAN LAGER

Exported to over 40 countries

Pop a packet in your purse or pocket wherever you go.

PLAISTOWE PACKETS PLEASE

PLAISTOWE
Busy Days For Veterans

Here is a report on the recent activities of residents at the R.S.L. Veterans' Home at Mt. Lawley.

Yarlool Visit
Transport generously provided by the Red Cross Society conveyed a party of 12 bowlers to Yarlool on a recent Sunday.

On arrival they were greeted by Yarlool sub-branch president H. Blackburn, secretary C. N. Thompson and committee members who quickly made the visitors feel at home.

Before start of play the ladies' auxiliary provided a lunch of banquet proportions, and it may have been the ample hospitality that cost the veterans the "Snow" Haddon Perpetual Trophy.

The three R.S.L. teams all managed resounding wins—17-11, 29-10 and 19-15.

The war veterans are eagerly looking forward to a return match on their home green, where a cordial welcome awaits their hospitable mates from Yarlool.

Bowls Trophy
The Ray O'Connor Trophy for the singles bowling championship was won from 1963 champion Max Gliddon by Mr Jack Mawby, with Mr Ted Smith as runner-up. Both were presented with attractive trophies.

At King's Park
During April an invitation from the King's Park Bowling Club resulted in an enjoyable match, with afternoon tea provided.

Each member of the veterans' team received a souvenir silver-gilt spoon. Altogether a happy occasion!

Red Cross Again
Red Cross generosity to the home, already proverbial, has again been evidenced by the provision of 28 lounge seats, plus transport to the Windsor Theatre, for the screening of the premiere of 'Lawrence of Arabia.' Such outings are appreciated.

Bridge Evenings
The home's close neighbours—the residents of the Freemasons' Cottages—joined the veterans on two occasions in a happy evening of Progressive Bridge.

Parliament
Mr Ray O'Connor is doubtless one of the most constant friends of the R.S.L. Veterans' Home. His close attention to the welfare and comfort of the residents was again evidenced when he arranged and conducted a group to Parliament House, where an interesting couple of hours were devoted to inspecting the new addition, both the Council and Assembly chambers.

The reluctance of the visitors to leave indicated their appreciation of this educational outing.

Cheerio Club
An eagerly anticipated invitation for 20 residents to attend its annual party was received from the Unity Cheerio Club.

High tea was served and a most entertaining afternoon and evening was experienced.

The guests enthusiastically greeted the Ron Elliott Dance Band, whose talented musicians provided the light of the function.

A pleasant outing concluded with sincere thanks to the president, Mrs. Power, and her enthusiastic band-of helpers.

At Luncheon
Anzac week for 40 of the residents got off to a wonderful start when as guests of the Highgate sub-branch they were entertained at a luncheon at Boans.

It is hoped that this function will be an annual event.

A "Thank You"
With so many activities arranged for the benefit of the residents of the Home in recent weeks it would have been impossible to accept all invitations had it not been for the wonderful assistance of the transport section of the Red Cross Society, with alacrity and without inconvenience to itself, the transport section has made its bus and the hill 15 tour vehicle available whenever requested. Thank you!

War Veterans' Home is very much in your debt.

Anzac Eve
In the presence of church dignitaries, Federal and State parliamentarians, representatives of the R.S.L. and kindred organisations, children representing the R.S.L. Veterans' Home, Mt. Lawley High School and Coolbinia Primary School and also a number of new neighbours from the Freemasons' Homes and Congregational Homes, the Anzac Eve service was impressively conducted by young people.

Mr H. Mawby, son of the chairman of the war veterans, delivered a short oration, stressing that the younger generation should take a vital role in moulding Australia's destinies.

Ross Mawby also assisted in the service with the reciting of the Remembrance Ode.

Myra Pearson, daughter of the chairman of the Veterans' Home Board, read the prayers.

The incidental music throughout the ceremony, and the control of the P.A. system, was ably handled by 15-year-old Jan Stewart.

Cpl. Terry Robertson took his accustomed role as bugler.

A band of lads from the 1st Tuart Hill company, who had been with the 1st Tuart Hill company, was also present and helped in various duties associated with the service.

These lads have assisted at the home at various functions and have quite endeared themselves to the residents for their cheerful and ready help.

Anzac Day
The residents are indebted to Miss E. Hall for arranging transport to and from the Anzac Day ceremonies and also to the Ex-Servicewomen's sub-branch luncheon at Anzac House.

Keen, If Not Numerous

Reporting to the State Executive last month on a North Beach sub-branch meeting he had attended, Mr J. G. Rankin said he had been impressed by the keenness of those present.

He added: Not that a great many turned up!
Returned Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen’s Imperial League of Australia (W.A. Branch) Inc.

48th ANNUAL REPORT

Sub-branch Visits

W. S. LONNIE: Rosa Brook; Wandering; Williams; Boddington; Wagin; Millen; Cannington; Mt. Lawley; Riverton; Pemberton; Belmont; Broomhill; Gnowangerup; Ongerup; Jerramungup; Needulp (2); Caudan River; Claremont; Lake Grace; Nyabing; South Albany; Darlington; Swanbourne; Narrogin; Albany; Mt. Hawthorn; Tambellup; Cranbrook; Kojonup; York; Bencubbin; South Stirling; Kalgoorlie; Watheroo; Carnarvon; Onslow; Roebourne; Port Hedland; Broome; Derby; Yarloop; Wyndham; Nolamba; Dowerin; Wyalkatchem; Shackleton; Bruce Rock; Kondinin; Geraldton; Mt. Magnet; Meekatharra; Fremantle; Brookton; Marylands; Northam; Shenton Park; Rockingham; Highgate; Returned Sisters; Karrinyup; Ex-Servicemen; Corrigin; Quinlup; Collie-Cardiff; Murray.

P. PEARSON: Gidgegannup (2); Rottnest; South Perth.

R. J. STODDART: Bicton; Rosa Brook; Cannington; Mannington; Kensingtom; Baywater (3); Claremont (2); Mundijong; Canning; P.M.G.

S. A. MACNAMARA: Millen; Boyanup (2); Pemberton; Yarraloo; Subiaco; Mannington; West Leederville.

J. S. DAVIES: Bemerton; Jerramungup; Ongerup; Second Stirling; Balcatta; Applecross; Victoria Park.

R. RUTTER: Como (2); Maddington; River (2); Yeerongpilly; Rivervale (2); Kallarren; Bassee; Canning Town; Geraldton; Mundijong; Belmont; Canning.

G. K. BARON-HAY: Manning.

J. BUCKLE: Geraldton (2); Bakers Hill; Wyalkatchem; South Perth; Bruce Rock; Kondinin; Dowerin; Wongan Hills; Mundijong.

S. BISHOP:

A. COOPER: Darlington; Upper Swan (2); Malua Vale; Wooreen; Subiaco; Armadale; Swanbourne Kenwick; Childlow.

N. A. GILLIES: Boyup Brook (2); Brunswick; Murray; Bunbury; Maddington; Gidgegannup (2); Mt. Helena.

G. CHILL: Millen; Midland; Brookton; Como; Canning; Belbal; South Perth.

N. DAVIDSON: Millen (2); Yeerongpilly; Welshpool (2); South Perth; Mundijong; Como.

E. O. WHITE: M. Hawthorn.

E. A. DODD: Rockly Gully.

B. J. FLANAGAN:

H. HOLDE: Gloucester Park; Kallarren; Wubin; Rockingham.

H. B. CLARKE: Fremantle (2); Karrinyup (2); Coorow; York; Millen; Bencubbin; Wyalkatchem; Kondinin; Dowerin; Shackleton; Gascoyne; Bruce Rock; Bellevue; Bakers Hill; Mt. Lawley; Wongan Hills; Yokeine; W. Leed-Wemyss; South Perth.

