"THE LISTENING POST" to cease as a monthly publication

After almost 46 years of practically continuous publication as the monthly journal of the R.S.L. in Western Australia, this is the last monthly issue of "The Listening Post."

Number 1 of Volume 1 appeared dated December 20, 1921 and for the short break in 1952, when it appeared in March and then only in June, September, but from that month onwards, monthly publication was continuous ...

Publication in future will be in terms of Motion No. 54 which was carried by a narrow margin of votes by delegates to the State Congress. This motion, in the name of the City of Perth sub-branch, read: "That the Listening Post be issued quarterly in February to cover membership, May for reports and Balance Sheets, August in report on Congress and November for National Congress reports and Christmas goodwill messages."

In all seventeen motions regarding "The Listening Post" were listed for the attention of delegates and considerable discussion took place.

Many delegates had been instructed to vote in favour of a monthly newsletter, to be issued either to all members or to the secretary of each sub-branch, but this did not meet with general approval.

Proposals that "The Listening Post" be issued by publishers' free in return for advertising rights, that it be continued on a basis of annual subscription, be printed "in The West Australian" as required, and other suggestions did not receive general support.

State Executive had tabled a motion referring to the serious financial situation disclosed in the report issued to sub-branches, and had offered three proposals: (a) the termination of the present free issue to members; (b) its continuation to be financed by a levy of 60c upon each R.S.L. member; (c) the production of a modified form for the cost to be met by individual purchasers.

Following much exchange of opinion, delegates deleted (b) and (c) by amendment, leaving only (a) as the motion.

After more discussion motion No. 54 (referred to above) was accepted as the substantive motion.

By a show of hands this was lost—the voting being 53:5. A card vote was then demanded and on a division the motion was carried by two votes.

For those who have received—and, more especially, read—The Listening Post over a good many years, its disappearance in its present form will be regretted. It is, however, to be remembered that as was emphasised at Congress, R.S.L. Trustees thoroughly examined the financial position and advised that publication cease forthwith: the loss had become such that continuance of a free monthly issue was out of the question.

As in so many other activities "the old giveeth place to the new" and members will, without doubt, look forward to the first (and ensuing) issues of an R.S.L. quarterly.

- Pictured above are the Premier of Western Australia (Mr. David Brand) and the State President (Mr. P. Pearson) listening to a controversial motion, and (right) the National Secretary of the R.S.L. (Mr. Bill Keys).

NEW DEPUTY NATIONAL PRESIDENT

In consequence of the retirement of Sir Raymond Huish as Deputy National President, the National Executive decided to hold a ballot to fill the position for the remainder of the Congressional year.

Three nominations were received for the position:

Mr R. F. Bunting, President of Papua and New Guinea;
Mr W. H. Hall, President of Victoria;
Mr William Yeo, President N.S.W.

On an exhaustive ballot being conducted, Mr W. H. Hall was elected.

Vale,

SISTER COWCHEER!

Sister Alma Cowcher passed away suddenly on February 12 at the Repatriation Hospital, Hollywood. Sister Cowcher saw service with No. 4 Hospital, Abbassia, Egypt.

On her return to Western Australia she was appointed matron at the Lady Mitchell Convalescent Hospital, Cottesloe, and for many years served in the R.S.L. Corps of Hospital Visitors.

Sister Cowcher will be missed not only for her interest in the League but also for her cheery comradeship.
W.A. To Support R.S.L. Jubilee Commemorative Fund

By an overwhelming vote, State Congress decided to support the R.S.L. Jubilee Commemorative Fund.

All other State Delegates had, at Federal Congress, decided to give their support but Western Australia had not, at that time, decided to do so.

Having heard the National Secretary (Mr. A. G. W. Keys) speak forcibly and at length urging that the objects of the Fund were worthy of this State's participation, Congress reacted favourably to his appeal.

The agreement basis for this State's participation will be that sub-branches will make themselves responsible for a contribution of 10 cents per head of membership.

Mr. Keys pointed out that the broad objects of the fund will be:

- To relieve distress and to provide international services in the Pacific and South East Asian areas;
- To assist British Commonwealth Ex-Servicemen in this area who are in necessitous circumstances;
- To provide training for young people, particularly the children of ex-servicemen from the countries concerned, and
- To finance experts in this field of inter-work in these communities.

It was estimated that the total sum would result. Already £25,000 had been raised, and the first two scholarships had already been awarded to students from the Malayan States. He referred to the Fund as one of the most important objects undertaken by the R.S.L. and the League's National Congress endorsed two important principles to which the R.S.L. is committed.

The first is that in any intelligent and effective scheme of international defence, the essential element is that in this area, the development of understanding, and the encouragement of mutual assistance, and the pursuit of common aims and common interests.

The second is the practical interpretation of the League's first object, to perpetuate the close and cordial relations created by a mutual service-in the wars of the British Commonwealth.

The decision of the Jubilee Fund is a recognition that this object can best be honoured by providing some help where it is desperately needed amongst those men who have served in the armed forces of the Commonwealth and now need the assistance that their former comrades in arms can give.

Army Allotment System To Be Changed

The system of payment of allotments, made by the Army Pay Office to the wives and other people will be changed in August.

The present arrangement under which allottees may receive their allotments by cash payment at Post Offices will be discontinued.

In future, soldier's allottees may choose to have the money credited fortnightly to their own bank accounts, or posted fortnightly by cheque from the Pay Office at the address. Allotments may be credited to either a trading or savings bank account.

The change in system is being made so that the Army may take full advantage of the modern office-machine techniques.

Production of cheques in fortnightly cycles is a task which can be done swiftly and accurately by data processing machines.

A similar change was made by the Department of Air last year in the payment of allotments of R.A.A.F. personnel.

TOBRUK AND EL ALAMEIN

TOBRUK AND EL ALAMEIN. These two battles which rank among the world-famous are in the main theme of a recent publication of the Australian Army History, the A.F.I.F. Official History.

This volume, the work of Barton Maughan, is the final of the Army series of the official History of Australia in the wars of 1914-19 and 1939-45. Volumes in this series, previously published, numbered XIV, covering every theatre of war in which the 2nd A.F.I.F. operated.

Toobruk and El Alamein make up the remaining title of the book which reflects the splendid accomplishments of one of the most distinguished and controversial field commanders of all time, Gen. Sir Henry M. M. Haig, commander-in-chief of the British Armies in the Middle East, 1939-45.

This book is available from the publishers, Angus & Robertson, Sydney, at a cost of $3.00.
MEMBERSHIP
Perhaps one of the most frustrating facets of present day R.S.L. affairs is the drop in membership and the lack of attendance at monthly meetings of sub-branches.
Although the loss by death is increasing every year and is now considerable, there are still many thousands who could be members but just never get around to paying the $3.00.
On top of this is the fact that there are many hundreds of eligible ex-servicemen entering this State every year, who should become members.
Most of this indifference, is of course, attributable to our present affluent society and the old selfish outlook of “Blow you, Jack, I’m all right.” “You may be, but are some of your old mates?” could be the reply to this.
Membership cannot and should not be left to sub-branch secretaries. They have enough to do. Let every sub-branch as a whole foster membership, and do their best to enrol every eligible member in their area.
Only in this way, can the League in this State hope to recover its membership loss. Remember the lads serving overseas at present have the right to expect to come back to a strong efficient R.S.L., ready to continue the fight for a just rehabilitation to civil life.

