Big HQ Contingent At Geraldton Conference

Two cars were used to convey the headquarters contingent to Geraldton for the group conference there on February 28.

The party consisted of State President P. Pearson, State Vice-President Dr. A. King, Assistant State Secretary G. Sherrington and Messrs. H. Holland, B. J. Flanagan, R. H. Marris and J. Buckle.

Also participating were the Minister for Lands Mr. S. Bovelli, and the Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation, Mr. A. H. Panton.

Reporting on the conference at this month's State Executive meeting Mr Marris said delegates had been accorded a civic reception at which the Mayor of Geraldton, Mr. Eadon-Clarke, had spoken very ably and made the visitors welcome.

Before that the State President had been invited by Australian Broadcasting Commission officials to record a question-and-answer feature.

At the conference—held on the Saturday afternoon and opened by the Minister for Lands—the usual form of procedure had been followed and many subjects had come under discussion.

Mr. Holland had dealt capably with membership issues, and Mr. Flanagan with youth matters.

The conference had been well attended, with delegates from as far afield as Mt. Magnet, Gutha, Bindi Bindi, Pittara and Dalewarlin, and had lasted longer than usual.

As well as 36 or more delegates a party of young Apexians had been present by invitation of the Geraldton sub-branch.

The conference had been followed by a wreath-laying ceremony. That night the delegates and visitors had been guests at the annual reunion of the Geraldton sub-branch.

The conference had served its purpose.

Mr. Pearson expressed his appreciation of the hospitality extended by the host Sub-branch, and of the personal contributions made by Mr. and Mrs. Buckle and Mr. Panton.

ATTENTION Sub-branches!

The deadline for all copy—including Anzac Day notices—for the April issue of this journal is March 28.

For inclusion all copy must be lodged at Anzac House by that date.

To Handle The Agenda

The Agenda Committee for this year's State Congress is to comprise State Vice-President R. J. Stoddart, Mr. H. A. Leslie, Mr. H. G. Holder and State Secretary Webb.

This was decided at the executive meeting on March 2.

Pictured here wading across a canal in the Plain of Reeds, Vietnam, during a day-patrol last month is Private Jock Richards, of Perth.—A.A.P. picture.
Government Accedes To Badge Request

To a League request for the re-introduction of the Returned From Active Service badge the Defence Minister, Mr A. Fairhall, has replied as follows:

The Returned from Active Service badge and the Mothers and Widows badge are to be re-introduced by Australia in respect of operational service by our forces in South-East Asia. All service men or women with service within South Vietnam, Malaysia (including Borneo) or Brunei will be eligible for the Returned From Active Service badge.

The service must be of an operational nature. The Returned from Active Service badge will also be issued to non-military personnel who were officially approved full-time uniformed representatives of philanthropic bodies, official press correspondents or official press photographers in Australia and who were attached, or accredited, to units allotted for operational service.

The Mothers and Widows' badge will be issued to the mothers, widows or female guardians of service men or women who were killed, or died of wounds or from any cause, while on active operations in South-East Asia or as a result of those operations.

The World War designs will be retained for both badges. Both badges will be available for immediate issue.

Applications may be made by all eligible discharged service men or women, or by mothers and widows, direct to the service concerned.

Ceremony Recalls D-Day

The foundation stone for the new nave at the Anglican Cathedral of Portsmouth (Eng.) is to be laid on June 6.

The additions, to cost £350,000, are to serve as a memorial of the D-Day landing in Normandy on June 6, 1944.

An appeal for funds has been launched with headquarters at Cathedral House, St. Thomas's Street, Old Portsmouth.

An invitation has been received at R.S.L. national headquarters in Canberra for Australian ex-service men in England at the time of the ceremony in June to be present.

Applications for seats should be made to the appeal organiser, Mr. J. D. Phillips, at the address above.

Some Recollections For Ex-P.O.W.

The W.A. branch of the Ex-P.O.W. Association held its annual commemoration service in King's Park on Sunday, February 13.

The service was conducted by the Rev. P. H. Philson (a European ex-P.O.W.) who said the day was one for reflection and memories.

When he had baled-out over Denmark during the war he had been wearing a belt which he had worn through his captivity.

"That belt has a lot of holes in it," he said. "It has been in and out, and I can recall many times when it had to be tightened. How little we had in those times, but how rich we were in fellowship.

"Even the smallest things had inestimable value."

"We are gathered here to recall some of the richest fellowships. As we live to serve God we join our comrades not with us today."

Following the service, wreaths were laid on behalf of the State Government, the City of Perth, the three services, the Red Cross, the British Ex-Service Association, the Australian Legion, the 2/4th M.G. Battalion and the W.A. branch of the ex-P.O.W. Association.

The sounding of the Last Post was a fitting climax to an impressive ceremony.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Douglas Kendrew, has graciously accepted the association's invitation to honour it as patron.

His Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Casey, is patron-in-chief of the federal body.

Attention!

ALL FARMERS
RE SHEARING

Government Asked To Revive Land Scheme

The National Executive has been in touch with the Commonwealth Government on the question of reviving the War Service Land Settlement scheme in respect of men returned from Vietnam and Malaysia.

State President Pearson said this at the Geraldton branch conference on February 26 in reply to the Gascoyne delegate. Mr Pearson said the legislation dealing with that form of rehabilitation had lapsed, but the principle had been established and it was now a matter of legislation to bring the subject up to date.

The State Lands Minister, Mr W. S. Bovill—who had opened the conference—said there would have to be an understanding between the State and Federal Governments on the question.

The matter of State participation had not been established.

The Gascoyne delegate said inquiries about the scheme had been made in his area by two members with sons in Vietnam and Malaya.

Decision On Bands For Anzac Day

Representatives of 10 unit associations and eight members of the State Executive met at Anzac House on January 26 to make arrangements for this year's Anzac Day parade.

Reporting to the Executive at its February meeting State President Pearson said it had been agreed to revert to the pre-1965 arrangements for the location of the bands.

They would thus be dispersed throughout the column of marchers.

It was hoped that a flashing-light system would be installed at the Barrack-street intersection with Riverside-drive in time for Anzac Day.