H. A. LESLIE: Northam; Returned Sisters; North Perth; Gidgegannup; Carnamah; Calingiri.

A. MAYOR: Geraldton.

J. J. MENDRIK: Nollamara.

E. MONK:

D. MARRIS: South Perth.

J. RANKIN: Scarborough; North Beach.

A. SANDFORD:

J. WALMSLEY:

J. WHITE: Pemberton; Claremont (3); Mt. Hawthorn; West Leederville (2); Bassee; Yeark.

E. WHITE: Nul impass.

W. WOODS: Spearwood; N.E. Fremantle (2); Mosman Park.

H. C. HANKAHAN: Kelmscott; Katanning.

B. WILLIAMS:

J. BREMNER: Bicton; Riverton.

R. MEYER: Wandering; Wagin; Broomhill; Gnowangerup; Boulder; Ongerup; Jerramungup; Gairdner River; Borden; Lake Grace; Newdegate; Wyalong; Cranbrook; Tambellup; Albany; Bridgetown; Brookton (2); Kukerin.

A. V. BADGER: Dunsborough; Goomalung; Northam (2); York (2); Metcalf.

M. MILES: Mogumber; Wubin; Bindi Bindi; Geraldton; Wongan Hills; Moora; Dongara; Carnama.

F. GOMM: Gairdner River; Needulp; Mt. Barker (2).

State Branch Membership

Membership for 1963—total 16,682—represented a drop of 369 on the previous year’s figure. This drop occurred despite constant and vigorous efforts of the Membership sub-committee.

The loss of members by death is increasing yearly and the figure of 552 is recorded for 1963.

This position, however, presents a challenge to all members of the League. With the influx of many thousands of migrants to this State there are many British, Dutch, Polish and Greek ex-servicemen who are eligible for membership. If every member of the R.S.I., accepted this challenge and enrolled one member, our total membership would be doubled and more in keeping with the part the League has to play in its State and Commonwealth activities.

Membership Pennants have been won by the following Sub-Branches: Albany; Applecross; Bunbury; Callinraith; Millen; M.T.T. and Southern Cross. The pennants will be presented on the opening night of Congress to representatives of the sub-branches concerned.

The co-operation of ALL members of the League is requested in the aim to increase membership because this is the crux of all our R.S.I. activities.

Life Membership

In recognition of outstanding service to the League the following members were honoured with the award of Life Membership:

Mr. C. V. Dennis—Rosa Brook—Rosa Glen Sub-Branch.

Mr. H. B. W. Lock—Geraldton Sub-Branch.

Certificates of Service

Forty (40) Certificates of Service were approved by the State Executive during the year.

Conferences

During the 1963-64 Congress Year group conferences were held at Kalgoorlie, Gnowangerup and Wongan Hills. These were outstanding successes and the State Executive is indebted to the Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation, Mr. A. Panton, who attended each conference to speak on Repatriation matters.

Two Presidents and Secretaries meetings were held during the Congress Year and it is intended to hold these more often and to vary the form of the meeting.

Receptions


Sir Douglas, accompanied by Lady Kendrew, was obviously moved by the warmth of his reception and told members that he was delighted to join them as a Digger among Diggers.


Nearly 800 people packed the ballroom, and sub-branches in every part of the State were represented. A feature of the reception was a Guard of Honour, 150 strong, formed-up for inspection outside the building and comprised of veterans from the Boer War, Gallipoli and subsequent campaigns including Korea and Malaya.

The new Governor possesses an imposing record as a soldier and sportsman and appears certain to make a favourable impression on Western Australians. His decorations include four D.S.O’s, three having been awarded for outstanding courage in North Africa and the fourth was gained while in command of the 29th Infantry Brigade in Korea.

As a rugby player he gained a Full England side in 1935 and earned ten international caps between 1930-36.

In 1961 he became chief liaison officer to the United Kingdom liaison staff in Canberra.

An 11th Annual Report of the State Executive was privileged to entertain General H. Howe, Commander-in-Chief U.S. 8th Army and United Nations forces in Korea.

General Howe was visiting Perth as the guest of the Com-
monwealth Government to take part in the annual celebrations of the Coral Sea Battle.

State War Memorial

A term of dedicated service at the memorial came to an end with the sudden death, in September 1963 of Mr. E. C. Townshend, M.B.E., who had held the position of assistant-warden for a number of years and was long remembered for his keen interest and devotion to duty.

Mr. G. Baron-Hay, C.B.E., M.C., was appointed by the State Executive as the new assistant-warden and there is every confidence that the high standard set by his predecessors will be maintained.

Current warden is Sir Frank Ledger who, unfortunately, has been unable to attend a number of ceremonies owing to overseas commitments.

A novel feature was introduced by the retiring warden, Mr. D. Freeborn, at the 1963 Remembrance Day Ceremony. An invitation was extended to all surviving Past Wardens and those who attended were Colonel A. J. Hobbs (1946), Air Commodore R. J. Brownell (1950), Sir Alex Reid (1952), Mr. Frank Boan (1953), Mr. Ralph Dolg (1954), Mr. Bill Hunt (1957), Sir Thomas Meagher (1958), Sir Charles Latham (1959), Sir Laurence Jack- son (1960) and Mr. Jack Watson (1961). The only absentee was Sir Ross McDonald (1951), since deceased.

On Anzac Eve the Education Department again conducted a most impressive service for 3,000 children at the Memorial and a most inspiring address was given by the Governor.

During the Congress year 16 ceremonies were conducted and the League is greatly indebted to both the Jewish Ex-Services Association and the Public Service Sub-Branch for a continuance of the high standard associated with such tributes to fallen comrades.

Thanks are due also to the warden, assistant-warden and the director of King's Park (Dr. J. S. Beard).

Defence

During the year the League campaigned with increased vigour for a radical expansion and overhaul of Australia's defence policy. A move in the right direction was made by the Government in the revised defence programme submitted to the Commonwealth Parliament by the Prime Minister on the 22nd May. However, while this was an improvement it still did not go nearly far enough. In statements released to the press during the year and especially at the 48th National Congress (the League expressed this concern in forthright terms).

It becomes increasingly clear that the League has an historic, responsible as far as the nation's defence measures are concerned. The National President outlined this responsibility in his interlocutory report to the 48th National Congress when he stated that the League did not take unto itself the role of an expert on defence, nor did it question the priority allotted by the Chiefs of Staff to the program, but it did have an unmistakable duty to condition public thinking to the extent that it could and assiduously to bring to light any deficiencies that might need correction.

In the undertaking the League can claim some degree of success. It is no exaggeration to say that now, more than ever before, the Australian people are defence conscious. To this end the League has made a sizeable contribution.

The principal policy adopted by the 48th National Congress were consolidated and presented to the Minister for Defence in the 1964 document of Defence Submissions.

A full report appeared in the March issue of "The Listening Post."

Anzac Day

The 49th Anniversary of this National Day of Commemoration was observed in the traditional manner and was, once again, blessed with perfect weather conditions.

Attendance at the Dawn Service was estimated at 5,000 and a large percentage of the spectators were of the younger generation.

At the main parade the salute was taken for the first time by His Excellency the Governor, Major-General Sir Douglas Ken- drew, who was immensely impressed by the organisation and referred particularly to the proud bearing of the veterans on-parade.

As an experiment two static bands were positioned at the saluting base and it is hoped to improve the March Past, and this proved most successful although there was opposition from some bands.