Australian Forces Overseas Fund
Following the inauguration of this fund on a national basis, Western Australia has appointed Mr. E. Pearson, J.P., as a State Commissioner for A.F.O.F. The National Council is headed by the National President (Sir Arthur Lee) with Sir William Yeo as Chief Commissioner, Sir Raymond Hulsh (Queensland), Judge Harry Prior (N.S.W.), Mr. R. Pickett (Tasmania), Mr. W. G. Osmond (Executive Commissioner) and Mr. A. G. W. Keys (National Secretary) R.S.L. Liaison Officer. It is anticipated that the other State Branches will appoint their Commissioners in the near future.
The fund is designed to provide amenities for troops serving overseas and the decision to form the National body was given announcement by the Minister for the Army (Mr. Malcolm Fraser) that the Australian Forces Overseas Fund had been approved by the Army as a philanthropic association.
At the same time, the Minister announced that such recognition of the A.F.O.F. would enable it to have representatives in the field with the troops to provide suitable amenities.

In response to a League approach regarding the above, the following reply has been received from the Minister for the Army.

“I have received other representations concerning this question of leave for soldiers in Vietnam, and it is quite clear that there is a good deal of misunderstanding regarding this matter.

“Let me say at the outset that there has been no change for the one leave entitlement for soldiers serving in Vietnam. What is essential, however, is that the maximum practicable number of stand down rest periods for duty performed on Sundays or public holidays, while the troops are in Vietnam, should be taken in the theatre itself. There are many reasons for this, not the least being from the point of view of the family of our soldiers there, who can cope under arduous conditions.

“Even so, it is recognised that it may not be possible to provide immediate recompense in the form of local stands in every instance, where personnel have been required for duty on Sundays and public holidays.

“There will be provision, therefore, for men in this category to accumulate up to forty days' credit during their tour of duty. This credit can be taken in conjunction with their normal leave on return to Australia. On this point, I must stress that the soldier's entitlement to normal leave provisions on return to Australia is in no way affected. That is, he will be entitled to the usual 50 days which is, of course, two weeks more than the 18 day entitlement for service in Australia. If any credit has accumulated (up to a maximum of twelve additional days), Sundays and holidays worked, where no stand down in recompense could be arranged.

“Finally, I should emphasise that specific instructions have been issued to the Commander, A.F.V., that no soldier has already accumulated an entitlement of more than 12 days in respect of duty on Sundays and holidays is to lose that entitlement and furthermore that adequate arrangements are to be made to ensure that excess duty on Sundays and holidays is re-compensed by local stand down shifts in their home areas in the future.

“With regard to the suggestion concerning the provision of pay in lieu of leave granted instead of stand down leave, I must inform you that there is no provision for such payment.”

Anzac Medallion and Lapel Badge
The following reply has been received from the Minister for the Army in response to our request for a speeding up of the distribution of the Anzac Medallion and lapel badge.

It will interest all of those who are waiting delivery of the medallion and/or badge.

“At the request of the Minister for Defence, who is dealing with the design and production of the Anzac Medallion and badge, the Department is handling the detailed arrangements for checking of applications and issue of medallions and badges.

“As perhaps you are aware, there have been technical problems in the striking of the Medallion and in the design and production of a suitable presentation case. As a result, although the engraving of medallions has been proceeding, the general issue of these cannot commence until deliveries of the approved presentation case commence. It is expected that this will be on July 7.

“The issue of lapel badges has been going forward steadily. A special effort was made to have as many as possible of these issued before Anzac Day, and in fact, some 1,600 were issued in Australia by that date, together with a further 300 which were sent to New Zealand for distribution. In total, 500 have now been issued.

“As a result of a review of our checking and distribution procedure which I had made recently, I found that the work of checking in particular was falling into arrears. You may be interested to know that we have received to date 2,000 applications and these are still coming at a rate of about 750 per day.

“As you will appreciate, the checking of such a volume of applications represents a considerable work load.

“As a result of my enquiries I have directed that staff be diverted from other duties to clear up the arrears which has developed and get the check of applications and the issue of engraved badges and medallions up to date as soon as possible.

“I will write to you again when delivery of the presentation cases enables general issue of the medallion and badge to commence, and progress has been made in clearing outstanding applications.”
MEET YOUR MATES AT ANZAC CLUB

LEAGUE MEMBERS

Patronise your own Anzac Club—First class amenities
- Excellent Snack Bar
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PRESENTATION OF FIRST ANZAC MEDALLION

On May 16 last, His Excellency the Governor-General of Australia (Lord Casey) presented the first Anzac medallion to Mrs Anne Simpson Pearson, the granddaughter of Private John Simpson of "Simpson and His Donkey" fame.

The Agent General for South Australia (Mr. Lance Milne) was present at the ceremony at Australian House and the following is his interesting account of the proceedings.

"For many years the R.S.L. have been urging that a medal should be struck for the surviving members of the Australian Defence Force which served on the Gallipoli Peninsula or in direct support of the operations from Cape off shore during the two wars which we now know as Anzac. After long and numerous discussions, this medal was struck by the Commonwealth Government and the very first one to be presented to the sole surviving relative of Private John Simpson, namely Mrs. Anne Simpson Pearson, who lives in England.

"I had the privilege of being invited to attend a simple, but moving ceremony in the office of the High Commissioner (Hon. Sir Alexander Downer, K.B.E.) at Australian House on May 16, 1967. We assembled in this lovely room in London overlooking the Aldwych, the Strand and St. Clement Danes Church. Present were His Excellency the Governor-General of Australia, (Lord Casey), His Excellency the High Commissioner for Australia (Sir Alexander Downer), several senior officers of Australian House, Agents General for all the Australian States, Mrs Anne Simpson Pearson; former Sapper C.A.D. Clutterbuck; former Sergeant-Drummer Frank Kennedy, who is very active in R.S.L. affairs in London, England.

"Lord Casey made a delightful and moving speech as he so fitted to do, having been at Gallipoli himself, and then presented the medallion to Mrs. Pearson.

"She was so deeply moved that she could hardly walk forward to receive the medallion and in fact could only see very few words of gratitude, as her eyes filled with tears. For most of those present this was an important step in the return of Australia's historical history which otherwise could only be experienced from books, photographs or films.

"It so happened that there were three men present at the ceremony who had sailed together from Australia in the troopship "Ovelot" in 1914 and were together at the time of the landing at Gallipoli. These were—Lord Casey, who was then an early training on the G.O.C. to General Sir William Bridges; former Sapper C.A.D. Clutterbuck of the 2nd Field Company Engineers; and R.S.L. Information Officer in London, formerly Sergeant-Drummer Frank Kennedy, who was N.C.O. in charge of drummers, buglers and pipers at Anzac.

