The Queen Honours R.S.L. Men

Two widely-known League stalwarts—Messrs. H. A. Leslie and S. A. Macnamara—were among those honoured by Her Majesty the Queen in the recent Birthday Honours list.

Hugh Leslie, a member of the League since 1926 and of the West Australian executive since 1943, received the award of the O.B.E.

Hugh, among his many activities, has represented this State branch of the R.S.L. on the Rehabilitation Committee since 1944 and during this time has been a keen fighter for the rights of ex-servicemen and women, particularly those who through war-caused disabilities required training in another vocation. Outside of his R.S.L. interests and activities as a State and Federal member of Parliament Hugh has earned high regard for his dedicated work for the Spastic Welfare Association.

A foundation member of that organisation he has been its president for 14 years and is still serving in that office.

Syd Macnamara, who joined the League in July, 1925 and became a member of the State Executive in 1951, was awarded the M.B.E.

"Mac," as he is known to all and sundry, has earned the regard of everybody for his sincere devotion to R.S.L. work and it is worth recording here some of his many activities.

He is currently the League's chairman of trustees, R.S.L. representative on the Services Canteens Trust regional committee, the Red Cross Welfare Committee, the Tuberculosis Association and the Social Services Association.

Until recently he was chairman of the Lemnos Hospital board of visitors for ten years, and in previous years served on the Fremantle Gaol Rehabilitation Committee.

He has been (and still is) a constant visitor to the Hollywood Repatriation Hospital and other hospitals, where his cheerful word and readiness to assist and advise patients with problems have made him a popular figure.

National Executive Statement

The National Executive discussed at length the situation arising out of the action taken by the New South Wales State Council to discipline two members of the League for actions relating to Vietnam and National Service.

The President indicated that the National Executive was not competent to consider the actual cases or to review the Summary of Evidence taken by the Court of Enquiry. At this stage Appeals have not been received from the two members and it would be presumptuous of the Executive to delve into private evidence in the absence of a request from the members concerned.

After discussion, it was:

RESOLVED

That the National Executive of the Returned Services League unanimously adopts the following statement for record purposes and for publication:

"The National Executive of the Returned Serv-

The President has decided to request the Commonwealth Government to appoint a combined party committee to 4investigate, and recommend improvements to, the Repatriation Act.

This was reported by State President Pearson at this month's executive meeting.

Miss Hearsey Retires

Sub-branch secretaries and members of the League who have been accustomed to paying their annual subscriptions at the Anzac House office will find Miss Hearsey missing from the front counter after July 6.

Miss Hearsey is pictured above.

Irene Hearsey joined the staff at Anzac House in March, 1948, and has given splendid service in the Records Section of the office.

With unfailing courtesy and patience she has guided and advised many new secretaries with membership returns and matters affecting records.

The State Executive and staff members at Anzac House wish Miss Hearsey a happy future and an enjoyable retirement.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Fine Family Record

Sir—I enclose a list of my family at the start of the second World War and follow with a second list of their services during that war, which I believe is a family record.

Being the sons and daughters of Mr Thomas William Wheatley, a first war veteran, we had an early start to our rather unique family effort.

There are ten children in the family—Leslie, Daphne, Gordon, Violet, Mervyn, Eric, Iris, Harry, Norman and Aubrey—seven boys and three girls and ranging in age, at the start of the war, from 35 down to 16 years of age.

Leslie (35) joined the A.I.F. and served overseas and at home.

Daphne (32), the eldest girl, joined the A.W.A.S. and although she never went overseas her husband, Allen Griffith, served with the R.A.A.F. in New Guinea.

Gordon (31), the second eldest boy, joined the R.A.A.F. and served both overseas and at home.

Violet (29) never joined the services but with two children of her own she followed after it was impossible, and her husband Dave Argyle was unfortunate to lose his life at Singapore served with the A.I.F.

Eric (26) joined the A.I.F. and served both overseas and at home.

Iris (22), had motherly duties but her husband, Charlie Bennett, served with the A.I.F. at Darwin.

Harry (20), joined the A.I.F. and served both overseas and at home (wounded in Java with 2/1/3 machine-gun Battalion).

Norman (18) joined the A.I.F. and served both overseas and at home (wounded in Syria with 2/16 Battalion).

Aub, the youngest, was still under age.

This Journal’s Future

Sir—As I sit down to write these few lines I, along with members of our sub-branch and no doubt of all other sub-branches, wonder wistfully whether soon there will be a Return of Service Post to contribute to or whether we shall still have a magazine limited in circulation.

This subject occupied much of the time at our June meeting, and though accord was finally reached and our delegate to the forthcoming State conference briefed on our wishes I feel that many, like myself, thought much on the subject after the meeting.

To me this journal, Listening Post, is so very aptly named for, as its name depicts, it is the eyes and ears of the units it served in war-time.

So, too, our journal is the one avenue through which we communicate, particularly with those who are not so regular in attending sub-branch meetings.

Cut or curtail this line of communication and the result is the same as the weakening of communications in war—peace. The structure of the whole is endangered.

At the present time the League is sadly in need of a very stimulating tonic—probably one more powerful than seems to be available at present.

There is a feeling in some quarters that amalgamation with other service organisations is imminent.

The two possibilities has the same effect as a knife in the back: they don’t seem to come from the same spirit that immortalised Anzacs—from the men who gave us the R.S.S. and A.I.I.A.

If we intend to go on taking more and more steps backward—and this seems to be the current trend—then should we not quit with dignity?

Personally I don’t believe we should quit. I don’t believe we should take even one step backward. We still are sufficiently strong numerically to fight back and to rebuild on the foundations our fathers built—to make our league strong and attractive to those we’ve let slip away—but only if every one of us believes that the effort is worthwhile.

I do, and I hope that all those who will be deciding our future next month think the same.

Neville J. Laird, Shenton Park.
BIG JOB TO DO

The annual Congress of the R.S.L. in Western Australia opens on July 17 this year.

As usual there are some important decisions to be made and these could have a marked effect on the future of the League in this State.

Sub-branches should arm their delegates with full information and instructions as to voting on the various items. Only in this way can Congress be said to represent the rank and file of members.

Personal feelings or ideas should have no place in important decisions and the only yardstick must be: “What is good for the League?”

Come what may, there can be little doubt that this year’s deliberations at Congress will be characterised by the same spirit of constructive and intelligent endeavour which has been part of the proceedings down the years.

Delegates to Congress

Secretaries are reminded that nomination of delegates to Congress is now an urgent requirement, and early submission will be appreciated.

In those cases where an appointee is NOT a member of the sub-branch, he still retains the status of an official delegate and not that of a proxy.

A proxy delegate is one who acts, if called upon, in the temporary absence of an accredited delegate. An erroneous impression still exists in the minds of many sub-branch secretaries in spite of repeated efforts to clarify the position.

If, for instance, a member of a metropolitan sub-branch is requested to act for more than one country sub-branch, he becomes in effect the official delegate for each sub-branch, and is issued with voting tickets in accordance with sub-branch strength entitlement.

Keeping The Pressure On

At the May meeting of the National Executive it was resolved to make further submissions to the Minister for Social Services concerning the inclusion of war-pension payments in the assessment of eligibility for Supplementary Assistance.

The executive conveyed a protest to the Minister on the contents of his letter of 31st May amplifying the views of your National Executive concerning the inclusion of income from war pensions in the assessment of eligibility for Supplementary Assistance.

In reply the Minister said:

“My thanks for your letter of 31st May amplifying the views of your National Executive concerning the inclusion of income from war pensions in the assessment of eligibility for Supplementary Assistance.

“You may rest assured, however, that the views of your executive have been noted and will be kept in mind when the whole field of social services is being reviewed a little later this year in connection with the preparation of the budget for 1967-68.”

VENERATED: On Saturday, June 10, the guidon of the 10th Light Horse Regiment was placed for safe-keeping in the undercroft at the State War Memorial, along with the Queen’s and regimental colours of the 11th, 16th, 28th and 54th Infantry Battalions.

Pictured above is State President Percy Pearson handing the guidon (just received from Lieut-Col. Ian Stock, seen at left) to 10th Light Horse Association President H. Beard, who bore it to the undercroft.
N.E. Fremantle Plan For Aged Members

The North-East Fremantle sub-branch has initiated a plan to assist in the housing of some members who will lose their homes when the west side of King and Duke streets, East Fremantle, is reclaimed.