It is possible that the organising committee will consider a further development of the bands' participation in the 1965 parade; one suggestion envisages the massing of the bands if feasible.

Next year is the Jubilee of Anzac and no doubt some special local arrangements will be made to mark the occasion.

At national level much discussion and a great deal of investigation has been proceeding on the means by which the Anzac Jubilee can best be commemorated. This number of recommendations have been made to the Government and those to which approval has already been given are as follows:

- The film of the Anzac campaign, to carry the story of Anzac particularly to the younger generation, in a visual and easily understood form.
- The development of Anzac Parades from the National War Memorial down to the lake's edge as a ceremonial thoroughfare which will also be the setting for statutory associated with Australia's wartime exploits.
- A Jubilee Stamp issue.
- Other possibilities are:
  - A visit to Australia by a member of the Royal Family for the 1965 ceremonies.
  - A pilgrimage to Gallipoli and other famous Australian battlefields culminating in a landing at Anzac on the morning of 25th April. Preliminary plans for the pilgrimage are already in hand.
  - Exchange visits between Australia and New Zealand.
  - A visit to Australia by a Turkish delegation.

Details of these and other possibilities will be finalised as early as possible so that the jubilee commemoration will be an occasion to capture the imagination of the Australian people and give new impetus to the Anzac traditions.

Anzac Day Trust Fund

Allocation to the League from revenue collected as a result of the operations of the trust on Anzac Day, 1963, amounted to £4,650, of which £4,000 was credited to the War Veterans' Home and £650 to the R.S.L. Relief Fund.

The Aged Soldiers' Fund also received a grant of £1,000.

Remembrance Day

The traditional observance of this day was organised as usual by the League on 11th November and, with the co-operation of the Police, traffic in Perth was brought to a standstill while a flag was raised by the Prime Minister and the Governor by the Prime Minister and the Governor.

This brief salute has perhaps a greater impact because it occurs in the midst of an otherwise busy day. Its message of gratitude is appropriately conveyed in what can be described as the most important two minutes of the year.

Only when there is time to meditate on the nature of the sacrifices made will their significance and their meaning be fully understood.

At the State War Memorial an impressive wreath-laying ceremony took place and heat and cold were transferred from Mr. D. A. Freeborn to Sir Frank Ledger.

The retiring sub-wardens (Jewish Ex-Services Association) handed over to the Public Service Sub-Branch. An unusual feature was the presentation of ten past Wardens (see report on State War Memorial).

Fund Raising

Gross collections from the 1963 Poppy Day appeal came to £6926. £275 below that for 1962. Sixteen sub-branches did not participate.

Efforts to ensure the sale of poppies in schools is continuing; however several Sub-Branches are using this avenue independently.

Approximately 260 steel-helmet collection boxes are in circulation for funds for the War Veteran's Home and the old style are being replaced by those with apertures. Sub-Branches have been authorised to open their helmets but difficulty is being experienced in clearing those in remote areas. Gross income from helmets from the first return in September, 1962, until 16th June, 1964, is £270/5s.

A national campaign is under way for a Prestige Dinner to be held later this year.

The chairman, Mr. Neil Davidson, desires to record his appreciation of the efforts made by the committee.

Miss Crowning Glory Competition

The gross return from the 1963 competition was £5,290, a creditable figure but much which has been shared equally between the R.S.L. War Veterans Home and Torchbearers for Legacy.

'Since its inception the contest has raised a total of £27,000.'
The P.M.G. sub-branch sponsored the winning candidate, Miss Genevieve Koziol, and her success earned her valuable prizes including a trip to Sydney for a two-weeks holiday, with chauffeur, plus a wardrobe valued at £75 and generously donated by Boans Ltd.

Twenty-nine candidates faced the final judging prior to the crowning ceremony at Anzac House 28th October.

Once again, the candidate sponsored by Anzac Club, Miss Connie Shaw, topped the list for money raised by a single contestant with £872.

Other excellent results were obtained by Miss Judy Teasdale (Bruce Rock women's auxiliary) and the Cunderdin sub-branch best candidates with amounts of £318 and £280 respectively.

Five entrants raising from each store—raised nearly £1,000 and for this evidence of practical support we express grateful thanks.

National Congress

Venue for the 48th Annual National Congress was Sydney. The official opening was performed by His Excellency the Governor of N.S.W., Lieut.-Gen. Sir Eric Woodward, KCMG, CB, CBE, DSO, on the 28th October in Anzac House.

All subsequent sessions of Congress were held at the Oceanic Hotel, Coogee, where all delegates and guests were accommodated.

The Agenda contained 569 items and of these 26 were submitted by W.A. Predominant features were Defence, Repatriation and War Service Homes.

The N.S.W. Staff Branch is congratulated on the excellence of its organisation of Congress, and special mention must be made of the enjoyable social programme, features of which were the magnificent catering, the harbour trip and a night-flight over Sydney.

Elections resulted in the National President, Mr. A. J. Lee, C.B.E., M.C., being returned unopposed and Sir Raymond Hulsh, C.B.E., being re-elected Deputy National President.

National Headquarters

It is pleasing to report a continuance of the co-operative and harmonious relationship existing between Headquarters and this State Branch and we are sincerely indebted to the National Secretary (Mr. Bill Keys, M.C.) for his prompt attention to all inquiries.

The most significant event of the past 12 months in the domestic field at national level was the completion of the new headquarters buildings in Canberra.

A feature of the building is the Commemoration Stone brought from the Kokoda Trail and unveiled by the Right Honourable the Prime Minister on 15th May, 1953. The building was opened by His Excellency the Governor-General, Viscount H. J. Ave, on 18th August.

Four entrance pillars symbolise the four principal branches of the services—Army, Navy, Air Force and Women's Services. These are encased in polished black granite, and at the base of each is a tablet depicting a member of the service that the hall represents.

From a functional point of view the building has been carefully and efficiently designed; from an aesthetic point of view it is extremely pleasant with a number of unique features.

Symbolically it identifies the R.S.L. more clearly at national level. It is representative of the League's national status and a reminder of the great and expanding role it has to play in vital national affairs.

State Executive

Regular monthly meetings were held during the year and a number of items of far-reaching importance came under discussion.

In last year's report reference was made to the proposal for the take-over of the R.S.L. Shop. The negotiations were carried on Stickler, and the earning capacity of the business has been directed entirely towards the upkeep of the War Veterans' Home. The cash settlement involved a payment of approximately £4,500, inclusive of liquidations, and was met as an initial charge from War Veterans' Home funds.

As directed by Congress the State Executive gave careful consideration to the proposed formation of a permanent Building Society but finally decided not to proceed with this venture.

Another major decision concerned the extension of the War Veterans' Home scheme to include a number of Darby and Joan cottages with a view to providing suitable housing for aged Diggers and their wives. This project is detailed in another section of the report.

The air-conditioning of the Anzac Club was completed in January of this year and has provided a worthwhile amenity for club patrons. Single units were also installed in the Board, State President's and State Secretary's rooms.

State Executive changes occurred as a result of the sudden death of Mr. E. C. Townshend in September, 1963. The position of Vice-President was filled by Mr. R. J. Stoddart (previously Chairman of Trustees) and Mr. R. Ritter was elected a Trustee. Unfortunately the services of the ladies who served so well in the departure from the State in June.

The opportunity is taken to offer sincere congratulations to the Immediate Past President, Fred Chaney, on his elevation to Ministerial rank in the Commonwealth Government, and also to Jack Rolfe—a former Vice-President who was awarded an M.B.E. in the New Year Honours list.

Messrs. J. Walsmley, W. Woods, S. Bishop and E. Monk are retiring from the State Executive and are thanked for their services.