"After the ceremony we adjourned to a room close by and were treated to champagne and sandwiches and were told that we could all have a talk. I found it tremendously interesting to talk to these men who actually had been on the spot and knew Simpson. By this time Mrs Pearson had recovered composure and was able to discuss the ceremony and his character with us.

"I think it was a very kind thought to reserve the first medallion for Mrs Pearson and to have it presented by the Governor-General who himself had been part of the campaign on which the medallion commemorated if you had seen the depth of feeling displayed by Mrs Pearson, most of which was the deepest gratitude you would realise how much joy the medallion brought her and to the many others to whom the medallion will be presented.

"If the ceremony in London was any indication, then I would say that the efforts of all those League members responsible for the medallion struck would be very worthwhile indeed."
Progress of a Revolution
From "Politicus"

China is the question mark in the minds of thinking Australians and their neighbours in Malaysia, the Philippines, New Zealand and the United States of America.

The activities of the "Red Guard" turned loose on the new elite of China suggest that history repeats itself. More accurately the pattern of human behaviour is similar over the years.

A recent Christian Science Monitor commentary ran as follows: "The most important thing is that there is being learned from the patterns of human nature as there is any other country which has never gone through a social revolution.

It is the historic pattern that a community which has lost its privilege in a revolution begins to grow a new one fairly quick."

It was 10 years from the storming of the Bastille at the beginning of the French Revolution (1789) to the beginning of the consulate (1799). By the time the consulate was in power, the revolution was largely spent and a new ruling class had emerged.

Five years later Napoleon had made himself emperor and formalised the new society around his imperial court.

A similar pattern has been prominent in Russia. Now that the last of the new society is one of the first things which strikes a visitor arriving in that country for the first time.

Yugoslavia is passing through a current phase somewhat the same as the one in China. The revolutionaries in Yugoslavia have succeeded in breaking free of the grip of the centralized bureaucrats and secret police who have come to form an elite of power. However, the structure of the political roles were different. Those who have lost power were the Stalinist type. In China it would seem that the losers tended to be revisionists.

If Mao Tse-tung can destroy the new elite in China, it is possible that any back into that ant heap he will be the first revolutionary to make it work.

R & R Facilities in Australia

At the May meeting of the National Executive, it was resolved that the league should support the inclusion of Australia in the Rest and Recreation Leave Centre for troops, both allied and Australian, serving in Vietnam.

"The matter was referred to the Minister for Defence Mr Alan Fairhall who in his reply stated:

"I refer to your letter of May 30 and R Leave for Australian servicemen on active duty abroad, and seeking advice on the progress of the proposal that Australia become an R and R Centre for U.S. servicemen in Vietnam.

"So far the United States has not made an arrangement for R and R facilities in Australia. Informal discussions have been held, however, between officers of our two countries on the details that should be included in the arrangement for R and R programme and it is reasonable to expect that an official request for a programme will be received."

"If a programme is agreed upon it is likely that two centres only will be selected, Sydney and Brisbane/Queensland Gold Coast", with the numbers building up to 1,000 personnel on the ground on each site.

"Australian personnel in U.S. law do so would be able to visit Australia on R and R leave if a leave programme in this country is approved."

Flag Burning

The Secretary of the Attorney-General's Department has replied to the National Congress request that provision be made for appropriate facilities for burning in damage or indignity to the Australian Flag.

He states: "I refer to your letter of May 30 and R Leave for Australian servicemen on active duty abroad, and seeking advice on the progress of the proposal that Australia become an R and R Centre for U.S. servicemen in Vietnam.

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Vietnam Monetary Cost Totals

The total cost of Australian involvement in the Vietnam war so far is $125,423,000.

This was announced by the Australian Minister for Defence (Mr. Fairhall).

A breakdown of the figures shows that $14,744,000 had been spent in each of the 1962-1963 and 1963-1964 financial years, $1,112,000 in 1964-1965, $13,876,000 in 1965-1966 and $120,297,000 in the last financial year.

RE-INTRODUCTION OF WAR SERVICE LAND SETTLEMENT REJECTED

Arying out of decisions of the 51st National Congress a request was made that the Government be asked to consider that a scheme of War Service Land Settlement should be introduced to meet the needs of veterans who are currently serving in the Armed Forces. This submission was supplemented by a further request from the February Meeting of the National Executive. The National Minister for Primary Industry has now replied as follows:

"The Government has given very careful consideration to introducing a scheme on similar lines to the World War II Settlement scheme which operated after the 1939-45 war.

INSURANCE LOADING FOR CANTENE GOODS

In reply to a request from Mr Keys for comments on the matter, Mr Corringham of the Department of Defence stated:

"Australian Services Canteen Organisation does not operate in Vietnam although we have some "ASCO" personnel there often to cater for bulk stores and two luxury goods shops as an extension of the United States Army and Air Forces within the PX. Our servicemen, however, obtain their normal canteen requirements through the PX or at PX commissary stores.

"I do not know all details of the PX pricing policy. There may well be an element in PX prices for war risk loading as the PX, being a business organisation, has to make some provision to replace losses whether in a war situation or any other. Our boys pay the same prices as the Americans at the PX stores and these prices have kept low as possible as you no doubt saw on your visit to Vietnam.

"As the PX, however, is unable to keep up with the demand for luxury items such as transistor radios, m, table TV sets, tape recorders and cameras, and these are not readily available. The Commander of our Force in Vietnam has accordingly agreed to supplement the supply of these items from wholesale stores elsewhere in Asia.

"A reserve fund has had to be established to cover risks or war damage and pilfering of luxury goods in an area such as Vietnam and this fund will be built up by a slight loading on the price. The balance of the reserve fund and any expenditures for replacement of losses, will be paid into Service Amenities Funds eventually."

"ASCO has done a very good job in retailing luxury items at low prices, e.g. a transistor radio and retail price of $39.95 is sold for $20 to our servicemen. Except in about 5% per cent of items we can match the PX prices. It is stressed that our shops have the same rights as the Americans to supply luxury items at lower costs but, whereas they are in short supply in the PX and a rationing system has been introduced, the items are freely available to Australians through the channel set up with ASCO funds."

"I hope this explains the position on war loading of prices."
The Listening Post
August, 1967

Commemorative Tour Athens to El Alamein

As a result of the unsettled situation in the Middle East and because insufficient numbers have booked for the cruise, the charter of the S.S. "Romantica" has been cancelled and the tour will proceed by air alone.

This should not detract greatly from the interest of the itinerary.

