Start Made On Scheme For Asian Students

Two Malaysian students from the Colombo Plan vocational school at Kuching, Sarawak, arrived at Mascot (Sydney) on Thursday, February 9, to be enrolling in a 12-month course of study on scholarships awarded under the R.S.L. Jubilee Commemorative Fund.

R.S.L. National President Sir Arthur Lee said recently that a fund had been established to commemorate the league's 50th anniversary in June last year.

It would have two functions, the first to provide welfare assistance to British Commonwealth ex-service men in the countries of South-East Asia and who are in need, and the second to provide a limited number of trade-training scholarships for students from different countries in the area.

Sir Arthur said the two students would constitute the League's pilot scheme under the scheme and would study in Australia for 12 months. They would return to the Kuching vocational school as instructors.

COURSES CHOSEN

The two students are Mr Peter Lieu Shi Khiong (21), who will study engineering drawing and design, and Mr Peter Tan Kock Chong (19), who will study automotive machine-shop practice with a basic course in welding.

On arrival at Mascot the students were met by Sir William Yeo, president of the New South Wales State branch.

Membership Records

Reporting on membership matters at this month's executive meeting Mr. L. Phenna said the number of registrations reported at the end of January was 50 fewer than at the same time last year.

He said that sub-branch secretaries, by submitting capitations returns promptly, could do much to improve the situation.

The committee had been planning some white-water tours of the South-West this year. It had also sent out a reminder-letter to those who had failed to renew subscriptions during the last few years.

The State President said he had been disappointed with the attendance at the special membership meeting in January but the gathering, though small, had put in a lot of work.

He thought the January issue of The Listening Post had set the pattern for a major assault on the membership problem.

The present decline could not be allowed to continue. The League's impact on the community was bound up with its numerical strength.

Nursing At The Home

A plan to provide nursing accommodation at the War Veterans' Home is to receive thorough investigation, the result of which is to be reported to the State Executive.

Dr A. King told the executive this month that the aim was to provide short-term medical services.

He said the overall position at the home was quite satisfactory.

All male accommodation was fully utilised and a few applicants were awaiting admission.

Sir Eric Says "Thank You"

Among correspondence dealt with at this month’s executive meeting on February 1 was a letter from Mr. Eric Schuhmore, indicating the gratulating message from the League on the knighthood conferred on him in the New Year honours list.

There was similar correspondence with Mr. E. Macleod in respect of the M.B.E. conferred on him.

The Boulder Auxiliary Honours Its President

The Boulder R.S.L. women’s auxiliary recently celebrated the end of a very successful year with a special afternoon-tea party for card-players.

A highlight of the occasion was the presentation by Mrs Waterton (vice-president) of a beautiful iced cake with 21 candles and a polished key to the president, Mrs Win O’Grady, for her 21 years as president of the Boulder branch of the auxiliary.

Mrs O’Grady has been a member since 1929 when the auxiliary was only a committee, and president since July 28, 1945.

She is a wonderful worker and is much loved and honoured by her fellow-members.
CIVIL DEFENCE PUBLICITY

(Director's Reply to Criticism made by "Sunday Times")

I am concerned that a misleading impression, harmful to morale, may have been gained by Civil Defence personnel following publication in the "Sunday Times" on January 15, 1967, of the feature "Our Almost Forgotten Civil Defence System."

I am concerned that a misleading impression, harmful to morale, may have been gained by Civil Defence personnel following publication in the "Sunday Times" on January 15, 1967, of the feature "Our Almost Forgotten Civil Defence System."

The whole impression to be gained from reading the article is that Civil Defence has fallen into a state of apathy and is making little impact upon the people of Western Australia.

This is quite incorrect, and, as you will be aware from your own experience, there is a sound and practical interest in Civil Defence extending through the bulk of the State's local authorities.

The feature creates a number of wrong impressions, one of which is on the subject of warning systems.

It does not follow for one moment that Western Australia would be the first State in Australia to receive a nuclear attack. Indeed, in presenting Civil Defence to the public, attention has always been drawn to the fact that there is every possibility of a "strategic" period of warning based on happenings in other areas of the world.

Even if an attack were made on Australia, it is logical to assume that the crowded areas of the Eastern States would have a higher target priority than those available in Western Australia.

The Commonwealth Government has advised us that a broadcasting station has been set up near Sydney and that another one is contemplated near Newcastle, the purpose of these stations being, inter alia, to give advance warning of likely attacks.

Presuming the state of the Government which would be associated with warnings of this nature, it is beyond doubt that warnings could be broadcast by telephone and by other wireless channels in such a manner that Western Australia would be fully aware of the situation within a very short time after an attack had been developed.

The impression given by the press, therefore, that no warning system is in existence is not in accordance with fact.

The feature makes reference to the concrete bunker at Belmont which houses operational headquarters.

This bunker is such that even, in the event of a nuclear attack the headquarters would still function, there being less receiving a direct hit and this would be most improbable.

The article goes on to insinuate that the bomb fell, and we are told that with adequate warning the director, and his team might reach the Civil Defence centre without anyone being aware that an emergency existed.

It has always been my view that in any period of strategical or tactical war warning, the essential life and property saving personnel would be moved out of the metropolitan area and would be on call to the State headquarters.

RESCUE VEHICLES

Reference is also made to having only three fully-equipped rescue vehicles. In fact, there is one station waggon, the impression gained being that this is the total fleet of vehicles to be responsible for Civil Defence activities in this State.

This is, of course, entirely wrong. All vehicles in our possession are for training purposes only.

We have never intended that this modest fleet would be construed as representing the entire allocation of State Civil Defence resources for war-time purposes.