Other members on the north side of the river will also be affected. After much thought, and following a visit to Mandurah by four officers, the sub-branch unhesitatingly became interested in the purchase of disused land at Tuart Downs.

The land is almost in the township of Mandurah and adjacent to the bowling green, tennis courts, football and sports ground.

At a special meeting of the sub-branch the action of the members directly concerned was unanimously endorsed.

A sub-committee was selected and given full authority to proceed with the purchase.

The sub-committee comprises Messrs. John Ballie, Oscar Ohman, John McLeod and honorary secretary Vince Durkin.

The purchase was made with the intention of having pre-cut cottages erected on the site for any of the sub-branch's aged members displaced and requiring help.

SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications and all relevant particulars are now in the hands of the sub-branch, as is also the property title deed, in the names of the sub-committee as purchasers on behalf of the syndicate styled 'The North East Sub-branch Fellowship for Aged Members'.

Water supply difficulties appear to have been resolved by the assured that a water supply scheme could begin in Mandurah in August, 1968.

The scheme has now become an established fact and is at present within a few miles of the township. As it is a progressive undertaking, carried out by the F.W.D., further progress is governed by funds made available by the Government in the loan programme.

Should it become necessary, water can be obtained on the site in abundance from artesian bores.

Electricity is already close at hand.

A nominal rental to cover rates etc. will be charged for each cottage. For displaced members with a home which can be transported to the site, transportation and erection of same will be arranged.

Such residences to be rent-free except for a charge to cover rates. Members of the sub-branch are assured that they will not be called upon to make any contribution whatever to the project, although donations will be greatly appreciated.

Good Response To Appeal

Geraldton sub-branch president John Spendlove has expressed pleasure at the response to an appeal to help civilians in Vietnam.

Mr Spendlove said the Geraldton section of Operation New Life had sent to Perth a second consignment of clothing, kitchen utensils and other goods weighing more than 1,000 lb.

This took the total weight of donations to more than 1,400 lb.

Mr Spendlove said the donations included some excellent items of clothing for both adults and children and a host of household utensils and toilet items including toothbrushes and toothpaste.

He said schools, as well as Nazareth House, had been well represented in the wonderful response.
The Returned Services League of Australia (W.A. Branch) Inc.

51st ANNUAL REPORT

Sub-branch Visits

P. PEARSON: Albany; Nedlands (multiple); Highgate; Cotton Tree; Mt. Lawley-Ingleswood; Darlington; Midland; Mt. Barker; Returned Sisters; Returned Ex-Servicemen; Bullsbrook; Public Service; Claremont (2); Collingwood; Nollamara; Busselton; Mosman Park; Gosnells; Mt. Hawthorn; City of Perth; Medina; group conferences 3/9/66; 15/10/66; group visits 10/3/67; 28/3/67; 7/7/67.

R. J. Stoddart: North-West sub-branches (7); Swanbourne; Claremont; Esperance; East Fremantle-Wembley-Floreat Park; Harvey; Kojonup; Mt. Helena; Pk.; Brunswick; Harvey; A. King: Maddington; Highgate; Belmont (multiple); Mosman Park; Bullsbrook; William Street; Balcatta; City of Perth; Medina; group conferences 3/9/66; 15/10/66; group visits 10/3/67; 28/3/67; 7/7/67.

J. Buckle: Darling Range; Geraldton; Upper Chapman; Guildford; Three Springs; group visit 6/67. Blackboy Hill.

A. A. Cooper: Nollamara (multiple); Upper Swan (multiple); Osborne Park (2); Gidgegannup (multiple); Narrogin; Darlington; North Perth (2); Glen Forrest (multiple); West Leederville-Wembley-Floreat Park; Bridgetown; Wagin; Kojonup; Mt. Helena; Adelaide Brookton; Maddington, Hyden; Boyanup; Fairfield Yarloop; Three Springs.

A. King: Highgate; Belmont (multiple); Returned Sisters; Kensington.

J. Buckle: Darling Range; Geraldton; Upper Chapman; Guildford; Three Springs; group visit 6/67. Blackboy Hill.

W. H. Williams: Osprey; Ex-Servicemen; W.M.G.

B. J. Flanagan: Bedford-Morley Park; Scarborough, Cottesloe; Belmont.

F. Gomme: Mt. Barker (multiple); Kojonup.

W. H. Haines: Rivervale, Millen, Maylands, Maddington (2); Glenn Forrest.

H. G. Holder: Rockingham (2); group visit 10/67; Boyup Brook; Gloucester Park; Nollamara, visit 28/4/67.

H. A. Leslie: Midland (multiple); Glen Forrest; Gosnells; Armadale; Kondinin.


L. Phenna: Belmont (multiple); M.T.T.; group conference 15/10/66; Balcatta-Palmyra (2); Millen; group visit 10/67; N.E. Fremantle; Riverdale; Mt. Hawthorn; group visit 28/4/67.

J. Rankin: North Beach; Balcatta-Palmyra.

M. Williams: Canning Vale; Wattle Grove; Northampton; Geraldton; Dongara; Perenjori; Three Springs.

S. White (Miss): Subiaco; Shenton Park; Applecross.

Membership

Membership in 1965 totalled 14,488 which was 1,881 less than the 1965 total. Loss through death was accounted for by the number of British ex-servicemen migrating to Australia and the influx of eligible ex-servicemen from other States. There is no doubt some resentment was caused by the rise in membership fees which resulted in a number of members refusing to renew their membership as a mark of protest, but as in other similar occasions in League history these can be expected to return. At a conservative estimate the League in this State has every reason to expect an annual membership of 20,000.

During the year it was noticeable that sub-branches with strong committees who made membership a No. 1 aim have shown a considerable number of new members, and there appears to be every possibility that members returning from overseas service will join the League.

In the following Congress year membership policy will be directed particularly to Metropolitan Sub-Branches. A record system of visits by representatives of the Membership Sub-Committee will be set up and these members will attend Metropolitan Sub-Branch meetings to assist and advise in the planning of local membership drives.

Sub-Branches are asked to notify Headquarters of any altered meeting dates.

Life Membership

In recognition of outstanding service to the League the following members were honoured with the award of Life Membership: Ernest Aberle, M.M. (Balcatta-Palmyra); G. P. Pickett (Bullsbrook); C. W. Lamling (West Leederville-Wembley-Floreat Park); S. A. Machamara (Subiaco); R. L. Davies (North Perth); G. E. Hicks (Pingrup).

Certificates of Service

Fifty-one Certificates of Service were approved by the State Executive during the year.

Group Conferences

Two Group Conferences were held during the 1966-67 Congress year—one at Kellerberrin on 3rd September, 1966 and the other at Busselton on 15th September, 1966. Each conference was a credit to the host sub-branch as far as the organisation was concerned, but the support from surrounding sub-branches could have been a lot stronger.

The group conference set down for Collie for 15th November had to be abandoned through lack of support from the sub-branches in the area.

Attendances at conferences have shown a marked trend towards lack of support and from the point of view of the host sub-branch and the visiting State Executive representatives this was most unsatisfactory.

It was decided to replace Group Conferences with a form of conference which would provide membership committees of sub-branches with a form of service connection. These conferences have been made. Commonly known as Whistle-stop Tours, the first covered Collie-Cardiff, Boyup Brook, Bridgetown, Greenbushes, Balingup, Kunowangerup and Broomehill sub-branches.

These tours have been most successful for all concerned and will be continued so as to give as much coverage as possible to sub-branches throughout the State.

The State Executive party which participated in the Whistle-stop Tours desires to record its appreciation of the hospitality given by sub-branches on these visits, with a particular thank-you for the ladies who made excellent catering arrangements in each town visited.

Receptions

The State Executive was privileged to extend receptions to distinguished visitors as follows:

November—Senior officers of H.M.S. Victorius, H.M.S. Kent and R.F.A. Tidespring.

December—Brigadier G. P. Hunt and Commodore W. B. M. Marks.

April—New Zealand Anzac Day delegation.

May—Admiral D. L. McDonald, U.S.N.

Calls were paid by Rear-Admiral R. M. Dick and Mr. D. Jenner (U.K. Department of Social Security).