1916-1966

To all who served the call is clear

Join the League in its Golden Year

Resume On National Executive

At the State Executive meeting on March 21 State President Pearson gave a resume on proceedings at last month's meeting of the National Executive in Canberra.

At that meeting, he said, life-membership of the League had been conferred on the Governor-General, Lord Casey. Reverting to the tributes paid him, his Excellency had been pleased for League endeavours to cultivate friendships with both Commonwealth and neighbouring Asian countries.

Australia's destiny lay as a member of the family of the East-Asian nations, he said, and that friendship was clearly to be sought.

At the same time, he had urged the necessity of standing behind the Government in its stand on Vietnam and containing world communism.

The R.S.L. history that the national body had sponsored—in connection with the League's jubilee year—was to be published about June, a little later than expected, Mr Pearson said.

The book was expected to cost about $4.50.

The question of the League's change of name had been dealt with.

A report on Vietnam had been received from Messrs W. Hall and R. Bunting—State President, respectively, of Victoria and Papua-New Guinea.

They had made on-the-spot inquiries among Australian troops there late last year in respect of morale, the quality of the equipment on issue, and food-parcels.

They had found the morale of the troops extremely high and considered the Australians as well equipped as any soldiers to take the field.

The troops had been happy over their associations with the Americans and also with the food parcels from Australia.

They had complimented the League on the contents of the parcels and had expressed amazement that the League should have sent representatives to the forward areas.

Mr Pearson said it was expected that some 80 per cent of the men would join the League on their return to Australia.

The mission had found the fighting men confident in themselves and in their training. They knew what they were fighting for. But they had been a little restless about reports reaching them of some small pockets of uncertainty back in Australia and felt that their own country was not entirely behind them.

Mr Pearson said the executive had considered the proposals of its defence committee and had made one or two alterations.

It had been decided to make representations to the Commonwealth Government for the striking of a Vietnam medal.

WAR VETERANS' HOME

HAS GAMES WIN

War Veterans' Home residents were victorious over a Belmont sub-branch team in a games competition at the home on February 25:

They won 11 games to seven. The occasion was the first of a series of contests for the year between home residents and members of the sub-branch and their wives.

Also present were members of the Mt. Helena and Childlow's sub-branches.

At supper the gathering was welcomed by the home superintendent, Major O. Howes, who expressed the pleasure of the residents at the visit and spoke of the friendly spirit engendered by the games.

In response, Belmont sub-branch president E. Jolley thanked Major Howes and the staff and residents for the pleasant evening and expressed the hope that with a little more practice Belmont would be able to beat the veterans next time.

The next series will be held during May.

Some Belmont members and their wives hope to visit the Hills sub-branches at Childlow's on April 23 for a sports evening.

Welfare Work Continues

At this month's meeting of the State Executive the chairman of the Welfare and Relief Committee, Mr S. A. Mantell, said 37 applications had been considered since the previous meeting and assistance granted.

He said a complete review of the Aged Soldiers’ Pensions legislation was in hand in certain alterations.

A total of 83 Christmas parcels had been distributed.
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Glen Forrest To Fore in Games Contest

With only one fixture left in the current series, the Glen Forrest team emerged from the Wooroloo Shield games contest at Wooroloo last month in an unassailable position.

A good roll-up of members from the competing Hills sub-branches had gathered for one of the best rounds ever held.

At 8.15 p.m. Wooroloo sub-branch president Ralph Badfield welcomed 30 players and asked organizer Ken Clements to read the progress scores and the games for the night.

This was promptly attended to and another round of the competition was off to a good start. Competition was so keen that the Childlow's team did not win a single game—for the first time in the history of the competition. However, both victors and vanquished enjoyed the excitement and some three hours of good fellowship.

At the completion of the round points-scores were as follows: Glen Forrest, 33; Childlow's, 21; Wooroloo, 18; Mundaring, 18; Darlington, 15; Mt. Helena, 13.

The supper and refreshments were good, the competition keen and comradeship first-class as always on these occasions.

The Loyal Toast and that for Absent and Fallen Comrades were proposed and a short silence observed after recitation of the R.S.L. ode.

These were the only pronouncements that indicated the identity of the gathering.

Among those present was Mr Alan Cooper (State Executive) who always willing to give a hand to any sub-branch short of competitors.

The last round in the series will be held at Mundaring on March 23, and the shield presentation ceremony at Glen Forrest probably in April.

Standing By At Shenton Park

For the Shenton Park sub-branch another year has passed, with the same old stalwarts coming along to the meetings.

Fred Watts has taken on the presidency again, with George Pringle as secretary, Eddie Pumphrey and Garret Glue as vice-president—not a bad mob to say “good evening” to, yet why not roll up on the first Wednesday each month?

The sub-branch has decided to hold a number of social evenings throughout the year. Two will be held by the time you read this, but others will be coming up, so watch out. All will be welcome.

Local members were sorry to hear of Mrs. Herb Tonkin's illness and wish her a speedy recovery. G.S.

Old Name Goes By The Board

By formal resolution this month the State Executive approved the League's change of name to The Returned Services League of Australia, in accordance with policy.

The old name—The Returned Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia—was discarded in favour of one recommended by the National Executive acting under the authority of last year's National Congress in Adelaide. The State Executive determined the way for the necessary local arrangements. These include registration of the name-change with the authorities.

REUNION AT BRUNSWICK

Many surrounding sub-branches had been represented at the annual reunion at Brunswick Junction recently and the occasion proved most enjoyable. Mr. G. E. F. Chell reported at this month's executive meeting.

Mr. Chell said that in addressing the gathering he had emphasised the War Veterans' Home and the League's membership drive.

1916-1966
To all who served the call is clear
Join the League in its Golden Year
The Membership Figure At
Geraldton Never Better

With the Collett Cup on display as testimony
Mr John Spendlove told of a most successful
year for the Geraldton sub-branch in his an-
nual presidential report recently.

Mr Spendlove was re-
lected president for his
second term.

The highlight had been
the fact that the com-
munity had achieved the
target it had set itself in
a membership drive.