The bulk of Civil Defence planning rests on making use of existing resources. In this direction it is axiomatic that the tremendous resources of the Government and of private industry, in the field of transport would be impressed, immediately for Civil Defence purposes should the occasion arise.

The article further states that the Commonwealth authorities could obtain saws, axes, etc., from the Federal Department of Defence and that many garages have lifting gear.

In fact the true situation would be that the entire resources of the State, whether public or private, would be called upon to perform the tasks involved in the survival of the State.

It is not merely a question of obtaining saws, axes, etc. In essence the situation would demand that all equipment required would be readily available, for the task of regulation or other means.

The next section discusses first-aid and hospital matters, as well as the question of finding emergency premises is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Health Department

and that the position is being examined.

MEDICAL FIELD

In fact a great deal has been done in the field of medical planning. The sub-committee was asked to examine this whole question was most active last year and the Commonwealth authorities, in conjunction with Dr. Rowe and others of the State Medical Department, have prepared plans for emergency hospitalisation and indeed have made a complete assessment of the capacity of Western Australia not only to care for, or to hospitalise, those injured in Western Australia but also to receive patients from other States if necessary.

Again, the scheme is one where the early, immediate and constructive action of the medical profession is imperative and the writer of the feature, who stated that many

(Continued, Page 3)
Tasmanian Fire Disaster Appeal

As this journal went to press R.S.L. donations to the Tasmanian Fire Disaster appeal fund totalled $155,590, as follows:
- State branch $89,10. Anzac Club collections $36.
- War Veterans' Home $39,10.
- Women's Auxiliary $167,20.


Numerous other sub-branches have promised donations.

Civil Defence and Emergencies

The recent bushfire disasters in Hobart (Tasmania) have emphasised that at the height of a disaster families or individuals can be thrown very much on their own resources.

While pandemonium reigns, and before rescue teams can reach the scene, people can be faced with the responsibility of ensuring individual survival.

Civil Defence teaching is to encourage people to become more self-reliant as individuals, because in the initial survival phase after disaster self-help will be the predominant factor and will start within the family.

A knowledge of first-aid and home nursing is important as in case of injury it is essential to know both what to do and what not to do pending arrival of medical aid.

Useful and beneficial knowledge at all times is an appreciation of elementary fire fighting and emergency hygiene and sanitation.

Simple precautions in the home include provision of a stock of emergency food, water, a basic first-aid kit, a radio-receiver, emergency lighting, and keeping the petrol tank topped up in the family car.

Ex-servicemen need no reminder of these protective measures, and sub-branches are asked to continue their support of Civil Defence planning which is now going on in the State at local government level.

CIVIL DEFENCE (from Page 2)

Civil Defence organisations take little interest. One might also ask why on the State Emergency side, no mention was made of the highly successful evacuation of Carnarvon residents to Geraldton several years ago or of the splendid performances by Civil Emergency services at Dwellingup, Margaret River, and Gidgegannup, and Shark Bay of the excellent work carried out during the Harvey floods, and of the State service's activities at Bunbury and other country centres.

I think you will agree that the feature generally presented an unfair picture of the splendid performances by Civil Defence organisations in Western Australia, and I would be pleased if you would pass on the remarks made here to all your members.

F. FALCONER.
Director

Views On Foreign Awards

The League has been pressing the Commonwealth Government for legislation to permit acceptance and wearing by Australian servicemen of foreign decorations bestowed by the United States, South Vietnam or other allied Governments.

From Defence Minister Fairhall comes the following statement setting out the Government's general policy in the matter:

"I refer to your letter of 1st November, 1956, concerning the resolution passed by the National Council of the R.S.L. recommending the enactment of legislation to provide for the acceptance and wearing of foreign awards by Australian servicemen.

"I have noted the points you have raised, and given careful consideration to them. I do not share your view that the Federation is justified in raising the need for revision of the awards system.

"The Australian forces in Vietnam are fighting in the Queen's service, and whether British forces or other Commonwealth forces are similarly engaged has no bearing on this fact. Her Majesty is the Queen of Australia.

"Our policy on the acceptance and wearing of foreign awards is that all foreign decorations and medals are to be accepted.

"All of our servicemen in Vietnam are under the command of the Australian forces. For those not directly under Australian operational control, arrangements have been made with the commanders of United States and the Vietnamese forces to forward citations for acts of bravery of Australians serving with those forces to the Australian commanders who, in turn, forward them to Australia.

"Where it is considered that a particular action is deserving of recognition the appropriate British award is recommended and the recommendation is processed in the usual way.

"I would, however, mention that approval was recently given by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Australian Prime Minister for the acceptance of the campaign medal issued by the Vietnamese Government in recognition of operational service in the Vietnam war.

"Governments of all allied countries with forces in Vietnam have agreed to accept this medal."

Etchings Of Barracks Archway

Mr. Nigel David, an artist residing in West Perth at 36 Fairlight Street, has done an etching of the Old Barracks which he hopes will sell in the future. The price is $3 (black and white) and $4 (coloured). Anyone interested is requested to write or call on Mr. David.

Now's The Time To Pay Your Subscription

Please pay in your 1967 subscription ($3) now—it becomes due on January 1. Make payment either to your sub-branch secretary (as listed above) or at League headquarters (times see Page 2).

DON'T—
- Wear a badge without financial clip.
- Wear a badge with a clip years old.
- Wear an old soup-plate type badge.

NAME

ADDRESS

SUB-BRANCH

Your badge deserves a financial clip.

The League needs YOU. If you don't need the League at the moment yourself, an old service mate may. The League is as strong as its membership.
No Question Of Compulsion On Naturalisation Issue

A National Congress resolution (item Number-221) asked that migrants who fail to become naturalised within five years of their arrival in this country should be returned to their homeland, and that it be made mandatory for the children of naturalised migrants to apply for citizenship at 18 years of age.