(Continued overleaf)
State War Memorial

During the term of the current Warden, Air Vice-Marshall L. M. Corbet, C.B., C.B.E., 15 wreath-laying ceremonies have been conducted and we express sincere thanks to the Warden, Assistant Warden, Mr D. Dargie, and duty Sub-Wardens provided by the Public Service sub-branch.

The usual friendly operation has been received from Dr Beard and the Kings Park staff, and for the many helpful gestures we convey the League's appreciation.

In co-operation with the Police Department and assisted by a number of volunteers the traditional Remembrance Day procedures were conducted in the city block.

Government representatives and heads of the armed services participated with unit associations in the annual wreath-laying ceremony.

Defence

The Defence sub-committee objected to the League's 1967 Defence Submission on two points.

The first was the long preamble which expressed opinions on matters of no concern to the League. Secondly, the addition to the submission should not have been included.

Again the sub-committee emphasises the absolute importance and need of an adequate defence of the western coast of Australia.

Though the Government points to the mobility of the various arms of the services based in the Eastern States, surely this could work in reverse.

The Indian Ocean is the most important oceanic sphere in reasonable reach of its main sea lanes.

America is our ally and can be expected to watch the Pacific, if, in any case, is beyond our capacity.

We express the opinion of the League in W.A. considers a Naval Base is a must on the western coast.

The sub-committee considers it important and necessary that a draft copy of the Federal Defence Submission should be forwarded to each State before the middle of December each year.

Anzac Day Trust Fund

The total amount raised by the Anzac Day Trust as a result of activities by various sporting bodies was $30,850. Of this $19,625, was remitted to the League and credited to the War Veterans' Home, and an additional amount of $2,205 benefited the Aged Soldiers' Fund over the same period gained $11,525 making a total of $62,350.

The major portion of the fund is derived from the division of betting tax and generous support by the WATC and WATA and we express thanks to the State Government, the two racing clubs, and the trustees of the fund for a valuable contribution to ex-service interests.

Miss Crowning Glory Quest

This phase of fund-raising activity is not receiving the support it should from sub-branches and the 1968 proceeds were the lowest on record.

Only eight sub-branches supported contests and this is surely a sad reflection on the League as a whole.

The winner was Miss Bernice Collins who was sponsored by the State Executive of the Women's Auxiliary.

Second was Miss Elizabeth Mathews, jointly sponsored by Narrogin R.S.L. and Legacy, and the third prize was awarded to Miss Barbara Hatherly, who was supported by Arthur River sub-branch and Wagin. T.A.A.

Most successful money-raiser in the country was Miss Mathews and in the metropolitan area the honour went to Miss Frances Kiernan (sponsored by Bellevue R.S.L.). The amount was $7,472.

Six marcasite watches, kindly donated by Mr D. A. Free corn, were awarded to all girls who raised $500 or more. All candidates were of a particularly high standard and the judges had an unenviable task in selecting the ultimate winner.

We take this opportunity of thanking the organising committee, under the joint chairmanship of Messrs. P. Pearson and D. A. Freecorn, for their efforts, and extend a very special thank you to the judges, donors of prizes and the special thank you to the judges, donors of prizes and the many people who gave so freely of their services.

The net proceeds totalled $5173 and this was equally distributed between the R.S.I.L. and Torchbearers for Legacy.

National Congress

The 51st National Congress was held in Perth from 24th to 27th October, and while as host State we are hardly in a position to pat ourselves on the back it is reasonable to assume from the messages of appreciation received, that delegates and visitors were pleased with their reception and the friendly and generous hospitality extended.

All States and Papua-New Guinea were represented and the local delegates were Messrs. P. Pearson (State President) and Dr Alan King (vice-president).

Congress was officially opened by the State Governor, Sir Douglas Kendrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

On the social side a most enjoyable programme was enjoyed including a function to mark the League's 50th anniversary, the presentation of the Anzac Day Trust Fund and the dedication of a chapel at the War Veterans' Home.

Other highlights were receptions to delegates by His Excellency the Governor, Perth City Council and the State Government.

The organisation of the week's activities was carried out by the State Secretary assisted by a cooperative staff.

Special mention must be made of the extremely heavy burden shared, in a most competent and efficient manner, by Mrs E. V. Bateman and Miss K. Hoffman, both of whom worked far in excess of normal requirements and earned for themselves the highest commendation of our visitors.

The 51st National Congress is to be held in Melbourne commencing on October 25.

Women's Auxiliary

We express thanks to our co-workers for another year of successful endeavour and cooperative support.

Donations to the Tasmanian Relief Fund amounted to $955 and the War Veterans' Home Chapel appeal was generously supported to the extent of $1,685.

Congratulations are extended to Mrs E. A. Ames who is again unopposed as State President for the 1967-68 period. We are confident that her enthusiasm and energetic application will enable her to continue in office.

The Hon. State Secretary, Mrs L. Rowe, has declined nomination for the coming year and will be succeeded by Mrs K. Phelps who is unopposed for the position.

Mrs Rowe has occupied the job of secretary from 1962 and is commended for her untiring efforts in the interests of the Auxiliary and the League.

In bidding her farewell as an executive officer, we convey the best of good wishes for the future.

Finance

The Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December, 1966, showed that the value of the League's assets increased by $25,600 during the year compared to an increase of $81,000 in 1965.

Fixed assets (land and building, furniture, fittings and equipment) increased by $18,600 and investments by $10,000 while liquids were reduced by $3,000.
This is reflected by additions to the War Veterans’ Home account derived from Chapel donations $9,500, Anzac Day. The grant was $6,000 and 1965 and 1966 losses $2,100 less operating account reduction of $700, and by addition to reserves and provisions totaling $16,000 less the year’s loss of $11,000.

The increase of $3,500 in the administrative loss—from $7,500 in 1965 to $11,000 in 1966—is a disturbing feature of the League’s economy.

The Net Trading Profit was only $200 less but the Net Trading Loss was $900 more than last year due mainly to a sharp increase of $1200 in the loss on Anzac Club, which was to some extent offset by a reduction of $500 in the cost of producing the Listening Post.

Membership income, in spite of a drop of nearly 2,400 in membership, was better by $1,150 due to the increase in the membership subscription from $2 to $3 per member.

It is clear that even if the membership had been maintained at the 16,170,000 figure, the year’s deficiency would still have approximated $7,000 and that a membership of at least 26,000 is needed to balance the budget on the present cost and revenue structure.

In this connection it is noteworthy that the increase of $2,300 in the total of administrative expenditure was almost entirely attributable to the unavoidable increase in salaries and wages, all other items being comparatively stable.

Because 1966 was the League’s Jubilee congress-year, and because the War was the Japanese National Congress, the congress and travelling expenditure was necessarily greater; but public relations expenditure, which of its very nature is always variable, was less.

Some of the items resulting from the administrative expenditure of the annual accounts are the continual heavy loss on the Listening Post, the lesser but increasing loss on the Anzac Club due to lack of patronage, and the steady increase in salaries and wages.

These are facts to which the Finance committee has given and must continue to give its most earnest attention.

Anzac House And Club

Although the club turnover decreased by less than $300 the gross profit was $750 less than that of 1965, due mainly to the fact that club prices were maintained at a level lower than those prevailing in the trade generally in the unrealised hope that increased patronage would result.

A reduction of $50 in other revenue and an overall increase of $330 in expenditure (mainly wages and salaries) resulted in an increase of $1,240 in the net loss for the year.

The plain and indisputable fact emerges that the club does not receive enough support from its members to enable it consistently to be run at a profit. Put bluntly, we need more spectators.

Anzac House rentals for the year were maintained at last year’s level but costs—mainly cleaning and maintenance—increased by nearly $500 so that the net profit was reduced by that figure.

The building continues to be well maintained but the impact of steadily rising costs, plus the loss of our adjacent parking area, is going to make itself felt even more in the years to come.

War Veterans’ Home

We are pleased to report a satisfactory position in connection with this major League project.

The following notes have been extracted from a comprehensive report submitted by the superintendent, and should prove of interest to members.

Available figures indicate a continuing demand for the facilities of the home for a considerable time.

Highlights from the year’s activities, apart from the purely administrative side, included:

21st July—Laying foundation stone of chapel.
28th October—Dedication of memorial chapel.
11th November—Remembrance Day service.
27th November—Presentation of garden equipment by the A.W.S. Association.
24th April—Anzac Eve service.