At the start of the year
it had aimed at bringing the
membership to 300; it had risen to the high-
est number in the sub-
branch's history—303.

CUP WON BACK
The Collett Cup had
been recaptured from
Albany, and the trophy
was now regarded as the
best country sub-branch for
the previous two years.

Mr Spendlove thanked
members for their
achievement.

Under the leadership of
Mr W. J. Wilson the sub-
branch had conducted the Churchill Memori-
ial appeal. Much work
had been entailed, and the
president thanked Mr Wilson and his many
helpers.

The 1965 annual re-
union had proved a great
success and was the
“event of the year” with a
total full attendance.

The Geraldton Slow-
learning Children's Group had been
presented with a cheque for
$388, the money raised by
a fete at Birdwood House organised by
Mr Bill Cunningsham (Thanks were extended
to him and all others who helped).

The sub-branch had been the first to step
forward and help the
Police and Citizens' Youth Club appeal.
A “mile of pennies” had
raised $69.04.

ANZAC DAY
The 50th anniversary of
Anzac Day celebration
had attracted a good at-
endance at both the
dawn service and parade.
The service outside
Birdwood House was
well attended and it was
pleasant to see many of
the older generation
leading the parade while
two original Anzacs
were on the saluting
dais.
**TALE OF TWO WARS**

*(From the R.S.L. Journal “Mutiny”)*

Now in Sydney after an absence of over 20 years from Australia is Mr. Arthur Montague, who won fame in the Great War as the mascot of 6th Division (1st A.I.F.).

The story of Arthur Montague (or Monty as the troops had named him) was introduced to readers of “Reveille,” the N.S.W. League Journal, in its August, 1932 issue. Monty was a d-du m-due- or-“Reveille” related, was an orphan and homeless waif aged 15 running unbridled around the forward areas of French battlefields. When the Battalion of Australians heard of his valiant work he was granted permission to stay in Australia and become a naturalised subject in 1924.

In Adelaide he was placed under arrest but when the Germans heard of his valiant work he was granted permission to stay in Australia and become a naturalised subject in 1924.

His last job there was that of executive catering-officer to Twentieth Century Fox Studios, Hollywood; and he only returned in the remaining year before the war.
Big League Gift To Chapel Fund

A League donation of $3,000 to the War Veterans’ Home chapel fund was agreed to by the State Executive at its meeting on March 2.

The decision followed a report by the chairman of the War Veterans’ Home Committee, Dr. A. King, which put the level of the appeal at $2,812.80. Of that amount $1,130 had been provided by the general public and the balance by the sub-branches and auxiliaries.

"We are off to a good start with the appeal and should see more coming in this month," said Dr. King.

But to have the building ready in time for National Congress (to be held in Perth this year during October), he went on, it would be necessary to have a substantial amount in hand by the end of the month.

The League donation thus raises the amount in hand in the appeal fund early this month to over $5,812.

The appeal target is $16,000.

Following the executive decision to donate $1,500 Dr. King was successful with a motion seeking authorisation for the committee to proceed with the plans for the chapel when the appeal total reaches the halfway mark—$8,000.

[On going to press the progress total of appeal was $5,890.90.]

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Spacious colonial style of "Pineville" features large living and dining areas, carport under main roof, three bedrooms, functional floor plan and all the R.D.C. quality appointments.

New Member Makes His Bow

Mr. Roy Carter, president of the Public Service sub-branch took his place on the State Executive for the first time at this month's meeting.

Replying to a word of welcome by State President Pearson, Mr. Carter said he was proud—on behalf of his sub-branch and himself—to be invited to join the executive.

It would be quite an experience for sub-branch members to sit-in on executive meetings and observe the great amount of business dealt with at State level. He hoped to be able to make some contribution himself.

His own sub-branch was trying to help the cause. The fee-increase seemed to be making little difference to its membership.

Narrogin Is To Plan Jubilee Observance

The Narrogin sub-branch intends to arrange a League-jubilee celebration in the town later this year.

The sub-branch has started the year with a few changes in the committee.

Ted Watson has taken over the presidential chair with George Hill and John Cranfield as vice-presidents.

Harry Digwood is the new secretary, and George Morre is treasurer.

Vin Dawson is to act as assistant-secretary, and Stuart Mainland and Geoff Beasley will deal with publicity and personnel respectively.

The Committee comprises Tom Porter, Cyril Hall, Owen Farmer, Arney Speed, George Sutton, Ted Turner, George Jamieson and Harry Hansen.

The Scouts and Guides, who have been using the R.S.L. hall for a long time, will soon be moving to their own hall.

Meanwhile the sub-branch aims to finance the electrical wiring of their hall, so fund-raising for this project will be the new committee's first responsibility.

Visited the Anzac Club Lately?
Interim Defence Submission For 1966

Here is the text of the League's interim defence submission for 1966 to the Commonwealth Government. The final submission is to be made on March 12.

The past year has been one of historic significance and one with far-reaching implications for Australia. It was the year in which the country was committed into a war, not merely a token, sense to a land war in Asia.

While other events in the same period were of more than usual importance, they were overshadowed by the immensity of the decision reached and the action taken on Vietnam.

It should be stated immediately that the decision to commit Australian forces in Vietnam has the wholehearted support of the Returned Services League.

The weight of available evidence overwhelmingly supports the view that, however many South Vietnamese are involved, the war is instigated and is sustained by North Vietnam acting with the support and the management of Red China.

Claims made by both Peking and Hanoi are sufficient alone to dismiss any objections to this conclusion.

Red China has made clear her intention of communising, or in Communist jargon "liberating," all the countries of South-East Asia.

Evidence of the implementation of this policy is abundant. Only recently an announcement was made that an apparatus had been set up to "liberate" Thailand.

Communist subversion continues to be a major problem in the border areas of Malaya.

RED INFLUENCE

The influence of Red China has had disastrous results for any stable government in Laos.

For most practical purposes Burma and Cambodia are within the Commonwealth sphere of influence, and in Indonesia, a country where the influence of China was manifest before World War II, evidence of Communist methods have been exposed and condemned by the Indonesians themselves following the abortive September 30 coup.

