Congress Decides On Jubilee Fund Plan

A proposal to establish an R.S.L. National Jubilee Commemorative Fund for international-welfare purposes was adopted by National Congress last month.

This makes it binding on all State branches.

The broad objects of the fund are to relieve distress and provide international service in the Pacific and South-East Asian areas; to assist British Commonwealth ex-servicemen in that area who are in necessitous circumstances to provide training for young people—particularly children of ex-service men of the countries.

W.S. Homes Scheme
A 'Bonanza'

The War Service Homes scheme was the greatest financial bonanza the Government had ever produced, Sir William Yee (N.S.W.) said at Congress last month.

He was supporting a motion seeking a large increase in the war-service homes. Sir William said he could not understand the Government's refusal to increase the amount.

Sir Raymond Huish said that in Queensland the average cost of war-service homes was over $8,000, as against a maximum loan of $7,000. It was nonsense to say there was no longer any demand for the homes.

concerned—and to finance experts in various fields to work in those communities.

The fund is to be financed by the allocation of 10 cents from each membership fee together with such other grants and donations that might be attracted from any source having like aims and objects.

The scheme was described by National President Sir Arthur Lee as a Columbian plan in miniature.

On the instruction of the State Executive the W.A. delegates voted against the proposal.

The State body's view is that the plan for financing the scheme will involve every member the question is properly one for State Congress.

DONATION

Following a report on the matter by Mr. Pearson of this month's State Executive meeting members resolved to reiterate to national headquarters their view that it would not be competent for them to agree to the proposal before consulting the State Congress (due to meet next July).

But, by way of indicating that pending a decision of State Congress they were prepared to contribute to the fund they resolved on a donation of $800.

A feature of the National Congress-week arrangements was the dedication, on October 26, of the War Veterans' Home chapel by Bishop C.L. Riley assisted by the Rev. Father E. Rogers (representing the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth), the Rev. A. Willbrey (President of the Methodist Conference) and the Rt. Rev. J. Reid (Moderator of the Presbyterian Church).

The National President, Sir Arthur Lee, read the Lesson and State President Percy Pearson gave the address.

• The picture above shows the officiating party leaving the chapel following the ceremony.

The dedication was specially planned to coincide with the League's 50th anniversary and 51st National Congress.

The home provides accommodation for 152 ex-service men and women and the chapel seats 74 people comfortably.

Within the surrounding walled garden are a pool and paved courtyard designed for quiet meditation.
Eventful Year For The League

The present calendar-year had been marked by a number of events of far-reaching significance to the League, the National President, Sir Arthur Lee, said in his interim report to National Congress last month.

They had included:
- The commemoration of the League's 50th anniversary.
- The 17th conference of the British Commonwealth Ex-Servicemen League-In London.
- The visit to the United States.
- Vietnam, with special emphasis on R.S.L. operation "New Life."
- The Federal Budget.

ANNIVERSARY

On June 6, 1916, the Australian Returned Soldiers' organisations established in the various States agreed to amalgamate as a federal body. The first conference was held in Brisbane in September of the same year.

It was important therefore that the 50th anniversary of these important dates be suitably commemorated.

On June 6 a history of the League, based on a thesis prepared by Dr. Dr. Kristian Johnson, was published. It showed that the League had spent three years in Australia doing intensive research into every aspect of the League's work at every level. The book was published as a result of this research.

CEREMONY

It was expected that the ceremony would be attended by the Governor General, the Governor of Queensland, and a number of other dignitaries.

Sir Arthur said the 17th conference of the B.C.E.L. had been held in London, from July to September, 1916. The conference was well attended and was a great success.

The 17th conference of the B.C.E.L. had been held in London, from July to September, 1916. The conference was well attended and was a great success.

The conference had represented 17,000,000 British Commonwealth ex-servicemen from all parts of the world. The conference had discussed problems of equal concern to all, and the immense difficulties of being faced by many former comrades-in-arms of the British Commonwealth forces living in dire poverty under privileged areas.

The result of the discussions was an imaginative plan for welfare work on a scale of something like $200,000 seem- ers assured.

The League must consider what part it could play in this programme. The establishment of that Jubilee Fund would enable the allotment of a certain amount of finance fairly quickly in direct welfare grants.

As the major constituent organisation of the world the R.S.L. must accept a certain responsibility of leadership in the area of recommendation of what this might be done would be examined by the National Executive.

RETURN VISIT TO UNITED STATES

At the conclusion of the conference the R.S.L. had visited the United States as guests of the American Legion.

The reception was overwhelming.

In 1945 the then National Commander, Donald E. Johnson, and three other officials of the Legion had visited Australia and called at Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney.

Following the Legionaries' return to America they had issued an invitation to the League.

Much closer contact with the Legion was likely in the future and this should be to the mutual advantage of both organisations.

The work of the R.S.L. and the Legion in the United States was encouraged, house-to-house and national, and an invitation to the League was likely to be extended in the future.

START MADE

Already considerable quantities of all goods required to supply the army had been sent to the army supply depots and a considerable amount of money had been collected.

The administrative arrangements were far more straightforward. There had been some initial trouble, but these were being satisfactorily resolved.

(Continued, Page 4)
Another Request For White Paper on Reds

As soon as the Federal election is over the League is to continue to press for a Commonwealth White Paper on communism and for a Federal referendum on whether the Communist Party should be declared an illegal organisation.

This was decided unanimously at the 51st National Congress last month.

Mr Turner said he had last attended a National Congress meeting in New South Wales ten years ago and that he could therefore be said to be having a two-dimensional look at the League.

As an observer of the proceedings he had seen many people dedicated to their cause—people who were second-to-none in their activities, but not to one-man in their activities, but not to one member of the League, and the community's parliamentary, civic and church leaders.

The matter debated showed a dedication to ex-service interests, and that interest in the Commonwealth of Australia.

While the League and the R.S.A. had common interests, the activities of their people differed markedly in some fields, such as repatriation, Mr Turner said, and the League's concern was not to be seen as either a second prize or a third prize, but for a similar benefit for second-class ex-service people who had not necessarily been engaged in contact with the enemy.

Mr Turner said members of the New Zealand association took their executive of the Australian movement's efforts on defense.

New Zealand had concerned itself largely with its own defence and believed in providing good conditions of pay and housing to encourage recruiting.

FORM-FINDING

He had been interested to learn of the League's delegation to Vietnam. Similarly, two New Zealand delegations had made a two-month tour of Laos and Vietnam and on their return to New Zealand had conducted a non-stop lecture tour. The lectures were heard a very good press.

