Another Worthy Crowning Glory Contest

The Miss Crowning Glory competition this year can be classed as the fourth best in the series of seven. About £5,000 was raised, bringing the total netted since the inception of the series to over £37,000.

The League and Legacy, which share the proceeds, have thus averaged better than £5,000 a year between them.

The competition was again very well supported by those organisations who sponsored candidates; however, the shortage of candidates—only 26 were nominated—showed up in the final figures.

For the competition to be completely successful each year the minimum number facing the judges should not be less than 30, and would be even better at 35 or 40.

Nevertheless, the joint committee has been pleased with the result, and there is no doubt that its members will be prepared to work hard next year in an endeavour to build up the numbers.

The committee would like to extend its thanks to all sponsoring organisations and their candidates, to Ansett A.N.A., Boans Ltd, the Joyce Epler Modelling School, J. C. Taylor and Co., the judges and comperes.

Without the aid of those mentioned this annual event could not continue to be successful.

**PRIZE-LIST**

- First: Miss Susan Hunter, of North Perth—sponsored by the Mt. Hawthorn R.S.L. sub-branch and auxiliary.
- Second: Miss Patricia King, of East Victoria Park—sponsored by the R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary State Executive.
- Third: Miss Beverley J. Hunt, of Bayswater—sponsored by the Bayswater-Meltham R.S.L. sub-branch.
- Special prizes for the country and metropolitan candidates who raised most money went to Miss Carol Fulwood, of Cunderdin (£516/3/) and Miss Dallas J. Regan, of Innaloo (£510/1/10).
- As well these two girls—and the following entrants—each received a wrist-watch (valued at 20 guineas and donated by Mr D. A. Freecorn) for having raised over £200:
  - Marsha Retallack (£220)—sponsored by Western Districts R.S.L. auxiliaries.
  - Marline Mitchell (£387/18/)—sponsored by Narrogin R.S.L.
  - Shirley Gilbert (£330)—sponsored by Boans Medina Social Club.
  - Helen Black (£306/7/5)—sponsored by Bunbury Torchbearer Club.
  - Margaret Goldspink (£300)—sponsored by Bel levue R.S.L. Auxiliary.
  - Barbara McDougall (£275/12/6)—sponsored by Arthur River R.S.L.
  - Maureen O'Bryan (£250/2/6)—sponsored by Boans' Social and Sporting Club.

- It has been decided to conduct another Miss Crowning Glory competition next year.

This year's winner, Miss Susan Hunter of North Perth, is pictured above being crowned by Transport Minister R. J. O'Connor (deputising for the Premier, Mr. Brand).

Miss Hunter was sponsored by the Mt. Hawthorn R.S.L. sub-branch.
The Usual Good-Fellowship At Mt. Barker

The Mt. Barker sub-branch R.S.L. reunion dinner was held this year at the Mt. Barker Hotel on November 26.

The Mt. Barker sub-branch R.S.L. reunion dinner was held this year at the Mt. Barker Hotel on November 26.

As was expected, urgent seasonal farming activities prevented the attendance of a number of members. Despite this, a good company enjoyed excellent fare and service, plus all the merriment usually generated by gatherings of diggers.

Guests of the evening were Messrs. F. T. Gomm (country vice-president), W. T. Frost (shire president), J. Brazil, R. Garrett and C. Phillipson (president, secretary and vice-president respectively of Albany Sub-branch), G. Bickell (president, Cranbrook), G. Barnes and K. Miller (president and secretary of Rocky Gully).

The toast-list was in the hands of Mr. E. Mead.

Responding to the toast to the State Executive, Mr. Gomm congratulated Mt. Barker on its greatly increased membership during the year, and stressed the importance and scope of the tremendous amount of work undertaken in an honorary capacity by many members of the executive.

Shire president Frost briefly traced the circumstances which led to the demolition of the old memorial club hall that stood at the south-eastern corner of the junction of Lowood and Langton roads.

Enrolments had just topped the 100 mark. Actually the position was akin to that of the Deanna Durbin musical "A Hundred Men and A Girl", because the membership had just reached 100.

Mr. Frost paid special tribute to past sub-branch president A. G. Whiteside, under whose patient and sincere leadership negotiations were started with the then road board to secure an alternative site for an R.S.L. hall.

The upshot, with the cooperation of Mt. Barker Apex Club, was a concerted effort by all three bodies in the building of the fine civic centre at Mt. Barker.

Sub-branch president R. Bell expressed his appreciation of the excellent attendance of members at all meetings, of their willingness to undertake work for the sub-branch, and of their general good-fellowship, all of which made his work as leader a very happy duty.

At the conclusion of the dinner all present adjourned to the Memorial Hall where games and convivial conversation continued to a late hour.

Message

Here is the message sent by the National President to the Governor Designate of New South Wales, Mr. A. R. Cutler, V.C. C.B.E.

"All members delighted with great honour bestowed on you. We remember with pride your past service to the R.S.L. Heartiest congratulations and good wishes from us all."

See LYNWOOD today

Check the big features in every R.D.C. home

The luxury appointments in R.D.C. homes are standard features at no extra cost to you.

Right down to landscaped gardens with trees and shrubs supplied.

Find out how easily you can have a quality R.D.C. home at Lynwood only eight miles from Perth.

Open every day

Inspect the R.D.C. homes at Lynwood from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Contemporary "Colorado" has three spacious bedrooms, provision for built-in robes, angle kitchen, covered walkway from entrance, carport, drive, established garden, hosts of other luxury appointments.

Spacious colonial style of "Pheville" features large living and dining areas, carport under main roof, three bedrooms, functional floor plan and all R.D.C. quality appointments.
DECEMBER, 1965
The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance.

Seasonal Message From The State President

THIS State branch will close its 1965 membership-year approximately 600 members less than in the 1964 year. There is no valid reason why this should be. Hundreds of eligible ex-servicemen are coming into the State and these alone should more than make up the loss caused by the death of members.

WITH increasing obligations to aged ex-servicemen and women and the need for the R.S.L. to be at full strength to cope with any problems which may arise with servicemen returning from duty overseas, the League is faced with a must. We must keep our membership at full strength and our energies directed where they are most vitally required. It is our duty to see that the Almae and Objects of the League are fulfilled to the best of our ability and means.