If further evidence was required of Red China's long-term objectives, and of the policies of aggression which she has here declared, we need look no further than Africa.

In an incredibly naive statement Premier Chou en-Lai recently announced to the African nations that many of them were "ripe for revolution."

Faced with the prospect, in at least two cases, of a non-aggression agreement directed from Peking to a land-war in Asia, it is difficult to see how any nation would be convinced that its safety was not entirely in doubt.

History has established repeatedly that in dealing with dictators the worst course is one of inaction on which aggression occurs.

If the decision, unhappily, must be postponed then it will have to be made later under far less favourable conditions.

Fundamentally only two alternatives exist in Vietnam.

ALTERNATIVE

The second is for the Free World, including the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Korea, to withdraw their forces as the communists demand, leaving South Vietnam to the mercy of Red China, Hanoi and the Viet Cong.

The League believes that this cannot be a policy that must be adopted.

Australia has a great responsibility in this situation. The future security of the region is dependent upon the security of the Southern nations of South-East Asia.

RECOMMENDED

The following recommendations, arising out of the 50th National Congress, represent the League's views on various matters of defence policy and are made for the Government's consideration:

1. Regular citizen and training elements of Australia's defence forces should be adequate to meet our commitments at home and in the Far East.

2. The League urges that the following steps should be taken:

(a) We should be capable of defending Australia against likely attacks for a reasonable period without assistance.

(b) Our fighting units should be equipped with tactical nuclear weapons to guarantee a proper balance between our own forces and those of any possible aggressor.

(c) Conditions of service should be such as to attract the best of Australia's youth to a service career.

(d) A united call by national leaders should be made to the people of Australia, clearly stating our strategy in the Far East and the need for loyal and selfless service in the interests of building and security of the nation.

FUNDAMENTAL

These principles are based on the fundamental belief that, while the first element in our defence must of necessity be alliances with powerful and reliable friends, these must be accepted as a supplement to and not a substitute for our own defence forces.

THE C.M.F.

Recognising that the security of Australia will rest most heavily on the ability of the Australian forces to present an outstanding display of hostilities, the League urges that the following steps should be taken:

(Continued on Page 11)
A POEM MAY HAVE SAVED LIVES

With acknowledgement to "Review", official journal of the New Zealand R.S.A.

By HERBERT FAIRLIE WOOD

To the young officers attending the first peacetime Staff College course at Camberley after the first world war the whole idea of going back to school had been a lark.

Not only had they survived the greatest conflagration in history, they had, before being selected to attend the course, been staff officers and commanders of the largest and most modern army that Britain had ever put into the field.

"We were very pleased with ourselves," one of them recalled in after years, "and we were, of course, Regulars."

They were not to remain in this pleasant state of mind for long. The commandant of the Staff College, General Hastings Anderson, had tolerated their youthful exuberance throughout the course.

Under the circumstances it had been understandable. But he was in no mood to let them depart into the world to which they had been assigned without a parting warning. He felt, too, that he had at hand a way to drive them home.

As for the students, as they filed cheerfully into Rawlinson Hall to hear the closing address, they were quite unaware of what was coming.

If they thought about it at all they probably expected that they would be told how clever they were and how talented, for had they not had a hand before, this superfluous course in the great victories that had brought the Central Powers to their knees?

They were experts at war before the course; this had merely been a sort of finishing school.

As the commandant rose to speak, therefore, there was a healthy spectacle of silence upon his owing to one of his rank. He strode to the lectern, put down his notes, gazed around at his audience and, to a stunned and unbelieving group of graduates, began to read a poem—a poem many of them had not heard before. It went like this:

In Flanders fields the poppies blow,

Philip Neame was there.

He had won the Victoria Cross in 1914 and he would go on to rank of lieutenant general in the second world war with a world-wide reputation as a desert fighter in North Africa.

There, too, sat George Randolph Pearkes, a young Canadian V.C. who many years later took a distinguished career as Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia.

But there is one more who must not be left out. Major Alan F. Brooke, D.S.O., Royal Artillery, fresh from distinguished service with the Canadian Corps in France as an artillery staff officer, was also present when "Flanders Fields" was read by the staff college commandant.

Throughout most of the second world war he was Chief of the Imperial General Staff, charged with planning operations on a global scale.

It is possible to believe that on that far-off day John McCrae's poem so stirred him; and all those others, that they strove thereafter so to learn their art that never again, if they had not to do it, would valour be sacrificed to inefficiency.

If so, the magic of those words has had a deeper result than has been generally comprehended. They may have saved thousands of lives. John McCrae would have liked this. He spent the whole of his adult life attempting to do just that.

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ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT, ANZAC HOUSE, ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE, PERTH ANY TIME
A successful year socially and financially was reported by president E. McGuckin at the recent annual general meeting of the West Leederville-Wembley-Floreat Park sub-branch. His report continued:

"Firstly I would like to say thanks to the members for their faith in electing me president for 1966.

"I would like to thank the office-bearers of this sub-branch for their support. They have given me, and I am hoping to receive the same co-operation for the coming year and feel quite confident that the same comradeship will exist during the next 12 months ahead.

"During the year this branch was unfortunate, like most sub-branches, to have a few members pass on: members whom we cannot replace.

"To their relatives I would like to extend my deepest sympathy.

"Our first important function of the year was supporting the Churchhill committee. This sub-branch was allotted a section of Leederville and West Leederville for the collection, which took the form of a door-knock appeal.

"Thanks to our members, and a few volunteers from the district, we were able to support the appeal to the extent of $224, which was quite good under the circumstances.

"The Anzac Day service was conducted in an entirely different manner from that of past years. Members were on parade at 8.30 a.m. at the entrance to the Leederville Town Hall and a short march took them to the memorial in the town square, where the wreath-laying ceremony took place followed by the reading of names of service men and women who were killed in action or who died of wounds.

"The sounding of the Last Post and Reveille completed the service.

"My thanks to Mr. Goplin and the Boy Scouts who manned the memorial during the service, and to the Girl Guides and Brownies who gave their usual support.