Another New Zealand executive member, a Major, had been sent to South-East Asia to talk with troops in the field. In his report he had put the first of these coming which had subsequently been put right.

Mr Turner had a little experience of Australia with cadet-training. His association had been pushing the question in New Zealand but had not got far with it.

He said he considered the present trading arrangements between Australia and New Zealand to be excellent, and hoped for still further co-operation in the field of defence and defence equipment.

On the question of Anzac Day observance the New Zealand Parliament was about to consider a bill providing for a similar type of observance to that in Western Australia.

He had been interested in the resolution on immigration as that question had been dragged on for the last 100 years in his own country.

He had been delighted with the resolution for a number of years and had been working to have it be done in neighbouring countries. This was a field in which both organisations could work together.

In Nepal the New Zealand association was providing medical packs for the troops, and in Thailand was contributing to the provision of cottages to help in the housing of the people.

DETERMINED

"While we have no as much money as you, you will have as much will we hope," Mr Turner said.

Congratulating the League on the chapel at the migrants' homes, he said it demonstrated to him the depth of the League's concern for ex-service people.

REUNION OF EX-P.O.W.

An Ex-P.O.W. Association reunion will be held at Yanchep (a popular family-Venue) on Sunday, February 16. The oval has been booked; there are barbecues adjoining; M.T.T. transport will be available and buses will take those interested in swimming down to the beach.

It is hoped that a good number of country members will be down for what promises to be a really good day's outing.
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International Ex-service Conference In Canberra

A proposal to hold a conference in Canberra (early next year) of ex-service organisations in the South-East Asia and Pacific areas was given the approval of National Congress last month.

Reporting at this month’s W.A. branch executive’s meeting President Pearson said he understood that the External Affairs Department was strongly in favour of the proposal.

Mr. Pearson said he had been told during Congress that the countries to be invited to the conference would include former enemy countries. Those envisaged were Borneo, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Laos, South Vietnam, the Philippines, New Zealand, and perhaps Korea, Cambodia, Burma, Hong Kong, Fiji and Fomosa.

On the Congress agenda was a request for the Pensions Plan to be brought out earlier. Since the League had now tied, its requests on pensions along the Commonwealth basic wage there seemed no reason why Congress should not recommend the Pensions Plan for later.

The supporting argument, with precise figures and details reflecting the variation in the Commonwealth basic wage could be prepared and the whole document circulated much earlier than previously.

In addition a statement setting out the details of the case for an increase in pensions might well be sent to all candidates in the coming Federal elections.

R.S.L. concern at the drift in re-patriation pension values must be expressed more forcibly than ever.

SIGNIFICANT

Sir Arthur said it was important to keep in mind that this was the first in the League’s a second half-century—that it was a time for both review and reassessment.

The League had many characteristics, but these were of special significance.

The first was the nature of the service that qualified ex-service men and women for membership and established between them a bond of service. The second was the League’s representative character, with members from a complete cross-section of the Australian community—people of every vocation, political belief and religious persuasion.

The third was its size; it stretched into every corner of the Australian community.

It was for the members to ensure that those unique characteristics were utilised to their full extent on the agenda of Congress proposals to do that.

WAR EFFECTS: One of the films shown on television, on Remembrance Day this month dealt with the 1914-18 war and its effects. It was made for the Repatriation Department.
Mr. Pearson Reports on Congress

The opening session of National Congress on Monday, October 24, was very well attended by a representative group of citizens, Mr. Pearson said at this month's State Executive meeting.

There had been a wreath-laying ceremony at the State War Memorial at noon that day, he said.

Social events during Congress week had included a public function in the Anzac House ballroom on the Wednesday night and a farewell party on the Friday night.

Of about 243 motions before Congress 170 had been carried, 35 lost and 14 withdrawn. Of the remainder ten were referred to the National Executive or other source for consideration and the rest had not proceeded with for various reasons.

Two of the agenda items dealt with life subscriptions and the charge was fixed at $20 for Great War and $50 for World War applicants respectively.

A New South Wales motion asking for State representation at Congress on a membership basis had been defeated. Had that motion gone through the smaller States would have suffered much in any close voting, Mr. Pearson said.

PROTEST BACKED

Among the reparations measures of Congress had been the endorsement of the National Executive's strong protest on the reparations provisions of the 1966 Federal Budget.

The Government had also been criticized for failure to put value back into the pension.

One of the West Australian motions carried (item 48) asked for an annual review of disability and service pensions.

Another (item 26) dealt with the application of the single-rate pension to married men in hospital.

A W.A. motion (item 45) seeking the same medical and hospital benefits for Great War nursing sisters was defeated.

The resolution (item 64) seeking an extension of the benefits of the War Services Homes Act, the Post-war Rehabilitation Act, the Repatriation Act, the Employment Act and the Establishment Act to ex-servicemen eligible under the Far East Strategic Reserve and Special Overseas Service Acts had received the full support of W.A.

The W.A. motion (item 72) asking for Repatriation Department recognition of the services of registered chiropractors had been carried. This was at least a move in the right direction, Mr. Pearson said.

Also carried was a W.A. motion seeking repatriation benefits for Australian serving overseas. A motion asking the Repatriation Department to discontinue the bar was referred to the League's national repatriation committee.

By supporting parts of a Queensland motion (item 95) Congress had reaffirmed its belief in the principle of universal military training and urged that those who could not be absorbed for full-time training under the National service scheme be required to serve in the C.M.F.

The third part of the motion—opposing the ballot for selecting trainees—was referred to the defence committee.

COAST DEFENCE

Mr. Pearson said the State delegation had done a good service in a debate for the establishment of coastal defences in W.A. (item 91). He added that a motion asking that at the age of 18 years Australians serving overseas be given the vote and also the right to purchase and consume intoxicating liquor was accepted after deletion of a reference to the purchase and consumption of liquor.

In the war-service veterans section of the agenda W.A. had been successful with three motions (items 155, 164 and 165) which sought:

- War Service Homes scheme benefits for single or widowed returned sisters or ex-servicewomen.
- An increased home-allocation to enable the loan limit to be raised from $7,000 to $10,000.
- The provision of finance for discharge of mortgages held by applicants for the war-service home loan.

Congress, on the initiative of the W.A. branch had expressed its opposition to the Commonwealth Government's intention to issue a lapel badge for Gallipoli veterans. The State branch had suggested that, instead, the Government should authorise the wearing of the letter "A" on the ribbon of the 1914-15 Star, but it was finally agreed to ask for the striking of a bar, carrying the word "Anzac," to be inserted on the ribbon.