To representations based on the resolution Immigration Minister Smedden has replied as follows:

"You wrote to my predecessor on 5th December 1966 forwarding, for his comment, Resolution 221 carried at the 51st Congress of the Returned Services League.

"The question of whether naturalisation should be obligatory has been considered on many occasions, not only by successive Ministers for Immigration but also by the Commonwealth Immigration Advisory Council and by delegates to the Universal Citizenship Convention which represents a broad cross-section of the community.

"It has been agreed generally that Australian citizenship is a privilege which must be earned. It should be granted only to those persons who have demonstrated that they are prepared to voluntarily assume, without any form of coercion or compulsion, the rights and responsibilities which citizenship imposes.

ENCOURAGEMENT

"The Government is anxious that our new settlers should seek naturalisation as soon as they are eligible to do so, and everything possible is being done to encourage them to take this step.

"However, the Government is firmly of the opinion that an alien's decision to naturalise must continue to be a voluntary one, without any form of coercion or compulsion on him should he not seek the grant of citizenship immediately he is residually entitled to do so.

"The Department of Immigration has no knowledge of any country which makes acquisition of citizenship obligatory after a specified period of residence. There is certainly no such provision in the nationality laws of other English-speaking countries.

"The period of five years' residence in Australia is the normal requirement for naturalisation. It is essentially a probationary period to establish a person's suitability for citizenship, and it does not necessarily follow that every alien is qualified to receive citizenship at the end of that time.

"In fact the average length of residence at the time of naturalisation is over seven years.

"Minors between the ages of 16 and 21 years who meet other normal requirements for citizenship may be naturalised after completing two years' residence here, provided they produce the written consent of their parents if the latter are living in Australia.

"What has been said about the general question of compulsory naturalisation applies equally in the case of minors. It might be added that to compel minors to become naturalised against the wishes of their parents would be, I believe, damaging indeed to Australia's image abroad and could well materially react against its migration programme.

"The right to remain in Australia, after being lawfully admitted for residence, is part of the individual's basic freedom and may not be taken away except on grounds specifically defined by Parliament.

"These are specified in the Migration Act. Failure to apply for naturalisation is not one of these grounds."
The New Repatriation Chief

The appointment of Mr W. J. Robson as Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation in Western Australia—following the death of Alex Panton on December 29—was announced on January 14.

John Robson, who was Assistant Deputy Commissioner, joined the department after discharge from the Army in 1944. Since then he has occupied many positions, and for five years served in the commission's office in Melbourne.

He served with the 2/28th Battalion at Tobruk and El Alamein. One brother was at Tobruk with him; another joined him at El Alamein; a third was in the R.A.A.F. at Benghazi, and two others were in the R.A.N.

John, who is a member of the Perth Legacy, is a Justice of the Peace and a member of the R.S.L. He is well-known in R.S.L. circles throughout the State for his energetic, able and sincere approach to all repatriation matters.

Mr. Robson, Deputy Repatriation Commissioner

The Vote at 18 For Those on Service

Representations concerning a National Congress determination seeking the vote at the age of 18 years for those who enlist voluntarily or otherwise, in the armed forces have drawn the following ministerial reply:

I refer to your letter of 2nd December, 1966, containing a resolution carried at the 51st National Congress of the R.S.L. concerning the granting of the franchise to all members 18 years and over of the defence forces.

The Commonwealth and State electoral laws have always provided that persons are not enrolled as electors unless they attain their legal majority.

In this respect Australia is in line with most other countries. Exceptions have been made for servicemen on operational service as referred to in your letter.

During both world wars the governments of the day introduced legislation—through the Commonwealth Electoral (War-time) Acts—which gave all Australian servicemen who were 21 years and over, and who were serving overseas, the right to vote.

Later in both wars (1918 and 1943 respectively) these provisions were extended to include servicemen under the age of 21 years while overseas and, in addition, after returning from overseas service.

This privilege was for the duration of the war and three years thereafter in relation to the first world war, and for the duration and six months thereafter in the second world war.

An amendment made to the Commonwealth Electoral Act—effective from January, 1954, and which still applies—extended the franchise to all members of the defence force on service outside Australia, whether enrolled—or no, but who are not less than 21 years of age and are British subjects.

The Commonwealth Electoral Act, 1966, provides for the extension of the Federal franchise to persons under 21 years of age who are, or who have been, on special service outside Australia as members of the defence force.

Thus, at the time of an election, all servicemen overseas on special service or who have previously been on special service would be able to vote under existing law.

It will be seen that the precedent established in two world wars of extending the franchise to all servicemen engaged on operational service has been followed in respect of service in Vietnam.

It is the Government's view that the existing electoral legislation is sound and that the special provisions made for servicemen are adequate and confer a special privilege on those who deserve it most.

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Getting Exemption From Training Obligation

The Minister for Labour and National Service, Mr. Bury, has replied to league representations concerning resolution No. 109 of the 51st National Congress.

This asked for discontinuance of the current procedure for dealing with applications for deferment of national service training and the setting-up of a system of independent tribunals in each State. The Minister says:

"I refer to your letter of December 5 last in which you drew to my attention Resolution No. 109 carried at your 51st National Congress. "This Resolution dealt with the procedures for processing applications for deferment and exemption from national service.