"Service

"The service was favourably commented on by those who attended.

"About 20 members attended the Salvation Army Anzac service on the Sunday evening in the Sir John Forrest Park Cenotaph, and I feel sure our presence there was appreciated by Captain Linzell and the congregation.

"A sub-branch team competed in the A.R.M.S. Games but was unable to make any contact. My congratulations to Gloucester Park on winning the shield, and to Woodside Cup, Mt. Hawthorn; also to our sports director, Mr. Ernie Tonkinson.

"Our rifle team made history for the sub-branch by winning the Yellow Cab Cup for the best average of all sub-branches. My congratulations to the rifle team, and for the coming year may I say: Keep your eye on the bull and retain the cup!

"The annual reunion was held in October, and the attendance was a vast improvement on that of the previous year. Although the State President was unable to attend he had a worthy substitute in Dr. Hanrahan.

"Catering and table decorations were once again handled by our Auxiliary, which, to the satisfaction of all who attended.

"The annual sweep on the Melbourn Cup was conducted as usual. Thanks to the efforts of our secretary, a number of members and the ladies auxiliary, who sold poppies in the district and at the city stand.

"Presentations

"At the annual reunion certificates of service were presented to Clarrie Cadd and Alex Hood. These two members have been in service for the sub-branch for many years, and I know they will treasure the award.

"At our 1964 Christmas Party a certificate was also presented to Eric Frazier for his sterling efforts as president and sports director, and my congratulations go to these three gentlemen.

"Two social evenings were held during the year—one organised by the sub-branch and the other by the auxiliary.

"All members who attended expressed their feelings of gratitude to us, so if we are to continue holding social nights members must realise we need their support to make any event really successful.

"Mr. C. Bolton was again our hospital visitor. Thanks, Cee, for being so attentive to members, not only in Hollywood but in their homes and various other hospitals!

"Committee meetings were held on the first Monday each month when necessary, and well attended by the office-bearers. My thanks to them for their support.

"The annual Christmas Party was held in December, and had possibly the largest attendance for many years, which is encouraging for 1966. We enjoyed the company of the State President and although it was his first visit to our hall, I feel we can look forward to further visits in the near future.

"Our membership figure was about 20 more than for 1964. The fee of $3, and I am hoping that the increase will make the necessary effect on membership of the branch and the League.

"I would like to wish all members and their families a very prosperous 1966."

---

**The Vietnam Campaign**

The R.S.L. regards the campaign in Vietnam as vital to long-term security in the Far East. State President Percy Pearson said this at the Geraldton group conference on February 26.

In an ex-service man's view, he said, Vietnam was the battlefield on which the expansion of international communism must be held.

It was imperative that the troops serving there should be made aware of the wholehearted support and encouragement of the nation.

---

**Nominated For Board Job**

The State Executive Board at its meeting agreed to the nomination of Messrs. L. Howard, W. Webb and B. Buckle as a panel from which an ex-servicemen's representative will be selected for the Repatriation Board.

Mr. Howard is a former Air Force Association president, Mr. Webb the R.S.L. State Secretary and Mr. Buckle a League Trustee.
LEAGUE’S INTERIM DEFENCE SUBMISSION (from Page 8)

(a) The C.M.F. should be expanded to a force of at least five divisions.

(b) Its organisation should be such that the opportunity exists for every suitable applicant in every area to enlist and serve.

(c) Training equipment should be the best available and the opportunity should be given for training in tropical areas under operational conditions.

(d) Conditions of service should be commensurate with the contribution made by those who volunteer and should include leave, pay, travel and compensation provisions.

(e) There should be a concerted appeal from national and civic leaders to attract young men to the ranks of the C.M.F. and to ensure that they receive the status and recognition that are their due.

CONSIDERATIONS

It is clear that the possibility of a world nuclear war is remote. It is the belief that any nation would take the step which must inevitably result in its own total destruction.

Therefore, it seems logical that our planning should be based on the type of war occurring in South-East Asia at the present time—principally infiltration, subversion and guerrilla operations.

Should this ever occur in Australia it would undoubtedly be accompanied by some sort of direct threat from one or more sides.

The only answer to this type of war is an armed and determined populace possessing some degree of military training.

A C.M.F. of great strength, spread throughout Australia and made up of people serving in their own formations under their own commanders, would produce this result.

Within this large and flexible framework every populated area could be guaranteed some measure of organised protection.

Added to this is the very big contribution such a C.M.F. could make in providing training opportunities for young people in the appropriate age groups.

National Service

Having regard to the obviously long-term and indefinite nature of the threat to Australia the Returned Services League urges the adoption of a progressive policy concerning the training of Australian youth to meet any emergency, such a policy to incorporate the following provisions:

(a) The present scheme incorporating two years’ continuous service with overseas obligations, to be expanded as rapidly as possible to ensure the maintenance of a Regular Army division together with a sizeable reserve of trained manpower.

(b) A supplementary scheme to be introduced to provide for the training of a large number of men in conjunction with the Citizen Military Forces to enable the expansion of the regular army to at least five divisions.

(c) The introduction of a system of national service providing service in the non-technical components of the R.A.N. and R.A.A.F.

(d) Provision for the registration and the call-up of aliens in the appropriate age group providing the parents have been in Australia for sufficient time to become naturalised, or the immigrant himself has been here for the same length.

REALISTIC

Having regard to the very-long-term nature of Australia’s defence commitments in the highly populated area of South-East Asia it must be recognised that non-existent defence planning would be put into effect without a programme for the training of the nation’s youth.

National service is an essential ingredient of defence planning, and it is here to stay.

The extent to which it is undertaken and the various conditions under which it operates are the only matters to which policy consideration can be given.

Defence Measures—Papua and New Guinea

As the Territory of Papua and New Guinea constitutes a vital element in the front line of Australia’s defence system, the League requests that early action be taken to expand defence measures in the territory by the following means:

(a) The acceleration of plans to increase the strength of the Pacific Island Regiment to a full battalion.

(b) The expansion of the Papua and New Guinea Volunteer Rifles so that units of administrative training officer, W.O., are established in those areas in which the training can be satisfactorily maintained, and that the present system be developed on the basis on which further citizen defence measures can be expanded.