An important step forward is the decision to erect a 12-bed medical holding centre, and plans are well advanced for its implementation. Estimated cost is $61,500.

The centre is to serve as a transient hospital for those requiring medical attention for short periods and will overcome one of the major problems.

It is quite apparent that the successful running of the home would be most difficult without the generous and practical support accorded by a great many people. This opportunity is taken of conveying sincere thanks to: the Repatriation Department and staff of R.G.F.; The Red Cross; St. John’s Ambulance Brigade; the various denominations; women’s auxiliary; W.A. Bowling Association; ex-P.O.W. Association; sub-branches and unit associations and Dr. R. Wheeler.

Special mention must be made of the loyal and dedicated service rendered by members of the staff, all of whom are deserving of the highest praise.

The board has been most diligent in its management approach and is ably supported by Mr. Howes.

One important link was broken during the year with the passing of Alex Panton, Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation. Alex and Mrs. Panton were frequent visitors and took a keen interest in the affairs of the home.

The League is fully justified in claiming the War Veterans’ Home as an outstanding and worthwhile achievement, and we are greatly indebted to all who have contributed.

Anzac Club Amenities

During the year the Amenities committee provided additional furnishings to the value of $340, supplied magazines and periodicals, maintained games equipment, supported the League’s band and provided entertainment, and provided additional refreshment for members on special occasions such as Anzac Day, donated $50 for parcels for troops in Vietnam, once again contributed $200 towards the upkeep of the Charlie Mitchell room at the War Veterans Home, and opened and closed the year with a credit balance of $1,150.

The committee sponsored the candidature of Miss Lorraine Hart as Miss Anzac Club in the 1966 Crownings Glory quest, which resulted in the sum of $618.57 being contributed to the quest fund.

Anzac Day

Perfect weather conditions contributed to an observance which was outstandingly successful throughout.

The Dawn Service drew a much larger attendance than usual and, incidentally, proved to be something of an anti-climax in view of the events preceding the day.

An invitation extended by the League to the recently appointed Consul-General of Japan, Mr. S. Tanaka, for his participation, with other consuls, in the wreath-laying ceremony caused a controversy and the local press exploited the sensational aspects to excessive limits. The newspapers must have felt rather disappointed concerning the ultimate result.

The ceremony was conducted in the traditionally reverent and dignified manner, and 120 wreaths were laid including one from the Japanese Consul-General without incident.

In bright summer atmosphere the main service on the Esplanade proved to be up to the usual high standard and it may be significant to note that the marching parade-strength was almost 600 higher than in 1965. Special thanks are due given by the State President (Mr. P. Pearson) aroused favourable comment and a number of congratulatory messages—including one from His Excellency the Governor—were received by Mr. Pearson.

Re-introduction of massed bands (as in 1965) for the march-past proved to be a highlight of the parade and gratitude is expressed to the various bands for their co-operation.

Thanks to the regular tempo maintained by the static bands, playing in their groups and in the veterans moved past the saluting line in a manner reminiscent of more youthful days.

A race meeting conducted by the W.A. Turf Club, in which all marchers were invited, was very successful and produced a substantial donation to the Anzac Day Trust Fund.

The W.A. Trotting Association also conducted a programme in the evening, and to both organisations we extend our grateful thanks for their interest and support.

(Continued Overleaf)
Repatriation

War pensions and allowances were amended during the year under review, the major variations in accordance with the Repatriation Bill, 1966, being:

- The Special (T. and P.I.) rate of pension increased by $2 per week to $30.50.
- The Intermediate Rate pension (payable to those who are so seriously disabled as to be able to work only part-time or intermittently) increased by $1 per week to $21.25.
- The Class B rate for tuberculosis increased by $1 per week to $25.
- War widows' pension increased by $1 per week to $13. (War widows with children, or who qualify by age (50), or ill-health, also receive the domestic allowance of $7 per week).
- Service pensions payable per week in the standard rate. The pension payable to single ex-servicemen to the maximum rate of $13.

This rate applies also to the married service pensioner whose wife is receiving the wife's service-pension allowance, the maximum combined pension and allowance being $19 per week.

In addition, the ability to obtain improved medical benefits increased in a number of cases the amount of the maximum means test pension, but it may be said that although this easing could not be extended to all numbers of ex-servicemen previously barred by means, and the amount of private pension (war and service) paid in other cases, the ex-serviceman who relies solely on the service or age pension will benefit little from the easing of the means test.

(Some 120,000 ex-servicemen and women, and war widows, received increased pensions and service pensions payable under the amendments to the 1966 Act, and the number of those eligible is being extended.)

League representations continued to obtain additional improvement in the benefits granted, and in particular to press for a general review of pension rates, increase in the funeral grants payable under Repatriation regulations, and that hospital benefits should be extended to all returned men who served in the Boer and Great Wars regardless of any relationship of incapacity to war-service.

Re-establishment Loans and Vocational Training Schemes for National Servicemen

National servicemen are now eligible on discharge to apply under schemes to provide, where it is necessary, for assistance for their effective resettlement.

A re-establishment loan may be made where it is necessary to enable the National Serviceman to re-establish himself in a business, profession or occupation, including farming, in which he was engaged prior to call-up or was prevented from entering because of call-up.

Applications for loans must be made within 12 months after discharge.

Post-vocational training by means of full-time, part-time or correspondence courses provided by technical colleges, agricultural colleges, universities and other approved training institutions is available where it is necessary for effective resettlement.

Applications should be made within six months of discharge. Returned National Servicemen are well advised to consult the Repatriation Department as to eligibility.

British Ex-Servicemen

Many inquiries are received as to eligibility for repatriation benefits, but so far the League's request that benefits, including the service pension, be extended to Imperial ex-servicemen, has been unsuccessful.

The British Government the Australian Repatriation Department treats British ex-servicemen for disabilities accepted by the British Ministry as war-caused.

A reciprocal agreement allows Australian ex-servicemen resident in the United Kingdom to receive treatment from British authorities.

Approximately 7,000 British ex-servicemen are eligible for repatriation treatment in Australia, and about 1,000 Australian ex-servicemen are eligible for repatriation treatment in the United Kingdom.

It should be stressed that eligibility for repatriation treatment is restricted for disabilities acknowledged as war-caused.

Medical and Hospital Benefits

It is a pleasure to report that complaints received respecting treatment and care are a rarity.

There is continuing evidence of the value of medical treatment granted at the League's request whereby many veterans who—due to financial circumstances—could not obtain treatment, spectacles, or other aids apart from medical or specialist treatment, now benefit.

It is a source of regret to the League that the Government has not thought fit to grant the same privilege to all returned men of the 1914-18 war and the few surviving veterans of the Boer War.

According to estimates there are 106,000 survivors of an average age of 72 from the first war.

Their ranks are declining and if the number already entitled to benefits is deducted the figure remaining would not appear to be beyond the scope of Repatriation to accept for medical treatment.

The average age of the 1939-45 returned men is 49 years, there being approximately 759,000 survivors, thus it seems that by the time these men and women qualify for the service pension the first-war men whose ranks will be easily depleted, and those who receive medical benefits for veterans of the Boer War and the 1914-18 war is particularly difficult, on the best available information the cost, including both initial capital and annual recurrent expenditure, is such that the annual range up to about $18 million, a not astronomical cost to add to the present annual Repatriation expenditure of $256 million as part-acknowledgment of the debt owing to these veterans who have grown old.

The Edward Miller Hospital continues to play an important role in the restoration of the sick.

Additions to this hospital, to be made in the near future will be the erection of a 20-bed ward and restoration centre for veterans of the past and present wars.

The previous fear that this hospital would be lost to ex-servicemen of this State appears now to be unfounded.

Repatriation Claims and Appeals

Although your committee continues to add its support to League representation to secure the extension of benefits, the furtherance of claims remains a major sphere of activities.

Appeal tribunals sat at Perth for 34 weeks during the year, 722 appeals being advocated—in addition to written submissions supporting initial claims or appeals to the Repatriation Commission.

In many requests received at headquarters replies cannot be given without inquiries being made at the department. For this reason, the rejections are increasing, especially of the country areas, that the initial request for advice be submitted in writing to headquarters.

It is especially important and helpful if the full name, service number and unit of the ex-serviceman be supplied.

Repatriation Department

In the past Western Australia has been fortunate in the departmental choice of Deputy-Commissioner resulting in continued friendly and helpful co-operation.