A National Executive motion (item 225) specifying changes to the League badge (necessary by the change of name) had been carried.

The motion on the National Jubilee Commemorative Fund (item 229) had been carried. On instruction from the State Executive the W.A. delegates had opposed the motion.

Congress had also approved the proposal to hold in Canberra next year a conference of ex-service organisations in the Pacific-South-East Asia area.

Formality On Name

The final formality concerning the League's change of name was attended to at National Congress last month.

This was by way of an amendment to Rule 1 of the National Constitution, Rules and By-Laws, making the rule read:

"The association formed under these rules (thereafter referred to as the League) shall be known as the Returned Services League of Australia and the short title of the League, save when it conflicts with any name of the Commonwealth or of a State, is incapable of application, shall be the R.S.L."
Things Said At Opening Of National Congress

The League's 51st annual national congress was officially opened by the Governor, Sir Douglas Kendrew, in the Anzac Hall room on Monday, October 24.

Welcoming His Excellency, members and guests, to the gathering and National President Sir Arthur Lee, described the occasion as the first National Congress to be held in the second half-century and as a unique and historic event. He asked His Excellency to convey a message of loyalty from the League.

It was essential that there should be elements of reflection and commemoration, and also of reassessment, he said.

League's attention in the Australia and historic event. continue of National ·Congress

Mr. F. C. Chaney

The Navy Minister, Mr. Chaney, read a message of goodwill and appreciation from the Prime Minister, whom he was representing for the occasion.

He thought the end of confrontation in Vietnam marks a fundamental event in Australia's future. Mr. Chaney, a former State President, said the League was more interested in peace than in other problems and organisations and that the main desire was for the establishment of a world at peace in which it would cease to exist.

Mr. G. Whitlam

After reading a goodwill message from Federal Opposition leader Arthur Calwell, his deputy, Mr. Whitlam, said he had enjoyed watching members of an organisation that had fought war and brought to the Australians of men and women whose hope for the future and who could be seeing their livelihood very much in their hands at the moment.

Mr. Whitlam said that if repatriation benefits were aligned with the Federal basic wage, pension increases would be automatically financed by increased revenue. This was because 25 per cent of the increase went to the Government by way of tax. The basic wage for members of the armed forces would have to have mobile forces for service more of a professional army than ever before.

Australia should never chance her standard once it is obtained, he said. The League was playing an important part in the community but it must not rest on past achievements. It must be prepared to extend its influence in the future by bringing in new members.

One of the League's fondest wishes was that the League had never been to sit around and say, "Leave it to the Government!" He was sure the League's effort would be worth a great deal, and should help to develop internation...friendship in the South-East Asia region. Such approaches were the only hope for peace.

Looking back over the League's 50 years he paid tribute to those who had made the organisation possible. One looked forward to new and brighter horizons and to the greater responsibilities, the League would be asked to carry in the near future.

The Governor Mr. Excellency said he would convey the League's message to the Queen with great pleasure.

He said that during his two years at Canberra as head of a British defence mission he had been aware of the magnificent work done by the League and Legion in every corner of Australia.

In Western Australia he had visited R.S.L. sub-branches and met thousands of members.

Because of the many National Service men serving overseas the question of training in the armed forces would be uppermost in the minds of all thinking people, Sir Douglas said.

None Better

His own career had been concerned with training and preparation for war and he could say that the training of the Australian soldier was second to none—particularly that at Campavera for young men selected to serve overseas.

National Service men were getting exactly the same treatment as volunteers, and those in Vietnam were proving themselves as good officers and devoted as the regular soldiers.

The organisation and tactics of the Australian troops in South Vietnam was extremely sound, and it was important to think in terms of winning minds, there was much to be done by way of civil aid.

The League was playing an important part in the community but it must not rest on past achievements. It must be prepared to extend its influence in the future by bringing in new members.

I believe it is to the supreme good that we must look," said His Excellency.

A vote of thanks to His Excellency was moved by Mr.睐: (Queensland) and supported by Mr. P. F. Pear-

Barry (W.A.)

28th Battalion Association

An announcement made at the 28th Battalion Association's Show Week reunion that the 28th Battalion C.M.E. was to be reformed was received with warm approval.

Mr. J. B. Earley, Major K. T. Johnson, was one of the Association's guests-of-honour, along with the State President of the League (Mr. Percy Pearson) and Mr. Peter Peo, representing the French Consul, who was overseas.

Also present were representatives of kindred Associations, and to coin a phrase a good time was had by all.

Mr. Pearson presented association Life-Membership badges to President Bob Elsegood, honorary treasurer Dan Chisholm, and to Jim O'Sullivan, all of whom have done much to keep the association going.

Secretary Jim Farrell made a trip to contact battalion members now living in Victoria and the report will be expected at the next meeting of the association—be held at War Memorial Hall, 2 p.m. on the second Tuesday in December.
“Intellectuals” Under Attack At Congress

Some intellectuals at universities and in public life, and some church leaders, were doing all they could to frustrate the aims of the Commonwealth defence forces. Sir William Yeo (N.S.W.) said at National Congress last month.

He was supporting a Victorian motion for the reaffirmation of the League’s defence policy.

The latest example of the activities of such people, Sir William said, had come with the recent visit to the Eastern States of the President of the United States.

"Some of the country’s youths is following the advice of those groups of people in a position to give it," he said.

They did not realise that such people were the agents of the Viet Cong and of Peking; that they were striving to undermine South Vietnam.

They were doing their job better than Hanoi and the Viet Cong together, Sir William said.

The League believed that the only way to defend Australia was by compulsory training and service and also that it was best defended as far away as possible.

Sir William said he had been told that the Chinese had always been a nation of peace-seekers, but he would ask: if the Chinese had no aggressive intentions what were they doing in Tibet.

FIRST STEP

The first step of aggression had been allowed to proceed as far as was intended at that time, he said.

The policy of the Commonwealth Government to fight the war as far away as possible had the support of the League.

Supporters of the Viet Cong spoke about the League’s attitude on the question if members had no possible way to their own. The League’s policy had been proved sound and should be reaffirmed; members were still wholeheartedly of the same opinion.

When introducing the motion, Mr. W. H. Hall (Victoria) said that most of the defence measures taken for by the League East were regarded as appropriate.

He said the purpose of the motion was to highlight the fact that the League had a standing policy.

Congress expressed full confidence in the National Service system and commended the Federal Government for “committing national servicemen in any theatre of war in the security of our way of life.”

