National Executive Action

Welcome To W.A.

Following is a resume of the State President's report, at this month's executive meeting, on the proceedings of the National Executive meeting in Canberra last month.

Jubilee Fund: The National Secretary, Mr. Keyes, would be addressing State Congress on this matter.

Overseas Fund: The Australian Forces Overseas Fund was budgeting for $100,000, which was better than last year's figure.

The States had been asked to accept responsibility for $5,000 and Queensland had already set aside that sum, which was required to send a touring concert party to overseas troops. There had been some fund-raising activity in all other States.

Operation New Life: Things were going well in all States. Western Australia had got off to a somewhat lukewarm start but there had been an improvement and 25 tons of goods had now been dispatched from the depot at Karrakatta.

South-East Asian Veterans' Association: A conference of South-East Asian and R.S.L. representatives would be held in Canberra from April 12 to 15.

National Service and trade status: Cases had been considered of men from Vietnam whose union tickets had been suspended. The National Secretary had been asked to take the matter up with the unions generally. At the same time the places of employment were to be approached to take them back.

Papua Proposal: The Papua-New Guinea State branch had proposed the establishment of a war memorial or a war museum in which would be displayed relics of the World War that had been left behind in the jungle.

National Executive had rejected the idea of a nation-wide appeal for purpose as it was felt that the Australian National War Memorial at Canberra supplied the national need.

There was no objection to Papua-New Guinea acting independently in the matter.

Welfare: There had been discussion of a resolution of the 17th conference of the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League encouraging member-countries to maintain their contributions to the organisation's welfare fund.

Jubilee: The 50th anniversary of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission was to be observed this half-year and a conference was to be held in London.

Finance for therapy: It was decided to support for one year, a Repatriation Department appeal for assistance to raise $1,050 for prizes in an art competition.

The competition was designed to encourage therapy work in hospitals and institutions.

Defence Issues: The League was recommending greater use of the National Service potential. At present only 8,500 young men out of the 80,000 or more available were being called up. After making ample provision for rejects it was felt there should be nearly 30,000 available for use.

The formation of a further Regular Army battalion was recommended.

It was also urged that those not required for military service should receive C.M.F. training.

Taking cognisance of the fact that the three service chiefs in this State are all relatively new to Perth the State Executive held a reception to them at Apac House on February 28.

The venue for the reception was the boardroom.

Seen here are the guests of honour—from left to right Group Captain E. B. Courtney, M.V.O., Officer Commanding R.A.A.F. Base, Pearce; Brigadier N. A. M. Nicholls, C.B.E., Commander Western Command, and Commodore H. Stevenson, N.O.I.C. Western Australia.
Mr Pearson To Attend Coming Conference

State President Pearson is to attend a conference in Canberra next month of representatives of Australian and South-East Asian ex-service organisations.

This was decided at the executive meeting on April 1 following a report Mr Pearson gave on the proceedings of last month’s National Executive meeting in Canberra.

The business sessions of the conference are to be held from April 12 to 15.

Mr Pearson said that at the conclusion of the conference a party of delegates would visit some large industrial centres, R.S.L. veterans’ homes, repatriation establishments and other places likely to be of assistance to them when making representations to their own governments or welfare agencies for their own ex-service men.

Overseas delegates would be in Sydney for the Anzac Day parade and would leave Australia from the Mascot Airport the following day.

There were to be two representatives from each of the countries concerned, which included Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, The Philippines and Malaysia.

Former State President W. S. Lomme said he was not happy that Indonesia should have been invited.

State Vice-President R. J. Stoddart felt the executive should have told a good deal more about the agenda for the conference before sending a representative to it.

Mr Pearson said the conference had been overwhelmingly decided on at National Congress and it was hoped that all Australian State branches would send representatives.

It was not anticipated that any controversial matters would be brought up.

He said that sub-branches with whom he had discussed the proposal had expressed themselves highly in favour of them.

Mr Pearson said he was not happy that Indonesia should have been invited.

Location of The Club

The League’s architectural adviser is not in favour of transferring the Anzac Club from its present area to the ballroom.

He said this in a letter read by State Vice-President Dr Alan King at this month’s executive meeting.

Dr King was reporting on State Congress Item Number 41, which sought a change of location.

The architect estimated the project as costly and impractical.

If other quarters were required he suggested seeking a new location altogether.

Foreign Decorations

(To The Editor)

Sir—I read with a great deal of interest, in the February issue of “The Listening Post,” Defence Minister Fairhall’s letter on foreign awards and decorations.

It is recognized that the books by “Taffrail,” I.e. Captain H. Taprell-Diaper, D.S.O., R.N., are authentic records on ribbons, and medals, and they are the basis of criticism herein.

Obviously Fairhall’s letter to the League is misrepresented and entirely evades the question, and in fact is entirely unjustified.

Throughout the glorious history of foreign awards—i.e. war medals—it is laid down that the Royal prerogative must be granted for foreign medals to be worn by both the R.N. and Army.

For your information and one trusts, future guidance to Defence Minister Fairhall and the Prime Minister, here are a few examples of foreign awards approved by the Royal command.

1. Seringapatam Medal 1799, awarded by East India Company, 1877.
3. Royal Niger Company Medal 1886-1897, issued and paid for by the Company.
4. Khedive’s Bronze Star 1882-91 issued by the Khedive of Egypt.
5. Rhodes 1896, Mashonaland 1897, issued and paid for by the British Government in South Africa of Cecil Rhodes. (General Sir Alex Godley, K.C.M.G., awarded ribbons).
6. Royal Niger Company Medal 1886-1897, issued and paid for by the Company.
7. Royal Neger Company Medal 1886-1897, issued and paid for by the Company.
8. Khedive’s Bronze Star 1882-91 issued by the Khedive of Egypt.

Defense Minister Fairhall writes: “The Queen’s prerogative alone,” but His Majesty cannot exercise this prerogative unless it is submitted for her approval by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia. The League should ask this question.

Her Majesty’s Australian soldiers are fighting in Vietnam and it is up to Fairhall to see that this matter is discussed by the proper British authorities.

Yours etc.,

I. Bird.
Thank You, R.S.L.!

Last year the R.S.L. sent Christmas parcels to troops on active service in South-East Asia. Among numerous letters of thanks have come the following—from Chaplain N. Lawless of the R.A.A.F. Contingent, Vung Tau:

Christmas for all of us lacked the presence of our loved ones and the joy of being back home, nevertheless we were provided with a splendid Christmas dinner and adequate beverages of all kinds, a first-class concert by Lucky Star, and an enjoyable carol service. We even had the pleasure of providing a children’s Christmas Party for some 150 Vietnamese children, which was filmed for Channel 7, Sydney.

But over and above all was the warmth of your gifts—just knowing that many and varied fellow Australians were thinking of us and extending the hand of Christmas, Goodwill, fellowship and comradeship were terrific.

The members of R.A.A.F. Contingent, Vung Tau, wish me on their behalf to extend to you our deepest thanks and appreciation.

Tasmanian Fire Disaster Appeal

Latest donations to the League’s Tasmanian Fire Disaster appeal fund were as follows:

State Executive—Mr. Williams $80; R. J. Stoddart $20.