WITH the record of the greatest number of enlistments per head of population in both world wars, let us take a similar position in post-war service.

THE COMING YEAR marks the 50th anniversary of the formation of the R.S.L. We in this State are fortunate that it is our turn to be hosts for the Annual National Congress and it will help to focus public attention on the work and efforts of our organisation.

IN THIS, our GOLDEN YEAR, let every member make himself responsible for a new member or a "re-join." Let us in Western Australia live up to our 1966 Slogan:

To all who served the call is clear; join the League in its Golden Year.

LET ME, in closing, thank all members for their support over the period since I have assumed office, and let me further take the opportunity to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.—P. Pearson, J.F.

Cigarettes For Servicemen

Members of the Australian armed Services in Vietnam, Borneo and Singapore will receive a Christmas gift of 240,000 cigarettes, donated by the leading manufacturers.

Army and R.A.A.F. members in Vietnam will receive about 100 cigarettes each, with similar amounts going to Army men in Borneo and Navy men in Singapore.

Estimated value of the gifts, if sold on the Australian market, is more than £2,500.

Cigarettes will be flown to these destinations on R.A.A.F. courrier aircraft in time for Christmas distribution.

NAME-CHANGE FOR LEAGUE

As from the 50th National Congress held recently, the letters R.S.L. will stand for RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE.

The old title of the R.S.L. was the Returned Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia, with the official short title of Returned Servicemen's League.

The National President of the R.S.L., Mr. A. J. Lee, said the change had been decided upon to ensure that the League kept abreast of modern trends.

The old name 'included the word 'Imperial' derived from the name 'Empire.' With the change of the old title also became the new British Commonwealth corresponding and appropriate alterations were being made in many titles that incorporated the word 'Empire' or 'Imperial.'

Another factor that influenced the League in making the change was that the old title referred to Servicemen. While it implied that Servicemen would become members and, in fact, many thousands were members of the R.S.L., they were still not properly covered by the wording of the League's old title. The new name would correct this deficiency.

"Common usage was another factor in the decision," said Mr. Lee. "In recent years the letters R.S.L. have identified our organisation. Only in the most official documents has the title change been made, and in many instances those documents were not still not properly covered by the wording of the League's old title. The new name would correct this deficiency."

"In the coming year," continued Mr. Lee, "the League enters on its second half century. There are many new plans for suitably commemorating the League's past 50 years.

"New activities are being investigated and emphasis is being placed on the role the League can play in our new and changing world. It is important that the official name of our organisation should also keep abreast of these events. For practical purposes and for general usage however we will still be and will always be the R.S.L."

Local Move On Cover For Troops

The State Executive has informed national headquarters that it strongly supports the bringing to bear of maximum pressure for giving servicemen overseas full repatriation cover away from Australia.

Its decision to act was taken at the December meeting.

The Executive feels that servicemen should be covered from the time they leave their last port of call in Australia until they reach home again.

The Executive was told that the present situation in Vietnam means that men could be hurt or killed without repatriation to cover.

The number of people involved could only be about 5,000, whereas about 1,000,000 had been covered by repatriation during the World War.

“Wonderful benefit I derive from BEX...”

Mrs. E. G. Fraser, 526 Hargreaves Street, BENDIGO, V.I.C., writes:

"I would like to let you know of the wonderful benefit I derive from your BEX. I have some blood-pressure and rather bad headaches, but get wonderful relief from BEX. I am over 70 years of age but the relief I get from taking BEX helps me keep going cheerfully and well."

BEX IS BETTER

BEX

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
From the State President, State Executive, State Secretary and Staff of Australian House

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BEX
Lord Casey Sounds Need For Stronger Nation

The Governor-General, Lord Casey, P.C., G.C.M.G., D.S.O., M.C., was entertained by the State President and his executive at a reception in Anzac House on Thursday, December 2.

In reply to the State President's welcome Lord Casey said:

"I greatly appreciate your asking me here today to have an opportunity to meet members of the R.S.L. in Perth. You and I have had some experience of wars. The R.S.L. is a very well-worthwhile body that keeps alive in our Australian community an attitude of mind that is very valuable in these turbulent days in many parts of the world—not the least being not very far away from our shores.

The R.S.L. represents a very healthy element in this Australian community of ours.

Externally the world is a very troubled place, and the most vehement trouble spots are not very far away from us. Our motto and aim for the future should be individually and collectively to do all we can to strengthen Australia.

The R.S.L. is not a militant or a war-mongering body. Indeed, its members, with personal experience of war, tend to stress preparedness as a means of avoiding the risk of war, or of coping with it if it unfortunately comes.

OBJECTIVE

I often think of a thing that, Winston Churchill once said: that every country and every people should have an over-riding objective.

In our case, I believe that this should be the strength of Australia by all means possible to enable us to cope with anything that the future may bring.

The R.S.L. has wisely taken the point of view that there should be no party politics in the movement.

This means that members of any political party can join it without any twinges of conscience that they are violating their principles.

This applies to me, too, but there is much in which I can interest myself without infringing on the party political field.

I sometimes remember the man who is supposed to have said, in circumstances rather like my own: "I hope no-one will accuse me of either partiality or impartiality." I hope I can do rather better than that.

I am glad you have changed your name from the rather clamy R.S.L. A.L.I.A. to the simpler form of R.S.L.—Return of Servicemen's Leagues—which embraces all the fighting services and also the women who served, here in Perth the name of General Hobbs comes to my mind—in the first war. An architect by profession, he gave a lot of his time to being a citizen-soldier in the years before the first war, and commanded the Fifth Australian Division during most of the war years in France.

OLD UNITS

I recall the 29th, 30th, 31st and 32nd Battalions forming part of the 8th Brigade which, in turn, was one of the brigades in the 5th Division.

We must do everything we can, not only in the military field, but also in the political and in other ways, to build up a strong country with strong friends. If the chips are really down, we alone could not yet defend ourselves.

We must keep alive the friendships built up over the past 15 years in our part in whatever's going so that we'll have others taking our part if need be.