Women's Auxiliary

To the State President (Mrs. E. A. Ames), State Secretary (Mrs. V. Rowe) and all auxiliary members, the League conveys grateful thanks for the efforts expended during yet another year of activity.

Practical support of the War Veterans' Home is evidenced by periodical donations in cash, visits to the home by individual auxiliaries and the manning of the canteen on a roster system.

The candidate sponsored by the State Executive in the 1963 Miss Crowns of Glory quest (Esther Forsyth) raised the useful sum of £8,730.

A jumble sale held on May 29 realised £140, but a fete conducted at the home in November was, due to lack of support, rather disappointing.

The League looks forward with confidence to a continuance of the auxiliaries' interest and support in the year that lies ahead.

Finance Committee

The League's financial position continues to be satisfactory as evidenced by the increase in the value of the assets during the current year.

The administrative income, however, was less than that of 1962 by £2,732, caused by a decrease in the net income of £1,450 (the major item being Salaries and Wages, £740) and a decrease in revenue of £600. (subscriptions down by £260, interest by £180 and membership expenses up by £180.)

During the year interest-rates fell steeply so that although the League was able to generate a little capital accumulation in its holdings some governmental securities the interest earned was slightly less than that for the preceding year. Nevertheless the strength and scope of the League's investments should ensure a steady income from this course in future years.

The War Veterans' Home capital account now stands at the figure of £229,388, while the balance of the operating account, which is available for the operating of the Home during the current year, is £116, which compares favourably with the opening balance in 1963 of £7,392.

Despite a diminished income it is clear that the finances of the Western Australian Branch continue to improve, and for this satisfactory result the members of the Finance Committee deserve commendation.

Anzac House and Club Board of Management

It is pleasing to report that this year has again proved satisfactory. Although rentals were down by £545, expenditure was reduced by £363 so that the net profit was only £162 less than that for 1962.

The Club also experienced a slight fall in turnover, but this was more than compensated for by reduced expenditure, with...
the result that net profit was £14 greater than that for the previous year.
The percentage of gross profit to cost was 55.1 per cent, compared to 54.8 per cent and 54.7 per cent for the years 1962 and 1961 respectively.

Once again the buffet provided a pleasant and popular amenity at a net cost of £157.

Several enjoyable party nights were conducted during the year. Darts continues to be popular, and cabinet bowls to be returning to favour. The patronage of billiards, however, has declined to such an extent that it was not possible to retain the services of an attendant and for the latter part of the year the use of the billiard room was allowed as an amenity to charge to members.

The swimming pool was installed in the club in 1963, added to the comfort of members during the summer months.
The League is grateful to the chairman and members of the board of management for the successful outcome to their efforts in the year under review.

**Anzac Club Amenities**

The Amenities Fund continues to flourish. During 1963 the fund was able to support the candidate of Miss Anzac Club in the Crowning Glory contest to the extent of £72/11/11.

In addition it contributed £250 to Miss G. W. Mitchell's home at the War Veterans' Home, purchased £250 worth of furniture and equipment, including the T.V. set, paid out £187 for musicians and entertainers, and finished the year with a bank balance of £319.

In the early months of 1964 a further amenity was provided by the installation of writing facilities in the visitors' room, and a pianist was engaged to provide music on Friday evenings. A welcome innovation was the provision of buffet meals on Anzac Day. This obviously filled a long felt want and will almost certainly be continued on future occasions.

At present arrangements in support of the club's Miss Crowning Glory candidate are well in hand. Miss G. Lomme has kindly consented to be this year's candidate and the committee has every reason to hope, therefore, that her current effort will equal, if not better, the outstanding successes of previous years. The congratulations of the League are due to Miss Lomme and members of the Amenities Committee for the success with which their efforts have been crowned.

**War Veterans' Home**

This major project continues its functions in a most satisfactory manner and we pay tribute to the superintendent (Major O. T. Jones) and his willing staff for a commendable contribution to the results achieved.

Full occupancy of the 88 rooms available for males is being maintained and the accommodation provided is inadequate to meet the demand.

Further major extensions are planned and these include the development of a new phase of the scheme in the shape of Darby and Joan cottages, for which an appeal is being made. It is proposed to provide double units to cater for aged couples. These should be ready for occupation early next year.

The board is of the opinion that recreational facilities are being fully taxed and propose building an amenities centre concurrently with the Darby and Joan cottages.

During the winter of 1963 serious flooding occurred in the area surrounding the lake and many rose bushes and other shrubs were destroyed. Unfortunately, there is a possibility of the flooding becoming a recurring feature until—probably in the distant future—the whole of the district linked to a comprehensive drainage scheme.

The management were necessary due to the death of the chairman, Mr. F. C. Townshend, in September 1963. Dr. Alan King, an original member of the board, accepted an invitation to fill the vacancy and Mr. F. C. Pearson was elected chairman.

Several improvements have been added during the year, including a new gift shop and proposal for the service of a home to visitors and the general public.

A number of sub-branches have supported the library scheme by donating books in memory of deceased members instead of sending floral tributes at funerals. This scheme was originated by the late Ted Townshend and the response has been excellent.

**War Service Homes and Housing**

The Housing sub-committee met once a fortnight throughout the year. One hundred and twenty-two individual applications of all types covering War Service Homes applications, tenancy, State purchase homes, arrears and finance advice, were handled by the committee. Of these, two were successful, and the committee must agree with the Commission's decision in these two cases.

Mr. R. J. Stoddart, chairman of the sub-committee, also represented the club on the State Housing Commission. Excellent co-operation and liaison was received from the State Housing Commission in every department and this resulted in the committee being able to materially assist most ex-service men and women who have asked for help and advice.

The Housing sub-committee desires to place on record its appreciation of the help extended by the manager and staff of the State Housing Commission.

**War Service Homes**

Resolutions discussed at the 48th National Congress were again along the lines of R.S.L. standing policy on War Service Homes.

One new approach was the adoption of a resolution from N.S.W. that the National Executive be directed to draw up an adequate case of War Service Homes items to be submitted to the Commonwealth Government on a priority basis.

Items specifically mentioned in the resolution and other items adopted by Congress were as follows:

1. Loans for additional categories of ex-service personnel. These include:
   a) Single and widowed returned ex-service women.
   b) Militia personnel who served in Darwin during the period of the bombing.
   c) Salvation Army officers who served abroad.

2. Elimination of the waiting period on second-hand homes.

3. The right of a second loan to the amount of the unpaid portion of an original loan where an ex-service man is forced to transfer from one district to another for essential health or employment reasons.

4. Loans to be made available to discharge existing mortgages.

5. The increase of the individual loan from £3,500 to £4,500.

6. The reduction of the deposit on War Service Homes.

Following the housing policy announced by the Government at the December elections, an interview was sought with the newly-appointed Minister for Housing, Mr. Bury. On Wednesday, 11th March, 1964, members of the Repatriation sub-committee met with the Minister and discussed the question of increased assistance to ex-service men and women in the Government's new policy on housing.

A request was made that plans should be announced for the extension of a mortgage-guarantee scheme to cover 95 per cent of the value of a house up to £7,000, this same benefit should apply also to ex-service personnel, including those who had already received assistance under the War Service Homes scheme, and the new arrangement to be under some form of second mortgage.

