SOME VITAL ISSUES RAISED AT CONGRESS

The state of the national defences and the League’s present level of membership were among main issues raised at the 54th annual State Congress last month.

Concern was expressed on both questions.

Congress was opened by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Douglas Kendrew, in the Anne House ballroom on the evening of July 20.

Among official guests in a very large gathering for the occasion were heads of the armed services, and representatives of the State Government and Opposition of the City of Perth.

His Excellency was welcomed by the State President, Mr P. Pearson, who on behalf of the League asked for a message of loyalty to be conveyed to Her Majesty the Queen.

Sir Douglas, appealing for new recruits to League membership, said the League’s ideals needed all the support they could be given and that there was a wide discrepancy between the present membership figure and the estimated potential within the State of over 50,000 eligible persons.

Mr Pearson called for bold Australian decisions for defence of the Indian Ocean approaches and collaboration with all powerful allies to that end.

A close watch should be kept on the Russian naval build-up in the Indian Ocean, he said.

Australia’s regular forces should be built up and the training facilities improved.

COAST WATCHING

During the Defence debate next day a Nollamara-North Perth motion calling for the use of fast patrol boats and helicopters in Australian territorial waters was carried for reference to the League’s national defence committee.

The Geraldton sub-branch found strong support with a motion expressing feelings of uncertainty as to the adequacy of the defences provided for the western and northern coastlines.

There were 113 delegates in attendance representing 82 sub-branches.

Congress adjourned at its first business session for the customary wreath-laying ceremony at the State War Memorial, followed the civic reception at Council House.

WARDENSHIP

Mr A. C. Curlewis, C.M.G., in a brief report as Warden of the State War Memorial, said 12 wreath-laying ceremonies had been conducted during the year.

Referring to restorations carried out at the memorial he expressed the League’s gratitude for the donations that had enabled the work to be done. He said he was investigating a proposal aimed at ensuring that future repairs would be effected without cost to the League.

Mr Curlewis was thanked warmly for his services by the State President who then announced the warden-elect — Air Commodore B. Courtney, O.B.E., M.V.O.

The incoming warden will commence his tour of duty at the customary Remembrance Day ceremony, in which he will be handed the key of the memorial by his predecessor.

The Deputy Commissioner for Repatriation, Mr J. W. Robson, was present for the discussion of repatriation motions, and Mr P. Herlihy of the State Housing Commission for that on war-service homes issues.

Some 102 agenda items were dealt with. Of these 65 were carried, an additional six carried after amendment, 12 lost, 11 withdrawn, four referred bodies, three approved through want of support and one was ruled out of order.

R.S.L. Annual Report, pages 5-11
The new Executive

STATE PRESIDENT

At Congress last month Mr Percy Pearson was again declared elected unopposed to the office of State President, and thus enters his sixth full term in office.

He first accepted office in succession to Mr W S. Lonie in March 1965, and has been reappointed at each succeeding Congress.

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Also re-elected were the two retiring State Vice-Presidents, Mr L. G. Pheena and Dr A. King.

COMMITTEE

The result of the ballot for the requisite 18 State Executive committee members was announced by the Returning Officer (Mr M. Kearney) as follows:


Eight of the committee men are newcomers to office, and another—Mr M. C. Hall—resumes his seat after an absence of several years.

A pleasant task for Mr Pearson

At the Cavel R.S.L. ball in June, 14 debutantes were presented to the State President, Mr Pearson.

Members of the official party included Capel Shire President Erle Scott and Mrs Scott and R.S.L. president Glenn and Mrs Glen.

Over 200 people were in attendance.


Rozanne Forrest was flower girl.

Sub-branch list at end of service

The State branch of the League wants personnel returned from overseas service to be given—on or prior to discharge—a list of R.S.L. sub-branches.

This was decided at Congress at the request of the Geraldton sub-branch in the hope that such lists might be brought to the notice of potential League members.

A Boulder motion that for publicity purposes a report of proceedings of State Congress be offered to the country press was also agreed to.

It was felt that publication of the details would stimulate interest in R.S.L. activity.

More land, loan-money, sought for ex-service home-seekers

The State branch of the League is to ask the War Service Homes authorities to extend the loan-limit from $8,000 to $12,000.

This was decided at Congress on the advocacy of the Executive. Its delegate argued that the suggested increase would be particularly timely in enabling young ex-service men to contemplate home purchase.