You people of Western Australia have a great State: great in size, practically a third of the size of Australia as a whole, and great in its possibilities.

In the last ten years you have gone from strength to strength by way of new industries and the discovery of vast natural resources, and much else.

What you most need is population. Which reminds me of what President Roosevelt once said to me in the years of the last great war: "The only thing wrong with you Australians is that there aren't enough of you."

The Governor-General went on to say that his past had been much concerned with overseas countries—countries of particular value and importance to Australia—and he would do his best to maintain the personal contacts he had established in them.

Mundaring Sub-Branch

The Mundaring and Districts Sub-branch wish to notify all members of a change of date for the December meeting.

Normally held on the fourth Monday of each month, the December meeting has been brought forward to the third Monday—namely 20th December. The Committee desires—every member who can possibly be present to do so—this is the final meeting for 1965 and the election of new officers for 1966 will take place, so make it a date, the 20th, for the Mundaring Christmas meeting.

1916-1966
To all who served the call is clear Join the League in its Golden Year
Opening Of Operational Civil Defence Headquarters

The Premier of Western Australia the Hon. David Brand, M.L.A., on 24th November, unveiled a plaque and declared open the new Store and Operational Headquarters of the Civil Defence and Emergency Service of Western Australia.

The audience included members of Parliament, the Commonwealth Director of Civil Defence, State Directors, about fifty West Australian Controllers, representatives from Government Departments and Local Authorities.

This property, which was used as Sector Control Headquarter for the air defence of the Metropolitan Area in the 1939-45 War, was handed over to the Commonwealth Government for Civil Defence use in this State. The State Government has spent about £20,000 in re-fitting the actual underground Headquarters and in erecting the new Store. The new Store was required to replace that situated at the corner of George and Wallaby Streets, which had been demolished to make way for the Mitchell Freeway.

The Operational Headquarters which, in time of disaster, will become the control centre for Civil Defence in this State, will be identical to others. Staff Officers to man State, Area, Region, Zone and Group Headquarters are already trained there. A monitoring room for the Scientific Services has been set up and training in the gathering, processing and issuing of scientific information will commence early next year. The Chief Signals Officer has a training cadre already established and shortly will extend its scope.

An important part of the training will be the inspection of Local Civil Defence Centres from established services such as Fire, Police, etc.

General instruction in all aspects of Civil Defence will also be carried out.

In the new store at Belmont, equipment supplied by the Commonwealth is received, recorded and stored, together with local Voluntary Emergency - Services which have teams trained to use it. This equipment ranges from heavy trucks to stationery and is suitable for all Civil Defence Services. In addition, some fire-fighting equipment has been received which will augment normal fire-fighting facilities in the event of a nuclear disaster.

Including this current delivery of equipment supplied by the Commonwealth to this State, plus others amounting to $35,000. A great deal of this has already been issued to local organisations, and most of the rest has been located and will be issued in the next few months.

A Conference between the Commonwealth and State Directors of Civil Defence was held in Perth, and commenced on 22nd November. The Commonwealth Director, Captain A. E. Buchanan, arrived by air and was accompanied by representatives from other States.

New South Wales is represented by Director Major-General Dougherty and Mr. G. Gold. The General is well known to many West Australians as he commanded the 21st Brigade, which included the 2/16th Battalion of New Guinea. Mr. Gold is the Assistant Director in New South Wales, Mr. E. Fogg, the Deputy Director of Civil Defence, is representing Queensland. The two delegates from Victoria, Captain M. J. Clark and Brigadier N. Peters, are Co-ordinators of Civil Defence. Captain Peters is known to many ex-R.A.N. members in this State. Brigadier Peters is, of course, a West Australian.

C. Gerard, Director of Civil Defence in Tasmania is well known in R.A.N. circles as he is the President of that organisation in Tasmania. Mr. G. Lean, Commissioner of the Civil Defence in South Australia was supported by his deputy Mr. R. Nicholas, Mr. Lean is Commissioner of Police in South Australia, so he would have had many friends in our own Police Force.

Western Australia's representatives were Mr W. S. Lonnie, Under Secretary, Premier's Department, and Mr. F. Falconer, the Director of Civil Defence.

This, the first Civil Defence Conference of its type to be held outside Victoria, captures the division of responsibilities between the Commonwealth and the States. It has been convened as a result of a decision made at the Ministerial Conference held in Canberra last August.

Norseman Honours Harry Kerr

Norseman Sub-branch conducted a very convivial social evening on the 19th November during which President Vic Wills in conjunction with Country Vice President Collings, presented a Certificate of Adoption to Harry Kerr to record and thank him for more than 25 years service as an official. Congratulations Harry on an outstanding effort.

At present all Norseman Sub-branches are working on a travelling rug to Mr and Mrs Green to say thanks for services to the Sub-Branch and wish them well on the eve of their retirement to Mandurah. Members congregated at the War Memorial on the Saturday morning for a simple laying ceremony to commemorate Remembrance Day. The rugs could well take a lead from Norseman in the field of Youth Welfare and will assist them in being well to the fore in forming and running of Junior Football and Cricket teams and training of young swimmers. This work with the youth of the area is showing very good results.

“Start Made on Appeal For Veterans’ Chapel”

An appeal is to be launched among League sub-branches and interested bodies to build a £8,000 chapel at the Mt. Lawley War Veterans’ Home.

This was decided by the State Executive at its December meeting.

Dr. A. King told the meeting that the chapel would be denominational and would seat 74 people.

The chapel was to be as simple as possible and was designed to cater for an overflow of worshippers.

He said the War Veterans’ Home had written to all churches and the major churches had agreed to the idea.

No church had raised any objection to the scheme.

At present services were being held in the television room. This was totally inadequate.

People living nearby were also attending the services at the home.

It was hoped to launch the appeal early next year and to have the chapel built to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the World War, or in time for the National Congress which was to be held in Perth next year.

A number of sub-branches had told him that they would support an appeal and had money set aside which they could use for the purpose.

Donations so far received or promised are each for £100 and include the 10th Light Horse Association, the Public Service sub-branch, Brit Rock auxiliary, Ken Broadhurst and Partner, and anonymous.