It reaffirmed standing policy by adopting a Queensland motion seeking National Service registration and call-up of aliens in the appropriate age-groups provided they had sufficient time to be naturalised.

Membership

For These

At National Congress last month eligibility for League membership was extended to official press correspondents, photographers and artists. Red Cross, Y.M.C.A. and Salvation Army welfare officers who served continuously for six months;

(a) in Korea between July 1, 1950, and July 27, 1953;
(b) in Malaya between June 19, 1950, and December 21, 1955;
(c) in areas proclaimed as special areas for the purpose of the Repatriation (Special Overseas Service) Act.

Others to whom Congress had extended eligibility were;

• Australian, British, Dominion and United States personnel who served for six months in the proclaimed special areas, or British ex-service personnel with service in this area subject to the award of the appropriate campaign medals.

R.N. Man Seeks A Sponsor

After nine years service with the Royal Navy Mr. Alwyn Ellis (27) with his wife (25), and daughter (4) is seeking a sponsor in order to enable him to obtain an assisted passage to Western Australia.

His address is 153, Beaumont-road, St. Jude’s, Plymouth, Devon.

Would anyone who can help him please write direct.

The Garden of Remembrance

The new Garden of Remembrance, dedicated on October 23 in the presence of the Governor, Sir Douglas Kendrew, delegates to National Congress and citizens, commemorates those West Australians who died on active service and whose last resting place is not otherwise officially marked.

They include men who died during training, or who were cremated and whose ashes were scattered. Here they will be honoured in a garden atmosphere of peace and tranquility and in a manner worthy of their sacrifice.

Perth is the last capital city in Australia to have such a memorial.

The garden, established by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, is situated next to the War Cemetery in Smythe-road.

• Pictured here during the laying of wreaths at the dedication ceremony is the R.A.A.F. representative, Group Captain D. L. Wilson, D.F.C.

VISITED THE ANZAC CLUB LATELY?
Addressing delegates to National Congress last month on the current position in Vietnam Army Minister Fraser said one should remember that South Vietnam was not the only country under threat in the region.

Recently members of an Australian Parliamentary delegation to Thailand had been told that terrorist insurgents in the north-east had, at any rate, been trained in North Vietnam.

In Laos there had been continued North Vietnamese aggression for many years. Mr Fraser said that when in Laos about four months ago he had been told the Government would have no problem in dealing with their own communists, the Pathet Lao, with the support they were given by the North Vietnamese.

Laos was a country of 2,750,000 people, 120,000 of them under arms—nearly double Australia's service ratio.

**BIG IMPACT**

It was quite clear that this had a tremendous impact upon the economy of the country and upon what the Government could do for the people.

Despite the tremendous price being paid, the Prime Minister of Laos determined that aggression should be resisted.

The North Vietnamese interest in Laos was two-fold. They were giving major support, as always, to the Pathet Lao (Lao communists) in areas adjacent to the Ho Chi Minh trails.

The trails enabled North Vietnamese troops and supplies to travel from North to South Vietnam through Laos.

Government forces in Laos had the strength to attack the Pathet-Lao held regions and North Vietnamese areas adjacent to the Ho Chi Minh trails.

The reason for the North Vietnamese interest in Laos was twofold: firstly, the trails were of immense importance to the North Vietnamese in their war against South Vietnam, and secondly, in the rest of Laos, especially the north, the Government forces were making progress against the communists in South Vietnam, once held by the communists and now under proper government control.

Embassy people in Laos said they could travel with impunity in any of the areas said to be under Government control.

In addition the Laotian Government was doing a great deal to support and encourage the local people's resistance and economic progress in many areas, but overall it was hampered by the tremendous threat posed by North Vietnam.

North Vietnam was at the centre of the problems of Laos, Thailand and South Vietnam.

If the war in South Vietnam had ended in a way that conceded victory to North Vietnam there was no reason to believe that the North Vietnamese would cease their efforts in Laos or in Thailand.

Thus while the main heat of conflict was felt in South Vietnam, the problem concerned the whole region and the independence of all the nations of South-East Asia and, in the ultimate, the future security of Australia itself.

**AUSTRALIA'S PART**

**Army Training Team**

Referring to the Australian training team which has been in Vietnam for a number of years Mr Fraser said the publicity that had been focused on the Task Force tended to detract from the tremendous work the team was doing.

Its members were spread out in many areas of the country, especially around Da Nang, working with local units as advisers and assisting in training certain Vietnamese forces.

Often they ended up being constant advisers within their communities. They deserved tremendous praise. They were working well with the Vietnamese and, in general, had respect for the people with whom they were working and fighting.

The Task Force had been assisting Vietnamese forces in the Phuoc Tuy province (not far from Saigon), an area which had gone very well.

Mr Fraser said that at the visit his task force had only been in position for two weeks at a station now would see a tremendous change; the men in the force had doubled in size.

They had not only had to establish their own base camp but at the same time to do all the patrols and training to make their own area safe and the task force safe from attack.

**MORALE HIGH**

The morale of the force was particularly high after the major battle, which the press had called the Battle of Baria, morale is always high behind the skies. Up till then they had been meeting a number of Viet Cong, mostly at night. With the considerable distance and the Viet Cong would melt away.

In the recent battle the terrain had altered; although additional troops were readily available Australia had not more than 300 soldiers around any point of time.

The enemy probably had been 1,500 and 2,000, and left behind them 245 dead. His total casualties have been estimated between 500 and 700.

Of course the Australian troops had tremendous artillery support and aid from their allies, but this did not in any sense detract from their magnificent victory over the Viet Cong.

Quite recently an operation called Operation Vaucluse was completed an in the south-east of the task force in a fairly high range of mountains—an area in which quite large concentrations of Viet Cong were located.

Patrols had been through the area to try and clear the Viet Cong out of it. Of my little contact was made with them. Although there was substantial evidence of their still existing in and base camps.

If the Battle of Baria had gone somewhat differently the Viet Cong might have offered more resistance during the other operation which was important. In the general terms of making the Phuoc Tuy province, the area of our particular responsibility, safe.

It could be that the Viet Cong were not ready to offer another challenge.

The integration of National Servicemen into the regular army units had gone very well indeed.

There was a healthy respect between the national serviceman and the regular, especially in Vietnam. They had pride in their units, a knowledge of the importance of the work they were undertaking and a knowledge that they were exceedingly well trained for the job.

The respect between the regular and national servicememan began from the time the national serviceman went into his recruitment battalion.

**CONFIDENCE**

It was there because the national serviceman knew his training was going to be essential during his two-year period in the Army.