In support of a City of Perth delegate said it was impossible for the average ex-service man to finance the large deposit required for purchase.

There was strong support for the measure in all quarters.

Other motions carried on the advocacy of the State Executive included:

- That the Director of War Service Homes be asked to the north and the other to the south of the city.

- That the Minister for Housing be asked to provide the artificial rehousing of ex-service men and women.

- That the League request the War Service Homes Director to build blocks of homes for purchase by eligible ex-service men and women.

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Club proposal to be considered

A Rockingham Congress motion suggesting the formation of two R.S.L. social and sporting clubs—one to the north and the other to the south of the city—is to be considered by the State Executive.

This was decided at Congress at the request of the Geraldton sub-branch in the hope that such lists might be brought to the notice of potential League members.

A Boulder motion that for publicity purposes a report of proceedings of State Congress be offered to the country press was also agreed to.

It was felt that publication of the details would stimulate interest in R.S.L. activity.

Diggers

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from

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Visited the Anzac Club Lately?
Who won those trophies

The trophies won in inter-sub-branch competition this year were presented at Congress by the officer commanding Western Command, Brigadier G. F. Larkin. The awards were as follows:

Colonel Collett Trophy (for the most efficient country sub-branch): Geraldton.
Newdegate Cup (for the most efficient metropolitan sub-branch): Bellevue.
Mary Cornell Trophy (for the best Poppy Day figures on a basis of membership): Highgate.
Geraldton Shield (awarded by the Geraldton sub-branch for the most efficient smaller country sub-branch): Quairading.
Merv Williams Trophy (for the best Veterans Home effort on a basis of membership): Highgate.

Hospital visits

Nearly 1,500 bedside visits to patients in metropolitan hospitals were made by R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary members during the last 12 months. This was reported at Congress by the auxiliary State President, Mrs A. Rowe. As well 5,250 visits were made to patients elsewhere, she said. Mrs Rowe referred to hospital visiting as the auxiliary's "important project."

Other projects undertaken had included the staffing of the Veterans' Home canteen and the sending of condolence cards to next-of-kin of deceased ex-service personnel. Some 900 cards had been sent.

The State President and the members of her organisation the League State President said the most successful sub-branches were invariably those served by a good auxiliary.

The 1970 rifle shoot

Mr F. Moore, of the Mt. Hawthorn sub-branch, was the successful competitor in a field of 19 contestants for the 1970 R.S.L. Rifle Championship. He scored 99 points. Mr C. Bayliss (North Perth-Nollamara) was runner-up with 97 points. The Rifle Plate was won by J. Rawlings (Mt Hawthorn) with 74 points, and Mr A. Bishop (Gloucester Park) with 72 points was runner-up.

The shoot, which is conducted annually as a section of the A.R.M.S. Games, was held in the Anzac House basement as usual on the Wednesday night of Congress Week - July 22. Organiser Bob Williams presented the trophies on behalf of the State President and Executive, and conveyed congratulations to the winners. He expressed a desire to see a greater number of competitors nominated in 1971.

First of the new returned men

Mr R. T. Morgan (Three Springs-Arrino) became the first returned-from-Vietnam delegate to speak at State Congress.

He was introducing a motion seeking Commonwealth Government assistance for new-land farmers returned from service overseas on similar lines to that extended under the now-defunct War Service Land Settlement Scheme.

The motion was carried for reference to national headquarters.
SHOP AND SAVE CONSISTENTLY AT ANY OF THE 90 TOM'S STORES Throughout W.A. (Metropolitan and Country)

Remember... "It's the OVERALL SAVINGS that Count."

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The Returned Services League of Australia, W.A. Branch (Inc.)

54th ANNUAL REPORT

The State President's annual report at Congress this year was as follows:

Anzac Day

The 54th annual commemoration of the landing at Gallipoli was fittingly observed. The weather for both the Dawn Service and the service on the Esplanade was perfect.

The Dawn Service was very well attended and there was a marked increase of wreaths laid as compared with other years. Once again it was very pleasing to see a greater number of young people paying homage to fallen at the most significant service at the State War Memorial.

The march through the city was very well supported by Unit Associations and more than 4,500 men and women paraded in memory of their fallen comrades.

There was also a greater number of the public taking an interest in the Anzac Day parade and service on the Esplanade, which was an inspiring and moving service.