(c) That a comprehensive system of defensive bases be established in a territory to permit the stationing of regular units of Australia’s armed forces for the area to provide for both advanced methods of training and, if necessary, for operational duties.

(d) That the plans for a system of fast patrol craft operating in the waters of Papua and New Guinea be expanded and expedited, and that the equipment required be provided without delay.

(e) That greater em- phasis be placed on the work of the New Guinea coast-watch organisation; such units should be permanent, and the organisation be brought to state of readiness to cope with wartime conditions.

(f) That there be a rapid expansion of the border area adjoining West Irian, the survey at present being expanded, as rapidly as possible and all necessary arrangements be taken to prevent any form of infiltration.

(g) That a census of the population of Papua and New Guinea be undertaken with a view to future development of the territory.

(h) That the introduction of C.M.F. unit cadets be expanded to provide training for young people not at present being provided with a school that produces a cadet unit.

(i) The provision of improved equipment and training facilities and an increase in the number of instructors to ensure that the training programmes are realistic and maintain and cultivate interest.

(j) The provision of ways in which the sea and air cadet corps can be expanded and improved.

(k) The provision of an incentive to enlist in cadet corps by deducting one year’s training from any cadet’s National Service obligations where these are to be undertaken with the C.M.F., provided that such training is undertaken within a reasonable period after completion of cadet service.

(l) An investigation into ways in which an effective appeal can be made by our community leaders to the young people of Australia to take part in cadet training and so make their contribution to national defence at the earliest possible time.

 Honour For Two At Geraldton

At the annual reunion of the Geraldton sub-branch last month two stalwarts—Messrs. Hal Jones and Andy McDonald—were each presented with Certificate of Service by State President Pearson.

Mr. Jones was assistant-secretary for a period and Mr. McDonald for other cadet activities, including the running of appeals for the War Veterans’ Home.

Mr. McDonald was present at the 1960 and 1962, and has also helped publicise the activities of the sub-branch and the League generally.

He said his certificate would find a proud place beside that conferred on him following two years’ presidency of Manjimup.
McKinlay Shield Games
(Results to end of Round 8)

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Women's Auxiliary Notes
Anzac House "At Home"
On May 2

An auxiliary "At Home" is to be held at Anzac House at 2 p.m. on Monday, May 2.

This was decided at the presidents and secretaries' meeting held on February 18 and attended by representatives of the Brookton, Bullsbrook, Cogarow, Rocky Gully and various metropolitan sub-branches.

The charge for afternoon-tea has been fixed at 20 cents, which secretaries are asked to collect and forward to the State Secretary by April 22.

Secretaries are to issue each member with a card bearing the auxiliary stamp as an admission card.

That support this effort: don't have it cancelled for lack of support as happened to the previous effort.

FEBRUARY 16: Mrs. Ames attended a Miss Crownings Glory meeting.

FEBRUARY 18: Presidents and secretaries meeting; C. M. H. visited by M. Midgley.

Mr. Crewe, President, attended a meeting of the Legacy and representatives had been delighted with the support their motion had received.

The sub-branch intended to proceed with the erection of a local home for veterans, he said.

Home For Old Diggers
A resolution at the Geraldton group conference on February 26 gave support in principle for the extension to Geraldton of the League's war-veterans' home scheme.

Good Year Recorded
At Upper Swan
At the annual general meeting of the Upper Swan sub-branch on February 24, President Hughie de Burgh reported another good year of achievement.

U.K. Role
East Of Suez
The League had watched with close interest the published reports of the meeting of Australian and British defence ministers, in which Britain's role in the Middle East had been the prime topic for discussion.

National President A. J. Lee said this recently.

In that respect it was reflecting the concern of all thinking Australians, he said.

The League believed it imperative that any subsequent planning be undertaken by consultation and agreement with representatives of the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and the United States, and that the United Kingdom should continue to play its part in containing the advance of communism in this part of the world.

The Government would be urged to proceed more rapidly with the development of bases already being worked out for Australian requirements in order to contribute to a continuing British role in South-East Asia and the Pacific.
DEALING WITH VIET CONG PROPAGANDA

Government policy regarding the importation into Australia of Viet Cong propaganda films was recently placed before the League by Defence Minister Fairhall.

He was replying to League representations based on a resolution of last year's National Congress, and said:

"I refer to your letter of December 10, 1965, regarding the importation and screening of Viet Cong propaganda films, and to the Acting-Minister's interim reply of December 14.

"I appreciate the concern of your Congress and assure you that this matter is under close and constant review.

"There is, as you imply, legislation under which the entry and screening of imported films may be controlled if they are thought to be in the public interest or to be offensive to the people of a friendly nation.

"Action is taken under this legislation whenever it is considered necessary.

"For example, the Minister for Customs and Excise recently imposed a ban on the propaganda film "Hit the U.S. Aggressor" which was produced in Peking and concerns the war in Vietnam.

"Nevertheless, the Government's policy is to use these powers with restraint in the present circumstances.

"In the long run the Government feels that in a democratic society enlightened public opinion is the most effective means of combating propaganda.

"To this end the Government has sought to keep the Australian people well informed through official statements, parliamentary debates, the publication of an extended range of information material and co-operation with and briefing of communications media."

Anniversary Reunion
Of Tobruk "Rats"

The Rats of Tobruk Association is arranging a world-wide reunion in Canberra of its members on Easter Saturday (April 9).

Easter marks the 25th anniversary of the commencement of the siege of Tobruk, where British forces succeeded in bringing the German armed forces to a halt for the first time in the World War.

It is anticipated that at least 1,000 former members of all forces which took part in the siege will be attending the reunion.

About 500 of these, representing all the States of the Commonwealth and New Guinea, have already registered with the organisers of the function.

The formal commemoration will begin in the Canberra Theatre Centre on Good Friday evening. On the Saturday afternoon a wreath-laying ceremony and service at the Australian War Memorial will be led by a former commander of the 9th Australian Division, Major-General Sir George Wootten.