Support has been promised by the Returned Services’ sub-branch and the State Women’s Auxiliary.

State President P. Pearson and former State President W. Lonnie both strongly supported the scheme.

Several speakers said that the provision of a chapel was not the responsibility of the League.

Because outsiders were now attending services at the home the various denominations should provide churches for the district, they said.

Others said the chapel project would give the League a target towards which it could direct its energies.

Legancy Wards Re-Adopted

The State Executive has decided to re-adopt four Perth Legacy wards for the coming year.

The December meeting was told that support was in the form of four £20 grants.

State President P. Pear-son said the adoptions were a token representa- tion of the partnership that exists between the League and Legacy, and the cheque would be presented at a Legacy luncheon on 14th December.

“The Rats In New Guinea”

The new paperback edition of “The Rats In New Guinea”, written by Lawson Glassop and published by Horwitz Ltd. is on sale. It is a better class paperback costing 10½d. A lady also advises that “We Were The Rats” will be out in the same edition soon.

As a matter of interest, Lawson Glassop is at present working on a novel about Captain Cook as we welcome the New Year.

1916-1966

To all who served the call is clear
Join the League in its Golden Year
The Governor-General, Lord Casey, was entertained by the State Executive at Anzac House on December 8. Shown here with His Excellency (at centre) are, from left, the two State Vice-Presidents, Mr. R. J. Stoddart and Dr. A. King, State President Pearson and State Secretary Webb.

The bus was returning to Saigon from Bien Hoa, loaded with pressmen and a few Australian Army men.

As it entered the city area and began to join the heavy traffic there was a terrible grinding noise from the engine, and the bus stopped.

A 30-passenger bus stalled in Saigon traffic presents an easy target for a plastic bomb, apart from the chaos caused to the flow of traffic.

The Vietnamese driver could not engage the gears, as pressmen and road-users became more uneasy a uniformed Australian on board moved quietly up and took the steering wheel.

After a few checks on the engine he drove the bus, without a clutch the final two miles.

An unusual role for a chaplain!

The pressmen had no way of knowing that Church of England chaplain Capt. Kevin Hooffman was a man of many skills. He is a Bachelor of Automotive Engineering and a graduate in theology, social anthropology and social psychology.

He has been an A.R.A. chaplain for seven months and is at present serving with the Australians in Vietnam.

From "Present Arms" - official organ of the Taxation sub-branch, Melbourne.

HOW WOULD YOU STAND
If your property and goods were completely destroyed by fire?
Consult Australian and Eastern Insurance Co. Ltd.
61-10 The Esplanade, Perth
For adequate protection.

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M.P.S. Ph. Ch.
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Corner Boulder and Flet-
cher Sts., Perth.
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Men and Women at Boulder Meeting

On November 24th the Executive Committee of the Boulder Sub-branch, attended, by invitation, the Women's Auxiliary meeting. It was the occasion when President Mrs O'Grady presented a cheque representing the Auxiliary donation to the branch funds.

This wonderful effort on the part of the Auxiliary has been carried out every year since their formation and on this occasion a cheque for the sum of £120 was received.

In thanking the Auxiliary on behalf of the Branch, President Tom Castlehow expressed his appreciation of the manner in which the Auxiliary has supported the branch in every possible way for a great number of years and his words had the endorsement of every member present.

The way in which the Women's Auxiliary have made substantial donations to the branch, and also to other League Commitments for so long, is a matter of wonder as they do not come before the Boulder public in one big fundraising effort but work quietly and consistently with one object in view; the support of their Branch and of the League and their work is a fine example of loyalty that all members of the R.S.L. should emulate.

The November meeting of the Branch was chaired by Vice-President Frank Davidson with a good attendance of members. Much business was attended to and arrangements made for Christmas meeting.

Secretary Teddy McManus has again joined the ranks after a short period in hospital.

His collapse was somewhat unusual but the concern of his friends marks the extent of his popularity.

President would like to see a big muster at the December meeting and, together with both Boulder Auxiliaries, extends Seasonal Greetings to Headquarters and all Sub-branches.

Homes Money "Lost" To Veterans

Money repaid to the Government on war service homes should be diverted to other schemes to help war veterans, Housing Committee chairman R. J. Stoddart said at the December meeting of the State Executive.

Mr Stoddart said £30,000,000 had been paid to the Government from war service homes last financial year.

This money was at present being paid into consolidated revenue and was lost to war veterans.

He suggested that the next Congress should investigate ways in which this money could be channelled so that it benefited veterans.

* Pictured above is Earl Mountbatten of Burma planting a badge-crisis in the Commonwealth Field of Remembrance at Westminster (near the abbey) on Remembrance Day this year.

Among those in attendance was the Queen Mother.

SAVE MONEY
FILL IN THE ORDER COUPON

BUY YOUR XMAS GIFTS AND PERSONAL NEEDS FROM THE R.S.L. SHOP. IT SAVES YOU MONEY AND PROVIDES FOR THE R.S.L. VETERANS' HOME.

COMPLETE MENS OUTFITTERS
Suits, Sportcoats; Trousers, Shorts, Shirts, Ties, Socks, Underwear, Hats, D/Gowns, Accessories, Bowlers, etc. Shoes, Manchester, Boys School Wear, Miniature Medals.

We specialise in industrial wear.

Huge variety of stock. All the popular makes—Pelaco, Arrow, Nevada, Roscoe, Speedo, Yakka, King Gee, Amco and many more.

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THE R.S.L. SHOP
AND SUPPORT A WORTHWHILE CAUSE
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Date: Nov.-Dec., 1965

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State President Reports On National Congress

The 50th National Congress of the League, held in Adelaide from October 25 to 29, was most memorable and was marked particularly by the dignity and the very wide coverage of its deliberations.

So said the State President, Mr Percy Pearson, in his report on the congress to the State Executive last month. It was the first National Congress Mr. Pearson had attended in his capacity of State President.