For the first time in more than 12 years the State President, Mr F. Pearson, did not give the address. He, together with a delegation from Western Australia, attended a ceremony in Canberra at the request of Her Majesty the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Anne and Prince Charles.

The others in the delegation were Mrs Pearson, Mr and Mrs Phenna, Dr and Mrs King, Mr and Mrs R. Stoddart, Mr and Mrs Williams and Mr S. Macnamara.

In the absence of the State President the immediate past president, Mr W.S. Lomme, C.B.E., M.V.O., M.C., gave the address and acted as State President during the absence of Mr Pearson.

The Schools' broadcast service at King's Park on the afternoon of April 24 was a wonderful experience and only those who have witnessed this service, in which some 2,000 children took part, would fully appreciate all that is implied in it, and for this we extend our grateful and sincere thanks and gratitude to those responsible in the Education Department and the A.B.C.

Also on April 24, a children's service was conducted at Blackboy Hill, the last training-camp for soldiers before their setting out for overseas service in 1914. It was very well conducted, and our grateful thanks go to those responsible.

Anzac Day Trust

Once again both the W.A. Turf Club and W.A. Trotting Association conducted special meetings, the proceeds of which were paid to the Anzac Day Trust. For this fine gesture we say thank you to all concerned and extend our sincere appreciation.

Credit is due to Torchbearers for Legacy who assisted the League to popularise the sporting events.

As a result of the grant to the League from the trust in 1969 the War Veteran's Home received $10,000 and the Aged Soldiers' Fund $2,475.

Our grateful thanks are extended to the committees of the W.A. Turf Club and W.A. Trotting Association for their ready co-operation.

Remembrance Day

This was celebrated in the usual way with a commemoration service at the State War Memorial and buglers situated at various city intersections.

There was a slight drop in the sale of poppies, wreaths and cards as compared with 1968. Collections amounted to $11,419 as against $12,355 the previous year.

State War Memorial

The retiring Warden, Brigadier G. P. Hunt, C.B.E., handed over to the new Warden, Mr A. C. Curlewes, C.M.G., on Remembrance Day. Both in turn brought dignity and a sense of solemn duty to the position, and their services are valued by the League.

Once again we acknowledge the splendid job being done by Mr Doug Dargle as Assistant-Warden. He takes more than a casual interest in the Memorial and is uniting in his attempts to maintain the standard of maintenance of the Memorial itself and the surrounds. He is always available to attend all official wreath laying ceremonies.

Since last Congress (in July 1969) there have been 19 wreath laying ceremonies, 11 of which were between July and December 1969, and in 1970 so far there have been eight ceremonies.

To the sub-Wardens—Highgate sub-branch led by Bill Fitzhardinge—and the Kings Park Board along with Mr Curlewes and Mr Dargle, we say thank you!

In respect to the renovation of the State War Memorial, which was in need of immediate maintenance, approaches were made to the State Government and the Perth City Council and in both cases the League received amounts of $6,500 and $2,000 respectively.

To the Hon. the Premier, Sir David Brand, and the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor, Sir Thomas Wardle, the League desires to convey to both Government and Council its warm appreciation of this action.

Restorations were commenced just prior to Christmas and completed just before Anzac Day this year. Repairs carried out included:

1. Waterproofing of all joints in the monument, parapets and decking.

2. Chemically cleaning nameplates, and touching up names where paint had eroded.

3. Replacing a section of the black marble.

4. Cleaning down bronze work on outside of monument, and coating with clear plastic.

5. Cleaning and easing of the bronze door to the crypt.

6. Cleaning down all walls on undercroft, also sealing and re-plastering where necessary.

7. Removing and fitting new flood lighting (four boxes) to illuminate the obelisk.

8. Removing old lighting and replace with modern fluorescent lights in the undercroft to illuminate display cases containing Regimental Colours.

9. Re-moving and replacing concrete walk, including boxing to all sides and ramping-down at concourse.

Once again our sincere thanks to the State Government and the Perth City Council for this wonderful gesture.

Veterans' Home

This important work continues as one of our major projects in W.A. The medical centre has proved a wonderful asset to the home and the floodlit bowling green is the centre of many competitive struggles among residents and visiting sub-branches.

We are indebted to the Board of Management, under the chairmanship of Dr. Alan King, for its continuing progressive policy, and to the Superintendent, Major Owen Howes, for his magnificent leadership, and to his loyal staff who do so much for the residents in the home.