In the evening there will be dinner at Queanbeyan and another in Canberra, which will be attended by Lady Morrishead and about 500 wives and children.

Those wishing to attend should write to the secretary, J. C. T. Branch, Rats of Tobruk Association (P.O. Box 101, Canberra City), or the secretary, W. A. Division, Rats of Tobruk Association, Mr D. Kilpatrick (P.O. Box 44, Nedlands), immediately.

F. A. I.
MOTOR VEHICLE
COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE

No claim Bonus up to 50% which is NOT forfeited through:

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(b) Any accident not the fault of the driver

Existing No Claim Bonus rate with other insurer is transferable.

No EXTRA premium or fee for hire purchase vehicles. Volkswagens the same as any other vehicle—NO $50.00 excess.

ADDITIONAL DISCOUNTS

(a) Nominated Sole Driver .......................... 10%
(b) Nominated Husband and Wife Drivers 5%

CAR INSURANCE RATES

SPECIAL CONCESSIONAL DISCOUNT
R.S.L. MEMBERS 10%

PREMIUMS—Private use, with Maximum Bonus and Discounts from $14.12 Inclusive of Stamp Duty

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23 1945

(Member Nedlands Sub-branch)

COMMONWEALTH WIDE COVER

FIRE AND ALL RISKS
INSURANCE COMPANY

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Ministerial Warning On War Souvenirs

War souvenirs capable of killing thousands of people were recovered by Army demolition experts in the last three months of 1965.

Releasing the figures—and a warning—Army Minister Fraser said that 8,296 souvenirs had been collected. Of these, 8,146 had been live and many of them lethal.

Most of the dangerous souvenirs had been recovered from homes and gardens, and although no injuries were reported during the period several people had risked death by tampering with highly explosive projectiles.

Thirteen 36-mm. hand grenades, 37-millimetre mortars and M11A1 rifles had been collected in private homes. Experts had also examined 18 Vietnamese dolls after newspaper reports suggested that dolls sent home by servicemen could be booby-trapped. None of these dolls had contained explosives, although some were fitted with detonators and in extremely dangerous condition.

Forty-five 36-mm. hand grenades had been collected, some fitted with mines and used 614 man hours on such missions.

During the last quarter of 1965 they had travelled a total of 11,510 miles and used 760 man hours on such missions.

Experts had also examined 18 Vietnamese dolls after newspaper reports suggested that dolls sent home by servicemen could be booby-trapped. None of the dolls had contained explosives, although some were fitted with detonators and in extremely dangerous condition.

Four 25-lb. projectiles, all fused and in lethal state, had been recovered in private homes.

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During the last quarter of 1965 they had travelled a total of 11,510 miles and used 760 man hours on such missions.

Whatever your walk in life . . .

And whatever financial service you need, whether your account is large or small, a genuine welcome awaits you at any of our numerous branches. The Manager and staff will always be pleased to assist you.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA LIMITED
And its Wholly Owned Subsidiary

THE NATIONAL BANK SAVINGS BANK LIMITED

E. N. M. FINNIE, STATE MANAGER

Few Worries Over The Higher Sub.

On the evidence to date the increased subscription rate was presenting no great problems, the State President said at this month's executive meeting.

He was speaking on the membership question.

So far this year, Mr. Pearson said, the capital returns had been lagging markedly and the position called for some urgent corrective activity by the sub-branches. The organisation must be kept viable.

The new subscription rate, $3, compares with $2 previously.

Of the extra dollar the sub-branches will retain 75c, while State headquarters will gain by 25c and national headquarters by 5c.

IN TOUCH: State President Pearson was in Canberra for the National Executive meeting during the week commencing on February 6.

Visited the Anzac Club Lately?

THE LAST POST
(Deceased Members)

ANDERSON R. C., 1380, R.A.N., North Perth.
BELLEVILLE G. R., 34251, 2nd R.A.R., Nederland.
BIRD T., 3789, 51st Bn., West Leederville.
BOWEN F. T., 3rd Platoon, West Leederville.
CLATCHWORTHY L. J., 2173, 10th L.H., Glen Forrest.
COWINS A. J., WX3442, 2/3rd Rly., Como.
CURTIS A. W., 3036, 11th Bn., Central.
DESHAMPS A. C., 15179, 51st Bn., Bedford-Morley Park.
DUNCAN W. C., 51st Bn., Kellerberrin.
DYSON J. H., 5149, R.A.N., Public Service.
ELLOTT D. R., 3rd, 16th Bn., Gloucester Park.
EVANS S. W., 1816 and 5022, 33rd and 44th Bn., Albany.
FAIRGRIFFITH A. W., 4424, 2nd Div. Sig., Neelds.
GARDNER V. M., 4432, 3rd D.A.C., City of Perth.

GILCHRIST J. G., 3337, 3rd Tunn., Kalgoorlie.
KIERNAN P. J., WX3615, 2/7th Fd. Amb., Bellevue.
LEAKE H. W., 16th Bn., Como and Kununupin.
MACKellar J. F., WX3297, 1st Fd. Park, City of Perth.
MAYER A. S., 3398, 16th Bn., City of Perth.
MOCKRIDGE, E. W., 32957, 1st D.A.C., South Perth.
PINE H. N., 4203, 28th Bn., Osborne Park.
PRINCE A., WX37936, 14 A.F.D., Como.
ROSSER B., WX480, 2/11th Bn., Central.
SOUTHWARD G. C., WX15601, 2/16th Bn., Upper Swan.
STANLEY L. P., WX6035, 2/28th Bn., M.T.T.
THORNBY W. J., 3216, 51st Bn., Koondrap.
TRUMAN G. N., W61114, 7 Works Coy., Wandoowie.
WALKER S. F., WX32492, 135th Heavy A.A. Bty., Fremantle.
WILLIAMS R. R., 1761, 4th D.A.C., Northampton.

Still Time To Enter The A.R.M.S. Games

Although planning for this year's Archbishop Riley Memorial Shield games series is well in hand there is still time for any sub-branch to nominate a team.

The games under competition are bridge, small- bore rifle shooting, quoits, table tennis and darts.