A Press release has been issued by Orbit Travel Services and a new circular with the changed itinerary is being printed and will be despatched to State Branches within the next two or three weeks. It will include the following:

A 52-day air holiday tour of the Middle East and Europe has been organized by the R.S.L. to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein on October 23. The tour party will leave Sydney by jet on October 19 and return to Australia on December 8. R.S.L. officials will mark the 25th Anniversary of El Alamein with a special service for Australian forces on World War II battlefield. Visits will also be made to Tobruk, Benghazi, Tripoli, Crete, Cyprus, Haifa, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

On the European part of the tour the holiday-makers will stay several days in turn in London, Paris, Amsterdam, Vienna and Rome.

The itinerary includes an optional five-day cruise from Athens, taking in the fascinating Greek Islands in the Mediterranean. The tour organisers are hoping that at least 200 Australians, including World War II diggers, other returned servicemen and women and relatives will book for the holiday. The tour will cost approximately $1,700 and bookings can be made through Orbit Travel Services Pty. Ltd., Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3000.

The Secretariat of the Victorian R.S.L., Mr. P. Venn, said recently:

'The R.S.L. felt it had a duty to be present for the 25th anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein. "Veterans of World War II serving members of the permanent forces overseas, particularly those serving in the Middle East and Egypt, have the option of flying or touring to Crete and the Rhodes Islands.'

The tour through Europe will last 18 days, which will be spent in London and four other places, before return by sea. The tour will include visits to Amsterdam and Vienna. On the way home from Teheran on December 3, four tour members will have the option of going to either Singapore or Hong Kong.

Life Insurance—Serving Personnel

Currently the League has before the Government a request that an examination should be made of a general life insurance cover and insurance connected with home purchase as these policies apply to servicemen on active duty.

An interim reply has been received from Senator McKeller, Minister for Repatriation, as follows:

'I refer again to your letter of May 30 dealing with two aspects of insurance for serving members of the forces which had been discussed at the Executive on May 9. These were, first, the possibility of a general life insurance cover, and second, insurance when this is connected with home purchase.

'You know that the first of these is being examined. As for the second, it may be mentioned that following the Herald article to which you have referred, my colleague the Treasurer answered a question in the House of Representatives about the matter. This answer included the following:

"This matter relates particularly to mortgages on homes by serving members of the permanent forces overseas, particularly those serving in the Middle East and Egypt, have the option of flying or touring to Crete and the Rhodes Islands.'

The tour through Europe will last 18 days, which will be spent in London and four other places, before return by sea. The tour will include visits to Amsterdam and Vienna. On the way home from Teheran on December 3, four tour members will have the option of going to either Singapore or Hong Kong.

The Commonwealth Savings Bank has provided a further $100,000 for housing through the R.S.L. No. 7 Building Society Limited.

Mr. W. E. S. Townsend, the Bank's Manager for Western Australia announced this today.

He said that the Bank, Australia's largest lender for housing, had in the last five years provided $486 million to assist 83,000 families to build or purchase their own homes.

The Bank's contribution to housing the nation is important in the fact that more than one out of every five privately built homes in the United Kingdom were built under the Bank's mortgage system.

It is estimated that the Commonwealth Savings Bank and its associated banks have provided 85% of the mortgage funds for privately built homes in the United Kingdom. The Bank's contribution to housing has been a major factor in the Bank's growth and success in recent years.

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If you are one of those eligible ex-servicemen who has lodged a War Service Homes application for allocation of land at CHURCHLANDS

read the important message on the next right hand page
1967 FEDERAL BUDGET

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE R.S.L.
Sir Arthur Lee, KBE, MC.
The National President of the R.S.L. (Sir Arthur Lee) issued the following statement on the 1967 Federal Budget while attending the New South Wales State Congress in Sydney.

"The Commonwealth Government has completely ignored the detailed case put to them in March by this Executive. It has ignored the plight of T.P.I. and General Rate Pensioners and has abandoned the War Widows to the miserable amount of compensation they received prior to the Budget.

The League has demonstrated year after year how Pension values have been eroded, but the Government has maintained its "do nothing" attitude. The Repatriation provisions of the Budget are a disgrace to the Government, a disgrace to Australia and a betrayal to those who have suffered in war. "To complete this dismal picture the War Service Homes allocation has been further reduced at a time when a number of improvements are urgently needed."

ANZAC CLUB
The home of friendship!

Long And Useful Life Ends At Boddington
The death of Mr. C. C. (Charlie) Hewson on January 17—at the age of 81 years—has deprived the Boddington sub-branch of one of its foundation members.
For the past 16 years he has lived in retirement at Boddington where, with the help of his son Sid, he built a farm.
For many years he was unable to attend branch meetings but the sub-branch could always rely on a generous donation to any worthy cause.
Mrs. Hewson, too, has been a valued member of the women's auxiliary which drew largely on her experience and personal counsel in assisting the men in their various undertakings.

THE LISTENING POST
August, 1967

April Pilgrimage To France, Belgium

The organisation, by the 9th Brigade A.I.F. Veterans' Association, of a 50th anniversary commemorative pilgrimage to France and Belgium next April is well under way.

The Association, headed by Brig. F. G. ("Black Jack") Callegari, D.S.O., O.B.E., I.S.O., E.D., has established contacts with some of the other brigades of the 3rd Division (of impeccable memory) seeking old Somme veterans and their relatives, for whom the pilgrimage is being arranged.

So far 20 3rd Division men have applied for membership of the pilgrimage, and as members are to be limited for transport and accommodation reasons the success of the mission is assured.

The organisation committee has had liaison with overseas bodies including the American Federation, which has undertaken the planning of commemorative services in Israel (conditions permitting).


The trip will be in easy stages and will occupy a month. Group concessions fares on all airways have been secured—a reduction of 33 per cent on Economy Fares.

Circulating giving details, is available from the organising secretary, Mr. F. G. Callegari, 38 Arterial Road, St. Ives, N.S.W.

External Affairs Minister Hasluck has accepted the pilgrimage party and his department overseas will assist in promoting the success of the pilgrimage and its importance to veterans and their families.

It is hoped to arrange for 30 members of the A.I.F. to accompany the pilgrimage as spokesmen for ex-servicemen of both wars.

First For 35 Years
H.M.A.S. Oxley, Australia's first submarine for more than 35 years, was due to arrive in Australia about mid-August. Navy Minister Chipp said recently.

The first of four Oberon-class submarines being constructed in the U.K. for the R.A.N. Oxley is expected to reach Brisbane on August 13 and Sydney on August 18. She was due at Bermuda on June 24 and was to call at Hawaii.

Oxley would be submerged for parts of the voyage out, the Minister said.

The captain is Lieut.-Commander H. P. F. Pither, and the ship's company of 61 have been training in the U.K.

Oxley (and the other submarines being built) will be based at a submarine support facility, H.M.A.S. Platypus, Neutral Bay, Sydney.

She is one of the most modern conventional submarines in the world. She has been designed for silent running and is fitted with the most sensitive underwater listening apparatus, the latest communications equipment and a new electronic fire-control system.

Her armament includes homing torpedoes, with six bow and two stern torpedotubes, and she has an anti-surface and anti-submarine capability.