Dr Wheeler gives magnificently of his time and talents to attend the sick at the home and we owe him a deep debt of gratitude—as we owe our thanks to the Women's Auxiliary for their untiring work for the home and the donations made by them.

To the Red Cross and visiting members of the clergy and the young people who have provided leadership in the Anzac Day and Remembrance Day Services at the home, our thanks!

R.S.L. Shop

The trading of the R.S.L. Shop is gradually increasing and this year a further $2,000 has been transferred to the War Veterans' Home making a total in seven years of $14,355.

However the shop still requires the patronage of members as it is an R.S.L. asset that is providing a worthwhile service. Every dollar spent in the shop is for a good cause.

(Continued overleaf)
Annual Report continued

Legacy and Crowning Glory

Congratulations to Ray Ware on his appointment as President of Legacy, and to Geoff Blumemann on his appointment to Torchbearers for Legacy.

Our very grateful thanks for past co-operation to Mr Max Shean and Mr Reg Seal, past-presidents of Legacy and Torchbearers respectively.

The Miss Crowning Glory contest is now in its 12th year and has raised in excess of $120,000 since its inception. Last year was the best ever.

Some sub-branches have done very well; others should follow their lead and support a candidate for 1970, which it is hoped will top last year’s very good effort.

There seems to be a mistaken idea that the sub-branch has to raise half the funds for its candidate, this is not so; it is for the candidate and her committee to raise the money.

The League and Legacy have come to rely on this source of revenue for maintenance and welfare of major undertakings.

Our thanks go to Ted Martin for a sterling effort as Secretary for Torchbearers. Ted has spared no effort to make Miss Crowning Glory the popular contest it has turned out to be.

We thank Air India and Ansett Airlines of Australia for magnificent prizes; also the donors of supporting prizes, the panel of judges, and Channel 9 and the Sunday Times for their continuing publicity.

Finance

It was pleasing to note from the financial statements published in the May issue of “Listening Post” that there had been a gain of $7,462 of income over expenditure. This was an improvement of $7,025 on the 1968 figures.

This has only been made possible by a reallocation of the finances of the League and an increase in investments, which follows the pattern of the last financial year.

The net cost of producing The Listening Post fell to $858 as compared with $969 for the previous year.

The Club increased its losses to $1,594.

Again the most disturbing situation during the year was the drop in membership. This causes the Executive grave concern, considering that there are at least 45,000 men and women in Western Australia eligible for League membership.

This downward trend should also be the concern of sub-branch officials and it would appear that a more personal approach is required to break down the apathy of so many regarding the League.

Parking restrictions still have a big bearing on Club trading, but as the new calendar year begins there may be easier for physiotherapy treatment.

The committee is applying itself to the task of widening the membership of the Club.

The position is not as bad as it was at one time, but the Club seeks your patronage to enable it to assist the League’s work in all directions.

Membership

Membership at the close of 1969 totalled 12,554, which was 461 less than in 1968.

Loss through deaths accounted for approximately 700, and again this year quite a few members did not renew their subscription for one reason or another.

Service men and women now returning from active service are not joining our ranks as freely as they should. However, we are doing everything possible to seek their membership.

It is not enough merely to seek the membership of younger generations. Service men and women now returning from active service are not joining our ranks as freely as they should. However, we are doing everything possible to seek their membership.

We must be closely examined.

Surely members must recognize and accept this challenge, and each do his part by enlisting at least one new member this year.

Under the chairmanship of the Senior Vice-President, Mr Len Phenna, the membership sub-committee has been very active in promoting membership of the League.

The introduction of an Informative Membership brochure has so far proved most successful. The brochures, available at Anzac House, are for energetic sub-branches holding membership drives.

The sub-committee has made numerous visits to metropolis and country sub-branches to assist in matters of welfare, holding, representation and membership.

The life-blood of the organisation is membership, which is essential to ensure that those who served their country and suffered as a result are suitably compensated.

The League is far from finished; for members who serve the cause are well aware that the work is beginning all over again. They have never been more alive to their responsibilities.

Aged Soldiers’ Fund

The Aged Soldiers’ Fund is currently making grants to 94 veterans, this being an increase on last year of 16.

Expenditure for the last financial year was $5,400.

Early in 1970 applications were reviewed and in most cases increased.

The fund is in a very sound position, with an increase in assets of $5,786.