Mr. Pearson, at the outset of his report, referred to the opening of the Garden of Remembrance at the Centennial Park cemetery, Adelaide, on Sunday, October 24. At the official opening next day, speeches had been made by the Governor of South Australia, Sir Edric Bastian; the National Premier and Leader of the Opposition; the Minister Dr. Forbes; and the National President Mr. H. R. R. A. J. Lee; the Minister for Defence, Mr. Whiting and representing the Leader of the Federal Opposition, Mr. H. F. Burmeister; the Dominions President of the New Zealand R.S.A.

In an address to the Congress on Sunday, Repatriation Minister McKellar had referred to a recent increase in the assistance allowance from £6 to £14 5s a week. The Minister had said that repatriation benefits that year would amount to £100,000,000 mark.

Additional cover had been provided for young men serving in the armed forces, and an additional temporary entitlement appeal tribunal had been arranged for.

Congress had reached decisions on the following matters:

CONSTITUTIONAL

Eligibility had been extended to cover Australian, British Dominion and U.S. men and women provided they had served in special areas as proclaimed under the Repatriation (Special Overseas Service) Act. Press correspondents, photographers, artists, A.D.M., A.S., Red Cross and Salvation Army officers had also been made eligible and members had served continuously in those areas for six months.

Membership fee for the 1966 calendar year had been raised to £1/10.

The proposal to change the name of the League to the Returned Services League had been referred back to the National Executive.

Also referred to the executive was a proposal to a revised basis of payments with respect to life-membership.

While expressing its approval of Government action in granting some of the League's 1965 Pension Plans Submissions Congress had recorded its disapointment that the requests had not been accepted in full.

REPARATION

It was resolved to request the Minister to continue paying pensions to dependent children beyond their 16th birthday until completion of their education or until they had ceased to be full-time students.

Other items sought were:

• Payment in respect of loss of salary to be increased from 5/5 to 8/8 of maximum of £2 to £3/4 a day.
• An extra 10% for special clothing allowances for all pensioners using leg-irons or crutches which would cause extra wear.
• Medical and dental treatment beyond the age of 16 for eligible children receiving full-time education.
• Heart complaint to be accepted as a war-caused disability, and that dependants in such cases be entitled to reparation benefits.
• Automatic acceptance of mental illness as an entitlement to benefits.
• Reimbursement of rail fares for dependent mothers in respect of visits to repatriation or base hospitals.

The expansion of defence measures in New Guinea was called for, with the Pacific Islands Regiment increased to three battalions.

Emphasis was placed on the need for improved coast watching.

Congress asked for the present cadet scheme to be expanded to cover all schools, with the provision of many more instructors.

It urged that the recently-formed Conscription Officers' Advisory Committees be kept under constant Government surveillance.

It asked that exemption from combat duty be allowed only on religious grounds, and that men in sections of repatriation should be allowed to attach themselves to medical or other non-combatant units.

The National Government White Paper on communism and fascism was called for.

REFERENDUM

The Commonwealth Government was asked to conduct a referendum on the extension of repatriation benefits to cover servicemen appointed to the United Nations forces if the present age limit of 65-years for males, and 60 for females, in the last year entered homes, so that the same eligibility age limit would be 60 and 65 respectively.

Mr Pearson said that among the West Australian items those dealing with naval-base facilities and the stationing of aircraft were two of the most urgent issues.

Congress had also pressed the vote for young Australians serving overseas.
**League Man Sees Flame Rekindled In Paris**

While in Paris on August 4 last, Mr. H. C. Newman, a national trustee, represented the League at a ceremonial rekindling of the Flame of Remembrance at the Arc de Triomphe.

In a subsequent to the National Executive, Mr. Newman said:

It may be of interest to you to learn that while I was in Paris I received an invitation from the chairman of the Paris branch of the British Legion in the following terms:

"Once again we are called to break the flame on the tomb of the Unknown Warrior underneath the Arc de Triomphe.

The ceremony of the re-kindling will be performed by Rear-Admiral R. C. P. Wainwright, D.S.C., at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 4th August.

We should be most grateful if you might be able to come over to attend the ceremony for this occasion when we render homage to all those who lost their lives in the cause of freedom during the two wars.

"Will you please arrange to be at the Arc de Triomphe not later than 6.15 p.m."

I accepted the invitation which was sent to me (through the Australian Embassy) to represent the R.S.S. and A.I.A., and I was received by the chairman of the Paris branch of the British Legion.

The ceremony was colourful and most impressive. There were two massed bands, French and the other of the Cheshire Regiment. The invitees who were there in a representative capacity were lined up on the side of the tomb of the Unknown Warrior as the bands and eservicemen marched up the Champs Elysees.

When positions were taken up by the various colour parties, the British national anthem was played followed by the R.S.S. and A.I.A. anthems of the two countries.

V.I.P.'s, were then escorted by the invited to view the "Golden Book." I signed for the R.S.S. and A.I.A.

It was a very colourful and impressive ceremony, simple and dignified and marked particularly by the cordial fraternal greeting and French ex-servicemen of two world powers and serving personnel of both countries.

**School Cadet Prize**

The outstanding School Cadet in each State will shortly receive an annual award and be named Imperial Cadet Association of England.

Announcing this recently the Minister for the Army, Dr A. J. Forrest, said the prize-giving was a feature of the School Cadet movement in Australia, and to individual Cadets were made under Command or State arrangements.

The book prizes had been awarded Command officers around the world famous individuals.

To be eligible to compete for the award, School Cadet must be selected to attend the annual Command potential officers' course and be selected in competition with other students on the course. Cadet Cadets must be selected for the competition.

The Prize winner in Western Command, W.A., was Warrant Officer Class Two, T. McCallum, of the Senior High School Cadet Unit. He will be presented with the "Sir Peter Cooper Memorial Cadet Efficiency Prize."

The 1965 prizes have arrived from England and were being held by the Cadets in each State. Our congratulations to Cadet W. O. McGovern.

**Big Sub-branch Gain In New Fees-split**

The State Executive has decided that 60 per cent of the League membership subscription will go to headquarters and 40 per cent will be retained by the sub-branches.

The December meeting was told that headquarters would receive 18% and the sub-branches 12% of the increased subscription.

On the old £1 subscription basis, 15% went to headquarters and 5% was retained by the sub-branches.