The untimely death of Mr. A. H. Panton, who during his term of office was a fitting man ever willing to assist the League, was a grievous and sad loss.

The appointment of Mr. J. W. Robson, the former Assistant Deputy-Commissioner, to the office of Deputy-Commissioner, will be a welcome addition to the staff. The appointment of Mr. T. M. O'Sullivan as Assistant Deputy-Commissioner, both being old and proven friends of the League in this State.

Your committee would also record its appreciation to the officers of the department in general for the aid and advice so readily given to the numerous inquiries made during the year.

Appreciation

Appreciation is also recorded to the Director of Social Services and the officers of his department for the prompt and practical assistance and advice given during the year, to the members of the medical profession for the opinions given to support appeals and claims, and to sub-branch secretaries and officers for the support given during its terms of office.

Without doubt repatriation is now more important not only to ex-servicemen but to the entire country, and must continue for many years.

The scope of its work was gauged by the following figures: 425,000 Australians served in the first world war, and 955,000 in the second. There are now more than 700,000 pensions being paid to ex-servicemen and their dependants.

An expected expenditure of repatriation is $266 million, alone $12 of this being for pensions and allowances, and $56 million for medical treatment.

It can be anticipated that this may continue at the same level for several years, with the future ageing of the 1939-45 returned men bringing a tendency to increased pension activity and demand for medical and hospital care.
Hospital Visiting

Visiting of sick ex-service men and women continues to be an important duty which, with the passing of the years, is unfortunately becoming a growing responsibility.

Sub-branch Activities

Eight of the major metropolitan hospitals and institutions are regularly visited by 12 sub-branches working to an agreed roster.

Country hospitals are being covered by local sub-branches.

The Hospital Visiting Committee has been advised verbally that a number of sub-branches are now interested as to the welfare of ex-service inmates of C class hospitals and rest homes. Unfortunately, details of such activities cannot be incorporated in this report as sub-branches, both metropolitan and country, appear very reticent to submit details of visits or contacts made with these institutions.

Women's Auxiliary

Visits to hospitals by the Women's Auxiliary have continued unabated throughout the years and, although more details may be given in their own annual report, it is fitting that the important part played by the women's incitement and acknowledged in your committee's report to Congress.

Corps of Hospital Visitors

Your committee again records its deep appreciation of the untiring work undertaken by the Corps—especially to the members who have remained with it since its inauguration in 1960.

During the year members of the Corps visited 886 individual sick ex-service men and women at metropolitan hospitals.

It is with deep regret that your committee reports the loss of one of the most active and valued members by the death, during August, of Mr. K. M. Morrice.

Sickness has unfortunately necessitated the retirement of Messrs. R. M. Ibbotson, N. F. Mosel and A. W. Sinclair.

Appointment is expressed for the lengthy service given by these members as Hospital Visitors.

It is with pleasure the following enrolments are recorded: Messrs. J. A. Farrell, L. J. Fetherington and D. Kirk, whose assistance will be not only welcomed but valued by the Corps of Hospital Visitors.


Hospital Visiting Fund

Appointment is expressed to sub-branches and others who kindly donated to this appeal resulting, to date, in $337. Individual acknowledgment is recorded in previous issues of The Listening Post.

Grateful thanks to the sub-branches, the auxiliary, the Corps and all who have assisted throughout the year.

A special appreciation to the "Man with the stick" as he is known to numerous inmates of Hollywood Hospital, Mr. S. A. Macnamara, who regularly visits the sick on behalf of the State Executive.

Publicity

During the year every effort has been made to keep The Listening Post as interesting as possible and at the same time to publicise R.S.L. information and news to members.

Faced with heavy costs and without the services of an advertising agent for a number of years, The Listening Post has incurred substantial loss which has brought special mention from the League Treasurers in their financial report.

That report has been sent to all sub-branches and will be the subject of discussion at this Congress.

Over the past 12 months the sub-branches have been most co-operative and there has been an above-average coverage of sub-branch information in the Journal's pages.

A weekly broadcast has been maintained from 6AM-PM, 6KY, 6KQ Kalgoorlie, 6NA and 6GN Geraldton.

Television Channels 2, 7 and 9 have assisted whenever requested, especially in appeals for assistance for League projects, and we extend our thanks to the management and staffs of the above radio and television stations.

We also desire to offer our sincere appreciation to Mr. G. Letroy and Mr. J. Tillet, of West Australian Newspapers Ltd., for their help, guidance and cooperation with The Listening Post.

A.S.S. Fund, Welfare and Relief

Twenty-three meetings have been held during the year and 306 cases for welfare and relief have been considered, plus 79 applications under the A.S.S. Fund.

A number of the cases required a considerable amount of investigation.

Many of the welfare and relief cases have, besides immediate help, required employment. Finding vacancies for them has been well handled by the staff secretary. Unfortunately, very few advise if they obtained the job for which an interview was arranged.

Aged Soldiers' Fund

At present 81 are receiving grants from the fund each month. Christmas parcels to the value of $2 each were sent to 78 aged ex-service men.

The committee has successfully dealt with 11 claims from British ex-service men for assistance. The grants came from B.C.E.L. and kindred organisations, the total amount being $2,057.50.

The liaison between British welfare organisations and the R.S.L. is good and considerable correspondence is involved.

The committee, considering some difficult circumstances, has been able to assist and expresses sincere thanks to its co-opted member, Mr. S. A. Macnamara, and to member Mr. E. O. Davies who was forced by ill-health, to retire in May.

Youth Welfare

Operation "Stand-In"

This is conducted on Father's Day each year and led on Sunday, 4th September, 1966—to the taking out from H.M.A.S. Leeuwin of 408 junior naval recruits by 213 hosts.

This was an increase of 108 boys and 53 hosts on the previous year's figures.

These young recruits—from the Eastern States and the country districts of W.A.—again signified their pleasure at the special treat.

Operation "Friendly"

This project is brought into effect to commemorate Mother's Day with a day's outing for underprivileged boys and girls, mainly in the metropolitan area.

It was held on Sunday, 11th June, 1967, and 700 children, an increase of one home and 62 children—were catered for.

The chairman thanks members of the committee and the staff for their very effective efforts and general assistance. Gratitude is expressed for co-operative sub-branches and a wonderful response from the public.

State Executive

Changes occurring through the year resulted in the call-up of the three emergencies from the 1966 Congress elections and they replaced Messrs. N. Mosel and J. Rankin, who resigned. A resignation was also received from Mr. A. V. Badger, a Country Vice-President, who was forced to withdraw for medical reasons.

The emergencies were Messrs. S. Thornton (since deceased), P. Fuller and H. Halsey.

A further resignation was from a long-serving member of the executive, Mr. E. O. Davies, who also retired because of ill-health. He had been a member of the State Executive since 1943, although the term was broken from July 1964 until May 1965.

(Continued Overleaf)
An important event during 1966 was the publication of a League history which was compiled by a Canadian and entitled “Politics of Patriotism.” It covers the activities of the League over a 50-year period in an enlightening and impartial fashion.

The League’s title was officially changed and we are now “The Returned Services League.” This required a number of administrative alterations and it will be a considerable time before all the facets are completed.

For the first time in the League’s history the number of nominations for the 1967-68 State Executive were insufficient to warrant a ballot for committee men, in spite of his reduction in numbers from 24 to 18 which became effective in 1964.

Withdrawals from candidature for the ensuing year are Messrs. R. B. Marris, W. Ferrier, J. Gabbedy, E. Flanagan and B. Williams.

There are five candidates for the vice-presidential election—Messrs. Stoddart, King, Holder, Phenna and Buckle.

R.S.L. Building Society

Although no new loans have been made during this last financial year it is pleasing to report that with the negotiations at present taking place funds for housing loans should be available in the immediate future. Applications for loans as now being received and the first allocations should be made within a few weeks.

Having successfully raised these new funds it is reasonably anticipated that they will be matched by a grant from the Commonwealth-State housing funds in about August of this year.

With probably nearly $200,000 becoming available over the next few months our position is now better than it has been for some time and when these funds have been allocated over $800,000 will have been made available, through the society, to ex-servicemen.

Societies such as ours (terminating) have much more difficulty in raising funds for housing purposes than Permanent Societies, which may receive money from the investing public.