She is capable of high speeds submerged and can dive to below 400ft. Oxley was built in Scotland by Columbia Building and Engineering Company, which is also building the three other submarines—H.M.A.S. Otway, Ovens, and Onslow.
If you are fortunate enough to obtain a block at Churchlands, one of Perth's leading architects will plan your new home COMPLETELY FREE!

This special offer is available with the compliments of R.D.C.

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R.D.C. will provide that architect completely free and R.D.C. will guarantee you all the quality and attention to detail you could ever wish for! Simply send us the Architect Design Invitation below and we will arrange for you to see one of Perth's leading architects privately and at your convenience. He will draw up your plans, provide the specifications and give you personal advice and service. Then he will charge us when we commence to build your new, personalised, R.D.C. home.

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ARCHITECT DESIGN INVITATION
Please arrange an appointment for me with one of Perth's leading architects at no obligation.

Name

Address
Miss Crowning Glory, 1967

The publicity which the current Miss Crowning Glory Quest has received in newspapers, over Channel Nine Television, and 6AM-PM should have reached practically everybody in the State by now.

The prizes which have been publicised are the biggest and best which have been offered over the nine years of the Competition.

Notwithstanding the strong publicity, and the high value of the prizes, the nomination of candidates is well below the level which the Joint Committee anticipated would be forthcoming.

To date, twenty-four candidates have been nominated, a pleasing feature of the early nominations is the great deal of fund raising activity which is supporting the bulk of candidates nominated so far.

The Joint Committee (headed by Mr. P. Pearson) would like all possible help from sub-branches, Legacy groups and Anzac Bearer groups. It is important to note that nominations will close on the last day of September, which means that there is approximately six weeks to go to the close of nominations.

The important dates of the Competition this year are as follows:
- Preliminary Judging of the candidates at Anzac House, as from 8 p.m. on Friday, October 5.
- Final Judging and presentation of finalist at STW, Channel Nine, Turf Hill, at 8 p.m. on the night of Saturday, October 7.
- If the Joint Committee can make a real success of this year’s Competition, there is no doubt that it will again be possible next year, and for perhaps some years to come, to receive the strong support which has been given by commercial interests to this year’s competition.
- Air India is providing the major prize for the winner, which is a trip to London and return, whilst Ansett A.A.N.A. providing the major prize in the most money raised section, this being a return trip for two 4-person Surfers’ Paradise.

Repatriation Benefits For R.A.N. Serving In Vietnam Waters

Royal Australian Navy personnel serving off-shore in Vietnam have been included in the access to Repatriation benefits for death or incapacity arising from that service.

The Minister for Repatriation (Senator McKellar) announced recently that regulations for this cover had been gazetted.

Senator McKellar said that the regulations would have effect from 1st March this year.

This ensured coverage of the assignment of ships of the Royal Australian Navy to off-shore duty earlier this year.

The Minister explained that up to the present time, cover had only been available to eligible members of the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force based on land in South Vietnam.

R.S.I. Annual Rifle Shooting Championship

The annual shoot to determine the R.S.I. champion with a .22 rifle was held at Congress. The winner was staff member Rolfe Nyman of Applecross sub-branch; runner-up being Bob Williams of Gloucester Park sub-branch.

The plate was won by Ron Miller and runner up was C. Lindau, both of West Leederville-Webbly-Floreat Park. The winning score was 25 bulls.

Operation Stand-In

Should any reader care to go as host to a Junior Recruit from H.M.A.S. Leeuwin on Father’s Day, please phone or write to Anzac House, as follows:

Every year the Returned Services League in Western Australia organises what has become well-known as Operation “Stand-In.” The idea is to have a “Stand-In” for Father’s Day for the Junior Recruits who have their homes either in the Eastern States or in the country.

Many lasting friendships have been made, and it gives the lads a taste of home life, which most of them miss in the early part of their service.

The arrangements are as follows: The Stand-In Fathers will pick up their guests at H.M.A.S. Leeuwin at 10.15 a.m. on Saturday, September 3, 1967. The form of the day, with the guests, will be at the discretion of the hosts as long as the boys are returned to Leeuwin by 10.00 p.m. that day.

This is a rewarding experience and the Junior Recruits are an excellent type of lad whom you will be proud to entertain.

Help us to give them a day they will remember. Phone Anzac House and say “Operation Stand-In.” The telephone number is 23 2271.

Second Division Memorial at Mont St. Quentin

The R.S.I. has placed before the Minister of the Interior certain proposals concerning the restoration of the 2nd Division Memorial at Mont St. Quentin.

As this matter has been before the authorities for some time, a progress report was recently sought from the Secretary of the Department.

Mr. Kingsland, Secretary for the Department of the Interior has replied as follows:

"In your letters of 3 May and 2 June, 1967, you enquired about the progress made on the examination of the proposals concerning the restoration of the Second Division Memorial at Mont St. Quentin."

"Since Mr. McEwen last wrote to you as Acting Prime Minister, the Minister of the Interior has placed before the Prime Minister certain alternative restoration proposals. The Prime Minister’s reply is still under consideration."

"So that you may be fully aware of the circumstances surrounding this case I would like to explain why there has been so much delay in having this matter finally resolved."

"You will probably recall, that immediately following the Second World War an inspection was carried out of Australian Memorials in France and Belgium by the Secretary and Executive Member of the Australian Battalions Memorials Committee, following the report of this inspection the Government agreed that the memorials should, as far as possible, be restored to their original condition. In the case of the Second Division Memorial, this was not possible as the plaster cast of the original figure had long since been destroyed.

"As it was then not possible to recast the original figure the Battalions Memorials Committee took the matter up with the late Sir Charles Roseenthal who was the last Commandant of the Second Division. After lengthy negotiations it was finally resolved that, as the original figure had been removed it has been decided that a substitute or alternative sculpture should be placed on the existing base."

"Mr. McEwen and I, acting on the advice of the Committee, agreed that the stone base from which the original figure had been removed should be re-produced and replaced. The Committee also recommended that another stone should be added to the following words should be fixed to the base:"

"The figures of the Australians which originally surrounded this stone was removed by the German Army during the 1939-45 War. This plaque and the bronze cover were placed in position during July, 1949."

"While this action appeared satisfactory and appropriate at the time, my minister is now anxious to see a more satisfactory solution arrived at, and to this end the alternative proposals I mentioned are being examined."

"I am sorry I cannot be more definite at this stage but I can assure you that this matter is being actively considered and proposals for the ultimate restoration of the Second Division Memorial are being examined."

Visited the Anzac Club Lately?
The Last Post (deaths)

Deceased Members
June, 1967

ABBOTT, G. E., 24723, R.V.C., Gosnells.
ADAIR, R. M., WX38176, 12 A Bn., Applecross.
ADAMS, R., 41, 11th Bn., Perth.
ANDERSON, J., F., 12683, 46th Bn., A.A.F., Mandurah.
ANDERSON, A. E., 385, 10th L.H., Subiaco.

BEGLEY, L. R. (Mrs.), 31461, A.A.I.M.N.S.