"From the comments in your letter I take it that the resolution was concerned with the determination of applications for exemption from national service on the grounds of conscientious objection, and not with the deferment or call-up which may be granted on other grounds. "As provided by the National Service Act, an application for exemption from military service may not be granted only on duties of a non-combatant nature. "If the application is unsuccessful, there is a right of appeal to a higher court and the decision of this court is final and conclusive. "If the appeal is unsuccessful there is no doubt about the independence of the tribunals at present dealing with such applications. But for exemption, they are in no way associated with the administration of national service or of the Army, and indeed the magistrates and judges concerned are in no way subject to direction from the Minister or from the Government. "Leaving aside other considerations, there could be no assurance that if applications for exemption were to be determined by tribunals of three members established by statute they would be seen as having more independent and impartial than the existing courts. "You have mentioned the need for uniformity in the determination of applications for exemption, but I again suggest that there is no reason for believing that this could be more effectively than with the present system. 

"No applications are quite the same even though they may be so represented in the summary accounts that may appear in the press."

PUBLIC INTEREST

"The Government has taken the view that it is in the national interest that the sitting of evidence, the examination of witnesses and the related determination, which is the responsibility of those who are most competent and experienced in these matters, should be referred to a court of summary jurisdiction for hearing and determination."

PREROGATIVE

"The magistrates have the power to direct that the registrant be exempted from all military service or that he be employed only on duties of a non-combatant nature. "If the application is unsuccessful, there is a right of appeal to a higher court and the decision of this court is final and conclusive. "If the appeal is unsuccessful, there is no doubt about the independence of the tribunals at present dealing with such applications. But for exemption, they are in no way associated with the administration of national service or of the Army, and indeed the magistrates and judges concerned are in no way subject to direction from the Minister or from the Government. "Leaving aside other considerations, there could be no assurance that if applications for exemption were to be determined by tribunals of three members established by statute they would be seen as having more independent and impartial than the existing courts. "You have mentioned the need for uniformity in the determination of applications for exemption, but I again suggest that there is no reason for believing that this could be more effectively than with the present system. 

"No applications are quite the same even though they may be so represented in the summary accounts that may appear in the press."

16th Battalion Association Notes

The 16th Battalion Association has suffered a great loss through the death of Mrs. Ketterer who, as president of the battalion for many years, did great things for both bodies.

Mrs. Ketterer took ill a few months ago and recently moved to Busselton, where she died. The condolences of all are extended to her family.

A message from South Australia has been received by the news that Charlie Williamson, of the South Australian branch of the association, has received the M.B.E. for community services.

Dan Aarons, who has lived in Sydney for many years, is reported to have joined the ranks of the old battalion members still on deck.

At the January committee meeting, Mrs. Oxenford, in behalf of the women's auxiliary, presented the association with a cheque for $30.

Mr. Jack McMahan, of 7 Bramble Street, has been reported on the sick-list at home. The committee would be pleased to know if any member living close by would pay him a visit.

Glen Forrest Gleanings

An attendance of 26 for the first R.S.L. meeting this year at Glen Forrest augurs well for the sub-branch.

For the first meeting of the new year Glen Forrest had an attendance of 26 and for a monthly meeting this indicates a good year.

President, R. Field was on leave and senior vice-president Arthur Weston handled the meeting in his absence.

It was noticed that several members had rejoined the branch after being absent for some years. Sub-branch officials were pleased to see them again and hope they will enjoy the spirit and the enthusiasm of the undertaking in the betterment of the branch.

It has been decided to have a Barbecue night on March 16 with the intention of inviting any member who has been a member or office-bearer in the sub-branch, and also members who had an interest in the Mundaring and Districts and Glen Forrest-Dutton combined branch.

The latter two branches were renamed when the existing sub-branches were formed.

It is hoped to see the early office of the branch name only two of many. Ned Goddard, now of Perth, and Ernie Bray.

Many others helped in the early-formation of the branch and are still good members of the Sub-Branch.
"OPERATION NEW LIFE" SEEN IN ACTION

In Vietnam recently were R.S.L. Deputy National President Sir Raymond Hush and National Secretary W. Keyes to check up on the impact being made by the League's "Operation New Life," which aims to bring food, clothing, garden equipment and household amenities to war-disrupted families. Here we see the observers in some of their encounters.

AT RIGHT: Delight shows on the face of a young learner while Mr. Keyes (left) and Sir Raymond look on.

BELOW LEFT: The League officers hand out clothing to children of the village of Hoa-Long, a few miles from the Australian Task Force camp.

BELOW RIGHT: The observers in conversation with 2nd Lieut. Jim Leven of Wahgunyah, Victoria.
Former Prisoners-of-war Remember Fallen
Comrades

Pictured at left are scenes from the annual wreath-laying ceremony of the West Australian branch of the Ex-P.O.W. Association at the State War Memorial on Sunday, February 12.

In the upper picture we see the official party approaching the memorial. Below are seen representatives of the Commonwealth and State Governments laying wreaths.

Fairbridge Scholars Feted

Over 50 Fairbridge Farm School children were feted at Christmas by the Ex-Service-women's sub-branch.

They were taken to Queen's Park in the morning, when refreshments were served to them whilst playing games, and they were later conveyed to Anzac House for luncheon.

In the afternoon the children attended the film "Born Free" before returning by bus to Fairbridge Farm, Pinjarra.

Representatives of the sub-branch attended the Remembrance Day service at the State War Memorial and laid a wreath.

Others were present at the R.S.L. War Veterans' Home service.

The sub-branch was also represented at the ceremony held in commemoration of the Rats of Tobruk at the Perth War Cemetery, and at the ceremony for the handing over of gifts from the A.W.A.S. to the War Veterans' Home for the beautification of the grounds adjoining the new chapel.

The annual Christmas party was held in the Soroptimists' Club rooms.

Among official guests were State President and Mrs. Pearson, and Major O. Howes, superintendent of the R.S.L. War Veterans' Home, and Mrs. Howes.

Report on State Congress Items

Here is the official report of the action taken on the various items of last year's State Congress—held during July in the Anzac House Ballroom.