Terminating societies, however, have to look to Institutions such as savings banks and insurance companies for loans at reasonable interest rates.

Funds of this nature are in short supply and we are grateful to the Commonwealth Savings Bank, Victoria Insurance Co. Ltd., the National Bank Savings Bank and Commonwealth-State Housing, which have made our operations possible.

A.R.M.S. Games

The Archbishop Riley Memorial Shield Games—held successfully again this year, the grand final being played on Monday, 12th September, 1966.

Results were:

1. The Archbishop Riley Memorial Shield was won by Mt. Hawthorn from Gloucester Park, City of Perth and West Leederville-Floreat Park, in that order.
2. As runner-up Gloucester Park won the Bill Holder Shield.
3. The Yellow Cab Cup for the highest aggregate in the games rifle event was won by West Leederville-Wembley-Floreat Park, from Mt. Hawthorn, Gloucester Park and Swanbourne.
4. The annual rifle championship was won by J. Rawlings, of Mt. Hawthorn, with H. King, also of Mt. Hawthorn, second.
5. The Plate, in this event, was won by R. Millar, of Mt. Leederville-Wembley-Floreat Park, with F. Moore, of Mt. Hawthorn, second.
6. The current games are in the third round, with eight teams going strong. Teams are running to last year except for a joint effort by Millen and Rivervale. They are: City of Perth; Floreat-City Beach-Nedlands; Gloucester Park; Millen-Rivervale; Mt. Hawthorn; Nollamara; Swanbourne, and West Leederville-Wembley:Floreat Park.

Operation “New Life”

This is a most important League project. As members are aware Operation “New Life” is a joint venture (between the League and the Army) in Vietnam with the Commonwealth Department of Supply handling the shipping arrangements.

Although we got off to a late start in this State, once we started to operate quite a lot was achieved in a short while.

Letters and circulars were sent to every sub-branch, and Rotary, Apex and Lions Clubs, as well as church organisations, schools and youth bodies in the State.

The first flow of goods started to roll in from metropolitan sources; church and State primary and high schools, some 38 schools contributing in the period before Christmas, 1966. Also there were numerous individual donors.

The first consignment, amounting to 15 tons, was shipped in January. Sub-branches have been the main contributors since and a further 10 tons had been collected by June.

The following percentage estimate of the type of items received at the Department of Supply, Karrakatta, is interesting:

- Clothing, 70 per cent; crockery and cooking utensils, 10 per cent; bottles, 10 per cent; sewing machines (12), 8 per cent; tools and implements, 2 per cent.

Our thanks go to all those who have assisted to make this scheme a success—the A.B.C., commercial radio and TV stations; The West Australian, the Sunday Times and country newspapers, also the school children, for their wonderful effort.

It should be stressed that Operation "New Life" will continue until victory has been won in Vietnam and the rehabilitation of the civilian population is complete. This is the ultimate aim of the Army authorities.

In conclusion, thanks are expressed to members of the committee and a special thank you to the staff of the Commonwealth Department of Supply.

Housing

During the year the Housing sub-committee met on 23 occasions.

The year’s activities have been marred by an acute housing shortage, and despite the efforts and co-operation of the State Housing Commission the position has not improved.

Altogether 107 cases were handled. Thirty-four of these were War Service Home applicants. Eight were referred to the R.S.L. Building Society (terminating) and the balance of 65 were made up with Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement applications, rental and purchase.

Despite the flood of applications the State Housing Commission has done its best to help with cases of hardship, particularly where large families were concerned, and our appreciation of this fact is recorded.

The commission, in conjunction with the Director of War Service Homes, has made a substantial and successful effort to provide land for home builders at a reasonable cost to the applicants.

The R.S.L. Building Society (terminating) is the subject of a separate report.

The proposal to establish a Permanent Building Society similar to the one in N.S.W, has not met with success.

A special committee met on 2nd February, 1967, which resulted in Mr. J. Gabbedy being requested to prepare a report for the State Executive.

This report recommended that a Permanent Building Society be not formed.

This was accepted by the State Executive, but the Housing sub-committee desires to record its strong opposition to the recommendation by the Special Committee and emphasises the importance and necessity for the League in Western Australia to have a Permanent Building Society.

R.S.L. Shop

This League trading activity continues to render financial support to the War Veterans’ Home, and for this very good reason the patronage of members and their families is most desirable.

The manager, Mr. Alan Walsh, carries a stock to satisfy the most discriminating buyer and he and his staff may be
relied upon to give the type of courteous service which, in these days, is so valued by purchasers.

Help yourself and the War Veterans' Home at one and the same time.

**Staff**

The march of time is beginning to make an impact and two retirements affecting long-serving members of the staff have become necessary.

The first of the veterans to go was Ted Howarth, who for 16 years did yeoman service as a cleaner. Ted left us on 1st June and we express sincere regret that his departure could not be deferred.

Second on the list is Miss Irene Hearsey, who is well known to many members in her capacity as records clerk. Irene joined the staff in 1948 and is due for retirement in July this year.

To both we extend the best of good wishes for a long and happy period of well-earned leisure, and express appreciation of their efforts.

Subject to the decision of State Congress regarding the future of The Listening Post, other changes in personnel may eventuate but this is a matter which cannot be anticipated at this stage.

The staff as a whole endeavours to give the type of service expected by members, and the demands are many and varied. Many of the duties involved require a great deal of patient and conscientious application, and all inquiries are dealt with in a courteous manner.

As employees of a welfare organisation, such as the League, the staff expectancy is far beyond a 40-hour week and it is to the credit of the staff generally that “clock watching” is confined to a minority.

**Obituary**

We announce, with extreme regret, the loss during the year of the following:

- Sir John Dwyer
- Professor A. D. Ross
- Mr. J. S. Dowson
- Mr. A. H. Panton
- Mr. R. A. McDonald
- Mr. H. W. Byfield
- Mr. W. N. Mathews
- Mr. S. J. Thornton
- Mr. W. H. Logie
- Mr. H. E. Smith

**Conclusion**

The reports presented above provide a cross-section of the more familiar aspects of League activity, but it is perfectly true to say that much of the down-to-earth work is not disclosed, nor would it be possible to adequately describe the day-to-day problems which arise from hundreds of individual inquiries.

The unpublicised chores go on, and range from telephone queries—often of a long and frustrating nature—to supplying a feed for hopeless cases.

One major problem that continues to cause considerable concern is the fall in membership, and this is one which could be remedied if every member would accept his, or her, share of the responsibility.

An increasing death rate (763 in 1966) adds to the problem, and this contributing feature is certainly beyond control. But the potential is still available; it merely needs exploiting.

As we are about to enter another Congress year it is essential that we uphold the League's role in the community, worthily and steadfastly, secure in the knowledge that we still have a solid contribution to make.

Good hunting in the year ahead, and remember the “Price of Liberty is eternal vigilance.”

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**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.

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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.

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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,
News From Cocos Island

From the Cocos Island sub-branch publicity man comes the following account of R.S.L. affairs in that quarter of the globe.

For some years our comingings and goings have not been noticed abroad, but we do hope to send a monthly bulletin from "The Rock" in future.

In this way any member who wishes to swim here will know how we live and is assured of board and lodging until he is ready to swim back.

Anzac Day was its usual success. We were pleased to have with us this year, Reg. Pinch of the Bedford-Bassenden sub-branch.

Reg was present at the very first Anzac Day dawn service on Cocos in 1932... The R.A.A.F. had sent a Canberra with a bugler which added a touch of colour to the ceremony.

As usual our women members and wives rendezvoused at the Residency, where the keg was blown and happy time was had by all.

Ron Longhurst drank a sad farewell toast as he was leaving after the last years sojourn on the island—a staunch R.S.L. member who will be sadly missed by this branch.

TRANSPORT

The transitional nature of the population here does not make for stable institutions, but does seem that the sub-branch should flourish for a few years now.

President Frank Medwin (Belmont Bugle, please copy) has done a sterling job over the last two years. With a small but faithful few he has steered the local branch through trying times. His ship has gained in finance and waninf—enthusiasm.

However, with one fell swoop the new members descended on the island and it did seem that President Frank would now be able to sit back and relax.

It was not to be. The newcomers were stirrers. A lady who was keen to have been told that President Frank was really foiled up by the fickle finger of fate as two of the Johnnie-nice ex-presidents of the sub-branch.