Sub-Branches—Rencubin $10; Bassendean $30; Gutz $12; York $10; Cowaramup $20; South Perth $10; North Perth $20; Top Park $10; Gascoyne $50; Goldsworthy $50; Dumbleyung $20; Bellevue $47; Coorow-Waddi Forest $2.50; Glen Forrest $12.60; Scarborough $10; Highton $50; Quinup $10; Narooma $20; Colt $20; City of Perth $10; Belmont $10; West Swan $5; Mosman Park $3; N. E. Fremantle $20; Darlington $10; Subiaco $10; Wapin $30; Donnybrook $20; Darling Range $10; Greenbushes $10; Upper Swan $15; Maddington $20; Yarloop $20; Osborne Park $20; City of Perth $70.95; Yarloop $10; Margaret River $10; South Fremantle $10; Rockingham $10; Gully $10; Millen $12; Cunderdin $50; Ravensthorpe $2; Mt. Hawthorn $15.83; Mundaring $10; Waroona-Hamel $20; Claremont $10; Gilgadgum $10; Kensington $20; Haylands $5.

Individuals—W. Biggs $5; A. Locke $10; B. G. Magennis $10; N. Elms $5; J. and F. Saunders $8; R. S. Oomie $5; E. M. J. Rose $4.

Other Sponsors—16th Bn. Asl. $10; 51st Bn. Asl. $4; Garvan Memorial Theatre Fund $50; Townshend Shield competitors $20. TOTAL: $2,552.78.

With Women’s Auxiliary contributions the total now stands at $3,370.

A donation of $2,000 has been made by the League’s national headquarters.

Building Swap

At Esperance

At Esperance the R.S.L. Hall is to be used for the town library and the library buildings to be taken over on lease for the League. Proposals to this end were agreed to by the State Executive this month.

The lease of the R.S.L. Hall (Town Lot 196) will have a currency of 21 years.

Nollamara On Up-and-up

The Nollamara sub-branch was still on the up and up, president Ted Green told the annual general meeting on February 9, and since its formation nine years ago there had been a membership increase each year.

It was hoped to reach the 200 mark this year.

Noel Combs, the treasurer, tabled a very sound financial statement which showed a balance of assets over liabilities of about $13,000, which amount is to be used in the purchase of the new hall.

A 10-year loan has been negotiated with the building society, and the committee are very proud always coming to the re-hall.

Men’s Auxiliary, the woman’s Auxiliary, always coming to the rescue, had had to raise enough money to keep the hall running.

The League is only $2,000 short of the $2,500 loan, and should meet the cost of rental, which is $50 a week, and the interest, which is $300 a year.

The president spoke in glowing terms of the work done by this dedicated body of women.

At the annual dinner on February 4 Laurie Hetherington was presented with a Certificate of Merit by the State President.

The sub-branch has been in existence for 10 years, and has agreed to a limited time of 10 years.

The sub-branch was presented with a Certificate of Merit by the State President.

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 (for 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 finical 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.
Role of Red Cross in Tasmanian Disaster

Most members of the R.S.L. have experienced the excellent work done by the Red Cross Society but it will do no harm to give an idea of the society's activities in the recent Hobart fire disaster.

Immediately news of the disaster was received at national headquarters in Melbourne, Red Cross swung into action: $10,000 was sent on the Thursday for immediate local purchases to assist the Tasmanian Red Cross in its overwhelming task of saving for the homeless.

The Western Australian division sent a further $1,000 in addition to its share of the $10,000. At headquarters in Melbourne, because of its proximity to the disaster area the Victoria division was particularly busy.

Every member of the staff worked day and night, along with many volunteers, packing goods for dispatch by air and sea to the stricken island.

Along with bulk consignments of food, crockery and emergency cooking and lighting equipment went 770 blankets, 470 sheets and 330 pairs of shoes in response to an urgent appeal with the supplies for children's bath sets, and 1000 glasses and 5000 medicine bottles for children's use.

On the Thursday $2,500 worth of relief goods, speedily purchased after hours, were ready for the space donated by the Union Steamship Company on the Seaway Queen leaving for Hobart on the Friday.

This consignment consisted of urgently needed mattresses, blankets, pillows and babies' napkins.

Adequate supplies of clothing were sent in from all over Tasmania to deal with the emergency, and Red Cross took over the Prince Pier wharf.

One of the most vital tasks was the sending of cars into the stricken areas to bring people into Red Cross headquarters, where accommodation was found for them.

The Brighton army camp was turned into a receiving centre, where Red Cross fed and cared for the fire victims.

Osborne Park Annual Meeting

A roll-up of 22 for the Osborne Park annual meeting on February 5, was the best in years and much appreciated by the sub-branch executive.

That good friend and social member, Joe Purcell, acted as returning officer and carried out his duties in his usual capable manner.

Retiring president Merv Grando did not seek re-election because of the arduous of work. Sub-branch thanks to Merv for the work he has done over the past five years.

A very hard and capable worker of many years, Kikko, was taken on the onerous task of president and has the best wishes of all members for a successful period in office.

Eric Stephens and Lyn Kramer are vice-presidents, and Ted Brooke, still secretary.

After the business a social evening was enjoyed by the present, and thanks go to all who helped.

Apply Now To Be In The Games

The A.B.M.S. Games series for 1967 is now being lined up; nominations by sub-branches are being called for and close on Thursday, March 23.

The games will start about mid-April and the cost of nominating is only 50c.

All that is necessary is for a sub-branch, or even a joint team from two sub-branches to write to Anco House nominating a sports director and giving his name, address and telephone number, at the same time enclosing $2.

The sub-committee will attend to the necessary formalities.

Taking part in these events means about two nights a month and very pleasant nights they are. So if you play bridge, darts, quoits or table tennis, or like 22 rifle shooting and enjoy the company of your fellow members get a team together and be in it.

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THE LISTENING POST
March, 1967
Ex-Servicewomen Choose Their Office-bearers

From the publicity officer, Miss S. C. Perry, comes the following account of the annual general meeting and elections of the Returned Ex-servicewomen's sub-branch, held in February.

Elected to office were Miss T. Korsosky (president), Misses G. Smith and S. Thomas (vice-presidents), Mrs E. J. McManus (hon. secretary) and Mrs F. Fealy (hon. treasurer).

An interesting committee was elected. The duties of liaison officer, with the Clifton Wing of the War Veterans' Home, will be carried out by Mrs R. Figgott, and those of publicity officer by Miss S. Perry.

After holding the office as treasurer for many years Miss P. Hall retired and members expressed their sincere appreciation for her splendid work for the sub-branch during her long term of office.

The resignation of vice-president Miss J. Hancock was also received with regret by members.

ACTIVITIES

The president submitted an interesting report of the variety of activities carried out by the sub-branch during the past year.

On Anzac Day the sub-branch again entertained veterans from various institutions to lunch at Anzac House after the march.

Representatives of ex-servicewomen also took part in the march and were present at the Dawn Service and the Anzac Eye service at the War Veterans' Home. Members were represented at the Rats of Tobruk commemorative service, the Coral commemorative ceremony, the dedication of the Garden of Remembrance at the War Veterans' Home and also the home's fifth anniversary celebrations in addition to the State and National Congresses.