BERG, A., WX78979, 2/6 Fd. Pk., Busselose.
BLANCHARD, D. C., 22279, R.A.N., Subiaco.
BLYTH, E., 2612, 11th Bn., N.B., N.L.
BOISIER, A. R., 415514, R.A.A.F., Cottesloe.
CAPORN, W. C., 103, 3rd Bn., Bunting.
CHENDALL, A. H., WX40138, 55 Supply Depot, Mt.
Hawthorn.
2/16th Bn., Kalgoorlie.
CLIFT, W., 5648, Royal Indian Eng., Maddington.
CREEK, G. C., 31678, Postal Unit, 4144, 11th Bn., Mandurah.
CUNLIFFE, J., 5697, 112th How Bty., Armadale.
DE PASSEY, R. W., 3rd T.P., Kalgoorlie.
EATON, P. V., WX19299, 5th T.P., Victoria Park.
EVERT, W., WX10017, 2/6th Mob. Laundry, Perth.
FAIRBAIRN, G., WX798, 2/28th Bn., Melville.
FILMER, H. J., 3327, 11th Bn., Parkine.
FORREST, B. S., 31430, 5th Amt. Coy., Brompton.
FRENCH, L. J., 3178, 10th L.H., Mandurah.
GODBY, C. H., 2803, 11th Bn., Canning.
GRAY, G. W., 50389, West Yorks., Perth.

GRIFFITHS, M. O., 2350, 10th L.H., Mulleka.
HEWSON, W. G., 477, 16th Bn., Konnongobie.

HICKMOTT, S. V., 100243, R.H.A. and
R.A.A.F., Cottesloe.
HUGHES, J. A., Cottesloe.
JACKSON, W. A., 3861, 5th Bn., Belgravia.

HYDE, H. E., D.S.Q., 2/3rd Field Rgt., City of Perth.

25th Bn., Subiaco.

KEESCH, L. B., Capt. Royal Netherlands Army, South Perth.
KIP, P. H., 27389, 11th Bn., Victoria Park.
KNAPMAN, L., 34th D.A.C., West Swan.
LEE, C. L., R.A.N., Lake Grace.

LYLE, R. R., WX675, 2/4th M.G. Bn., Subiaco.

MIHAN, F., 35, 16th Bn., Perth.
MARRIOTT, A. H., 10th L.H., H. G., Cottesloe.

MURPHY, J., 241711, Seaford Highlanders, Moonee Ponds.

NIGHTS, V., 31523, 2/16th Bn.

MULVAY, R. M., WX1877, 2/11th Bn., Subiaco.

MCNULTY, B. K., 207, 5th L.H., City of Perth.

OVERSTONE, W., 1850, 11th Bn., Mt. Hawthorn.

PATERSON, J. A., 2689, Gordon Highlanders, Fingal.

PATTERSON, M., 1341, 51st Bn., Balme, Rockingham.

POTTS, J., 64591, 1st M.G. Bn., Boulder.

RIBBONS, E. J., 4557, R.A.A.F., M.T.

RONCHI, C., 96501, 2/11th Bn., Mt. Margaret.

SMITH, H. E., 6830, 16th Bn., W. Leederville.

WALTERS, N. L., WX16333, 2/11th Bn., Subiaco.

WARNER, W. A., 3237, 51st Bn., Mingenew.

WICK, J. M., 14270, 5th Sigs., Subiaco.

WHITTINGTON, A. S., 22889, A.A.C.S., Cottesloe.

WILKINS, A. J., 3497, 16th Bn., Albany.

Deceased Members
July 1967

ARNOLD, F. A. H., 1823, 5th Bn., North Perth.


BARBER, A. H., 3541, 51st Bn., South Perth.

BARKER, W., 2321, 10th L.H., Port Hedland.

BARTLETT, J., 1484, 4th Div. Sigs., Subiaco.

BOWON, R., 14270, 28th Bn., Busselton.

BREDAHL, J. T., 3351, 16th Bn., Madison Park.


BROOKS, J. T., 6547, 4th Div. Sigs., Subiaco.

BROWN, J., 14270, 27th Bn., Busselton.


DUHN, R., 51st Bn., Perth.

EATON, P. V., 5804, 2/28th Bn., Balme.

FORD, J., 39517, 10th L.H., H. G., Cottesloe.

GROCE, F. R., 1103, 2/16th Bn., Busselton.

GURR, T., 12, 2nd Bn., Busselton.

HAMBLEY, T., WX747, Guard Bty., Gloucester Park.


HARWOOD, A. H., 7471, 2/16th Bn., Busselton.


KALLENBERG, A. F., 2/16th Bn., Busselton.

LEWIS, E. G., 3173, 51st Bn., Perth.

LORAM, J. R., 3004, 2/16th Bn., Busselton.

MAGNUS, A., 9682, 2nd L.H., Maylands.

MILLER, A. J., WX1941, 2/11th Bn., Scarboro.

The Listening Post

Cash for Christmas
Make sure you have the money you need for Christmas presents, entertainment, holidays through a Christmas Club Account. Go to any branch of the "Commonwealth" and Join our Christmas Club NOW.

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NEWS FROM THE SUB-BRANCHES

Healthy Portents At Coorow-Waddi Forest

As revealed by the balance-sheet the financial affairs of the Coorow-Waddi Forest sub-branch were in a reasonably good position, President W. H. Howard said in his annual report.

Membership stood at 21 and the average attendance at meetings over the past ten months was 15. Though the response could have been better it had served to keep the spirit of the sub-branch alive.

Australia seemed to be on the threshold of an event that could be of importance to service personnel of the armed forces.

Members should hold themselves ready to serve some useful purpose and the executive should therefore be entitled to expect their attendance at meetings, a necessary requirement for the making of a strong sub-branch.

Activities during the year had in no way been spectacular although any event undertaken had been well supported.

The two bottle-drives held were highly successful, an amount of $293 being raised.

During the year the sub-branch had provided all the facilities of the sub-branch and for two years running in the coming year.

The sub-branch auxiliary, though small in numbers, was carrying on its good work.

Unfortunately a function planned to express appreciation of the women’s efforts was not able to be held but was certainly called for in the near future.

Mr. A. W. Alford, 75 Vincent Street, Westlands, W.A. writes:

“For some time I have been meaning to write a testimonial to Bex Powders so those who haven’t tried them can get some of the benefit. I have used them for years and years and can honestly say I haven’t found anything to come near them. I suffer from eczema and I depend on Bex for relief.

Bex has proved its value to untold thousands for more than thirty-five years. That is why Bex has become a family standby for speedy relief from pain.

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Auxiliary Notes

STATE EXECUTIVE 1967-68

State President: Mrs J. F. Ames, J.P.
Imn. Past President: Mrs S. V. Stockman, M.B.E., J.P.
State Secretary: Mrs K. Phelps.
Vice Presidents: Mrs A. Rowe (West Leederville), Mrs V. Tomich (City of Perth), Mrs M. Kemp (Belmont).