With the usual number of sub-branches in the field the rounds are held at fortnightly intervals but with several additional competitors it would be necessary to hold them more frequently.

Each sub-branch in turn plays the role of host for the night's contest.

Playing dates are arranged mutually, and the competition makes for enjoyable evenings combining sport with good fellowship.

Special arrangements can be made in respect of sub-branches with no small- bore shooting facilities.

In addition to the A.R.M.S. Shield the trophies include the Yellow Cap Cup and the new Bill Holder Trophy.

A telephone-call to the games secretary at Anzac House, Mr. R. Nyman, will obtain any further details required.

Be in this: it is lots of fun.
ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICEMEN

FEDERATED T.B. SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION (WA.) BRANCH—2nd Floor, Wellington Buildings, 14, Williams Street, Subiaco. Second Monday, President, E. G. Storer; Secretary, A. W. Dunn. Weekly at 99 Wellington Road, Carlisle. Quarterly general meetings and annual reunion held at Anzac House. All members notified.

BRITISH EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION INC.—Meets the first Monday in every month at 11, Tuart Street, W.A.C.A. Ground, East Perth. Second Tuesday, President, C. A. Brown; Secretary, J. Middleton; Treasurer, 40 Collins St., South Perth (672067).

LIMBLESS SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION OF W.A.—President, F. P. King; Secretary, A. E. Creagh; Treasurer, W. W. Goffin; General Meetings—Third Monday each month except January.

R.A.E. EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Meetings held on the 1st Sunday in each month at 15, East Fremantle (392934).

ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION—General Meetings at Anzac House when called. President, A. G. Douglas; Secretary, E. E. Powell; Treasurer, M. Claymore (8627504). Committee meets on 2nd Tuesday each month. Annual Re-union, Anzac House Ballroom, 7 p.m., September 30, 1966.

48TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Meets 4th Friday in January, April, July and October at Anzac House. President, S. D. Zaleski; Secretary, W. S. Jones; Treasurer, R. J. T. Gurney. Quarterly general meetings at 8 p.m. 1st Thursday each month except January.

48TH BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION—Nominations when called. Secretary, E. J. Currie; Treasurer, W. E. Butcher (M.M., 42nd Battalion, Parade, Dalkeith (862770)). Quarterly general meetings at 8 p.m. 1st Thursday each month except January.

TOLLAND HALL MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION—Second Tuesday, President, J. T. Tait; 24 Dagmars Lane, Claremont. Quarterly general meetings at 8 p.m. 1st Thursday each month except January.

ANZAC CLUB the home of friendship!

WA EX-P.O.W. ASSOCIATION—2nd Floor, Booma (Phone 231564). President, A. Westley; 72 Millar Street, Victoria Park (66442). Secretary, H. J. Brown; 122 The Strand, Bedford Park (713581). A Quinlupin Message

The State Secretary has received the following message from the Quinlupin sub-branch.

"We sincerely thank you for your good wishes, which are heartily re-

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APPENDIX III

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"We sincerely thank you for your good wishes, which are heartily re-
'Homes' Land Scarcity Comes Under Fire

It was claimed at the Geraldton group conference last month that there was not a single block of land available at Carnarvon for war-service-homes.

The position at Geraldton was also said to be difficult, especially regarding the price of land.

State President Pearson said the problem was State-wide, and that a R.S.L. resolution had already been put into the hands of the War Service Homes Commission in Melbourne.

The subject had also been raised with the State Housing Commission and the Minister for Housing, Mr. D. H. O'Neil.

A Gascoyne delegate said he had heard that some land was to be opened up at Brown Range, near the tracking station in the Carnarvon area.

He urged representation for some of the blocks to be allocated for war-service homes.—B.J.B.

R.S.L. Will Press For Vietnam Medal

The R.S.L. intends to urge the Federal Government to strike a special medal for Australian troops serving in South Vietnam.

This was revealed by two senior League officials on their return on January 30, from a fact-finding mission to Vietnam and Malaysia.

They are the Victorian State President, Mr. W. H. Hall, and New Guinean Mr. Hubert Flutz.

Mr Hall is chairman of the R.S.L.'s defence committee.

Each said he was struck by the high morale of Australian troops they had seen. They were magnificent.

The only complaints they had heard concerned the supply of local papers and the lack of Australian beer.

Their big hope was for a medal to be struck for the Vietnam War. Mr. Hall said:

"They certainly deserve one, because this is a terrible war. The South Vietnamese and the Americans have already struck their own medals."

Mr Bunting said: "Conditions are tough, but the troops are happy and comfortable."

"I believe they are dedicated and am convinced they are doing a good job."

"I think they felt before our visit that Australia was not taking much notice of the war and did not think it was serious. But they now realise that Australians are aware of what is going on and fully support them."

The officials said Australian newspapers were about ten days old by the time they reached Vietnam, although it took only a day or a half to fly there.

There was plenty of American, German and South Vietnamese beer available, they said.

Mr Hall said the Australians were gradually improving conditions at their base at Bien Hoa.

Good New Year Start Made at Boulder

The first meeting of the Boulder sub-branch for 1966 was held on February 17 with a good attendance of members.

President Tom, Castlehow, obviously pleased to get back into harness again, is already planning activities for the year which promises to make it a busy one.

In his report secretary Teddy McMahon remarked on the number of letters received this time of the year from members who had left the district. Some were in other States and one was far away as New Zealand.

These chaps still retain their membership, and it was indeed pleasing to know that they still wish to hold their interest in the League through the Boulder sub-branch.

The sub-branch has acquired a piece of land adjoining the memorial hall and clubrooms, of about a half-acre from the Boulder Council at a peppercorn rental.

The council has further assisted by grading and graveling the area which is used as a members' car park, and is an asset to both branch and club.

Gestures such as this have always been a part of the Boulder Council's policy, and are much appreciated by the sub-branch.

1916-1966

To all who served the call is clear Join the League in its Golden Year

The High Standard of quality never varies.

WATSONIA

Butter, Hams, Bacon and Canned Meats

Send It In For Publication — But Be On Time

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 reminiscences, 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.