**Statistics**

Mr. R. D. A. Medbury, Commonwealth Director of the War Service Homes Commission, presented the following table relating to War Service Homes activities.

| Year | Total Applications for Purchase | Approved | Remaining 
|------|-------------------------------|---------|-------
| 1963 | 14,709                        | 5,497   | 9,212 |

The division assisted 11,269 ex-service men and other eligible persons to become owners of homes. Of this number, 1,785 obtained homes under the War Service Homes scheme, 1,627 homes were purchased by pensioners under the War Service Homes scheme, and 1,500 homes were purchased by other eligible persons who had been assisted previously, and 86 were assisted to purchase homes built under the Commonwealth-State housing agreements.

Additional loans totalling £4,140,863 were also made to applicants to provide essential additional accommodation or to meet the costs of certain utility services as against £2,243,804 during 1963. The increase was occasioned by the increase in the number of applications for additional loans following the increase in the maximum loan to £3,500 in February, 1962.

**Insurance**

At 31st December, 1963, the division's insurance scheme covered 174,876 homes including voluntary insurance continued with the division, £21,261 homes were purchased by transfer from other eligible persons who had been assisted previously, and 86 were assisted to purchase homes built under the Commonwealth-State housing agreements.

The total insurance premiums paid during the year, after allowing for rebates, was £518,799. The total expenditure from the insurance fund for claims, administrative expenses and payments to fire brigade boards amount to £816,132.

Since the inception of the War Service Homes scheme (6th March, 1919) to the 31st December, 1963, a total of 234,299
homes have been provided under the Act including 2,122 homes taken over under the Commonwealth-State housing agreement.

The total expenditure in the provision of war-service homes to 31st December, 1963 amounted to £490,902.019.

R.S.L. Building Society

During the year ended 30th April, 1964, the R.S.L. group of Building Societies made 42 loans to ex-service men and women for the purpose of building homes or purchasing new homes.

Loans were made in periods of up to 28 years at interest rates as low as 5 per cent. In many cases the applicants were British ex-servicemen.

The total amount advanced during the year was £31,000. The funds were made available to the society by the Victoria Insurance Co. Ltd. (£40,000), the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (£50,000) and the State Housing Commission (£41,000).

The amount advanced since the inception of the societies now totals £175,000.

The society has no funds available at present but it is anticipated further funds will be made available by the State Housing Commission in the near future.

Land Settlement

Perhaps the most encouraging indication of the position in this field is the entire absence from the 1964 Congress agenda of resolutions relating to the New South Wales Land Settlement.

Efforts to assist have continued whenever and wherever required and the keenest interest was taken by the League in furthering representation directed towards the improvement of conditions for those persons living in the Malay Gully area.

To date, the Commonwealth authorities are authorised to make available free-of-interest loans to allow, where applicable, an increase in pasture area up to a maximum of 700 acres.

Repayment of loans is to commence in June 1968 and the advances will be charged to the structural-improvements account.

The issuing of valuations for the southern projects and for Eneabba farms is proceeding satisfactorily on the basis agreed to by the Commonwealth and State Authorities, and 714 has been issued as at 30th June, 1963.

Publicity

During the past year "The Listening Post" has been published regularly every month. Every effort is made to keep the journal as interesting as possible and at the same time distribute information of importance to ex-service men and women.

The committee continues to maintain an endowment fund to relieve the League's financial burden in connection with the publication of "The Listening Post," particularly as revenue from advertising has declined.

Investigation have been made into the possibility of contracting with a publisher to publish the journal free-of-charge to the League, or for a nominal per-capita charge, in return for the advertising rights.

Several propositions were received in this connection but none was acceptable to the committee for various reasons, the most important of these being:

1. The proposals were received from advertising and publishing firms and not from acceptable printers and publishers.
2. The committee considers that only in the latter case would it be possible to maintain a position that the League, by guaranteeing a certain expenditure, would have an interest in the best representation of the League.
3. Although 50 per cent of the journal would be reserved for letterpress matter this would include letterpress write-ups for advertisers in the journal, and therefore further complicate the problem of lack of space.

The committee is still investigating other possibilities and will do everything possible to increase income from advertising.

Radio stations 6AM and PM, 8KG Kalgoorlie, 8KY and 3GB Geraldton, have, made available broadcasting time to the League every week throughout the year; and the TV stations Channel 2 and Channel 7 have assisted during the year in publicising League activities.

The A.B.C., as in the past, has helped considerably through its news broadcasts, in advising the public of any outstanding League events.

We extend our thanks and appreciation to the management and staff of the above organisations and also to Mr. Geoff Lessing, Mr. J. Tillet and Mr. W. Parkinson of West Australian Newspapers Ltd. for their help and guidance.

Reparation

The League's policy of submission to National Executive of matters concerning Repatriation for consideration of all State delegates, and to the special committee entrusted to formulate the annual Pensions Plan, was again followed.

Pensions Plan

The Pensions Plan adopted by the 48th National Congress and presented to Government during March was as follows:

(a) That the War Widows' Pension and Dependents' Allowances be increased as follows:
- 100 per cent pension from £5/15/ to £6/10/.
- Wife from £1/15/ to £3/.
- Children from £1/3/ to £1.

(b) That the War Widows' Pension and Domestic and Orphans' Allowances be increased as follows:
- War Widows from £5/15/ to £6/10/.
- Domestic from £3/10/ to £4.
- Children from £1/9/ and £1/7/ to £2.
- Double Orphans from £3/11/ to £4.

(c) That the Service Pensions and Dependents' Allowances be increased as follows:
- Service Pensions from £5/5/ to £6.
- War Widows' Domestic Allowance from £3/2/6 to £3/10/.
- Service pensioners (single) from £5/5/ to £5/15/.

(d) That the Special Rate T.P.L Pension be increased from £13/15/ to £14/5/ (all rates quoted on weekly basis).

(e) That all returned servicemen of the first world war and previous wars be granted free Repatriation, hospital and medical benefits.

(f) That the Funeral Grant be increased from £25 to £50.

Benefits secured during 1963-4.

Legislation amending the Repatriation Act to provide increased pensions and allowances came into effect, following the 1963 Budget, from 1st September 1963.

The pension increases included:

- Special (T.P.L) Rate from £13/5/ to £13/15/.
- Rate T.B. Pension—£19/7/6 to £19/15/.
- War Widows' Domestic Allowance—£3/2/6 to £3/10/.
- Service pensioners (single)—£5/5/ to £5/15/.
- Wife of Service pensioner (P.U.)—£2/7/6 to £3.

Act-of-grace Benefits

The range of benefits for eligible persons under the various act-of-grace schemes was extended during the year. The more important new benefits include, in the case of those who served in a theatre of war:

(a) War pensions for pulmonary tuberculosis not due to war service;

(b) Service pensions with associated medical benefits.

Approval of these privileges conforms with League representation that those who served in such units as the Red Cross and Salvation Army should enjoy similar benefits as servicemen.

Growth of Repatriation

Even though continued representation submitted to secure the automatic acceptance of cancer and mental illness has not yet resulted in favourable consideration by Government, it cannot be denied that ex-servicemen and their dependants have benefited from the expansion of the repatriation system as a result of the League's interest and representations to Government by the League.

The growth of Repatriation is amply illustrated by the following information given to the League by the Minister for Repatriation, Hon. W. Swartz, M.H.B.: There were 45,191 war pensions in force in June 1917 and 671,215 in force in June 1963.

Expenditure on war pensions in 1916-17 was £1,212,632. By 1962-63 it had risen to £7,367,195.

A total of 112,000 war pensions were being paid in respect of the first world war; of these about 45,000 were being received by incapacitated ex-service personnel, the remainder by dependants.

Veterans of the second-world war who were receiving pensions totalled over 174,200 with 373,121 dependants (total 547,321), including veterans of Korea and Malaya the total was 671,215.