Hospitality was received and enjoyed at various Christmas functions held by kindred organisations.

This year the sub-branch had the honour of being presented with the Newdegate Cup for the second year in succession, and also with the Cornell Cup.

The War Blinded meetings were attended by members who prepared and served the suppers.

Members also maintained their interest in the Clifton Wing of the War Veterans' Home.

The usual Christmas party given each year for the Fairbridge Farm children was again well attended, and an added attraction this year was the viewing of the film 'Our Own Free' by the children.

In addition to the successful fete held during the year individual members have organised fund-raising functions and have generously loaned their homes for these events.

Parcels and books, and biscuits, have been sent to the troops in Vietnam and aid given to "Operation New Life" which is designed to assist the civilian population in Vietnam, and any appeals for donations to ex-service organisations have been given sympathetic support.

Altogether the year has been a busy and rewarding 12 months. Members expressed their sincere appreciation to the president for the service she has given to the sub-branch and the leadership which she has shown, with the hope that the sub-branch will again look forward to assisting wherever possible the interests of ex-service men and women.

50th Anniversary Of Third Ypres Battle

An inquiry has been received at national headquarters from the Department of External Affairs concerning the 50th anniversary of the third Battle of Ypres.

It appears that the Burgomaster of Ypres has asked whether the Australian Government or ex-service organisations have any official plans for a celebration at Ypres on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Third Battle or, if commonly known, the Battle of Passchendaele.

It appears that the main Belgian celebrations will take place during the first weekend of November, 1967, the 50th anniversary of the end of the battle.

The League has been advised that Australian participation would be extremely well received in Belgium, particularly by the people of West Flanders.

A check with the Australian War Memorial authorities reveals that all infantry battalions from the 1st to the 60th were awarded the honours Ypres 1917 and Passchendaele.

This means that the associations of all these units may be interested in these proposals.

Seven branches have been asked to advise national headquarters whether any attempt to commemorate the anniversary is being contemplated by the unit associations concerned so that an appropriate reply can be made to the Department of External Affairs.

It would be appreciated if unit associations concerned would advise the State Secretary, Anzac House, Perth, if any commemorative event is contemplated and if so the type.
Mt. Hawthorn Members More Than Hold Their Own

The past year had been a busy and prosperous one for the sub-branch and he wished to thank all members for their co-operation and assistance, President J. Rawlings said at the Mt. Hawthorn annual meeting.

Meetings, on the whole, had been well attended and it was good to see so many members taking an active interest in sub-branch affairs.

The better the attendances the more varied the programmes the sub-branch had put on, which came up for discussion.

MEMBERSHIP

Mr Rawlings said that with the increase of membership fees he had anticipated a struggle to maintain numbers, but was happy to report a slight increase on the previous year's figures.

It was always a pleasure to welcome new and re-joined members at the meetings and he wished to thank those who had brought fellows back to the sub-branch.

He hoped all members would do their best to increase the membership in the coming year.

BUILDING

The present condition of our hall was very good. The improvements added in the last 12 months to attract patrons and caterers had paid dividends: the letting of the hall had increased.

There were ideas for the future to improve facilities and increase bookings.

POPPY DAY

There had again been a successful Poppy Day appeal and the sub-branch had been lucky enough to obtain a good stand in the city. This was something they had been out of luck with in previous years.

A good roll-up of collectors had enabled the working of the city and suburban areas.

Collections in the suburbs might take longer than those in the city, but were really worthwhile.

He was most grateful for the great effort of all those people who took part in the collection.

SHOW STALL

The Show stall had again proved a success, the profit being above that of the previous year.

A lot of work went into that money-raising venture, and it was due to those who had spent hours standing around trying to extract money out of people who did not want to part with it.

To the older members who were the mainstay of the stall, spending long hours there every evening thanks were due.

He was particularly grateful. Without their help it would not have been possible to conduct the stall.

The Melbourne Cup sweep had also been a success, with a complete sell-out of tickets.

It was great to see all the tickets sold and the books back on time.

There were ideas for the future to improve facilities and increase bookings.

VEREY LIGHT

The sub-branch was very lucky to have a magazine such as "Verey Light" and luckier still to have a capable editor.

His job could be made a little easier if members would cooperate a little more by sending him some interesting stories and experiences, pictures, etc., for publication.

As it was, with what he had on hand, it was a job well done.

SHEILD GAMES

The sub-branch had taken off the main prize in the A.R.M.S. Games competition, it was undeated in the preliminary round but was beaten by Gloucester Park in the second semi-final.

The lisp of form had been only temporary as Gloucester Park had been defeated in the grand final.

In this grand final Mt. Hawthorn must have upset its rivals from the start by creating a record for a grand final shoot in scoring the possible 150.

Most games throughout the competition had been evenly contested and all players who had participated seemed to have enjoyed them.

The friendly spirit of mixing with old friends of other sub-branches.

The sports director had done a fine job in keeping teams together and winning the matches the way they did.

CONSOLATION

The sub-branch had not fared so well in the Yellow Cab shooting competition, in which West Dorderville carried off the trophy.

For a consolation the Mt. Hawthorn team took off the State championship, members won the cup and four prizes for individual shooting.

1966 Annual Congress

The sub-branch had been well represented at the 1966 annual congress. Delegates had carried out their business and brought back valuable information of the work being done by the League and sub-branches generally.

ANZAC DAY

Again this year sub-branch activities had been limited to a wreath-laying ceremony at 9.30 a.m.

The attendance had been good but with room for improvement. The service was silent and impressive and he would like to see more members and friends in attendance.

There had been time for people to get to Perth in time to join the main parade and service.

THE SMOKO

The 1966 annual smokey had been a great success. All present had entered into the spirit of the evening and enjoyed themselves.

There were quite a few visitors from other branches and organisations to help make the evening a happy one, and plenty to eat and drink.

The sub-branch had done a mighty job seeing that all glasses were kept working. Speeches were kept short, and good, with plenty of good entertainment.

Those who had not yet attended one of the smokeys would be well advised to do so next year.

VISITING

Visiting the sick at hospitals and at home had been carried out by the hospital-visited committee.

Its members were doing a great job and in the last year had made over 1,100 bedside visits to patients at Hollywood, Sunset, Edward, Milner, Claremont Mental and other places.

It was pleasing to hear reports from ex-patients of how the committee's efforts were appreciated.

OBITUARY

During the year members E. T. Radford, F. W. Snodgrass, F. Kerrigan, J. L. Jourgensen, J. D. Dineen, R. E. Jones and L. Haydon had been called to Higher Service.

To their relatives, members and friends the sub-branch extended their deepest sympathy.

A book to perpetuate the memory of all financial members who died through the year had been donated to the Mt. Lawley High School memorial library.

AUXILLIARY

The ladies' auxiliary had again been of great assistance to the sub-branch. Whenever asked to help the ladies had existed themselves with the utmost degree of courtesy in the task asked of them.

The ladies were to be thanked sincerely for their work.