Defense

Item No. 4 (Mt. Barker)—carried; became National Congress item No. 82—carried (standing policy).

Constitution (State)

Item No. 14 (State Executive)—carried.

Item No. 15 (State Executive)—carried; became National Congress item No. 91—carried (standing policy).

Item No. 19 (State Executive)—carried; became National Congress item No. 21—carried; discharged by item No. 17.

Constitution (National)

Item No. 30 (Kenwick)—withdrawn in operation.

Self-sufficiency In Defence Supplies

A resolution at National Congress last October called for the placing of defence contracts, as much as possible, with Australian manufacturers.

It was felt that such orders now would help to make manufacturers of the best products to meet the nation's defence requirements in time of necessity.

Subsequent representations on this question to the Government have brought the following reply from Defence Minister Fairhall:

"You have asked for up-to-date information on the extent of defence production being undertaken by local contractors.

"In Parliament on 28th September, 1946, in answer to a question on this subject I quoted figures of 950 million worth of contracts already placed and said that the equipment components of the defence vote were 75% of this, or $75 million, which would be taken as a basis for further contracts.

"In the Review of Defence Production in 1946, the Prime Minister said that the extent of local production of defence supplies was 50% of the total. This has now been raised to 70%.

"The Government must take considerable action to ensure that the armaments factories are kept up to the mark and that the necessary supplies are produced to meet the requirements of the Army, Air Force, and Navy.

"The Returned Services League can be assured that the production of defence supplies will continue to be encouraged as the value of this in our defence preparations is fully appreciated."
Red Writing Found

Late last month somebody wrote the word "Vietnam" in red lettering beneath the State War Memorial.

State President Pearson said at the executive meeting on February 1 that he had been informed of this, the previous day, by a television Channel 7 representative. Mr. Pearson had been asked if he had any comment to make, and had reiterated that the League strongly objected to mutilation of memorials.

In the League view such mutilation was highly reprehensible and should be punished severely. He had pointed out that a democracy there were means by which the perpetrator of such deeds could register his passion other than by the mutilation of memorials. Mr. Pearson said he understood that the writing had been quickly removed by a member of the King's Park staff.

"My praise to BEX..."

Mr. John Parker, 16 Henry Street, CARDIFF, N.S.W., writes:

"My praise to Bex Powders. I could hardly walk twenty yards without stooping and holding my knees for the pain from rheumatism. But thanks to Bex Powders that I can go away working all day now."

There's no need to suffer pain when you can get relief quickly and safely by following the simple BEX directions. Within a few minutes the pain eases and fades away because the pure medicinals used in BEX and its time-tested formula are thoroughly effective. Ask for BEX.

BEX IS BETTER


Army Re-stocks With Local Equipment

A complete new range of lightweight Australian-manufactured generating equipment will be adopted by the Army this year.

Announcing this the Minister for the Army, Mr. Malcolm Fraser, said that until recently the Army had been using equipment of World War I vintage for the generation of electric power in the field.

These sets would be replaced progressively, starting this year, with new Australian equipment.

The changeover would involve equipment now being used in Vietnam, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea, as well as in Australia.

The new sets ranged from battery-charging equipment and small hand-driven generators to power wireless sets and engine-driven equipment to provide power for major overseas intelligence communications centres and base areas.

The lightweight operational equipment was being created by staff at the Army Design Establishment, Maribyrnong, Victoria, and developed collaboratively with Australian companies in Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.

They were now entering production following intensive climatic and durability trials on the prototypes.
Flower-Arranging For A Very Good Cause

This year’s Red Cross flower-arrangement competition, to be held in Boans Fashion Hall on February 23 and 24 (Thursday and Friday), will assist the work of Red Cross at home and abroad.

The competition will be officially opened at 11 a.m. on the Thursday, when the trophies and the Country and Industries Bank Cup will be presented by Lady Kendrew. There will be ‘morning tea and floral surprises’ on the basis of a donation of $2.20 for visitors and $1 for competitors. A special feature for the occasion will be the presentation by Dr G. Newman-Morris, national chairman of the Australian Red Cross Services.

There will be an afternoon gathering at 2.30 p.m., with afternoon tea (donation) and a demonstration by Mrs G. M. Garrett of Victoria. The R. & I. Bank Cup will be presented for the “most outstanding exhibit in the hall.” The cup is competed for annually and held for a year by the winner. Another trophy donated by the bank will be retained by the winner of the cup.

CLASSES

The competition classes are:
1. Elegance in Glass.
2. Arranged basket (flowers or fruit).
3. Foliage arrangement—any container.
4. Most artistic arrangement—any container.
5. Dry arrangement (no restrictions).
6. Hay, horticultural material only (frame allowed, but must be entirely covered).
7. Table arrangement for a special occasion—(this to be named; please supply own cloth).
8. Bold as Brass.

Discussion On Anzac Day

At the executive meeting on February 1 the State President said that a meeting the previous night with various association representatives had been very satisfactory. The meeting had been held on the various aspects of the Anzac Day parade.

Arms Games Once More

The 1967 Archbishop Riley Memorial Shield games series is to start shortly and the organising committee would like to see many more sub-branches entering the competition.

Last year’s contest started with nine teams contesting the highest number to date.

Golf to be contested are small-bore rifle shooting, table tennis, pegs, daft and bridge.

These are played both at home and away, so participation means the making of new friends and the enjoyment of many pleasant evenings.

Supper and drinks are available at the games nights and are regarded by the participants as very much worthwhile. Why not be in it?

Medical Treatment By Specialists

The Repatriation Minister, Senator McKellar, has replied as follows to League representation based on National Congress item 53, dealing with specialist treatment of patients.