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There were also more than 64,000 persons receiving service pensions, the annual cost of which was at present over £12,226,000.

The number of ex-service men and women receiving the service pension in this State (excluding dependants) totalled 6,882, the annual cost of reparation being estimated at £120,500,000.

Medical Benefits.

Service pensioners continue to benefit from the extent of medical benefits made available. The aging of the 1914-18 veterans poses a growing problem to meet the need for geriatric nursing. This has been recognised by the department by the commencement of geriatric training made available to the Repatriation medical and nursing staff.

It is hoped that work carried out by the medical and hospital treatment made available to all veterans may be successful in the near future.

Rehabilitation for Service Pensioners.

Representations by your committee for rehabilitation training to be made available to suitable cases of service pensioners declared permanently unemployable has been submitted by National Executive to the Minister. A favourable reply could result in younger pensioners now assessed as unemployable being trained to return to some employment.

Reparation Department.

The Department has continued its policy of ensuring that eligible ex-service men and their dependants are advised of the benefits available under the reparation system.

Country visits by the Deputy-Commissioner and officers of the department continued throughout the year.

A series of letters explaining in detail the reparation system were published during the year by the department and issued to R.S.L. sub-branches.

Copies of the Repatriation Newsletter, by the courtesy of the Minister, were also made available to sub-branches.

Appreciation is expressed to the Deputy-Commissioner, Mr. A. H. Panton, the Asst. Deputy-Commissioner, Mr. J. Robson, and officers of the W.A. branch of the department for the generous assistance and advice given to all requests and inquiries made from headquarters.

Pension Appeals.

The demand for the service of the League to assist with claims and appeals shows no indication of decreasing.

During the year under review 757 appeals were advocated by this State branch. In addition to these, 56 claims made in writing to the Repatriation Board and Commission.

Appreciation.

In addition to the appreciation expressed above to the Deputy-Commissioner and his staff, your committee desires to express appreciation and thanks to the Director, Department of Social Services, for the unceasing and generous assistance given in all matters referred, and to the many members of the medical profession who have assisted ex-service men and women and their dependants, provided that such applicants are eligible for League membership and are domiciled in Western Australia.

The committee attends to periodic reviews of the circumstances of recipients to ensure that the funds available are disbursed to the best advantage.

As previously stated the aim of the Trustees is to conserve the capital of the fund and if possible, without detriment to the League's objectives, to build up this capital to a state sufficient to meet the anticipated future demand for assistance to aged and invalid ex-service men and women of World War II.

The committee's work covers disbursements from three separate funds—

(a) The Relief Fund—Grants from this fund may be made to any ex-service man or his dependants irrespective of age or League eligibility. Capital as at December 1962, was £11,847 including an income of £1,762.

(b) Aged Soldiers' Fund—Conditions of eligibility for assistance are laid down by a special Act. Grants are applied for by the benefit of aged or invalid ex-service men and women or their dependants, provided that such applicants are eligible for League membership and are domiciled in Western Australia.

The committee attends to periodic reviews of the circumstances of recipients to ensure that the funds available are disbursed to the best advantage.

As previously stated the aim of the Trustees is to conserve the capital of the fund and if possible, without detriment to the League's objectives, to build up this capital to a state sufficient to meet the anticipated future demand for assistance to aged and invalid ex-service men and women of World War II.

In conclusion the chairman of the committee would like to convey the grateful thanks of the committee to the chairman and trustees of the Aged Soldiers' Fund for their constant attention to the affairs of the Trust which has made the result possible, and to the committee and staff a thank-you for their willing support and co-operation during 1963.

A.R.M.S. Games.

Once again the Games proved very popular with the sub-branches taking part, and were instrumental in the enrolment of several new League members.

In congratulating Mr. Hawthorn on winning the Shield special mention must also be given to Swanbourne who, after two seasons without a single win, fought their way into the finals.

Congratulations also to the Nollamara sub-branch, which won the Yellow Cup for 1963, and to Jack Lister (Nollamara) who was the recipient of the Philipoff Trophy for the 1963 Congress Champion Shot.

The current games are being contested by ten teams.
Laying-up of Regimental Colours

By the time this report appears in print, the construction of the cabinets for housing the Colours will probably be complete, and we express grateful thanks to the Hon. Architects (Messrs. Hobbs Winning and Leighton) for their ready and valued co-operation.

Prolonged negotiations resulted in the acceptance, by all concerned, of the proposal to house the Regimental Colours of the 11th, 2/11th, 16th, 2/16th, 28th, 2/28th and 44th Battalions in the Memorial Museum of the State War Memorial.

During the early part of 1962 preliminary approaches were made to the League by the Council of Unit Associations and it is to the latter that credit must go for the initiation of the proposal.

The first tangible move came in October, 1962, when the President of the Council, Mr. E. MacLeod, requested permission to address the State Executive in company with Brigadier A. Potts and Lieut-Cols. R. D. Ireland and B. G. Davies.

As a result of this meeting, the proposals submitted and a small sub-committee was appointed to examine the various aspects, including that of finance.

A circular letter under date 2nd November 1962 from the Commander, Western Command, Brig. G. P. Hunt, explained the procedures followed and pointed out: "It is the responsibility and prerogative of the last commanding officer of the sheet of the Colours to lay them up. In making his decision each commanding officer considers the many relevant factors involved, one of which is the view of the unit association concerned."

Last Commanders.

The last commanding officers are:
11th Battalion—Lieut-Col. R. D. Ireland, E.D.
16th Battalion—Lieut-Col. B. G. Davies.
28th Battalion—Lieut-Col. J. D. Murray, O.B.E., E.D.
44th Battalion—Lieut-Col. R. D. Ireland, E.D.

The officers commanding that:
(a) they had been asked to consider laying up the Colours in the precincts of the State War Memorial;
(b) they felt that the significance of the Colours, relative to the commemorative purpose and character of the State War Memorial, justified it as a particularly fitting place for laying up the Colours;
(c) if the W.A. Branch of the R.S.L. as custodian of the State War Memorial, elected the great honour and responsibilities entailed, each would agree to the Colours for which he was responsible being laid up in the precincts of the State War Memorial.

Brig. Hunt further advised that it would be necessary for the State branch to guarantee, in writing, that it would provide adequate facilities for the preservation of the Colours and for their protection, from loss or damage, at no expense to the Army.

A meeting of the State Executive sub-committee on 17th December, 1962, discussed costs likely to be involved, methods of raising finance, structural requirements, security and preservation.

It was considered reasonable to assume that the State Government would support the project in a substantial manner and in this direction it is pleasing to report that a grant of £1,000 towards the estimated cost of £1,500 has been promised by the Premier.

All the Battallion Associations concerned, with one exception (28th Bn.), have contributed to the cost.

Structurally the plans envisage the closure of two centre sections between piers on the north and south sides of the undercroft. The external stonework is to have a brick backing and waterproof rendering.

Felt-lined cases.

To provide housing for the Colours two felt-lined copper cases are envisaged, each of which will contain two sections thus permitting accommodation for the four sets of Colours. Transparency is assured by the use of either 3/16ths perspex or armoured plate-glass.

As a security measure it is proposed to install either solid sheet steel or steel mesh screens for lowering during the hours of darkness.

A damp-proof housing has been assured by the Honorary Architects and if considered an advantage a vacuum condition will be created.

One important factor—still to be resolved—is a satisfactory method of preservation and inquiries into this phase of the project are now proceeding.

A request to the Swedish Army Museum in Stockholm (reputedly experts in this particular field) resulted in some valuable information regarding restoration rather than preservation.