In conclusion Mr. Rawlings once again thanked all officers and members for their cooperation and assistance throughout the year.
R.S.L. WORKING-PARTY REPORT ON VIETNAM AND MALAYSIA

In January a League working party consisting of Deputy National President Sir Raymond Huish and National Secretary A. G. W. Keyes paid a visit to Australian troops in Malaysia and Vietnam. Their official report on the visit was as follows:

IN VIETNAM

The delegation visited Saigon, the Australian Forces Special Area at Bien Hoa, Phouc Tuy Province, the Logistics and Support Group area and the R.A.A.F. Base at Vung Tau.


Of Value

There is something of value in the situation in that it has done more than any other single thing to force Australia to come to grips with the two major problems of South-East Asia: the threat of military aggression on the one hand and the people's desire for adequate living standards and lack of development on the other. The League has obliged us to contribute to containing a military threat while increasing immeasurably our efforts in a wide variety of undertakings that will finally put a military pressure on the people concerned.

Our young servicemen involved in this extremely long and sometimes frustrating task are accepting their responsibilities magnificently. It is high time that all Australians took the trouble to help them in their efforts.

The struggle in Vietnam will undoubtedly be a long and sometimes frustrating one. In addition to all this, after 27 years of continuous warfare, the people must have their confidence restored both in themselves and in the ability of the Free World forces to give them some guarantee of reliable protection.

PRE-CONDITION

Only when this happens can we expect to see the sort of widespread resistance to Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces that the villages that are necessary for victory. In the end it is civic action that must achieve lasting success. The thing to be kept in mind of course, is that civic action is impossible without the presence of the work of rehabilitation, reconstruction and development must be protected if it is to be undertaken successfully.

Conditions in the past 12 months have stabilised to an encouraging degree and this is evidence of this at almost every point.

The rate of defections from the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces is increasing, and reached the figure of 20,000 in December.

From interrogation of P.O.W. it is clear that there are many more willing to defect than in former months. Villages are now safe to enter and more roads have been cleared of snipers and ambushes.

Most importantly of all, the people with whom the troops are dealing, and this applies specifically in the Phouc Tuy area, are responding with enthusiasm to the assistance that is offered to them.

FORMIDABLE

The strength of the Free World forces assisting the South Vietnamese is formidable. There are approximately 740,000 Vietnamese troops in 38,000 troops from the United States, 45,000 from South Korea, 4,500 from Australia (shortly to be increased to 8,000), 2,500 from the Philippines, an artillery battery from New Zealand, 300 from Pakistan (increased by one infantry battalion), a hospital ship from West Germany and three field hospital teams from Spain.

Opposing them is a force of approximately 300,000 North Vietnamese forces reinforcing with Viet Cong.

In the type of warfare being waged this proportion—of approximately four to one—is much less normal and is not considered absolutely necessary to successfully conduct antiguerrilla operations.

In the South, during the emergency, relative strengths were more like one to ten.

COMMITMENT

The Australian force consists of a headquarters in Saigon, a task force consisting of two infantry battalions (3 and 6 R.F.A.), and support elements in a special area in Phouc Tuy province.

There are also a logistics and support group at Vung Tau and R.A.A.F. transport and helicopter squadrons.

Australia has been allotted the Phouc Tuy province for general operations and the R.A.A.F. has its own special area of responsibility.

Contact between Saigon force headquarters and the logistics and support group at Vung Tau is by aircraft or by a special road transport column heavily protected.

The situation has now improved a great deal between Vung Tau and the task force headquarters, but from the headquarters on to Saigon there is still the possibility of heavy enemy attack.

Within the area of responsibility allotted to the Australian force has achieved notable success.

Present tactics are based on the cordoned and search operation followed by civic action. At last light the village to be searched will be cordoned off and the clearing operation will begin at last light the following morning.

The inhabitants are moved into the village square and are entertained with food while the interrogation proceeds.

AID GIVEN

Once the families are cleared the civil-aid work begins. Clothes are distributed and necessary supplies are made available. There are things as sewing machines—is provided. This is, more or less, the first phase of the operation.

From this point the real work of civic action begins, under protection from the R.A.A.F. detachment of Australian troops or by local-force Vietnamese.

For present months some 12 villages have been treated in this way, with a concentrated effort being made in six of them. In these, solidly constructed concrete market places, schools and medical buildings have been built and staff has been organised.

Small cottage industries and agricultural projects have been assisted, ranging from tailoring to tobacco growing.

It would take too long to enumerate the list of goods that have been given but the list is a considerable one. Among the items of interest are: 80,000 lb. rice; 30,000 lb. other mixed foodstuffs; 80,000 lb. clothing and 2,500 school kits.

Many other articles, in large quantities, have also been provided, ranging from timber and roofing iron to Christmases, toys and 24 radios.

Other developmental programmes have been approved, apart from schools and medical facilities, have been water pumps and wells, road improvements, fences and paths, repairs to essential buildings, village offices and even such things as playground equipment, flagpoles and a saluting daul.

Regular projects are under way, including projects for villages, helping to keep open 500,000 newsletters, the showing of movies, and audio broadcasts to an estimated 83,000 people.

A comparison of the civil action and psychological operations conducted from August to December reveals that there has been an increase of some 80 per cent.

At present this civil action and psychological operations is under the control of one officer and 18 other ranks who are working extremely hard in four-week units to produce the desired results.

The Troops

One bonus that Australia is getting from the Vietnam war is the creation of an army of experts in psychological operations.

Because of the relatively small numbers, men in the task force are on duty in rotation, with a large contingent in the rear.

On the average only six days out of each month are spent in camp, and in order for this the team must be devoted to routine guard and other duties.

The result of this fact, and the tedious and often frustrating nature of the task, they have been given a day off every two weeks.

Everywhere within the
REPORT ON VIETNAM AND MALAYSIA (from Page 7)

areas controlled by Australian forces there is an air of efficiency and a sense of purpose.

In both the task-force and the Logistics and support areas at Vung Tau rapid progress is being made in converting the camp areas to permanent establishments.

When this is further advanced there will also be more adequate recreation facilities provided that break from routine that is such an essential element in maintaining morale.

In Vung Tau work is well advanced in converting this sandy strip of land into a complex of solidly constructed buildings where every operation from vehicle maintenance to the preservation of the camp area that is taken in the most efficient manner.

Work is proceeding in the task-force area on the recreation centre, being built by the R.S.L.-backed Australian Force Overseas Fund and, at Vung Tau a new R.S.L. Club is being erected to provide facilities in congested surroundings for the troops in the off-duty periods.

The R. and R. Centre at Vung Tau provides a five-day break from regimental duties for troops from the task force.

OBSERVATIONS

Australia's participation in the Vietnam war is underestimated by the vast majority of nations and people in the South-East Asian area.

Our willingness to assist in this struggle has done more for our standing in this part of the world than any other single thing with the exception of Colombo Plan aid.

The strongest impression to be gained from talking to a cross section of the people in these various countries of the area.

In Malaysia, they had their own communist insurgency from 1948 to 1958, and in Thailand they have been continuing problems in the border area. Laos is involved in the war being waged in Vietnam, and Indonesia is well aware of the problems that can arise from communist infiltration.

As a matter of interest, the same people who are so appreciative of Australia's presence in Vietnam often, at the same time express grave reservations about the bombing of North Vietnam.

This tends to leave the impression that while the bombing may be of value from a military point of view it may well have grave disadvantages politically and in terms of public relations.