Being such they were quite vocal on Frank's administration. Mind you, that was as far as they could go, nothing about volunteering to take over. (Browne and Crisford, go walk in the lagoon until your hats float.)

The other three newbies, Bill Whitham, Ned Hickman and Les Holland, city slickers from Sydney, found by ready to adjudge but somehow other everything turned out fine and we finished up with an open-air meeting. A fine show too—overlooking the Indian Ocean with our respective wives stoking the barbeque with coconut husks, cooking steaks and tapping the keg. We have decided that in future all meetings will be in the open-air, followed by barbeque and hop gravy.

We welcome back to the fold Bill Smith. Two weeks ago he gave the island away and went back to the old dare. Apparently the waving, our method of Petticoat Lane were more expensive than the waving palms of Cocos Island.

He said so, until next month... Sayonera!

At Kirup They Have Something To Show

From Kirup-Mullalyup sub-branch secretary E. E. Moyle comes the following report on local activities.

In the last few years the Kirup clubrooms have gone through a lot of changes.

It is not long ago that the grounds were just a jungle of trees and bushes. With president Bill Cornell as main pusher, and all members working on the lawns, the unkempt garden was turned over to the bush, cleared and carted away, the bush cleared up and the gardens started.

Now, with the water laid on in Kirup, pipes have been laid all over the grounds. A toilet block, a general mess block, a general bathing area and a general washing area.

Near the memorial we have a 25-pounder gun, and a drinking fountain, and as our energetic caretaker, Gordon Roberts, and his power mower keep the grass cut a great improvement is now shown.

The branch has now taken under its wing the Kirup ambulance organization.

With Bill the main carpenter, an ambulance room has been erected to house the ambulance van on the club grounds.

As six of our stalwarts—Harry Fuller, Dick Benson, Jim Lawrence, Frank Tutton, A. L. Darlaston and Fred Goddard—have passed on and others have moved away to other districts, the branch must, unfortunately, be cut down to 12, but all are keen and all meetings are well attended.
National Servicemen
Wounded In Action

Some time ago the New South Wales branch submitted to the National Headquarters for review, a case of a National Serviceman who was wounded in Vietnam, returned to Australia, awarded a Repatriation pension, and was then obliged to complete his service in the Army in the C.M.F.

The League has asked for clarification of this position as many others could be similarly affected.

The Minister for the Army in his reply states: "I refer again to your letter of 3rd March 1967 concerning Private H. Walter, a national serviceman medically evacuated from Vietnam.

Private Walter was evacuated from Vietnam with gun shot wounds in the face and left shoulder and admitted to R.G.H. on 28th July 1966. He was discharged from hospital in December 1966 and, in accordance with the normal practice, appeared before a Medical Board.

He was classified fit for employment in urban areas of Australia and was to be reviewed by a further Medical Board in six months time.

National Servicemen and members of the A.F.A., whose medical classifications are lowered are not discharged from the Army while their fitness for further service or employment is comparable with their medical classification and any restriction which it might impose. In accordance with this policy, Private Walter was attached to H.Q. Liverpool Area and carried out his duties satisfactorily.

He is present on accrued recreation leave and terminal leave and will be free of charge on 29th June 67 on the expiration of his two years full-time national service.

10th Light Horse
Association

To country members of the old regiment who wish to meet old "side kicks": an average of 15 door to door as L.H. regiment on tap. There are no restrictions as to time of arrival or departure.

We are delighted to see you and talk over old times. Many are the arguments as to who did what, when and how.

Currently Jim Fitzmaurice, Bill Thompson (of Camels), Ernie Bain and "Hummy" hold the fort to whom the section of Machine Guns, which first landed on Gallipoli on May 5, 1915.

The late "Red Robbie" is given as O.C. Guns, with the late "Olds" Cadger C. C. Bain, Bill Brede, Harry Rilee and Ernie Bain (of Leevi) made a winning team. Ernie Bain says Leevi was not a gunner at the time he landed with A Squadron—should know.

HOSPITAL VISITS

A point of interest to Hospital Visitors at Hollywood Hospital is the section of a wire plaque showing weekly admissions, ward number, date of discharge (if known) of all patients, which served from 1915 to 1918.

The plaque was donated by a foundation to lessen the difficulty of finding patients and save the time of hospital office staff.

A feature of the weekly luncheons is a life-like replica of a trooped horse, donated by Anzac Club manager Norm Fraser.

Don't forget: every Friday, from midday, at the Anzac Club—R.G.H.

16th Battalion
Association

Mr. Ted McMahon, who attended the Anzac Day gathering of 16th Battalion men in Adelaide, has forwarded the following to members of the 15 who attended. They may be of interest to members in the West:


Mr. and Mrs. J. Oxenham spent a holiday in Kalgoorlie last month.

Messrs. P. O'Mara and S. Smith have been visited by members who report both cheerful and well.

The death of Bert Smith (of the 22nd Battalion (Reinforcements) who was president of the W.A. Bowling Association and trustee of the Aggie, Sallins, Soldiers and Airmen's Relief Fund was regretted by all.

Currently—Messrs. H. Skipworth, C. Bannister and A. Whittington were members of No. 1 Ward, Hollywood Hospital, and each was unaware of the other until Hollywood sick-vistor united them.

Mr. G. Davison has been transferred to Lemnos.

Mrs. R. Young has been elected secretary of the women's auxiliary. She succeeds Mrs. Gray, who has looked after the auxiliary for many years of good service.

At the last committee meeting it was suggested that the next reunion be on buffet lines. The committee is to look into the matter.

This reunion is listed for September 28.

To Sub-branch
Secretaries

Sub-branch Secretaries are again advised that the annual meeting of Torchbearers forLegare.

June 20: The Bellevue birthday-party was attended by Messrs. Mesdames Ames, Cottrill and Phelps. Certificates of Service were presented by Mrs. Ames to Mrs. L. Gould and Mrs. E. Kierman.

Corps Of Commissionaires

W.A. Branch would like to hear from members interested in employment in the Corps of Commissionaires. This entails a variety of jobs by night as well as by day, such as indoor security watchman, football matches, balls and similar functions.

You need not be a pensioner, but if you are, the amount of employment is governed by the extent of your permissible earnings. Write, ring 23 2271 or call at Anzac House and discuss it.

R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary

From the retiring-secretary, Mrs. L. Rowe, comes the following report on Women's Auxiliary affairs.

OFFICIAL VISITS

May 31: Mrs. Ames and Mrs. Rowe, accompanied by Mrs. Phelps, attended the Dwellington auxiliary in the morning, with visitors from the Murray Districts and Mandurah auxiliaries.

Such occasions are beneficial in many respects, quite apart from the social aspect. Mrs. Ames presented two certificates of Service to Messrs. Harley and Mrs. Stemp.

June 2: Mesdames Ames, L. Young and Phelps visited Claremont Hospital.

June 6: Mrs. Ames attended the Lemnos board meeting.

June 7: Mrs. Ames attended a meeting of the "Mrs. Crown " story" committee.

June 9: The Soldiers' Children's Education Board meeting was attended by Mrs. Ames.

June 11: Mrs. Ames, with most members of the State Executive, attended a social at Bassendean during which Mrs. Ames presented a Life Membership certificate and badge to Mr. C. Lynch, Mrs. Lynch for many years, also attended.

June 15: Mesdames Ames and Phelps attended the annual meeting of Torchbearers for Legare.

Correction

In the Last Post column last month the following entry was incorrectly transcribed:

"ROSETHALL, S., 116, 10th L.H. Mt. Hawthorn." The entry should have read:

"ROBINSON, H. L., 469, 10th L.H.," which was omitted.

Apologies are expressed to all concerned.
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**Minister Makes Statement On Mine-laying Mishaps**

Army Minister Fraser has issued the following statement on three mishaps which occurred during mine-laying operations by Australians in South Vietnam during May.

In all, five men were killed or died of wounds, and six were wounded.

In the first two instances the accidents resulted from a momentary lack of concentration and attention to detail by an individual.

In the third case it is almost certain that this was also the cause, although the possibility of a malfunction cannot be entirely ruled out.

Every man involved in the mine-laying operations had received his basic training in this subject at the school of Military Engineering in Australia before leaving for Vietnam, and the unit responsible for these operations in Vietnam had conducted further intensive rehearsals and training just prior to their commencement.