Some help has also been received from the C.S.I.R.O., but this organisation admits a lack of practical experience while pointing out the three factors most likely to cause damage are clothes moth, high humidity and ultra-violet irradiation.

The senior research officer of C.S.I.R.O. suggests that tests be carried out on various types of glass to determine that offering the greatest ultra-violet protection. The danger can be minimised (and this is already assured) by avoiding direct sunlight.

The present custodian of the Colours is Col. K. D. C. Howard, Commanding Officer of the 1st R.W.A., and it will be his prerogative to select a suitable date for a formal ceremony and this, no doubt, will be subject to wishes of all concerned.

Voyager Appeal

Immediately following the Voyager disaster in February the League launched a Commonwealth appeal designed to assist the dependants of victims.

Of the total of £40,000 raised this State subscribed a very commendable £4,000, and disbursements from the fund commenced in June.

Desert Mounted Corps Memorial

National Executive has advised that no specific details as to a possible date for the unveiling of the memorial are available. The Department of the Interior, however, has advised that the information will be made available as soon as possible. This, it is hoped will be some in the current year.

Staff

With complete sincerity we express appreciation to all members of the staff for their loyal and co-operative approach to various and variously varied tasks.

Although a number of changes have occurred, namely among female personnel, all the newcomers have settled down very well and are showing interest.

Our new Welfare Officer, Mr Jack Vall, is rapidly learning the intricacies of his particular sphere and there is every indication that he will become a valuable addition.

A considerable amount of work flows through the office in the course of a typical year and it is of a specialised nature.

It is rarely indeed that genuine complaints are received and this fact may be taken as indicative of the efficiency of the staff.

Obituary

Many prominent ex-servicemen have passed to "Higher Service" during the past year and while it would be impossible to name them all in this report, special mention must be made of the following:

Mr E. C. Townshend, M.B.E., Senior Vice-President.
Mr John F. Kennedy, President of the U.S.
General Douglas MacArthur.
Mr Cliff Sadler, V.C.
Major-General S. Portes (Victoria).
Mr Fred Hadden (Bilton-Palmyra).
Miss Collins (Press Sub-Branch).
Miss Mary Meares, M.B.E.

"LEST WE FORGET!"

Conclusion

Of the tasks that lie ahead perhaps the most important is the urgent need to build memberinos. Each year losses from natural causes become greater and it should be the aim of every sub-branch to explore every possibility of obtaining members from the existing potential.

League advocacy of items of national importance such as Defence must, of necessity, lose a great deal of value if not supported by weight of numbers. This is a factor which is com-

(Continued on Page 12)
YOUTH BLOWN UP BY EXPLODING SHELL

A tragic accident in which a 15-year-old Sydney boy was critically injured while sawing through a live anti-aircraft shell last month should serve as a warning to others.

Army headquarters made this comment recently when referring to 4,316 explosive items recovered from public hands during the first three months of 1964.

Tragedy can strike swiftly and without warning where these souvenirs are involved. In most cases, the Army says, people retaining explosives as wartime souvenirs feel sure the items are inert and harmless, but only a demolition expert could be sure.

Accidents similar to that referred to above are occurring throughout Australia with frightening regularity, it is reported.

The only certain way to prevent such tragedies is to cooperate with army and police officials in their appeals to notify them of war souvenirs. No action is contemplated against people notifying souvenirs — whether kept in the home or discovered on vacant land.

Of the 4,316 items recovered only 149 were inert. The others were all "live" and dangerous. Army demolition teams travelled more than 9,000 miles in their recovery.

Many items were found on suburban beaches and lawns, where they had obviously been discarded by people from other neighbourhoods.

Included were explosives of United States, German and Italian origin. Some dated back to the World War.

The Army recovered smoke and high-explosive grenades, aerial practice bombs, shrapnel shells, mortar bombs, artillery shells, grenades, and a large quantity of detonators and small-arms ammunition.

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Recent Decisions
At Geraldton

An application is to be made by the Geraldton sub-branch for a group conference to be held there to coincide with its annual reunion next February.

The idea is to hold a conference of northern sub-branches in an outside hall during the afternoon, followed by the reunion in Birdwood House at night.

This would ensure a good representation of State Executive members and members of neighbouring sub-branches at both functions.

A similar arrangement some years ago proved highly successful.

Several appointments were made at the June meeting of the sub-branch: Mr Hal Jones was elected junior vice-president, in succession to Mr Bob Truman, who has moved to Darwin, and not Alice Springs as previously intended.

Mr Jones, a retired schoolteacher, is a former secretary of the sub-branch.

Senior vice-president John Spendlove and assistant-secretary Stan Russell were appointed delegates to State Con-
Benefits Due To The People Who Served

It was fitting that men who had suffered grievously in their country's service should share in Australia's history, Repatriation Minister Swartz said recently.

He was speaking at the unveiling of an historical plaque at Anzac House, Brisbane.

Mr. Swartz said: "They were the pioneers of their day and they have their rightful place in the history of our land, along with those who went before them."

"In both world wars we saw the same type of young man volunteering for overseas duty. They were the sons and the grandsons of the men who pushed forward Australia's frontiers and each generation gave birth to a spirit which first developed during World War I."

"This Anzac tradition involved the development of a personal characteristic of attitudes of mind in the face of physical danger."

"We saw the same feeling again in the second world war and, in Korea, and it is still very much evident in the men serving in our armed forces today."

"We in the Repatriation Department have a sense of mission. We believe that only the best is good enough for the veterans of our country's wars."

"It is for this reason that the repatriation system continues to change and expand as the needs of the ex-servicemen increase."

"Our pioneering work in fields such as geriatrics are a source of much justified pride of the members of the department."

"Work being carried out, for example, by the Repatriation Artificial Limb and Appliance Centres, sets a standard unsurpassed in the world."

"As a department we feel privileged to cater to the needs of disabled and half-sick veterans. We will continue to do so and we will make sure that the Repatriation Department will continue to be the fore-front of similar organisations throughout the world."

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY NOTES

OFFICIAL VISITS

June 2: State President attended Lemberton Board of Visitors meeting.

June 7: President, State Secretary and members of the State Executive attended first semi-final of McKlnlay Shield Games.

June 12: Mrs. Ames attended Brookton auxiliary debutante ball.

June 17: Mesdames Ames, Rowe, Cottrill and Cullen attended second semi-final of McKlnlay Shield Games.

June 18: Mrs. Ames attended Mental Health Association executive meeting.

June 24: Mesdames Ames, Rowe, Cottrill, Cullen, Middle and Morgan were present at final of shield games.

June 27: The State President and members of the State Executive travelled to Mandurah to attend the Auxiliary Birthday Day.

June 29: Mrs. Ames was present at the Mental Health Association meeting.

June 30: Mrs. Ames and members of State Executive attended the Grand Final of the McKlnlay Shield Games.

July 3: Mrs. Ames visited the ex-service men and women in Claremont Mental Hospital.

On Saturday, June 13, three members of the executive went with 80 patients from Claremont Mental Hospital to the Mt. Helena Hall, where the local auxiliary provided a very lovely luncheon.

The Guilds of the district helped to set up the tables and look after the guest, a gesture much appreciated by the visitors.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all members of our auxiliary for their splendid efforts throughout the year and for the time that they have, with us, the good work.

I would also like to thank Mrs. Ames and the members of the Executive for help and co-operation at all times, and Mr. Webb and the officials of Anzac for their courtesy and help so willingly given.

L. Rowe.
Hon. State Secretary.

At Kenwick

A local social and dance held by the Kenwick women's auxiliary last month in aid of its Crownings-Glorias candidate, Miss Marion Rainier, has drawn much favourable comment, despite the poor weather. There was a fair attendance, and the Armadale branch being well represented.