The appreciation of Australia's presence in Vietnam is reinforced by the Army's personnel whose presence is the most effective testimony to the work that is being done and to the way in which it is being carried out.

Our small force has to accept responsibilities that stem from all provision to its numerical strength. The civic-action team, whose work is so important in guerrilla warfare, urgently needs reinforcements. The members of the unit are provided with facilities they have, but a great deal more needs to be done.

AMENITIES

Amenities, entertainment and training and education opportunities are all provided in both the task-force area at Vung Tau and at the hotel and support R.A.F.P. base, but here again improvements could be made to cope with the peculiarly frustrating nature of the campaign in which the men are involved.

Amenities Hut

An amenities hut provided by the R.S.L.-backed Australian Force Overseas Fund has been erected in the task-force area and plans for developing the area and equipping it are well in hand.

It is an excellent type hut especially designed for tropical conditions. It will provide a much-needed service in the task force area.

Forces Club

At Vung Tau the foundations of the new Forces Club on a beachfront site have been poured and work is going ahead for the construction of the building.

It will provide club facilities for the service men during daylight hours and will have provision for overnight accommodation.

Recommendations

1. It is noted that the Australian Forces in Vietnam are to be increased. The need for this is accepted if this can be done while at the same time ensuring any increase in the military tasks allotted to the Australians. This will allow more adequate provision for rest and recuperation.

2. The civic-action and psychological warfare team working together will be greatly increased in strength and provided with additional facilities.

3. It is recommended that these be supplied by the Australian Force Overseas Fund and that whilst the new R.S.L. Club at Bung Tau rapid progress be made in converting the camp areas to permanent establishments.

4. It is recommended that more adequate provision be made for a rest and recuperation area at Vung Tau. The existing beach house is inadequate and does not provide the complete contrast to active service conditions that is needed for the rest period as effective as it should be.

5. It is recommended that the attention of voluntary bodies in Australia be further directed to the need for backing the civic action team in Vietnam through operations such as "New Life" and civil aid programmes.

6. The amount of publicity covering the Civil Aid programme in Vietnam, and particularly the activities of the R.S.L. operation "New Life" is most discouraging. In spite of the fact that there is a strong impression that this work is of great value, it has been given in the Australian Press.

7. It is recommended that this matter be taken up with the Minister for External Affairs.

6. The amenities and entertainment programme being carried out by the Australian Forces Overseas Fund will be greatly increased in strength and provided with additional facilities.

7. It is recommended that these be supplied by the Australian Force Overseas Fund and, in addition, that the team, being brought to the area, be greatly increased in strength and provided with additional facilities.

8. The R.S.L. and other volunteer groups have helped greatly in providing a contact with home. It is recommended that these be supplied again this year on a basis to be determined.

9. There still appears to be some confusion among the authorities for the allocation of the Special Vietnam Medal and the medal issued by the Vietnamese authorities.

It is recommended that this matter be taken up with the Minister for External Affairs.

CIVIC SUPPORT

5. It is recommended that the attention of voluntary bodies in Australia be further directed to the need for backing the civic action team in Vietnam through operations such as "New Life" and civil aid programmes.

The amount of publicity covering the Civil Aid programme in Vietnam, and particularly the activities of the R.S.L. operation "New Life" is most discouraging. In spite of the fact that there is a strong impression that this work is of great value, it has been given in the Australian Press.

It is recommended that this matter be taken up with the Minister for External Affairs.

Much has already been written concerning Camp Terendak and the Australian troops stationed there by previous R.S.L. delegations who visited the camp in January 1968 and in April 1968.

The camp itself is an excellent permanent establishment and the Australians are some of the finest troops to be sent abroad.

It is to be hoped that 4 R.A.R. contains an element of volunteerism, including junior officers, but the integration is so complete that there is no doubt of the distinction between National Servicemen and regulars.

The newly arrived Australian command officer, Colonel C. H. A. East, brings outstanding vitality and imagination to his responsibilities.

During the visit to the camp, delegations were planned for the R.S.L. to view the exercises involving the use of helicopters, deployment on short notice and typical anti-guerrilla operations.

HIGH MOBILIZE

To commemorate the battalion's birthday earlier this year, General Tunku Osman, chief of the armed forces, was to review the parade at the Victoria Barracks, the general which we subsequently learned in consultation with him, was very acceptable.

Every possible device to provide interesting leisure-time facilities and top-quality training is employed. The results are obvious, and 4 R.A.R. is at its peak of training and morale. It is a splendid sight to see.

It was most noticeable that all ranks of the battalion, with whom the delegation spoke, were most anxious to make use, in a practical way, of the skills which they had acquired in order to assist their comrades in Vietnam.

There is little that the delegation could do to assist the battalion. In the future the members live under conditions that are of the first class.
Successful Year For Northampton R.S.L.

A very successful year was reported by retiring president J. Sturmer at the annual general meeting of the Northampton sub-branch.

The year ended with a credit balance of $568 in the general fund and $120 in the amelioration account. Mr. Sturmer said activities had included two well-attended Anzac Day services; a successful sub-branch reunion and a memorable Diggers' Day at the golf course. He thanked the shire council for helping to make the memorial grounds something to be admired.

Officers for the new year 1967 are: President, Mr. R. Charlton; senior vice-president, Mr. Don Reynolds; junior vice-president, Mr. F. Fagan; secretary, Mr. W. A. McEvie; treasurer, Mr. G. J. Curran.

The sub-branch is co-operating wholeheartedly with the schools in the district in connection with the Anzac Day schools' broadcast.

Seven members will visit their four schools for the commemoration on Monday, April 24 (the day before Anzac Day).

They Are Willing Servants

The “R.S.L. Corps” of Commissionaires is always available for employment. Its members, who are soldier pensioners, are all screened for reliability and affability and can handle jobs of a secluded or even mature. Numerous large concerns employ them as watchmen and as such they are responsible for seven days a week—for the security of one of Perth’s biggest and most modern buildings as well as weekend safety of a big stores area.

In addition, many organisations, and one or several of these men, are asked to assist and to add colour to their social functions—ball, parties, anniversaries, etc. Football matches and tennis championships see them in their uniforms in various tasks of crowd control and parking supervision.

So if you could use the services of a single Commissionaire for an occasional event, or a weekly roster of corps members for part or full-time security, get in touch with Anzac House (phone 232771 for particulars).

AT RECEPTION TO SERVICE CHIEFS: Pictured here at the R.S.L. reception to the service chiefs on February 28 are (from left to right) State President P. Pearson, Mr. L. Phenna, Mr. J. Buckle, Mr. R. Morris, Brigadier N. Nichols, Sister S. White, Commodore H. Stevenson, State Vice-President R. J. Stodart, Mr. J. Fuller, Mr. A. Cooper, Group Captain E. B. Courtney, State Vice-President Dr. A. King, Mr. W. R. Ferrier, Mr. E. Carter and State Secretary W. Webb.

The Townshend Games

The following account of the Townshend Shield games contest in the Mundaring R.S.L. Hall on February 24, was supplied by Mr. Jack Thompson.