Country Vice Presidents: Mrs D. Higgins (Narrogin), Mrs E. McLaughlin (Boyup Brook).

Trustees: Mrs R. Young (N. E. Fremantle), Mrs G. Rolfe (Bellevue), Mrs M. Kemp (Belmont).

Committee: Messrs. Bettridge (Scarborough), Buechele (Belmont), Ford (Victoria Park), Guinan (City of Perth), Horder (City of Perth), Lowe (Buckingham), Sullivan (Bassendean), and L. Young (Shenton Park).

ACTIVITIES

Metropolitan Cup went to City of Perth Auxiliary with 30 points and the Ames Shield for Runners-up went to Bellevue with 25 points.

Country Cup went to Geraldton with 35 points and the Geraldton Shield for Runners-up went to Bruce Rock with 16 points.

The State President, Mr. Pearson, during his official opening of the 40th Conference pointed out that in the absence of the War Veterans' Home, the Auxiliaries had contributed $21,388.00. A very splendid contribution from all members.

Mrs. Ames handed to Mr. Pearson, a cheque for a further contribution to the Home for $676.75.

16th BATTALION ASSOCIATION

Decision at the July meeting was to hold the Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 28, at 7 p.m. immediately before the annual reunion. In consequence the committee requests that all members attend early so that the business can be disposed of quickly.

A motion that the reunion be in the form of a buffet meal was defeated. It was thought that speeches and formal business would be quickly disposed of, enabling members then to mingle around if the hospitality was cleared promptly-music would be provided for a few dances.

It was felt that a visit to the Garden of Remembrance would be of interest to members who have an afternoon to spare. The names of many former members are on the walls and there will revive many memories.

Merry Christmas to all the members and their families, and best wishes for a happy New Year.

R.A.A.F. Auxiliary.

Education Awards:

Services Canteens Trust

The Trustees of the Services Canteens Trust Fund are inviting applications for Educational Awards for the year 1968.

These awards are granted on a year by year basis varying from $50 to $400 depending on the cost of the course and the family circumstances.

The awards are for children of ex-servicemen and women who served on full time duty in the Australian Forces during the period September 3, 1939, to June 30, 1947. Age of Entry if either parent is deceased, the entry age group is THOSE CHILDREN WHO WILL ATTAIN THE AGE OF 12 OR OVER NEXT YEAR. For children other than orphans, the age group is THOSE WHO WILL ATTAIN THE AGE OF 15 OR OVER NEXT YEAR.

It is considered that will be given to children attaining the age of 13 or 14 years next year, where the following exceptional circumstances apply:

- Invalid, Age, and T.B. pensioners.
- Deserted, divorced, or separated families.
- Children who must live away from home to obtain secondary education.

TERTIARY EDUCATION: Awards are not granted in respect of First Year of any Tertiary Course. However, should a student in receipt of a Commonwealth Scholarship have such scholarship suspended, the Trustees will consider an application for assistance to enable the student to qualify for the restoration of the scholarship. Provided funds are available after dealing with all other cases. If funds are available, the closing date for applications of this nature is March 31 next.

CLOSING DATE: Applications for Education Awards are to be in the form of a cheque for Signed by present parent or guardian. All applications must be postmarked with 15th September.

The spirit of service has been carried on.

MILITARY CROSS AWARD

Congratulations to Lt. Commander Rainer, a former member of the Australian Regular Army, based in Victoria, who has been awarded the Military Cross. Rainer who has been a recent transfer to the League in this State over the past twenty years.

The Australian Army has been present throughout the years, serving with the Kenwick R.S.L. Sub-branch since 1958 and is still holding office. The Kenwick R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary has been present since 1956.

The spirit of service has been carried on.

CAPTAIN P. J. SCHUMAN, M.C.

- Holding a captured Viet Cong light machine gun before a class at the Officer Cadet School, Portsea, Capt. P. J. Schuman conducts an outdoor group in a familiarisation study of the 7.62mm AK-47.

Capt. Schuman's brief career as an officer to date has been highly impressive. From graduation as a 2nd Lieutenant only three years ago from O.C.S. Portsea, he has reached his present rank. As an officer of the Western Australia based Special Air Service Regiment, he served in Borneo in 1965, in Vietnam in 1966, where he won the Military Cross. From Vietnam, he was posted back to O.C.S. where he is a weapons and field craft instructor.

Captain Schuman is married and has two children.

From now until early September, the Army again will invite applications from fit young Australians to be accepted for the 12-month course at the Officer Cadet School, Portsea, Victoria. Those selected will march into the School early next January.

They will find—as with the courses which have passed through for 15 years—that they are encouraged in studies and training which students themselves describe as "fascinating."
“Shetland Bus”, Reunion

Recently more than 500 Norwegians landed in the Shetland Islands to the north of Scotland, mainly seamen who escaped to Shetland when their country was invaded by the Germans in 1940. They were back for a reunion with the Shetlanders who looked after them and helped them to run a floot of small boats to and from occupied Norway.

They called it the “Shetland bus” and it kept the way open between Britain and the Norwegian underground.

Norwegian flags flying from every building in the town and the Lerwick brass bands playing a welcome, the landing ship, largely escorted by a flotilla of motor torpedo boats and with an R.A.F. Shackleton flying overhead, turned round and slowly steamed inside the town.

Waving hands from ship to shore and then a call for silence as the Commander of the party, Captain Reed Mohn, addressed the crowd from the loud speaker up on the bridge.

At first they came down the gangway in ones and twos which increased to a steady flow. The Customs men were there, but only as a formality.

Jameson Clark, the B.B.C. announcer, then described the operation and ceremony when the man who commanded the Norwegian MTB flotilla during the war, turned to the salute and cheered our veteran to the town.

Then came the walk to the end of the town and the ceremony for a simple private ceremony, all in Norwegian, as the veterans laid wreaths in memory of their fallen comrades.

Then came the break for lunch, some sitting on the grass and the others divided, those who had been stationed in Lerwick, the others on the other side of the town and head of the famous “Shetland Bus”.

Gifts were exchanged in the little pub and there was more happy laughter and more tears. Then all moved down to the Prince Olaf slipway where the boats of the Shetland Bus were serviced and repaired, after their dangerous missions to Norway.

There in the sunlight under the Norwegian flag was the lighthouse Lief Larsen of Bergen, Norway, the hero of the Shetland Bus, the man who received decorations for bravery than any other Allied officer in World War II.

3,000 Expected
At Kiwi P.O.W. Re-Union

Any local Ex-P.O.W. interested in attending the Ex-P.O.W. Reunion in Auckland, New Zealand from June 59, must immediately complete a registration form and forward it to either the Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. J. Brown, 122 The Strand, Bedford, or the Noise, 2nd Floor, Boans, Perth.

Mr. Gordon McVeigh, chairman of the reunion committee, in a recent letter stressed the need for early registration, particularly if the W.A. party desired to be accommodated together.

It is the practice of State will be well represented as to date 18 have registered. The group air fare is $550.00 for the Auckland return.