I refer to your letter of 29th November 1966, submitting the following resolution which was carried at the 51st National Congress of the Returned Services League.

"That where a person is referred to a specialist for examination and/or treatment and is detained with such examination and/or treatment, or prior to such examination and/or treatment, the Departmental panel should be attended by a specialist, that the Department should agree to his request and that the Department always does its best to satisfy the wishes of its patients.

Prior to a consultation, a patient indicated a desire to see a particular specialist the Departmental panel would endeavour to satisfy such a request provided that the appointment was made with the approval of the patient.

The Department has not been informed of any additional expense by way of travelling, subsistence, etc. Provided that there were no good medical reasons for doing so, the Department would be advised before such a request could be met where this involved additional expense.

We have concluded however, that strong opposition would be advanced before such a request could be met where this involved additional expense by way of travelling, subsistence, etc.

provided that there were good medical reasons for doing so, the Department would be advised before such a request could be met where this involved additional expense by way of travelling, subsistence, etc.

Let’s Call The Step, Loud And Clear!

(To The Editor)

Sir—judging from W.A. membership dropouts in 1966 the League is facing the most serious depletion of membership in its history.

We “lucky ones” in particular should count our blessings. Let us forget that we have not attended a League meeting for many years, and that we have not seen our old mates for maybe a decade, but let us remember that the annual subscription will continue, as will all the other work of the League, and that it is necessary to get to the heart of the matter. Conscience money is worth while and the enjoyment of many pleasant evenings.

With the dark shadows of war and immediate improvement almost completely faded in the light of growing Australian prosperity it is understandable that motivation for membership must weaken for many of us. But the temptation to leave the ranks should be firmly pushed aside.

The shadows have not been lifted for the men and women and their dependants, and those of us who are combatants or their dependants have the right to demand such membership shall be present at more or less the same time. One advantage of the whole operation is that each parcel will be of Australian origin.

Consigning Parcels To Troops Abroad

The following advice on the consigning of parcels to Australian troops serving overseas has been received from the Australian Services Canteens organisation.

1. Due to the demands being placed on R.A.A.F. couriers between Malaysia and Vietnam, and the considerable growth in the number of monthly parcels destined for that area, we have been requested in the future that all parcels should be sent to the following address:

   N.A.A.F., POST BOX 1
   BUTTERWORTH, MALAYSIA

2. We shall accept responsibility for this task, and will assemble the parcels, under bond, at our Sydney embarkation point. It is expected that a parcel for each service personnel has been received that any parcel be presented free of charge for shipment at regular intervals on S.S. Jepart.

3. Jepart sailings are not at regular intervals. Sometimes six weeks elapse between trips; at others the time is only four weeks.

4. Advice has also been received that gift parcels can be consigned free on the charter vessels carrying maintenance stores for the Australian force in Vietnam.

Gifts for personnel in Singapore and Malaysia are now dispatched by service transport on a no-oast basis. Under these arrangements the postal charge for a parcel must be in a cost of $2.10.
Can We Help YOU?

If you have goods or services to sell, we can assist you in your publicity and advertising.

We have a guaranteed Circulation of 16,500 copies monthly and our rates are among the lowest in Australia.

Contact the ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT, ANZAC HOUSE, ST. GEORGE’S TERRACE, PERTH ANY TIME

Some Office-changes Made at Mundaring

At the annual meeting of the Mundaring and Districts sub-branch on the night of Monday, January 23, office-bearers for 1967 were installed by State Executive member Allan Cooper.

Outgoing president Allen Trew welcomed a very good roll-up of members and also visitors from neighbouring sub-branches, those represented being Darling-ton, Glen Forrest, Mt. Helena, Chidlow and Wooroloo.

Mr. Trew thanked members for their co-operation during the previous year, especially on such days as Anzac and Poppy Day, and asked for a similar or greater effort for the incoming president during 1967.

Installed as president for 1967 was Jack Radford, who only arrived in Australia from Kenya in July, 1964.

Jack saw six years service with the King’s African Rifles during the World War and previously was on the reserve list of the European Territorial Regiment.

For eight years he was a police reserve in Kenya before migrating to Australia.

Members of the Mundaring and Districts sub-branch wish him well as their new president.

Appointed as senior vice-president was last year’s secretary Nev Norrish, with Rabb Robb as junior vice-president.

The secretarial position has gone to last year’s president, Allen Trew.

New Flag Soon

For Navy

The date of the introduction of the Australian white ensign into the Royal Australian Navy has been brought forward to March 1, Navy Minister Chipp has announced.

Originally May 1 had been set as the date for the ensign’s introduction.

The new ensign is of the same design as the Australian national flag. It has a Union Jack on a white background with dark blue stars.

The flag will replace the St. George Cross ensign of the Royal Navy which has been flown by the Royal Australian Navy since its inception in 1911.

Mr. Chipp said that the earlier date had been made possible by the speed of supply of the new flags.

See LYNWOOD today

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

This unusual home is “Sunvale” one of the newest contemporary design homes in the wide R.D.C. range. “Sunvale” is full of fine R.D.C. features including a delightful outdoor entertainment and barbecue area.

The elegant charm of a colonial home is reflected in the design of the “Logonville,” another new addition to the R.D.C. range of quality home plans. See “Logonville” and “Sunvale” at Lynwood today.

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.

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.
Those Fees are now Due

Administrative and capitation fees are now due. The administrative fees are $7 per auxiliary made up as follows: State President's expenses, $2; State President's allowance, $1; State Secretary's honorarium, $2; hospital visiting fares, $2. The capitation fees is 30 cents per member.

Owing to many auxiliaries having difficulty in getting the printed balance sheet forms audited they have been discontinued. Will auxiliaries therefore please forward balance sheets as previously sent, bearing the auxiliary stamp and audited.