Two Armadale girls rendered a very apt parody on local transport, to the tune of "Gundagai."

During supper the Armadale auxiliary president, Mrs. Kilsby presented Miss Rainier with a cheque and told of other proposed activities to assist her campaign. Mr. and Mrs. Rainier, presidents of the Kenwick sub-branch and auxiliary respectively, thanked Armadale members for their backing.

A ten-week cards tournament with a set of cutlery as a prize, was to commence on July 4. Games are played on the first and third Tuesday each month at the Kenwick R.S.L. Hall.

Supper is provided and visitors are especially welcome.
ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICEMEN

FEDERATED T.B. SOLDIERS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN’S ASSOCIATION—W.A. Branch—198, Floreat West Buildings, 159 William-street, Perth. Second Monday of each month—President, T. Jackson; Secretary, T. S. McKinnon.

SOUTH AFRICAN AND IMPERIAL VETERANS’ ASSOCIATION—259, William-street, Third Monday of each month—President, R. H. Williams; Secretary, R. A. S. McDonald.


ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION—Seven meetings at Anzac House: when called. President, L. J. Forrest, 27, William-street. Secretary, E. B. Powell, 168 Alfred-road, Mt. Claremont. (0 3135).

16TH BATTALION AND 4TH BRIGADE ASSOCIATION—Meets second and fourth Tuesday, at the Alkimos Institute, Perth. President, W. L. Liddle, 52 Chamberlain Avenue, Fremantle (0 4050). Secretary, O. C. Young, 437 Bagot-road, Subiaco.


16TH BATTLE WOMEN’S AUXILIARY—President, Mrs. K. 150 Adelaide-terrace, Perth. Secretary, Mrs. F. Gray, 85 Bennett-st, Perth (0 3702).


28TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Meets second Tuesday at 3 p.m., President, T. Jackson, 39 Clarence-street, Victoria Park; Secretary, W. J. Reed, 35 Armagh-street, Victoria Park. Annual reunion Show Week.

2/28TH BATTALION 24TH TANK COY, ASSOCIATION—President, J. Nutter, Kinclamont-avenue, Nedlands (0 3179); Secretary, Bill Goggan, 17 Elizabeth-street, Bayswater (0 7148); Annual reunion Show Week Friday.

11TH AND 2/11TH BATTALIONS A.I.F. ASSOCIATION—President, C. H. Wrage, 18 Herbert-street, Maylands (0 2423); Secretary, R. J. Chisholm, 23 Clifton-street, Perth; Treasurer, R. C. Edmison, 45 Vardon-street, Claremont (0 2939); Annual dinner first Friday in July.

44TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Meetings when called. Annual Reunion Show Week Mon., President, J. C. Powell, 207 Herbert-street, Claremont; Secretaries, H. S. Brown, 122, Second Avenue, Mt. Lawley (0 1365).

48TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Meets 4th Friday in January, April, July, August and December. President, S. Madzuchelli, 131 Circles-Circle, Dalkeith; Secretary, H. J. Varman, 19 Kingsland-avenue, City Beach.

51ST BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION—Meeting when called. President, L. R. Alderman, 58 Milatton-street, Wembley (0 4440) Secretary, R. A. Wood, 35 Taresman-st, Nedlands (0 3504); treasurer, T. W. Millar, 52 First-avenue, Mt. Lawley (0 7172); Annual reunion Show Week Saturday Oct. 1.

2/4TH M.G. BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION—President, F. Freyer, 83 Alexander-street, Wembley (0 1854); Secretary, E. Tepps, 15 The Promenade, Mt. Pleasant; Committee meets Anzac House second Tuesday of each month.

EX-PRISONERS OF WAR AND RELATIVES’ ASSOCIATION OF W.A.—President, J. H. Hackett, 5 Millar-street, Victoria Park; Secretary, Mrs. F. Miners, 31 Clifton-street, Perth. Second Tuesday monthly.

BRITISH EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION INC.—Meets second Tuesday in Forest Hills Library, Museum-avenues, Perth. 8 p.m., President, J. M. May, 37 Arundell-street, Victoria Park (Box S 1547, G.P.O., Perth).

COUNCIL OF UNIT ASSOCIATIONS—President, K. J. MacLeod, 55 MacLeod-road, Applecross (0 1033); Secretary-Treasurer, C. H. Wattey, 5 Webb-street, Cottesloe; Committee meetings call as required. Annual reunion nearest Friday to July 19.

32ND BATTALION (1st A.I.F.) ASSOCIATION—President, R. E. Geddes, Flat 3, Somerset, 246 St. Georges Terrace, Perth; Secretary, C. L. Shaw, 11 Clive-ton-street, Lawley (0 3511); Committee meetings as called. Annual reunion nearest Friday to July 19.

2/5TH AUST. COMMANDO ASSOCIATION—President, T. A. Brooke, 31 Bassett-avenue, Como (0 3589); Secretary, J. Middleton, 40 Colling-street, South Perth (0 2067).

GALLIPOLI LEGION OF VALOUR—Meeting 4th February at Anzac House, Perth. Rooms, Perth, as notified. President, J. MacKinlay, 51 MacKinlay-street, Perth; Secretary, G. D. Shaw, 71 Leake-street, Belmont (0 5342).

RATS OF TORRUK ASSOCIATION (W.A. Branch)—Meeting 4th Tuesday of each month. President, T. E. Culleton, 46 Gregory-street, Wembley; Secretary, R. C. Treloar, P.O. Box 44, Nedlands. Committee meetings first Monday of each month.

KOREAN VETERANS’ ASSOCIATION—Meeting 4th Tuesday of each month in Anzac House basement. President, K. O. Bowden, 11 Valley-road, Kalamunda; Secretary, A. L. Mimigh, 6 Valentine-avenue, Morley (0 2675).

MAIMED AND LIMBLESS EX-SERVICEMEN’S ASSOCIATION (Meals and Stumples)—President, A. E. Bingheim, Secretary, H. W. Glass (0 6743). Committee meetings first Thursday each month except January.

EASTERN GOLDFIELDS GREEK-COMPANY WAR VETERANS’ ASSOCIATION—President, R. O. Baugh, Hamilton-street, Perth; Secretary, J. N. Lash, P.O. Box 246, Kalgoorlie. Committee meets second Wednesday at the Criterion Hotel, Kalgoorlie.

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50 YEARS ON

Minds will be turning back 50 years next month, for it marks the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War.

August will also see the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Commonwealth Government including Ministers for Air, and High Commissioner for Australia in London as Sir Thomas White. He served in England during the World War as a group captain.

The 50th anniversary of Australia’s first flying course will be celebrated in all States. In Sydney there will be an official dinner at the Oceanic Hotel, Coogee, at 7.00 p.m. on August 17 (7.30 for 8.00 p.m.) at which a distinguished gathering of those who have served in the R.A.A.F., R.A.F. and R.A.S.A.F., and interested in aviation and historical matters, will be present to honour Sir Richard Williams and to celebrate 50 years of Australian flying activity.

Sir Richard Williams has had continuing service in this field from the Great War. In 1913 he became the Chief of Air Staff, R.A.A.F., and held this office for seventeen years. After distinguished service overseas with the R.A.A.F. in the World War he returned to become Director-General of Civil Aviation, which office he held for nine years.

He subsequently served as a director of T.E.A. and has been federal president of the Air Association since 1943.

League Loses A Friend

The League has been advised of the death of Mr. Sid Lucas, former Commonwealth Director of War Services.

During his time as director, Mr. Lucas was very much a member of the League, and his subsequent career was passed.