When Mr. J. Radford, Mundaring’s brand-new president, welcomed the competitors from other Hills sub-branches he must have felt very satisfied with his first night because the crowd was good and the weather and the beer excellent.

The loyal toast and the ritual were observed, in proper League style and the fixtures for the night then announced by games organiser Ken Clements.

At the end of the night’s round four out of the six competing sub-branches had a good chance of winning, the scores being as follows: Mundaring, 27 points; Chidlow, Darlington and Glen Forrest, 24; Helena, 15 and Woodford nil.

During supper, which was held in the popular Surry Hills, there was a warm and a few speeches were delivered, including one by Mr. J. Radford on the history of the club.

The meeting was adjourned and the games began.

Ex-P.O.W. To Meet In Sydney

The 11th conference of the Ex-P.O.W. Association of Australia will be held in Sydney from Friday, September 22 to Sunday, September 24, and will be officially opened by the Governor-General, Lord Casey.

Many matters concerning the welfare of Ex-P.O.W. will be discussed and the agenda should be most interesting. The local branch’s delegates will be the president (A. Westley) and hon. secretary (H. J. Brown).

The association reunion at Yanchep on Sunday, February 26, was most successful. Despite a warm day, there were quite a few starters for the races and novelty events. However, the swimming pool and Yanchep beach seemed popular.
Special Barrow For The Incapacitated

Mr. Burnham Fraser of Heatherlie, Tallangatta (Victoria), has invented a special type of garden barrow for the physically handicapped.

For some years Mr. Fraser had been on crutches and totally and permanently incapacitated. To occupy his time he concentrated on the invention of a garden barrow that could be used without crutches. It will carry out all the functions of an ordinary barrow and could be invaluable in enabling a handicapped person to perform a considerable amount of useful work.

The original barrow cost $60 to produce but Mr. Fraser believes that, with slight improvements, it could be produced for $40.

"My praise to BEX..."

Mr. John Parker,
13 Here Street,
CARDIFF, N.S.W., writes:

"My praise to Bex Powders. I could hardly walk twenty yards without stooping and hold 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

PRICE

1/3 or 12c


A Satisfactory State of Affairs at Geraldton

R.S.L. activities at Geraldton over the past 12 months had been at a most satisfactory level, sub-chairman A. J. Spendlove said at the annual general meeting last month.

Some of the projects undertaken had been more successful than in previous years.

Early in the year Bill Cunningham had organised a fete in aid of Slow Learners at Geraldton, raising $300 and setting a good example for the year yet for that very worthy cause.

Late vice-president Harold Jones had had the honour of presenting a cheque for $566.47 to the committee of Slow Learners.

Mr. Spendlove thanked those members and helpers who had spent many hours to make the fete a success.

The 1966 Geraldton zone conference had seen the largest representation of State Executive members to visit Geraldton for many years, Andy McDonnell hon. secretary of the W.A. and Commonwealth, said the annual conference had been most fortunate.

To make the conference a success were the efforts of the sub-branch's officers, who had spent much time to arrange the meetings and to hold the reunion afterwards.

CONTACTS MADE

A number of members of the State Executive and had been made aware of present activities of the League in W.A. and the Commonwealth.

ANZAC Day

Both the dawn service and parade on Anzac Day had been well attended. A record crowd had attended the service at Birdwood House and it was pleasing to see such large numbers of young people there.

Mr. Spendlove said he would advise incoming office-bearers, during their appointment at Birdwood House for Anzac Day, that they cater for the increasing number of young people now attending.

Sunshine Festival

Once again the sub-branch had made a major role on the opening day of the ceremony.

Marshall Lin McCurry was to be congratulated on his excellent organisation of the parade.

It was a job with many headaches but Lin had been able, through many hours of work, to arrange one of the best parades yet.

The programme of events at the recreation ground was most outstanding and with a record attendance for the ground.

The many members who worked all the afternoon to help make this a success were to be thanked sincerely.

A cheque for $468.40 presented by the sub-branch to the festival committee was the largest donation to date.

Crowning Glory

The sub-branch's auxiliary had undertaken the sponsorship of a candidate and the organisation of the Miss Carnival competition. It had been through the hard work of the secretary, Mrs. Brabham, in which they spent $328.50 was raised.

OTHER GIFTS

Other donations during the year were $50 for the adoption of a Ward of Legacy, $300 to the War Veterans' Home and $20 for sponsoring a candidate for the Sunshine Festival-queen contest.

Both street appeals during 1966 had been successful. The War Veterans' Home appeal had raised $154.96, an increase of $13 on the 1965 appeal.

Poppy Day sales, which amounted to $284.80, an increase of $61 on the 1965 sales.

Veterans Home—Geraldton

The fund for a local Veterans Home was at present $388.27. The committee was still on hand in the Geraldton area, and on the potential of old soldiers in the surrounding district who might require accommodation should the project be implemented.

Hospital Visiting

Continuous visits to local hospitals had been carried out by Glam Burns and George Anderson. Since the opening of the regional hospital, the sub-branch had been visiting patients.

Mr. Spendlove thanked the two hospital visitors for the time they spent on visiting the sick.

He also thanked Arthur Milford for his good work as a repatriation officer, in which he had served for many years.

Publicity

The sub-branch had been most fortunate in having such an active Public Relations Committee, Andy McDonald and Mr. Wilson, who broadcast on Thursday evenings during the R.S.L. session and were to be sincerely thanked, as was the management of Radio Station 6GE for donating the time.

THIS JOURNAL

Peter Barden had sent regular articles to the Listening Post as well as news items to radio station 6GE.

Local press representative Jim Lincoln had always kept the activities of the sub-branch to the fore in the Geraldton Guardian. Also, Mr Reg Hughs, of the Geraldton Sun, while not a member, was always interested in sub-branch affairs.

Sub-branch hospitality should be remembered by religious charities, the U.S.S. Bugara and H.M.S. Cleopatra.

On their first night they were both ships' company entertained at a most enjoyable social dance at Birdwood House.

Both commanding officers had expressed their thanks for the welcome.
Conveying Thanks To Our Vietnam Men

Defence Minister Allen Fairhall has replied to the following statements, based on a National Congress resolution expressing the opinion that: "I should be made more evident to the troops in Vietnam, via press and radio, that the people of Australia appreciate the great job the troops are doing for Australia."

As you know, the League's constructive interest in the welfare and morale of the men, of our Vietnam force, is unrelenting. I am sure your members will have noted over a considerable period in the opposition media, the many and continuing tributes paid to our service personnel in Parliament, and other speakers of the Government and the community.

It is not in fact my impression that there is in our national press and opposition a lack of support of the job Australian troops are doing in South Vietnam.

As you point out, the element of vociferous criticism and opposition comes from a small minority and is, I feel, readily identifiable as such.

In the strictly professional sense of public relations, service public relations officers are particularly active in their task of creating a favourable public image of the Australian service forces. That these efforts have been successful can be seen in the undoubted public approval of the image of the Australian fighting man; even the organised opposition of anti-Vietnam bodies does not deny the soldier, and indeed often praises his personal endeavours.

It is, of course, generally accepted that the media can and should be responsible for the selection of material for public dissemination, and within the tolerant democracy and national security this selection remains both their right and their responsibility.