DONATIONS

Latest donations are:
- Christmas Cheer
  - Cottesloe, $10; Mt. Hawthorn, $20; Port Hedland, $50; Southern Cross, $420; Collie-Cardiff, $20; Katanning, $20; Lake Grace, $20; Balcatta-Palmyra, $4; Belmont, $20.

- Hospital Visiting
  - Cottesloe, $10; Mt. Hawthorn, $10; Southern Cross, $420; Collie-Cardiff, $40; Katanning, $20; Lake Grace, $10; Northam, $10; Mundaring, $20; Boulder, $20; Mundaring, $20; Boulder, $10.

-G Rudy, $5; Geraldton, $20; Katanning, $60; Bruce Rock, $20.

Legacy
- Southern Cross, $420; Mandurah, $10; Geraldton, $10; Gnowangerup, $14; Dumbleyung, $10; Waroona, $10; Gnowangerup, $10; Rocky.

CORRECTIONS

Listed incorrectly in the December issue were:
- Coorow—$20 in War Veterans' Home Maintenance. This should have been $10 War Veterans' Home (maintenance) and $10 Christmas Cheer.
- Brookton—$160 in War Veterans' Home (maintenance). This should have been $100 Hospital Visiting, $50 Christmas Cheer and $10 War Vets. Home.

THANK YOU

The State President and executive wish to thank auxiliaries for donations to hospitals, to hospitals and Hospital Visiting funds as without them it would not be possible to continue those activities.

Letters of thanks from various hospitals, for the Christmas parcels have been received. Greetings to all for the new year!

Chidlow Encounter

From the local scribe comes the following account of the Townsend Shield competition games night held at Chidlow on January 27.

Mr. Ken Clements welcomed the visitors present. The Castor Toast, and a toast to Australia Day, recited the Rememberance Ritual and after the silence that followed read out the fixtures for the night.

After a good first-round competition, which was without representative from Wooloroo, Mr. A. Cooper (State Executive member), and representative for most of the Hills sub-branches, at headquarters functions, arrived and attended the Gidgegannup annual election and installation of officers.

The competition was played in an exceptionally good, and at supper, served buffet style during the last round, Mr. Alen Gildd moved a vote of thanks to our hosts for the night, ably supported by Mr. Allan Trew.

The final round ended with three sub-branches level with, 2 points each (Chidlow, Glen Forrest and Mundaring), Darlington with 18 and Mt. Helena with 12 and Wooloroo yet to score.

The raffle was drawn, and as a result for Mr. Neville Norrish (nice going, Neville!).

The small attendance was disappointing, only 23 being present, and it appears that unless a larger number of sub-branches attend the Gidgegannup, the annual election and installation of officers.

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Bowls Sets
Presented
To Veterans

Keen bowlers at the War Veterans’ Home now have the latest bowls sets to use as the result of a presentation made recently by Royal W.A. Bowling Association president Bert Smith on behalf of the association.

This very acceptable gift of 12 sets of bowls and six jacks is greatly appreciated, and the bowlers who have been offered to use them can hardly believe their good fortune.

During the presentation the home superintendent expressed the hope that members of the R.W.A.B.A. Fraternity would set aside one day in March each year for a birthday match with 12 members of the association’s executive playing a similar number of the War Veterans’ Home team.

An open invitation is extended to all clubs to arrange matches against the veterans. They have a remarkably good green.

THE LAST POST (ex-service deaths)

DECEMBER LIST

BADOCK R. C., WX30175 16th Bn., Rivervale.
BOYLE V. L. G., 4559, 48th Bn., Maylands.
BREDE H. B., 10th L.H., Nedlands.
COLE H. L. G., 2814, 13th Bn., Mandurah.
CROSS W. W., 2090830, R.A.F., Albany.
DANIELS A. D., WX575 2/16th Bn., Koorda.
DAVIS F. G. W., 17431, R.A.A.F., Bassendean.
De GRAY R. A., 2887, 5th M.D., Central.
DOUGLAS H., 28th Bn., Manjimup.
GALLOP L. S., 25958, R.A.A.F., Albany.
GEORGE E. F., Flyv. 2/4th Bn., Welsh South Perth.
HARRINGTON C., 880409, R.E.M.E., Karrinyup.
LEPPINGSTONE C., 10th L. H., City of Perth.
LAKE A. E., WX3482, 2/28th Bn., Gloucester Park.
LEIPER R. B., 30713, H.L., Cowaramup.
MACKAY D., 3407, 11th Bn., Victoria Park.
MARCHALL H. S., 7997, 16th Bn., Wagin.
McCORMICK E. J., 1629, 32nd Bn., Murray.
PAXTON A. H., WX7532, 2/5th Field Regt., Como.
RADBOURN C. N., 61, 28th Bn., Victora Park.
REILLY P. J., 796, 44th Bn., Bassendean.
ROSS H. F., 419050, R.A.A.F., City of Perth.
RUSSELL C. G., 3548, 10th L. H., Applecross.
SAGGERS A. E., WX3454, 4/2D M.G., Nedlands.
SHEARD C. O., 5306, 4th Bn., North Perth.
SMITH C. E., WX21467, 5th W./Coy., Victoria Park.
SMITH T. F., 130, 4th Bn., Shenton Park.
STREET T. T., WX3683, 2/16th Bn., Carlisle.
STYLES A. B., 6104, 11th Bn., Guildford.
TANNER A. E.V., F4756, R.A.N., Bicton-Palmyra.
THOMAS H. H., 380, 28th Bn., Public Service.