It was clear from the report that the mine-laying parties were carrying out the drills as taught during training and rehearsals, and that the necessary safety distances were being adhered to.

There was some evidence, however, to indicate that in one instance more rigid control of personnel or commissioned officers in charge of the movement of personnel being relieved might have resulted in fewer casualties.

The main lesson learnt from these most unfortunate occurrences is the need for all concerned to maintain complete concentration on the job in hand.

In this regard it is relevant to note that many thousands of mines were laid over a period of 16 days before any incident occurred, and that the maintenance of concentration over such a period demands an extremely high standard of discipline, training, and supervision.

To reduce the strain imposed on men under taking mine-laying they are necessarily relieved at frequent intervals, but this in turn can cause a break in concentration.

With this in mind additional instructions are being issued aimed at still further improving techniques so as to minimise the possibility of human error and to emphasise the need for most rigid control by supervisory personnel at all times.

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**Style of Whom**

"Isle of Doom," written by L. D. Ryan—on the feelings of himself and fellow-members of the 2/11 Battalion while in Crete—handed up again in "Mufti" recently over the name of another author.

Laurence Ryan was naturally irate over this, as he was the editor of "Mufti," enclosing a follow-up to his famous piece of doggerel to prove the style was his own. It is entitled: "The Style of Whom"—here it is.

Seated here in far-off Perth
I read, with melancholy mirth,
That plagiarism's in the boom
Since first I wrote "The Isle of Doom."

We thought that things were over on Crete
That the end of Blitzkrieg and defeat
But things today are even worse
When Eastern Statesers are published.

There's many poets they could choose
From whom to flock their stolen views.
And so I find it hard to see
Just why they pick a mug like me.
I'm no poet—not a chance.
Maswell wouldn't spare a glance.
And stuff like this would make him groan.
But what I write I like to own.
So Moth-Eaters, take your time
Before you pinch another's rhyme.
No poet's mantle I'll assume.
But still, I wrote "The Isle of Doom."

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**Mr. Davies Goes**

A requisit from former State Vice-President E. O. Davies to be relieved of all offices within the League because of ill-health was accorded with regret by the State Executive this month.

Mr. Davies has been a member of the executive for many years.

Mr. M. Crewe was nominated as his successor on the Aged Soldiers' Relief Fund trust.
ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICEMEN

FEDERATED T.B. SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION (W.A. BRANCH) - Meets second Thursday in Forest Press Pavilion, 90 Museum streets, Perth, 7 p.m. President, J. Davison, 156 Barrack street, South Perth, Secretary, J. McInnes (60 2949). 23rd Tuesday in Forest Press Pavilion, 84 William street, North Perth, 7 p.m. President, W. Abbott, North Fremantle (60 2955). Secretary, C. B. Millard, 122 Bridge street, South Perth (60 2951).

SOUTH AFRICAN AND IMPERIAL VETERANS' ASSOCIATION—Meets third Tuesday in Forest Press Pavilion, 84 William street, North Perth, 7 p.m. President, R. A. McDonald, 20 Kenny street, Bassendean (60 2962). Secretary, J. R. Hume, 144 Marbury street, Bassendean (60 2956).

10TH LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION—Meets third Friday in Forest Press Pavilion, 134 William street, North Perth, 7 p.m. President, Mr. W. J. M. Davis, 22 Apache street, South Fremantle (64 2933). Secretary, Mr. D. J. Shadbolt, 193 Arundel street, South Fremantle (64 2994).

ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION—Meets third Thursday in Forest Press Pavilion, 83 William street, North Perth, 7 p.m. President, Mr. J. A. McMillan, 200 Alfred street, East Fremantle (62 2934). Secretary, Mr. W. C. Ward, 22 Dianella street, East Fremantle (62 2934).

16TH BATTALION AND 4TH BRIGADE ASSOCIATION—Meets second Tuesday in Forest Press Pavilion, 84 William street, North Perth, 7 p.m. President, Mr. W. A. Ross, 144 Caven street, North Fremantle (60 2934). Secretary, Mr. T. A. Milne, 114 Florence street, North Fremantle (60 2934).

BRITISH EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION INC.—Meets second Tuesday in Forest Press Pavilion, 84 William street, North Perth, 7 p.m. President, J. Davison, 156 Barrack street, South Perth, Secretary, J. McInnes (60 2949). 23rd Tuesday in Forest Press Pavilion, 84 William street, North Perth, 7 p.m. President, W. Abbott, North Fremantle (60 2955). Secretary, C. B. Millard, 122 Bridge street, South Perth (60 2951).


11TH AND 211TH BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION—Meets second second Tuesday in Forest Press Pavilion, 84 William street, North Perth, 7 p.m. President, J. Davison, 156 Barrack street, South Perth, Secretary, J. McInnes (60 2949). 23rd Tuesday in Forest Press Pavilion, 84 William street, North Perth, 7 p.m. President, W. Abbott, North Fremantle (60 2955). Secretary, C. B. Millard, 122 Bridge street, South Perth (60 2951).

211TH BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION—Meets second Tuesday in Forest Press Pavilion, 84 William street, North Perth, 7 p.m. President, J. Davison, 156 Barrack street, South Perth, Secretary, J. McInnes (60 2949). 23rd Tuesday in Forest Press Pavilion, 84 William street, North Perth, 7 p.m. President, W. Abbott, North Fremantle (60 2955). Secretary, C. B. Millard, 122 Bridge street, South Perth (60 2951).

28TH BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION—Meets second Tuesday in Forest Press Pavilion, 84 William street, North Perth, 7 p.m. President, J. Davison, 156 Barrack street, South Perth, Secretary, J. McInnes (60 2949). 23rd Tuesday in Forest Press Pavilion, 84 William street, North Perth, 7 p.m. President, W. Abbott, North Fremantle (60 2955). Secretary, C. B. Millard, 122 Bridge street, South Perth (60 2951).

28TH BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION—Meets second Tuesday in Forest Press Pavilion, 84 William street, North Perth, 7 p.m. President, J. Davison, 156 Barrack street, South Perth, Secretary, J. McInnes (60 2949). 23rd Tuesday in Forest Press Pavilion, 84 William street, North Perth, 7 p.m. President, W. Abbott, North Fremantle (60 2955). Secretary, C. B. Millard, 122 Bridge street, South Perth (60 2951).
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Repat. Appointment

Members of the R.S.L. in this State are pleased with the appointment of Mr Terence O'Sullivan to the position of Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation.

His sincere approach to all Repat. problems and his willingness to assist to the limit of his power as an officer of the department has materially assisted in providing the excellent co-operation existing between it and service organisations.

Terry O'Sullivan, who is married with four children, served in the army in the Islands and Australia from 1940 to 1946. His last appointment prior to discharge was as Chief Financial Officer for New Guinea with the rank of Lieut.-Colonel.

Mr. T. M. O'Sullivan
He is a graduate of the University of Western Australia, in which he majored in Economics.

"Operation Friendly"

Operation Friendly, a League-sponsored annual outing for under-privileged children throughout the metropolitan area, went off smoothly once again on June 11 despite very unseasonable weather.

Numbers were up this year—a total of 568 children (from two to 17 years) were taken out for the day.

According to many reports, received both hosts and guests enjoyed the outing.

More sub-branches and auxiliaries took part this year, their contribution being as follows:

Medina: Eight boys from Castledare and three from the Salvation Army girls.
Blackboy Hill: Twenty children from Parkerville.
Scarborough: Four Salvation Army girls and 12 boys from the Hollywood Children's Village.
Milen: 51 (all) children from Mofflynn.
Guildford: Two girls and four boys from Parkerville.
Hamilton Hill: 18 (all) children from Seaside House.

Murray: Three (all available) children from Fairbridge Farm.

The R.A.F. Association looked after nine girls and six boys from Sister Kate's Home, and the S.R.D. Association 21 boys from Castledare.

In addition, once again, the good people of Armadale—through Mrs. M. J. Salter—looked after 50 children from Parkerville—23 girls and 27 boys from three years to ten years.

Karralga, the Church of Christ girl's home in Melville, took part this year but, regrettably, Clontarf, with 30 boys, pulled out after nominating. It is to be hoped their boys will be included next year.

It has been decided to change the date to the second Sunday in March, owing to the bad weather normally experienced in June.

Visit the Anzac Club Lately?

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