I am confident that R.S.L. members recognise as an essential element of the democratic freedoms in whose cause they have themselves borne arms.

OXLEY GOES TO SEA

Australia's first Oberon-class submarine, H.M.A.S. Oxley, has gone to sea for the first time, Navy Minister Chipp said recently.

Oxley, manned by Australian submariners and British workers, moved quietly into the River Clyde from the shipyard of the Scott, Shipbuilding and Engineering Co., of Greenock, Scotland.

Oxley remains on the space fitted out for the trial. She has submerged in a shipyard dock but will not submarine until further trials have been completed. While Oxley undergoes trials in Scotland, the first R.A.N. officer to command the Fourth Submarine Division in Sydney will take up his posting.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY NOTES

The response to the appeal for donations to the Tasmanian bushfire appeal has been wonderful; in addition to the donations listed here (which were received up to February 27) some auxiliaries are contributing to the local Shirley appeals. Thanks to all for their quick action!

FIRE APPEAL

State Executive, $167.20; Belmont, $20; Beliveau, $20; Nareeben, $10; City of Perth, $40; Pinjarra, $20; Bunbury, $10; Pemberton, $10; Medina, $5; Kellerberrin, $2; Rockingham, $5; Nangarin, $40; Narrogin, $10; Collinghal, $20; Hamilton Hill, $20; N.E. Fremantle, $10; Coolgardie, $40; Gairdner River, $25; Northam, $10; Mandurah, $40.

North Perth, $20; Subiaco, $10; Scarborough, $20; Pemberton, $10; Medina, $5; Kellerberrin, $2; Rockingham, $5; Nangarin, $40; Narrogin, $10; Collinghal, $20; Hamilton Hill, $20; N.E. Fremantle, $10; Coolgardie, $40; Gairdner River, $25; Northam, $10; Mandurah, $40.

Laying-up Of Guidon

The experiment agreed this month to a League ceremony to be held at the State War Memorial of the 10th Light Horse guidon.

The executive was told that there had been no approach so far to either the 10th Light Horse Association or the State Government for funds to help pay for the project.

It is planned to hold the laying-up ceremony later in the year at a time to coincide with a donation from the State by former Governor Sir Charles Gairdner.

TRUSTEE: At this month's executive meeting Messrs Lonnie, Pearson and Raffe were named as a panel from which a Trustee will be appointed in the Amac Trust will be appointed.

16th Battalion Association

The association's Anzac Day arrangements will be the same this year as last.

Any member who feels unable to make the Railway Institute on his own may arrange for someone to accompany him by contacting the secretary.

The latter's appeal through these columns for prompt payment of subscriptions has met with an excellent response. Donations, too, have been received.

The association donated $10 to the Hobart fire appeal. Doubtless many more interested men were victims.

Frank Packham had the misfortune recently to break his leg. For those who wish to write to him up the address is 16 Holman-street, Melville.

Getting In A Word On The League

The State Executive this month decided on an approach to the main shipping lines, with a view to encouraging eligible migrants to join the league.

Senior vice-president R. J. Stoddart had spoken to the ship's master on board the Sydney to Melbourne early last month in the liner Canberra.

The ship had been crowded with migrants. There had been a daily bulletin but no mention in the notice of the R.S.L. Mr. Stoddart said he had spoken to the captain and purser who had agreed to post some copy over the question be worthwhile. He offered his services in undertaking arrangements of the kind.

The membership committee of the R.S.L. Pemberton, Mr. Phenna, said an approach of the kind had been suggested at a recent meeting of the committee.

The meeting accepted Mr. Stoddart's offer.
GERALDTON AFFAIRS (from Page 10)

Wreath laying
Wreath-laying had been carried out at the Birdwood House memorial on Armistice Day, but attendance at the brief ceremony had fallen off.
Mr. Spendlove appealed to members to attend in numbers at that sunset service.
The annual visit to the Utakarra War Cemetery had been held on the Sunday after Armistice Day, and he would like to express thanks to all those who had donated flowers.

Commemoration
To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the formation of the League a luncheon arranged by the auxiliary had been an outstanding success.
About 30 old soldiers had attended, with an average age of 74. Three of them were over 80.

Secretary
Mr. Spendlove paid a tribute to the work of secretary Don Morrison during the year.
He had found R.S.L. claims on his spare time most exacting, but had carried on and done a sterling job.

Social
The social activities of the sub-branch had fallen off during the year. That part of sub-branch activity was a must, as it tended to knit members together. A greater effort was required during the ensuing year.
Through the year the auxiliary had supported the sub-branch at all times, and he would thank all the ladies who had willingly helped in the projects undertaken by the sub-branch.

Membership
Last year had seen a record membership of 303; for the past year the total was 243.
A number of members had passed on and there had been a few transfers from the district. Those two points and the increase in membership fees had been factors in the present falling-off.

The potential for increasing membership in the District was such that all should strive to bring the strength back to over 300 again.
The financial affairs were in good order, and Bill Kynaston was to be thanked for the good work and for the time he had spent as treasurer.

In conclusion Mr. Spendlove thanked committee members for their untiring help and support given to him during the past year. Also the caretaker, members, and the many people of the district who had helped the sub-branch with its good work during the year.

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.

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.
THE LAST POST (ex-service deaths)

In future each State Executive member is to have his copy of the sub-committees reports sent to him each month with the minutes of the previous meeting.

This was decided at this month's meeting on the motion of Mr J. Buckle. He said it had been the practice at one time for members to receive copies and that they were at a disadvantage without them.

Former State President W. S. Lomax said the practice of circulating printed copies of the reports had been discarded at a time when some 20 committee reports were dealt with at each meeting.

With the reduction of the sub-committee numbers to the present four or five he agreed that prior circulation of reports would be an excellent thing, but it would require that there be a no committee meeting within a week of the executive meeting.

| EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN: At this month's executive meeting the following allocation of committee duties were announced by the State President: W. J. Haynes, "Operation New Life"; Mr Buckle, Membership; Dr Hanrahan, Hospital Visiting. |

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<td>SINCLAIR W. H.</td>
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28th Battalion Association

The annual general meeting of the 28th Battalion Association has been adjourned from February to April when a full report of the association's doings for the past year will be made and the annual election of officers held.

The last meeting discussed the disappointing small attendance at the January barbeque. Later in the year it will be necessary to consider whether or not this function should be continued.

Harry Kahan reported on progress made in the compilation of the battalion history and suggested steps to be taken towards its finance. He also reported on the Federal Government's consideration of the restoration of the 2nd Division's memorial on the Somme, a matter which is now being deliberated by the Prime Minister.

It would certainly help him to reach a satisfactory decision if members of the 2nd Division, singly or by unit association, urge their favourable verdict on the matter.

Christmas greetings were received from Teddy Farmer, of Victoria, who wished to be kindly remembered to all old mates.

Included in the month's Pick Parade were Gus Pickett and Jack Brown, both of whom, we hope, have since been marked for duty.

Year's Work At Marble Bar

Following is the annual report of Marble Bar sub-branch president Wally Nichols:

Another year has passed and we now see 1966 in retrospect, by reviewing the sub-branch's activities for that period.