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THE NATIONAL BANK
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ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICEMEN

FEDERATED T.B. SAILORS,Soldiers, and Airmens' Association (W.A.)—Branches—2nd Floor, Watson's, 138 William-street, Perth. Second Monday, President, W. Lindsay. Secretary, W. Scott. Meet ANZAC House basement, first Monday at 2 p.m. President, D. Cross, Secretary, K. McPhail. Meetings held second Tuesday in Forest Hill, Engadine, Sydney, each month.

SOUTH AFRICAN AND IMPERIAL VETERANS' ASSOCIATION—ANZAC House basement, third Monday at 2 p.m. President, P. Miller. Secretary, A. F. Hurst. Meetings held second Tuesday in Forest Hill, Engadine, Sydney, each month.


10/11TH AND 21/22ND TATTOO ASSOCIATIONS—Meet first Monday in each month at Velux Hall, East Perth. President, H. M. Smith. Secretary, W. Anderson. Meetings held second Tuesday in Forest Hill, Engadine, Sydney, each month.

LIITLENS SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION—2nd Floor, Boans (Phone 23 3564). President, A. Westley, 205 Sixth Avenue, Claremont. Secretary, H. J. Brown, 122 The Strand, Bedford Park (71 5381).

MEET AT ANZAC CLUB The home of friendship!

BRITISH EX-SERVICEMEN ASSOCIATION W.A.—Second Tuesday in Forest Hill, Engadine, Sydney, each month. President, W. Lindsay. Secretary, D. Black (Box 947, Perth). Annual meeting held second Tuesday in Forest Hill, Engadine, Sydney, each month.

BRIGADE OF GUARDS ASSOCIATION W.A.—Second Tuesday in Forest Hill, Engadine, Sydney, each month. President, W. Lindsay. Secretary, D. Black (Box 947, Perth). Annual meeting held second Tuesday in Forest Hill, Engadine, Sydney, each month.

W.A. EX-P.O.W. ASSOCIATION—2nd Floor, Boans (Phone 23 3564). President, E. J. Smith. Secretary, W. J. Smith. Meetings held second Tuesday in Forest Hill, Engadine, Sydney, each month.

On Christmas morning, following a practice of many years standing, the Boulder sub-branch combined with Kalgoorlie in taking Father Christmas to the children's wards of the Kalgoorlie regional hospital, and the St. John of God hospital. Boulder secretary, Tedly McMahon, played his usual role as Father Christmas and the obvious pleasure that the sick kiddies derived from the visit, amply repaid those who each year, give up their Christmas morning to children who cannot spend the festive season at home.

A Treat For Children

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Fine Wine

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Overseas Visit

Canon H. Thorpe, M.B.E.—better known to many ex-P.O.W. as Padre Harry Thorpe of Burma Railway fame—has made yet another visit to the United Kingdom, and a most interesting letter has been received from him as he renews many friendships.

Travelling on P. & O. liner Himalaya by way of Panama he passed through many fascinating ports and arrived in England on December 13 and then went on to Switzerland and enjoyed journey via many ports and arrived in Sydney on March 21. He says he regrets to report the death of Captain L. J. E. Pusey (Suffolk Regiment), well known to many Australians from Tongchau camps in Thailand.

Peter Robinson, Ken Lewis and Jim Howard, Padre Harry says he also hopes to visit Tom Quinn and Hugh Brennan (Scotland) before leaving on his homeward journey via Penang and Singapore, and is due in Sydney on March 21.

Back in England he was guest speaker for a "This is your Life" evening at a London parish. He has met and stayed with ex-P.O.W. including Ken Sagers, Captain

28th Battalion Association Notes

A well known personality of the 28th Battalion (A.L.F.) Association, Ira Londt, Dunlop, recently passed away after a lengthy illness.

"Dunk," a member of 1st Reinforcements, joined the battalion in 1916. He served with it on the Somme, Gallipoli and returned to its service on Gallipoli and soon gained promotion.

From N.C.O. rank he received his commission in 1916. He soldiered on after his return to Australia and for a time commanded the 29th Battalion C.M.F.

He reached the rank of Brigadier in the C.M.F. before he retired from military duties.

During the War he commanded a V.D.C. battalion.

To help the association to obtain as quickly as possible the finance needed for the publication of the Battalion history those interested in obtaining a copy are invited to deposit a couple of dollars with the honorary treasurer.

When the publication price is ascertained necessary cash adjustments will be made.

Ex-members of the battalion are again reminded that their Association meets at Anzac House on the second Tuesday of each month, commencing at 2 p.m. These meetings give old comrades an opportunity for awaking memories.

At the conclusion of formal business the honorary secretary organises coffee and sandwiches to help make a pleasant afternoon.

House-exchange Proposal

Mr. E. H. Wilkins, has a three-bedroom brick and tile government home at 17 Barkev-street, Para Hills, Adelaide (S.A.), six years old, which he wishes to exchange for a similar type of home in Perth.

Anyone interested can leave a note Mr. Wilkins at No. 9 Malcolm-street, North Beach, up to March 15.

ALIENS WHO EVADE N.S. TRAINING

A resolution at last year's National Congress asked the Commonwealth Government to refuse re-entry to aliens who leave Australia to avoid being called up for national service training.

Here is the reply received recently from Labour and National Service Minister Bury:

"I refer to your letter of 5th December last in which you drew to my attention that 2 carried at your 51st National Congress. The resolution suggested that the Commonwealth Government be requested to refuse re-entry into Australia of any alien who left Australia to avoid being called up for national service."

"When the Government decided that non-British subjects or non-resident in Australia should be required to register for national service in accordance with the requirements applying to British subjects and should be liable for call up for service, it also decided that these non-British subjects should leave Australia if they so desired prior to being called up."

The High Standard of quality never varies.

WATSONIA

Butter, Hams, Bacon and Canned Meats

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