He knew he and his colleagues were being trained to fight in the teeth of the Army, and that knowledge also added to the respect the instructors held for the national serviceman.

The instructor knew he was handling Australia's Army. He knew he was working closely with the nation's security and that the respect the instructor showed to the national serviceman was wanted.

**PRACTICAL**

To expand the Army it had introduced National Service. As a result of the present system of national service have been rejected and it's present and only potential commitments.

About 10,000 regulars were employed in Australian support-areas. This would be difficult to fill on a two-year service basis, leaving 14,500 regulars in field force units.

There was a commitment not only in South Vietnam but in Malaysia, and potential commitments for the defence of New Guinea.

(Continued Page 10)
Several significant functions were conducted during National Congress Week in Perth last month, and shown here are scenes from some of them.

ABOVE: Lady Lee, wife of the National President, cuts the cake at the informal jubilee-celebration in the Anzac House ballroom on October 26.

UPPER RIGHT: National President Sir Arthur Lee and New Zealand R.S.A. representative A. Turner (nearer camera) lay wreaths on the State War Memorial.

LOWER RIGHT: Victorian State President Brig. W. H. Hall in discussion with the Governor, Sir Douglas Ren-drew, and the National President. Seen in background is Army Minister Fraser.
ARMIN MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON VIETNAM (from Page 8)

In addition planning was undertaken with the Allies so that a quick response might be provided for certain emergency situations that could arise.

Since the Government believed that troops should not serve in Viet- nam-type situations for longer than 12 months and we would have to meet its commitments and maintain flexibility for other possibilities without national service.

Even if the long-sounding volunteers were required to serve one year abroad and one at home, a field force of 14,500 would not be sufficient for the proper re-inforcement of present overseas forces.

In addition no flexibility would be possible for our commitment to ensure that emergency and Australia, would not be able to honour arrangements made with her allies. The firm planning that had been undertaken with the allies for the security of the region would be undermined.

It had been suggested that volunteers should be obtained from the National Service scheme instead of making it mandatory for national servicemen to serve one year abroad. Those who made the suggestion forgot that defence planning was made on a U.S. basis in conjunction with allies; all parties had made commitments in relation to maintaining underground troops. At the present stage of development Australia had to look to her allies for help.

The Government should not hide behind those forces alone, although they could be providen for the Viet Cong's responsibility to provide forces large enough for the Viet Cong to conduct operations that could or should be left to volunteers.

There was a good deal of confidence in the Viet Cong's ability to organize behind the backs of volunteers. CIVIC ACTION

The troops in Vietnam and the Army as a whole, knew that military and political gains were only half of the action. It is only one of the activities that must be fought. The other must be the How the Vietnamese people could be influenced towards a sense of social and economic aid and support for the areas that could be prevented during the Viet Cong.

Soldiers going into an area that had been dominated by the Viet Cong for many years might cause concern to them and the Viet Cong. They could probably be typical to notice that the people emphasise, principles of social and economic aid and support for the areas that could be prevented during the Viet Cong. The R.S.L. was not the only body, although it was the largest, to enter that field.

It was suggested that the R.S.L. at the appropriate level should co-operate with other organisations and coordinate the activities of other people who could do the most good. Other forms of civic action were also being undertaken, including assistance to hospitals and schools for children from 12 to 18 who were being trained in the Vung Tau area. It had become very much a tour of duty in recent years and the number of overseas members had increased from 10,000 to 50,000. The Government was collecting funds for it. This was just one example of Australians entering the field and becoming involved in the social and economic programmes in Vietnam, additional to official government aid.

FUTURE ACTION

Aid given must be of the right kind and must be directed through the right channels. What was needed was to conduct the initial emergency matters large enough to prevent the military in the Viet Cong, taxation and oppression. At the village of Binh Ba, liberated by Australians some weeks ago, it was quite clear that the villagers had no particular love for the Viet Cong and every desire to be freed of them. The army's responsibility to provide forces large enough for the Viet Cong to conduct operations that could or should be left to volunteers was the refuge of cowardly politicians.

LEADERSHIP

Mr Fraser stated that on his visit to Vietnam a little more than two years ago he had been depressed. Everyone was concerned about North Vietnam's involvement in the Pacific and the free world forces had not been able to do anything about the situation. There seemed to be two sides of the argument, and some lack of resolution. Since then the whole position has changed. There was now some sense of purpose, of direction, of the right kind and must be directed through the right channels. What was needed was to conduct the initial emergency matters large enough to prevent the military in the Viet Cong, taxation and oppression. At the village of Binh Ba, liberated by Australians some weeks ago, it was quite clear that the villagers had no particular love for the Viet Cong and every desire to be freed of them. The army's responsibility to provide forces large enough for the Viet Cong to conduct operations that could or should be left to volunteers was the refuge of cowardly politicians.

(Continued Page 13)
Anzacs On Toast List At West Leederville

This year for the first time Gallipoli Veterans featured on the toast list at the 49th annual reunion of the West Leederville-Wembley Floreat Park sub-branch on October 21.

The State President was represented by Mr Alan Cooper, who spoke of the work of the R.S.L. and its appeal for members.

Mr Cooper stressed that many thousands of eligible ex-servicemen had not applied for membership and had thus deprived themselves of the friendly atmosphere that prevailed within the League's ranks.

The armed services were represented by Lieut. R. Green (Navy), Major R. E. Wells (Army), and Flight-Lieut. Wilson (R.A.A.F.).

The toast of the sub-branch was proposed by Dr Guy Henn, M.L.A. He extended much praise for the way the organisation was conducted. President Ern McGuckin thanked him suitably.

The toast to Gallipoli Veterans was proposed by Allan Gadow-Jones and responded to by Alex Hood, one of the original members at the landing.

Music and song during the evening were provided by Ken Hunt (piano), Alf Sabine (piano-accompanist), and Eric Elsegood who was in his usual fine voice to add to the enjoyment of all present.

Ern McGuckin expressed the pleasure it gave him to present R.S.L. Service Certificates to two of the members, Stan Waldeck and Bert McCallum, for the great work they had done over the years.

Mr Cooper issued 'Australian Certificates of Merit' for sport to the members of the rifle team which won the Tel Aviv 21-week competition (for the second year) and to keots champion Ted Pinnell who was unbeaten in the A.R.M.S. series.

The final toast—to the auxiliary, the performed, and the proposed, was proposed by Stan Waldeck and responded to by Mrs. Rowe.