The A.C. Day Trust allocation was $2,475, and Poppy Day proceeds $3,691.

Amelioration

During the year this committee under the leadership of Mr Ralph Stoddart, has assisted more than 350 cases, 120 of which involved immediate relief.

Funds have been made available to secure board and lodging, assist men to obtain employment in the country by providing rail tickets and meals.

Many indigent cases have been helped daily: men seeking employment have been found work, with complete co-operation from the Commonwealth Employment Service, the Good Neighbour Council, Red Cross and Churches. On many occasions we have had to rely on the Salvation Army, Church of England, Roman Catholic and Church of Christ to find refuge for men unable to obtain accommodation because of their condition.

The League imported an invalid chair for a spastic child in the country and this assisted the parents to move the child more easily to physiotherapy treatment.

At present assistance is being given to an inincurably sick ex-service man by providing additional food and books for the schoolchilden, also medication. The local C.M.F. padre is a regular visitor to the home and keeps the League informed of the patient’s condition.

Assistance has also been rendered to families overseas and interstate by representing them at funerals.

The British Commonwealth Ex-Service League, in conjunction with the Royal Naval Benevolent Fund and the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund (England) have assisted British migrants who have found themselves destitute through no fault of their own.

These people have also received assistance from the League whilst awaiting help from England. Alternative homes have been found, medical treatment arranged, and some admitted to hospitals. High rents have created hardship among migrants and in some cases have led to severe illness.

Recently a patient was taken off a liner at Fremantle en route to New Zealand and admitted to hospital. His family had to continue to N.Z. and arriving destitute were helped by the Returned Service Association of N.Z.

The family was found accommodation and paid $2,000 for their furniture to be landed.

The League in W.A. provided $50 towards the family’s upkeep and was helped after the patient in Perth with assistance from the Women’s Auxiliary and the Welfare Officer at Anzac House.

Investigations have been made, on behalf of the B.C.E.L., as far afield as Iceland. Grants have been made by B.C.E.L. so far, which the League may assist, to migrants to rehabilitate themselves, or with funeral expenses, or help liquidate debt.

These grants amount to $1,400.

Financial assistance given by the League to ex-servicemen in W.A. amounts to $7,700.
Housing

The sub-committee has met 13 times during the year and dealt with 32 applications, many of them serious hardship cases. Most applicants have been referred to the State Housing Commission, or the War Service Homes division, and it is pleasing to note that the League has been successful in resolving all cases referred to the Commission.

The League is still pressing the Commonwealth Government for housing of single Service Pensioners and War Widows, as there is at the moment a great demand for this type of accommodation.

The Housing Sub-Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr Ralph Stoddart, continues to look into matters relating to War Service Homes. The League receives every co-operation from the War Service Homes Department and the State Housing Commission.

The Housing Committee has requested the Director of War Service Homes to obtain suitable low-priced land for eligible applicants and has asked for the loan to be increased from $5,000 to $12,000.

The sub-committee requests the War Service Homes Director to build blocks of home-units for purchase by eligible ex-service men and women. It recommends an approach to the Federal Minister for Housing stating that the League takes strong exception to the re-introduction of the artificial time-lag of six months for eligible ex-servicemen who wish to purchase existing homes.

The Housing Sub-Committee recommends that British ex-service men and women should be eligible to purchase a War Service home.

We are most grateful to the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League for encouraging local ex-servicemen to purchase their own homes after the husband's death, and also assisting in liquidating outstanding debts on houses and contents.

Hospital Visiting

Throughout the year the visiting of sick ex-service men and women has been undertaken by the Women's Auxiliary, sub-branch representatives, unit associations and the Corps of Hospital Visitors.

Visits in the main have been to the Repatriation General Hospital, Hollywood.

It is regretted that scant response has been received to the appeal made to metropolitan sub-branches during December 1969 to assist in continued visits to Hollywood Hospital and the ever-growing number of aged and sick ex-servicemen resident at C class hospitals, rest homes and other institutions.

The Hospital Visiting Committee is confident that members acknowledge it a duty to be interested in the welfare of less fortunate ex-servicemen.

Mt. Lawley-Inglewood sub-branch members, following a survey of C-class hospitals conducted in the Mt. Lawley district, have undertaken to visit all ex-service patients.

Women's Auxiliary

Representatives of the auxiliary continued with unflagging interest to visit Hollywood, Royal Perth and other hospitals or institutions.