To give an indication of the magnitude of the venture, Gordon McVeigh estimates that he has no less than thirteen sub-committee chairmen.

Former P.O.W. and Civil Aviation Minister Swartz has received an invitation to go to Auckland as an official guest. At this stage over 3,000 are expected to attend the Kiwi function.

An interesting letter recently received from Canada which stated that he was at present in charge of the parish of Wellington where he will be for another 16 months and then he hopes to return to his home at Saratoga. He sends greetings to all.

28th BATTALION

The July meeting of the Association, which attracted a good attendance of members, received a report from Mr. William on his Anzac Day reunion with ex-members of the battalion who are now resident in Victoria.

Among those who met were Ted Farmer, Edgar Varney, Frank Coombs, Jack Blythe, George Thomson, Harry Humberstone, Ernie Lamb, Jack Rydhoover, Jack Millburn, and Dick Hassard. The last two mentioned are due to visit W.A. in the near future and will, no doubt, be suitably entertained by their local pals.

Whatever your walk in life...

And whatever financial service you need, whether your account is large or small, a genuine welcome awaits you at any one of our numerous branches. The manager and staff will always be pleased to assist you.

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E. N. M. FINNIE, State Manager

August, 1967
ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICEMEN

FEDERATED T.B. SAILORS, STEWARDESS, W.A. BRANCH—Meetings.


BRITISH EX-SERVICEMEN ASSOCIATION: Meets second Tuesday in Foresters’ Hall, 322 Francis and Mulvaney. President, C. A. Brome, 31 Basell-avenue, Como. Phone 67 4524. Secretary, T. Bell, 4471 Scots P.F., Perth. 2/4TH BATTALION L.I.P. ASSOCIATION—President, D. Ansell, 33 Lockhart-street, Como. Secretary, T. Young, 32 Oakover-street, East Fremantle.


KOREA AND SOUTH EAST ASIA FORCES ASSOCIATION (W.A. Branch)—Meets second Monday of each month in Anzac House basement, 8 p.m. President, L. P. Thurs, 116 Landsdowne-road, South Perth. Secretary, G. N. Grant, dock. Phone 37256. Secretary, N. G. Iaard, 722 Albany Highway, Mindaring.

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11th BATTALION R.W.A.R.

It is now two years since the lid has been lifted on the Royal Western Australia Regiment, which was formed in response to the outbreak of war. The 11th Battalion is the result of a strong movement by the alumni of the Royal Western Australia Regiment to form a new battalion from the nucleus of the original 1st Battalion of the Regiment. Included in these men were a number of specialist personnel.

The Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. D. Collins, E.D., who was in charge of the first camp held in the new unit, used to everybody a sense of highly organised speed, spirit and enthusiasm. Within a month, rugged patrol and navigation courses had commenced.

The first camp as a battalion with only a small number of essential personnel was unorganized. The enthusiasm is being extremely difficult if the will to help carry the burden has not been shared by every member of the unit. New traditions were forged, new songs were written and a high standard set.

From such a good start, the battalion forged steadily ahead. Night-long meetings were held in the ranks only after completing examinations of a high standard. Field training was of a nature and scope not successfully attempted before in the command in CMF training.

Realistic exercises were conducted under the close supervision of the R.S.M. W. H. Reynolds, who heads his regular army cadre staff. CMF men worked in their spare time constructing a guerilla type training village in the battalion training area which was used on a number of occasions by the nucleus for actual battle conditions.

A second more comprehensive guerilla village has since been built by the nucleus in a different area to be used for training this year. The new Centralised Recruit Training System commenced in January, 1968. 11th Battalion was allocated the responsibility for training recruits from six units within the task force, including its own infantrymen.

Reports reaching the unit indicate that the high standard insisted on within the battalion is noticeable when these returns from the unit in Victoria were examined. There are few tracks and no communications, which add to the difficulties of those in charge of the land parties who were led by landrovers and other four-wheel-drive vehicles in the search.

A pilot boat and local fisherman (Douglas Kendrew) were set out for a day’s fishing from Esperance. Of the four men who went out on the day only three came back. Two always fish on his own, and at the appointed rendezvous, was one to show up. He raised the alarm, and immediately Civil Defence and Police commenced search within 30 miles East of Esperance to the Great Australian Bight. In the area there were few tracks and no communications, which added to the difficulties of those in charge of the land parties who were led by landrovers and other four-wheel-drive vehicles in the search.

The search which lasted seven days, covered an area of 100 miles of coastline, including up to 30 island. The boat was found 30 miles from where the accident was assumed to have occurred.

At the beginning of the organised search a radio message from Esperance Police Station using the O.T.C. at Esperance as a base. Two high frequency transmitters and four-wheel-drive vehicles were used as base stations in the field, and walking parties were sent out.

A great part of the search was through sheer necessity, conducted on foot, and the men who took part in this must be congratulated on their stamina and resolve. Unfortunately the lost men have not been found, which is in keeping with the record of the search parties on this coast.

The whole operation was a tremendous example of teamwork, and stresses the absolute necessity of having a Civil Defence Organisation to co-operate with the Police, who incidentally did a splendid job.

Sgt. Townsend of the Esperance Police and Phil Arlidge, Controller of Civil Defence, Esperance, and their respective teams were due to the efforts of the whole community for their wonderful effort.

As it has been said, the moral of this story is "This could happen to you or yours," therefore do your best to support the Civil Defence in your area. Do not forget Civil Defence works in peace time just as effectively as in war time.

Civil Defence in Action at Esperance

Geraldton Notes

An Invitation has been extended to the Governor of Western Australia (Major-General Douglas Kendrew) to attend the annual reunion of the R.S.L. at Geraldton on November 16.

The invitation was extended through Anzac House and has now been received in the Town Clerk of Geraldton who is handling local arrangements for the Governor’s visit.

Sir Douglas Kendrew is an honorary life member of the R.S.L.

He will be at Geraldton on the night of the sub-branch reunion, after having opened the Northampton Agricultural Show during the afternoon.

Members of the sub-branch have supported a National Executive proposal that sub-branches are encouraged to provide cadet units with flags for ceremonial purposes.

However, as it is realized that some schools already possess the national flag, it has been suggested that it would be a good thing for the cadets to have a flag of their own.

The sub-branch recently endorsed the proposal and the sub-branch executive committee have made arrangements with the cadet units of the Northampton High School and St. Patrick’s College.

Three Springs-Arrino Activity

A new gate at the North Midlands Hospital at three springs is to be provided by the Springs-Arrino - Eneabba sub-branch of the Returned Services League. The sub-branch is prepared to spend up to £800 on the undertaking.

The completed work will consist of a gateway and pillared and mounted by a wrought-iron archway bearing the name of the hospital.

The gateway will be flanked by a low brick wall on either side. The secretary of the North Midlands Hospital (Mr. I. Baker) and the sub-branch clearly showed the fine community spirit which is extended among its members.

B.J.B.

Invitation to...

RSL Family Participation

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