Patronesses were represented by Mr Hugh Gathrie and Dr Guy Henn, M.L.A., and the City Council by Crs. K. Frame and W. Inwood, all of whom are members of the sub-branch. Visitors from the surrounding sub-branches of Mt. Hawthorn and Shenton Park were warmly welcomed by the president.

Vice-President Keith V. Boyt, who was in the chair, thanked the congregation for the warm welcome extended to them at the sub-branch meetings.

Veterans Gain From Geraldton Appeal

A street appeal held by the Geraldton sub-branch recently raised more than $154 for the War Veterans' Home at Mt. Lawley.

Members will no doubt join in congratulating Sub-Branch President W. W. Bowles on his excellent report on the home in the October issue of "The Listening Post."

It was certainly comprehensive and enlightening report, and all concerned with the home can be proud of their achievements.

Another Great War veteran, Mr Ron Haydock, has passed on to higher service. He died in Perth recently after a long illness.

Ron had not enjoyed the best of health for many years, however, he kept a good example to R.S.L. members by regularly attending meetings.

He and his wife (killed in a road accident in recent years) raised a large family, some of whom have entered the teaching and nursing professions.

And so farewell, Ron Haydock—good and faithful R.S.L. member! —J.B.J.

Support For Singapore Memorial

The Ex-prisoners-of-war Association (W.A. Branch) has contributed to funds for a Singapore memorial to commemor- ate victims of the Japanese occupation.

The memorial, costing nearly half a million dollars, is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Its main feature is a cluster of four tapering columns representing the four streams of culture—or four main races, English, Chinese, Malay and Indian—each (for a height of 200 ft.) from a podium of white marble surrounded by a reflecting pool.

It stands on four acres of land (in Beach-road) donated by the Singapore Government.

The surrounding parkland will be dotted with trees and flowers to enhance the majestic appearance of the memorial, which will be floodlit in the evenings.

The project was started by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Singapore, and financed by public donations with contributions from the Singapore Government on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Ex-prisoners-of-war were pleased to be associated with such a worthwhile project as they owe much to many of the people concerned.

First-class Ambassadors.

When in the Philippines recently Australia's Army Minister Fraser was asked by President Marcos to pass on his congratulations to those concerned with the magnificent work being done by Australian troops in South Vietnam.

The president was pleased they were there; they had won very high praise from civilians as well as from the troops. He added he had heard from the troops that they were satisfied with the conditions in which they were working.

He also rang to express his appreciation of the work being done by Australian forces in South Vietnam.

After a lapse of several years the Wagin ex-servicemen's reunion dinner was revived recently and drew a good attendance despite other attractions that week.

After a lapse of several years the Wagin ex-servicemen's Dinner was revived recently and drew a good attendance despite other attractions that week.

Over fifty places were filled and the guests included Mr Allan Cooper (State Executive) and his friends Dick White and Frank Smith.

The Domingo sub-branch was represented by five members, and Williams and Narrogin by one each.

The buffet dinner was all that could be desired, thanks to the women's auxiliary. All present expressed their appreciation of the ladies' wonderful effort.

Mr Keith Stewart and his musicians supplied the harmony for the evening.

Members who attended the function have been saying the sub-branch should keep up the event.

Members are asked to make a point of attending the monthly meetings (second Wednesday)...

N.S. Trainees Start Officer Course

At the army officer-training unit at Schen- ville, near Windsor (New South Wales) on October 14, 51 National Servicemen began training to become officers.

They were selected from a total of 614 applicants to undergo the 21-week course, and those who will qualify will then be made Lieutenants.

The course involves a rigorous 65-hour week training, map reading, drill, fieldcraft, minor tactics and physical training during the day, with lectures and exercises at night.

The cadets are also taught military history and army administration.

Leadership qualities are assessed during the course and the cadet also undergoes a personal and practical tests at regular periods.

The training-unit instructors are drawn from experienced officers and warrant officers, including many who have served in Vietnam, Malaysia, Borneo, Thailand, Korea and the United Kingdom.

Though the cadets will be asked to nominate the corps of their choice, appointments to the corps will depend on the cadets' aptitude and vacancies in the corps.

Among the 54 selected are four West Australians, to whom go sub-branch congratulations. They are: Richard Thomas Fowler, of Congella; Alan Drummond, of Warwick; John Murphy, of 139 Bishopsgate-street, Carlisle; John W. Bevan, of Bruce Flock; John F. Gordon, of Wanneroo; and John Sherwood Tracey of unit 2, 58 Mary-street, Como.
The Canteens Trust Story

Delegates to National Congress this year were told that while the Canteens Trust Fund had been in operation for about 20 years its history went back to General Birdwood's time.

The trust chairman, Mr. E. Harding, said that after the Great War the general had pointed out the moral obligation for seeing that canteen profits should only be distributed for the benefit of those who had brought them into existence—or their dependants. He said the first war fund had not lasted long, but by the end of the second war a sum of about $1,000,000 had been accumulated by the canteens. This had been put into a central fund and the trust set up under Mr. Arthur Blackburn, V.C., as chairman.

People had criticised the trustees for not spending the money fast but their responsibility was to do the utmost they could with it, Mr. Harding said. Half of the fund was to be used for educational purposes and half for welfare.

It was being spent at the rate of $900,000 a year and the capital sum was becoming progressively exhausted. Out of 1,000,000 servicemen returning from the second war 100,000 had already died; by 1977 there would have been 220,000 deaths, and by 1987 that number would have risen to 500,000.

The widows and children left were the primary concern of the trust. At present 7,000 children were being assisted, and 4,000 of them were also receiving assistance as Legacy wards.

The League in Western Australia had formed a committee under the Australian Council of Social Services which looked after the children outside the scope of Legacy. A similar system had been adopted in Queensland, and N.S.W. was likely to follow suit shortly.

The need to care for the dependants of service men went back at least as far as Charlemagne and was certainly pressing at the present time, Mr. Harding said.

The canteens fund was to be spent for the benefit of second-war people and their dependants, and no-one seemed to have given much thought to dependants of ex-servicemen of the Korea and Vietnam campaigns.
Mr Fraser said that shortly before his recent visit to Da Nang, Vietnamese battalions unaided had won significant victories over the Viet Cong. That was barely two weeks after the Broadway problem had been overcome, during which time it was alleged the moral and fighting spirit of the South Vietnamese troops had been greatly affected.

The Press, quite understandably, could give a wrong impression about the fighting in Vietnam. The Australians were interested in the exploits of the task force, the United States public was interested in the performance of its own forces.

This could mean that the performance of the Vietnamese army might not get the cover it deserved.