One of the most important events was the presentation to the sub-branch by Mr Allan Ibbotson of a 1965 Membership Pennant. It was only four or five are granted within W.A., we feel justifiably proud.

All the available members were present on this occasion, and the group was photographed. A few toasts were spoken and the good health of the secretary (Mr P. Smith) was the most boisterous.

This occasion, too, was used to make a personal presentation on behalf of the sub-branch to Piri who, regrettably, was leaving us but only in press.

Mrs Smith in reply said her heart was with the Marble Bar sub-branch and that wherever she resided her yearly "sub" would go to her old and proven love.

Members Nichols, Smith, Mallett and Lenihan attended to the

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E. N. M. FINNIE, STATE MANAGER

More Land Soon

For Housing

Action is to be taken to develop areas acquired by the War Service Homes and recently at Churchlands and Nollamara and blocks will be available soon.

Housing committee chairman R. J. Stoddart reported this to the State Executive on March 1. Land was also to be made available at Goodwood shortly, he said.

Remembrance Day, 1966, was a red-letter day here; we welcomed 12 citizens to the ceremony and four wreaths were laid at the foot of the Monument. It is our heartfelt desire to have such a response in some small place.

The sale of poppies this year was very disappointing and for the first time we sent poppies back.

Let us earnestly hope that at the holidays we shall ultimately realise that it was through the efforts and sacrifices of Empire servicemen that we are living in luxuriant freedom.

Regrettably we have lost quite a number of members, and it appears that membership in 1967 may be fairly low.

Jack Scott (late Gordon Highlanders) died early in the year and was given a military funeral (R.I.P.-Jack!).

CITIZENSHIP

At the school break-up the R.S.L. Shield for Citizenship was presented to Geoffrey Edwards, who was given the personal prize of a drawing set. Geoffrey certainly displayed the attributes of a high standard of citizenship together with scholastic attainments.

We are indeed fortunate that the shire council has taken over from us the watering of the lawn and attendant cleaning and painting at the R.S.L. and Pioneer's Reserve. We thank them for this liberal gesture.

At the Christmas get-together held at the President's Palace Ernie Lenihan agreed to follow in Piri Smith's footsteps and become secretary-treasurer. This event was heartily acclaimed. Ernie is also a vice-president and it is heartening to find a public-spirited citizen with ability and experience.

That's 1966 mates, and we ask you as supporters of our sub-branch to have your membership fee together with a dollar for the Sub-branch book in the War Veterans' Home. Don't let us down!
ASSOCIATIONS OF EN-SERVICEMEN

FEDERATED T.S. SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN’S ASSOCIATION (A.W.A. BRANCH) - 2nd Floor, Wellington-street, Perth.

SOUTH AFRICAN AND IMPERIAL WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION - Azac House, Subiaco.

10TH LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION - Meetings held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

BRITISH EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION - 16th Avenue, Floreat.

11TH AND 11TH BATTALIONS A.I.F. ASSOCIATION - Meetings held on the 4th Sunday of each month.

BRIGADE OF GUARDS ASSOCIATION (W.A.) - 14th Floor, Board, 205 Sixth Avenue, Inglewood.

MEET AT ANZAC CLUB
The home of friendship!

W.A. EXP.O.W. ASSOCIATION - 2nd Floor, Board, Phone 23 3564. President, A. Westley.

R.A.E. EX-SERVICEMEN’S ASSOCIATION - Meetings held on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

R.E. - ANZAC MEMORIAL LIONS CLUB - Meetings held on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Royal - ARMURED CORPS ASSOCIATION - Meetings held on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

GALLIPOLI LEGION OF ANZAC - Meetings held on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

AGENTS REQUIRED when not already represented

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ASIAN VISIT
(from Page 8)

in practically every respect.

The need for the League to be associated with the battalion, however, is apparent and it is recommended that an R.S.L. Trophy for annual inter-company competition be established.

This can be a continuing and valuable reminder of the League’s interest in the men serving in this battalion.

During the delegation’s overnight stay in Tenera ..

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BRIG. H. J. Brown

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Geraldton Sub-branch
Tribute to Matron

As pensions and repatriation officer for the Geraldton sub-branch for many years Mr Arthur Milford has maintained close contact with the various local hospitals.

It was fitting, therefore, that he represented the sub-branch in making a presentation to Matron V. Crowley prior to her departure from the Geraldton Regional Hospital to take over the Mt. Henry Hospital and Home for the Aged.

Mr. Milford was speaking from personal knowledge when he paid tribute to the work carried out by Matron Crowley on behalf of ex-service patients. Describing her efforts as a labour of love, he said he wondered how she would be replaced. The presentation from the sub-branch was a handsome travelling clock.

Matron Crowley served with the 2/9th Australian General Hospital in Port Moresby and Morotai during the World War.

Identification Cards For Ex-Service Pensioners

At the 51st R.S.L. National Congress the chairman of the Repatriation Commission gave certain information on the issue of identification cards for repatriation pensioners.

Elucidation of his comments was sought and a copy of his reply is as follows:

Since receiving your letter, dated 29th November, about the operation in New South Wales of the procedures for issuing identification cards to pensioners I have inquired into the matter and am satisfied that the Commission's instructions in this regard were implemented in December 1965 and that the procedure has operated smoothly since then.

No doubt you will record for Mr Flurin's letter on 14th April 1965 about the Commission's decision not to issue permanent general identification cards to all war and service pensioners, continuing instead to provide certificates upon request for State concession purposes, and to co-operate with the State health authorities in New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania where suitable common medical record cards were on issue.

ELSEWHERE

In Victoria and Queensland, where there were no suitable cards on issue, it was decided to arrange for the provision by this department and to encourage repatriation patients in all States with disabilities (e.g., epilepsy, diabetes) exposing them to special hazards to apply for, and carry, medical record cards.

Commission agreed that both departmental and local medical officers would issue the cards where appropriate.

Deputy Commissioners have since obtained and distributed supplies of cards and advised the medical officers concerned of the commission's wish that all repatriation patients should carry such cards if their disabilities (whether war-caused or not) exposed them to special hazards.

With regard to the position in New South Wales I have ascertained that adequate supplies of the card produced by the Department of Public Health were distributed to the medical officers in December 1965.

No figures are available to indicate how many have been issued since then, but there is no record of any complaint having been made by the League or by applicants about the manner of the issue.

A few months ago, however, a noticeable increase in the number of enquiries received at the New South Wales branch office was reported.

This may have been a result of the publication in the July issue of "Recollect" of an article on the subject of identification cards for pensioners, and possibly some pensioners were disappointed on finding that the medical record cards, being intended solely for that purpose, are rather more restricted in function than might have been inferred from the article mentioned.

There has been no change in procedure or policy relative to this matter.

This department does not issue identification cards, as such, but encourages all repatriation patients who have a medical reason for carrying a personal medical record card to apply to their local medical officer.

Send it In For Publication
But Be On Time

Sub-branch publicity officers and individual members: this journal provides you with an opportunity of addressing League members throughout the State.

If you have anything of interest to do with your sub-branch and its activities, or by way of personal remembrances, send it in.

But note the deadline for any issue—the 28th day of the previous month. Submissions must be in the hands of the Editor, "The Listening Post".

Anzac House, Perth by that time.