It was generally agreed that if the sub-branches felt they were not benefiting by increasing membership then the membership drive would be far more successful.

Mr. R. J. Stoddart said that he felt the 60-40 division would restore the feeling of enthusiasm in sub-branches that had been lacking for some time.

State President P. Pearson agreed with the idea, but the need to point out that headquarters was not breaking even at present and was being subsidised from League Investments.

1916-1966

To all who served the call is clear Join the League in its Golden Year.
Dear Sir,

All thoughtful Australians must be concerned at the views expressed by the President of the National Board of the R.S.L. (Mr. A. J. Kane) in his 1965 Annual Report. Mr. Kane declared that his organisation was in danger of being caught up in the "mother of all wars", namely, Indonesia.

Mr. Kane's statement is understandable. In recent months, relations between Indonesia and Australia have deteriorated. However, I believe that this situation is not as bad as Mr. Kane portrays it. Mr. Kane's views are based on his interpretation of the events that have taken place. In this letter, I will try to clarify the situation to a greater extent.

Mr. Kane is probably referring to the split between Indonesia and the Dutch in 1949. The Dutch had been occupying Indonesia since 1811, but in 1945, after World War II, the Dutch left and Indonesia declared independence. However, Indonesia was not able to secure its independence immediately. The Indonesian Army was not strong enough to take control of the entire country. So, the Dutch left the country, but they did not leave the country peacefully. They tried to create a "buffer zone" in the north of the country, but this was not successful. The Indonesian Army finally took control of the entire country in 1950.

Mr. Kane may be referring to the situation in 1965, when Indonesia was involved in a war with Malaysia. However, this war was not as serious as Mr. Kane portrays it. The war was fought between Malaysia and Indonesia over the oil-rich territory of Sabah. The war lasted for only a few months and ended in a settlement that was acceptable to both sides.

Mr. Kane's statement is based on his interpretation of the events. However, the situation is not as bad as he portrays it. The relationship between Indonesia and Australia is not as bad as he portrays it. In recent months, there have been efforts to improve relations between the two countries. For example, the Australian government has expressed its support for Indonesia's efforts to achieve peace in the region.

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Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A. J. Lee

National President,
New Move On Vital Issue

A special committee of State Executive members has been formed to investigate the important question of membership promotion.

State President P. Pearson told the December meeting that he was very worried about the membership position.

The membership was down this year and would be worse next year if the trend continued.

The co-opted committee would design a recruiting programme to reverse the trend, which was needed for two very important reasons as well as many other smaller ones.

The governments had always taken notice of the League’s views be it in the time of strength or times of stress throughout the whole community.

Also the young men who were serving overseas at present would need assistance when they returned home and would look for a strong organisation that had not lost its appeal.

Remembering Men Who Died at Geraldton

A total of 83 men who were either killed or died while on active service in the Geraldton area during World War II, were remembered on Sunday, 14th November, when members of the Geraldton Sub-branch of the R.S.L. made their annual pilgrimage to the war cemetery at Unanderra.

Flowers donated by citizens of Geraldton and Northampton, including members of the Geraldton Horticultural Society and the Northampton R.S.L. Women’s Auxiliary, were placed on the graves of these ex-servicemen who came from nearly every State in the Commonwealth.

Flowers were also placed on the graves of ex-servicemen in the adjacent general cemetery, after which the Sub-branch President, Mr. John B. Needle, led the assembly of ten men, one woman and a young boy in a simple but solemn observance at the War Cemetery Memorial.

In Geraldton two days previously, 1,850 Remembrance Day poppies were disposed of in a street appeal. The Sub-branch organiser, Mr. K. A. Jones, said this was about 50 more than last year and a result of about £11, which after allowing for the cost of the poppies, would be added to the Royal Legation fund and the Age Soldiers’ Fund in Perth.

UNIT ASSOCIATION NOTES

Tobruk Reunion

The Rats of Tobruk Association is arranging a Worldwide Reunion in Canberra on April 9, 1966. Events to be held for the first time in World War II.

The Committee will entertain the Women’s Auxiliary at an evening at the Railway Institute on Tuesday, December 14th.

The Officers of the Association and the Women’s Auxiliary extend the Seasons Greetings to all members.

From The 28th Battalion

President Tom Jackson returned from his trip abroad where he met up with a couple of old mates from the 1914-18 War and had a great time with them.

The list of members has decreased and there are few members in Hollywood who may have enough luck to be out for Christmas. The President and Committee wish to convey Christmas and New Year greetings to all members for the 1965-66 festive season.

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ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT, ANZAC HOUSE, ST. GEORGE’S TERRACE, PERTH ANY TIME
The Governor at R.G.H. Hollywood
Recently, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Douglas Kendrew visited R.G.H. Hollywood to invest Sergeant Roy Leslie Weir, Special Air Service Regiment, with the British Empire Medal in recognition of his outstanding service in South Vietnam.

Christmas Parcels Arranged
For Troops Abroad

Arrangements have now been completed for delivery of Christmas Parcels to troops serving in Borneo, Vietnam and Ubon in Thailand.

At the National Executive meeting, on the 29th October, it was resolved that a card should be enclosed with the parcels setting out the special re-establishment provisions for which men are qualified. The provision was included in South East Asia, together with travel advice of membership of the R.S.L.

This card has been prepared and despatched. The information contained in it is as follows:

“We would remind you that for certain services you may already have earned the following benefits:

Repatriation (Special Overseas Service Legislation) any person who, while a member of the Defence Forces, has served on special service is eligible for Repatriation benefits.

War Service and Medical treatment in respect of war caused incapacity or death, subsistence and other special allowances, travelling expenses connected with treatment or pension reviews, domestic allowances for widows and educational benefits for children.

Remember to ensure that any incident resulting in injury or sickness occurring on war service is fully recorded to assist you should you desire to make a claim at any time during or after your service.

War Service Homes

Any person who has served on special duty in a special area, as outlined above, is also eligible for War Service Homes benefits. At the present time this constitutes a loan of £3,500 at 3½ per cent repayable over a period of up to 50 years.

Membership of the R.S.L.