Two years ago there had been no free-force combat troops in Vietnam. The Viet Cong and the United States tried to do the job for the Americans, and more recently had been doing it for themselves.

U.S. INFLUENCE

Recounting to some remarkable Americans he had met in Vietnam, Mr Fraser mentioned a General Freund with many university degrees.

Because of his knowledge, sympathy and understanding of the people, he had thought the Vietnamese army might get the cover it deserved.

ASIAN OPINION

Mr Fraser said that in a visit covering six countries—the Philippines, Malaya, Singapore, Indonesia, Laos and Vietnam—he had met no one who offered any real criticism of what Australia was doing in South Vietnam.

Many had been concerned about the expansion of Communist China. They were not offering an alternative course of action to that being taken by South Vietnam and the free-world forces.

The Government’s objective was to establish conditions which would make the people of South Vietnam want to fight their own way without interference from anyone.

Nobody was trying to destroy North Vietnam. Nobody is trying to destroy or offer any threat to the communist China. But there would be no peace for any of the countries in that region unless those countries that were aggressive were made to both North Vietnam and Hanoi have to negotiate. Negotiations have not taken place because North Vietnam and Hanoi had not made any offers for negotiations that would mean the prior withdrawal of the United States forces and the complete surrender of the South Vietnamese government.

They had said that negotiations must be conducted in accordance with the programme of the National Liberation Front on the front of the North Vietnamese communist party, the Viet Cong in South Vietnam. They had said that the national liberation front must be the sole authority to speak for the people of South Vietnam. These conditions would provide the communist party of the complete takeover of South Vietnam.

The Government hoped the conflict could be ended by negotiations that would preserve the independence of South Vietnam and not open the door to threats against other countries in South-East Asia.

But until such negotiations took place it was convinced it was pursuing the only possible course consistent with national security.

Mr Fraser said that the rest of Australia could not live an island unto themselves in their own part of the world. The independence of other small countries in South-East Asia is of importance to Australians; the interest of Australia in this part of the world is of importance to Australians.

The only thing that could prevent the downward thrust of communist China was the will and the resolution of the independent countries of that region supplied with the might and the power of the United States. If either ingredients were lacking the communist cause would have its victory.

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Medals For Service In Vietnam

Australian and New Zealand troops in Vietnam have been given Royal permission to wear the campaign medal issued by the South Vietnamese Government. This is the first time permission has been granted for Australian or New Zealand servicemen to wear a foreign Government's campaign star.

The only similar approvals have been for joint campaign medals—the United Nations' Korean War Medal and the allied nations' Victory Medal of the Great War. The Vietnamese medal is awarded to all allied troops who have served there more than six months.

Troops wore the medal for the first time at the end of June at a ceremonial parade in Vietnam. Australia has a Vietnam ribbon, designs for its own Vietnam medal will be finished soon.

Women's Auxiliary Notes

The Jubilee Luncheon

Auxiliaries have been most generous in their response to the Jubilee Luncheon for Anzac—to be held in the Anzac House ballroom on Wednesday, November 23.

Brookton has donated a turkey and plum pudding; North Perth, Blackboy Hill, Belmont, Hamilton Hill and Swanbourne have promised cakes; Victoria Park, tea and sugar; Darling Range, Kenyork and Bedford Morley, tins of fruit; Bassendean, cooked pork.

Many metropolitan and country auxiliaries have a member coming to help with the preparation and serving of the luncheon. If any donation has been omitted please accept the secretary's apologies.

The following auxiliaries have made cash donations: Cottage, $10; Mt. Hawthorn, $10; Yarloop, $4.20; Childers, $2; Kalgoorlie, $10; Geraldton, $5; Blackboy Hill, $10; Belmont, $3; N.E. Fremantle, $10; Boulder, $5; Subiaco, $4; Claremont, $2; City of Perth, $20; Scarborough, $2.

The auxiliary State Executive also, sincerely thanks the following firms who have generously donated to the Jubilee Luncheon for Anzac:


Donations

Donations to the various funds have been as follows:

Christmas Cheer
Mr. Barker $50, Narrogin $20, Harvey $30, Bellevue $20.

Hospital Visiting
Appinns $10, Kalgoorlie $10, Narrogin $20, Harvey $30, Bellevue $40, Geraldton $100, Scarborough $100, Coolibah $10, Blackboy Hill $10, Brunswick Junction $60, Subiaco $10, Belmont $10.

Veterans' Home

Library: Kalgoorlie $210, Waroona $5.

Official Visits

Tuesday, October 21: Soldiers' Children's Education Board meeting attended by Mrs. Ames.

Saturday, October 25: Meddles, 2, Ames, 6, and other members of executive attended Hamilton Hill birthday party, and Mrs. Bowden presented Certificate of Service to Mrs. Willis.

Monday, October 27: Meddles, 2, Ames, 6, and other members of executive attended opening of National Congress.

Tuesday, October 28: Meddles, 2, Ames, 6, and other members of executive attended opening of National Congress.

Wednesday, October 29: Meddles, 2, Ames, 6, and other members of executive attended opening of National Congress.

Thursday, October 30: Meddles, 2, Ames, 6, and other members of executive attended opening of National Congress.

Visited the Anzac Club lately?

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The Listening Post

November 21, 1966
ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICEMEN

FEDERATED T.B. SAILORS, MARINES, AND ARMY MEN'S ASSOCIATION (W.A.) BRANCH—2nd Thursday, Wellard Memorial Church, 138 William-street, Perth. Second Sunday, President, G. Blick, Secretary, W. Bean. SOUTHERN AFRICAN AND IMPEL DOMESTIC SERVICE VETERANS ASSOCIATION—Anzac House basement, third Monday at 5.30 p.m., President, A. E. Thorne, Secretary, R. A. Donaldson, 20 Alfred-road, Mt. Lawley (87 1404).

10TH LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION—Meets House bi-monthly Thursday in Jan., March, May, July, September, and November. President, H. Beard, 80 The Promenade, Mt. Pleasant, (64 2933). Secretary, J. Syme, 28 Marquis-street, South Bentley (68 2946).

ROLL OF HONOUR ASSOCIATION OF W.A.—Meetings at Anzac House when called. President, J. G. Thompson, 862 Beaufort-street, West Perth. Secretary, E. B. Proctor, 168 Ninth Avenue, Mt. Claremont (3 1355).


27TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Meets Anzac House second Tuesday at 2 p.m. President, R. J. Good, 23 Evershed-street, Myaree. Secretary, J. Parti, Flat 139 Addison-uire, Perth. Annual reunion Show Week.


ARMED FORCES TECHNICAL UNITS ASSOCIATION—President, E. G. Shier, 117 Tember-street, Park street, Fremantle (87 1934 — business hours 21 0131). Secretary, D. Turner, 58 Wellington-street, Carlisle. Quarterly general meetings and annual reunion Show Week.

BRITISH EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION INC.—Meet second Tuesday at 8 p.m. in members' hall, corner Francis and Museum streets, Perth. President, R. McDougall, Secretary, D. Black (Box 32147, G.P.O., Perth).

11TH AND 21ST BATTALIONS A.I.F. ASSOCIATION—President E. MacLeod, 32 Alcock-road, Applecross—phone 41 1035 (Home) 3-5971 (Business). Hon. Treasurer, M. Butcher, 5 Forward-street, Manning—phone 60 4489 (Home), 87 2686 (Business). Welfare Officer, Phil Grieve, 1a Clifton-crest, Mt. Lawley—phone 71 1110.

11TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Meet first Friday each month Anzac House. President, W. T. Bower. Phone 86 2464. Secretary, Laurie E. Percors, (2p.f.)发射14 Rainbow-street, Bentley.

44TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Meet at 8 p.m. on fourth Tuesday each month. Annual Reunion Anzac House Ballroom, 7 p.m., September 30 1966.

51ST BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION—Meetings as called. Annual Reunion Show Week Mon. President, J. D. Johnson, 31 Albion-street, Cottesloe. Secretary H. S. Brown, 123 Second Avenue, Mt. Lawley (71 1636).

45TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Meets 4th Saturday of each month day in January, April, July and —October at Anzac House. President, Rev. Sydney Max, 131 Ciree-Ciree, Dalkeith. Secretary, S. G. Power, 113b Thomas-street, Subiaco (8 3208).

BRIGADE OF GUARDS ASSOCIATION—President, D. Crook, Secretary S. C. MacPhail, 104 Grand Parade, Redcliffe (65 3088). Meeting 3rd Friday every month Anzac House.

LIMBLED SOLDIERS ASSOCIATION W.A. INC. "Wingies and Stumples"—President, A. Bingley. Secretary, H. W. Glick (21 5888). Meetings first Thursday each month.

PARTIALLY BLINDSOLDIERS ASSOCIATION—General meetings at 8 p.m. 1st Thursday and Social Meetings 3rd Thursday of each month at Retired Men's Room, Railway Institute, Wellington-street, East Perth. President W. H. Grant, 70 Hobbe-avenue, Como (67 4471). Secretary, A. L. Donalld, 17 Crawford Crescent, Manning (60 4222).

R.A.A.E. EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION—Meetings held on 8th Sunday in March, June, September and December, at 10.30 a.m. Press Pavilion, W.A.C.A. Annual General Meeting on 25th April at 9.45 a.m. on the Robinson (24 5557). Secretary, H. O. Doherty (24 1802).

ROYAL ARMED CORPS ASSOCIATION—Meets every fourth Thursday at 8 p.m. Press Pavilion, W.A.C.A. Ground, East Perth. President, R. Hayes (61 9948). Secretary, E. J. Crowley (21 0616), extension 232).

GALLIPOLI LEGION OF ANZACs—Meets in Y.A.L. Rooms, Perth, as notified. President, J. N. May, 21 North-road, Bassendean. Secretary, G. D. Shaw (21 2342).

2/2ND BATTALION ASSOCIATION (W.A.)—President, J. Hamilton, 406 Alexander-street, Morley. Secretary, R. N. Cleland, 28 Sclater-street, South Perth. Treasurer, R. E. Edmundson, 141 Stirling-highway, Claremont. Annual dinner last Saturday of November.

32ND BATTALION (1ST A.I.F.) ASSOCIATION—President, R. P. McKenzie, 84 Clivedon-street, North Perth (21 1877). Secretary, J. L. Shaw, 11 Clivedon-road, Mt. Lawley (71 3311). Committee meetings as called.

RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION (W.A. BRANCH)—President, J. Run. 16 Second-avenue, Graylands. Secretary, R. O. Ryan, P.O. Box 44, Committee meetings second Thursday each month.

KOREAN VETERANS' ASSOCIATION—Meet second Monday of each month in House building, President L. Phenna, 116 Lansdowne-street, South Perth. Secretary, E. G. Goudie, 148 Stirling-highway, Claremont (86 6511).

Outing For Veterans

On Sunday, October 2, the Warooma auxiliary entertained 32 residents (men and women) of the War Veterans' Home at the Warooma R.S.L. Bowling Club.

The auxiliary provided a very nice lunch and the branch provided refreshments.

A very enjoyable day was had by all.

The auxiliary has donated a book to the veterans home library in memory of late sub-branch member Frank Beaucham.

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Land Scheme Resume

In all mainland States of Australia all holdings under the War Service Land Settlement scheme have been allotted and in Tasmania eight holdings remain to be disposed of.

This was said at Congress last month by the Commonwealth director of the scheme, Mr. Colquhoun.

He was replying to a vote of thanks for his attendance.

Mr. Colquhoun said about 9,320 holdings had been allotted under the scheme and the total expenditure had amounted to almost $450,000,000.

In S.A., W.A. and Tasmania the Commonwealth had carried the whole of the cost.

About 90 per cent of the original allottees were still in possession of their blocks.

The number of surrenders had been very low considering the number of settlers.

The department's work now mainly concerned recovery of moneys owing.

Congress resolved to press for the consideration of soldier-settler benefits for overseas service since the World War.

Rights Of Volunteers Who Serve Abroad

The League, after the August meeting of the National Executive, made another request to the Commonwealth Government for C.M.F. members serving in Vietnam to be given the same re-employment and re-establishment rights as National Servicemen possess.

In his reply Defence Minister Allen Fairhall said the same re-employment and re-establishment rights as National Servicemen possess.

“Application is entirely voluntary and, in the circumstances, their participation in relation to re-establishment rights must be regarded as more akin to that of regular army personnel than of national servicemen.

“In the circumstances, therefore, I do not consider that the Defence (Re-Establishment) Act should be amended to provide for the compulsory re-employment of personnel on completion of voluntary full-time service with the Citizen Military Forces.”

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Another Dance For Sailors

The Riverton sub-branch will be entertaining 100 sailors of the Royal Navy on Sunday, November 18, with a barbecue and dance to be held in the sub-branch hall in High-road.

This sub-branch has earned a good reputation by its past efforts in entertaining visiting Navy personnel, and if this evening is as good as some in the past it will be a great night.