At the 50th National Congress of the R.S.L. on the 29th October last, eligibility for R.S.L. membership was extended to all those persons who qualified for Repatriation entitlement under the Repatriation Special Overseas Service Act, as outlined in the Repatriation section of this card.

The R.S.L. has a present membership of 260,000. It offers a wide range of benefits and assistance to its members. It also offers the opportunity to assist those of our comrades who may need our help. It provides a means by which we can all serve Australia, in an active participation in matters affecting the wellbeing of our country; and it enables those who have served to preserve the comradeship that is found only on ‘active’ service.

We hope that when the opportunity arises you will join our ranks. We wish you God speed, good luck, and a safe return to Australia.

A. J. LEE, National President.
A. G. W. KEAYS, National Secretary.

As a matter of interest N.A.A.F.I. in Singapore and the Australian Services Canteens Organisation are in agreement to sending parcels to individual servicemen on request from Sub-branches or members of the League. This means that, if a Sub-branch provides a certain amount sufficient to cover the cost of a parcel, together with the details of the recipient, the Canteens Organisation will do the rest.

Cost of all parcels is £1/-. All such requirements should be forwarded through the Branches of the R.S.L.

Statement Irresponsible
Says R.S.L. President

“If Dr. Cairns has been correctly reported, his statement is completely irresponsible and quite extraordinary coming from a man in his position.” The National President of the R.S.L., Mr. A. J. Lee, made this statement in commenting on criticism of the R.S.L. by Dr. J. Cairns. Dr Cairns was reported to have said that the R.S.L., not the Communist Party, endangered freedom in Australia.

“Few people, of course, would take such a statement seriously,” said Mr. Lee. “The fact is that the R.S.L. is made up of ex-servicemen and women, many of whom have sacrificed a great deal to keep Australia free and secure, and all its national policies are designed to ensure that these things are preserved.

“There is one other matter in the reported statement by Dr. Cairns that requires correction”, continued Mr. Lee, “This is the assertion that the policies of the R.S.L. are formulated entirely by the leaders of the organisation. R.S.L. policy emanates from the Sub-branches of the organisation. It is decided at State Congresses where all Sub-branches are represented, and then is finally dealt with at National Congresses.

“In the case of Vietnam, it was sponsored by at least two State Branches, and was subsequently carried unanimously by delegates to the National Congress. The result is all the more interesting when it is remembered that the R.S.L. is the most representative organisation in the spirit of democracy. In our ranks we have men and women of every creed, colour and economic background and every political persuasion. They are united not by their experiences, but by their determination to ensure that Australia's best interests are served in those matters affecting her security and future progress.”
Remembrance Day At Boulder

The Boulder Sub-branch scribe had thoughts of the past last Remembrance Day. He has written in this vein.

"11.00 a.m. on Remembrance Day, and we are standing with the bugler on the balcony of a hotel in the centre of Boulder. As I look out over the familiar scene, my thoughts go back further than the first war, go back to the time, when as boys, we roamed these same streets, back to the time of the dusty roads and the horse and cart, the time of the buggy and the billy-can.

"And as 'Revelle' sounded over the hushed town, perhaps the spirit of those who paid the supreme sacrifice in war, once again roamed the old streets, at peace in the knowledge that by their sacrifice this town of Boulder, together with every town in Australia, has been made safe for those who followed after.

"The ladies of both auxiliaries once again earned the grateful thanks of President Tom Castleshow and his members for their wonderful help in the sale of poppies and, by their effort, this year's sales have been greater than those of previous years."

Sailors' Christmas Dinner

At their November meeting, members of the Geraldton Sub-branch enthusiastically received a suggestion that they invite to Christmas dinner, ratings from H.M.S. "Euryalus", which will be at Geraldton from December 22nd to 29th.

The suggestion came from the Treasurer, Mr Bill Kypasten, who said that as a former Navy man he realised just what a gesture of this nature would mean to sailors so far away from home.

"And as 'Revelle' sounded over the hushed town, perhaps the spirit of those who paid the supreme sacrifice in war, once again roamed the old streets, at peace in the knowledge that by their sacrifice this town of Boulder, together with every town in Australia, has been made safe for those who followed after.

"The ladies of both auxiliaries once again earned the grateful thanks of President Tom Castleshow and his members for their wonderful help in the sale of poppies and, by their effort, this year's sales have been greater than those of previous years."

The Koorda Cabaret Holds Memories

On Saturday, 6th November, 1965, the Annual R.S.L. Cabaret was held in the Koorda and District Memorial Hall. Whilst the function was not well supported, the evening proved most enjoyable with a good floor, music and atmosphere.

A highlight of the evening was the attendance by the State President of the R.S.L., Mr Pearson and his wife.

During the late evening Mr Alf Jones, President of Koorda Sub-branch requested all in attendance to move to the Memorial ground, where the State President, after a very impressive speech unveiled the Memorial Cannon.

This event was one which will remain in the memory of those attending, as in the darkness, except for the light shining brightly above the Memorial Pillar, a guard of Honour was formed by the Koorda Members, then to total silence Mr Pearson recounted events of three wars which had created the need for the organisation of the R.S.L. and the preservation of its constitution for the future.

After calling for a minute silence in Remembrance, Mr Jones voiced a vote of thanks to Mr Pearson for his very capable assistance in the ceremony.

During the course of the evening Mr and Mrs Pearson met all in attendance and the general opinion was that it is a pleasure to meet nice people.

In a particular note, the President and Members of the Koorda Sub-branch were unanimous in support of their privilege of having Mr and Mrs Pearson officiate at the 1965 Annual function.

Attention!

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ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICEMEN

FEDERATED T.B. SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND A.I.F. ASSOCIATION (W.A. BRANCH)—2nd Floor, Wellington Building, 152 St Georges Tce, Perth. Second Monday, President, L. Symes, Committee.

SOUTH AFRICAN AND IMPERIAL VETERANS ASSOCIATION—Anzac House basement, third Monday at 2 p.m., President, R. W. L. C. McDonald, 20 Kenny-street, Bassendean, WA. Secretary, R. A. McDonald.

10TH LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION—Anzac House basement, third Monday at 2 p.m., President, R. A. McDonald, 20 Kenny-street, Bassendean, WA. Secretary, R. A. McDonald.


16TH BATTALION AND 4TH BRISELIUS BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Committee meets second Tuesday at Railway Institute, Perth, President, E. L. Lilleleyman, 52 Chandler-avenue, Floreat street, Subiaco (87 4050). Secretary, W. Young, 28 Oakover-street, East Fremantle (39 2934).

1/17TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Meetings at Anzac House when called. President, E. C. Beale, 17th Avenue, Morley (87 6363). Secretary, G. T. Cash, 35 Park-street, Tuart Hill. Committee meets first Wednesday each month for business, each month in Anzac House basement.

7TH BATTALION AUXILIARY—President, Mr. Ketterer, 190 Adelaide Street, Subiaco. Secretary, Mrs. F. Gray, 68 Bennett-street, East Fremantle (21 5702).

8TH BRITISH INFANTRY—Meets Anzac House House second Tuesday at 3 p.m., President, E. C. Beale, 17th Avenue, Morley (87 6363). Secretary, Mrs. F. Gray, 68 Bennett-street, East Fremantle (21 5702).

1/2/1ST BATTALION—Meets Anzac House House second Tuesday at 3 p.m., President, E. C. Beale, 17th Avenue, Morley (87 6363). Secretary, Mrs. F. Gray, 68 Bennett-street, East Fremantle (21 5702).


2/8TH BATTALION—Association—President, E. G. F. Kellett, 47 St Georges Tce, Victoria Park. Secretary, Mr. G. E. Kellett, 47 St Georges Tce, Victoria Park. Annual Reunion Show Wednesdays.

ARMY MEDICAL UNITS ASSOCIATION—President, E. G. F. Kellett, 47 St Georges Tce, Victoria Park. Secretary, Mr. G. E. Kellett, 47 St Georges Tce, Victoria Park. Annual Reunion Show Wednesdays.

BRITISH EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION INC.—Meet second Tuesday, President, E. C. Beale, 17th Avenue, Morley (87 6363). Secretary, C. H. Black (Box 51457, G.P.O., Perth).


44TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Meets 4th Friday in January, April, July and October, Anzac House, President, W. A. Mostyn, 131 Kingsley Street, South Fremantle. Secretary, E. S. D. Power, 131 Kingsley Street, South Fremantle. (Box 71 1336, Mt Lawley-Phone 71 1101). Committee meets on 4th Tuesday each month, Annual Reunion, Anzac House Ballroom, 7 p.m., October 6th, President, W. A. Mostyn (Box 71 1336).

31ST BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION—Meetings at Anzac House, when called. Annual Reunion Show Week, President, J. Tait, 24 Dagwood Street, Wembley. Secretary, H. S. Brown, 122 Second Avenue, Mt Lawley (71 1636).


BRIGADE OF GUARDS ASSOCIATION—Meetings at Anzac House, when called. President, J. H. D. Haydon (65 3998). Secretary, H. F. Redhead, Meetings 3rd Friday each month Anzac House.

VICTORIA PARK APPEALS

This article is a direct appeal to all Sub-branch members to rally around. For the past few months things have not been running smoothly at all. The main reason is the lack of a Secretary; the one person who in most cases is the backbone of any organisation.

An appeal is made to you, the members of the Branch, to attend the January meeting which will be held on the third Friday of the month and help the Branch along. Some person among you must have the time and the qualifications to act as Secretary, temporarily at least.

Two other major losses recently have been the death of a well loved patron, Gus Stewart, a man who put a lot of time and effort into Victoria Park over a period of many years. The other was the resignation of the newly elected President Mr. G. Chell for personal reasons.

However, Christmas is nearly with us, so to all members of the Branch there is extended most sincere wishes for a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Presentation To Mr. R. B. (Digger) James

A highlight of the annual Ex-Servicemen's Reunion Dinner organised by Northam Sub-branch and held in the Northam Memorial Hall on November 19th, was the presentation by State President Mr. Percy Pearson, of a Certificate of Service to Mr. R. B. ("Digger") James.

"Digger" James was President of the Sub-branch for two years during World War period of 1940-42, subsequently treasurer for about nine years, and auditor since relinquishing the treasurer's position.

At all times his wide experience has been at the disposal of the Sub-branch, and at no time was this more valuable than during the period when the Memorial Hall was being built.

In order to get the Memorial Hall project under way it was necessary for a Constitution and By-Laws to be formulated for the Sub-branch, and "Digger" was principally responsible for drafting them.

Responding to the State President's speech when making the presentation, "Digger" said he would treasure the Certificate as evidence that his fellow members thought well of him. This was something he valued highly.

The dinner which was open to all ex-service men, whether members of the R.S.L. or not, was attended by about 60 and catering, as usual, was in the hands of the Women's Auxiliary of the Sub-branch who also provided a delightful spread.

The State President gave a most interesting and informative address covering a wide range of subjects which are covered by the State Executive.

In the very capable hands of Frank Mountney, as master of ceremonies, the evening went very smoothly, and all present had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Mrs. F. P. Shattock, wife of Sub-branch member Foster Shattock, provided delightful entertainment on the piano throughout the meal, later tactfully withdrawing so that the men could "let their hair down" without any feeling of restraint.

Organisation of the dinner was very much assisted by the Sub-branch Secretary John Roberts whose services will be lost at the end of the year. For the past seven years John has been headmaster of Avonvale School, North Northam and has been notified of his transfer to a metropolitan school. His fellow-members are definitely going to miss him and his thoughtful service to the Sub-branch.

Amenities Fund Contribution

The State Executive has decided to defer indefinitely any decision on this State's contribution to the Australian Forces Overseas Amenities and Entertainment Fund.

The executive made this decision at its December 1 meeting while discussing a proposal for the dough to be sent entertainers overseas.

Members had raised the question of how money could be raised for the cause and already strained financial resources. The executive decided that the best idea was to defer the proposal and then discuss the matter with the President of the National Executive with a definite suggestion and then to discuss the matter with the President of the National Executive.

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 Land.

But here is 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.