Your committee, on behalf of the League, desires to express thanks and appreciation to the Women's Auxiliary for their outstanding and continued contribution to the welfare of sick ex-servicemen.

Sub-branch Activities

Eighteen metropolitan sub-branches working to a prepared roster continued to visit the major hospitals and institutions, country hospitals being covered by local sub-branches. Thanks are expressed to sub-branches which have discharged this duty, and to the nominated sub-branch visitors for their assistance.

Corps of Hospital Visitors

Your committee records its appreciation of the work undertaken by the members of the corps, who during the year under review visited 765 sick ex-service men and women.


A fitting recognition of the corps' activities was the recent well-merited award of the League's Certificate of Service to Messrs Alderman, Boyes and Okely, who have remained with the corps since its inauguration in 1959.

State Executive Representative

Appreciation is expressed to Mr S. A. Macnamara, M.B.E., for completion of another year of extensive activity as visitor for the State Executive and Anzac House.

Country Sub-branches

It is fitting that the work of many country sub-branches should be recorded. Visiting of country hospitals is extensively but quietly undertaken, and as a result may, except for those specially involved, pass unnoticed.

In thanking all who have assisted throughout the year your committee again solicits the aid of members to assist with an unfortunately ever-growing need—visiting the ageing and sick.

Women's Auxiliary

During the year the ladies visited some 15 hospitals to bring cheer and gifts to the patients of whom there are approximately 1,200. No matter in which hospital these patients are they look forward to Women's Auxiliary visits with eagerness.

The auxiliary have raised $1,033 for Hospital Visiting, $701 for Christmas Cheer, donated $652 to the War Veterans' Home maintenance account and $769 for "Adopt A Ward with LegaCY."

For the continued good work the women are doing all over the State we say a humble thank you and trust they will continue to do this wonderful and so necessary work of Welfare. This field is growing and every year we can expect to have more men and women to assist on the way through sickness.

Youth Welfare

OPERATION STAND-IN, conducted on Father's Day with the co-operation of the Officer Commanding H.M.A.S. Leeuwin was again most successful. "Foster Parents" were found for most of the recruits, many families had happy outings and once again Western Australia was "at home" replacing fathers in other States.

A few sub-branches are still conducting youth clubs, and most are fostering community efforts which are very much appreciated.

Sub-branches are making contributions of books to school libraries as a memorial to those who have passed on.

Repatriation

Pension increases granted by the 1969 Budget became effective as from October 1967, it being estimated that 140,000 existing pensions would finally be affected. In addition 20,000 additional Service Pensions could be granted by virtue of the new "applied" means test.

Weekly increases granted included:

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<th>BENEFIT</th>
<th>Old Rate</th>
<th>New Rate</th>
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<tr>
<td>War Pension:</td>
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<td>Special (T.P.I.) Rate (Member)</td>
<td>33.50</td>
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<td>special rate medical sustenance, and rate payable to certain double amputees (Fifth Schedule—Items 1-6)</td>
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<td>Intermediate Rate (Member)</td>
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(Continued overleaf)
Annual Report continued

Although increases granted in certain pension categories were welcomed, the views of the League as publicly expressed by the National President, Sir Arthur Lee, are that the general range of benefits available to ex-servicemen and their dependants—including not only compensation payments but also access to hospital and medical treatment—leaves something to be desired and that an increase in the funeral grants needs further improvement.

Submissions that ex-servicemen who became entitled to the Service Pension under the provisions of the new tapered benefits—their dependants included—fails to receive favourable consideration.

Representations to obtain hospital treatment for all 1914-18 veterans and the right of ex-Imperial Servicemen to qualify for the Service Pension have also failed.

Claims and Appeals.

Appeals tribunals sat at Perth for 32 weeks during the year, 510 appeals being advocated by the League, in addition to written submissions supporting initial claims, appeals to the Repatriation Commission and applications for review of claims previously determined.

Claims and appeals continue to be an important part of the League's activities—a service given gratis to ex-servicemen or their dependants in the interest of League membership.

Repatriation Department.

In November 1969 the Hon. R. McN. Holten, M.P., replaced Senator McKellar as Minister for Repatriation. The news of the death of Senator McKellar in April 1970 was received with regret.

The committee records with regret the death in March of Major-General Sir George Wootten, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., who as chairman of the Repatriation Commission from the early period until his untimely death, gave to the League and the reorganisation of the department to cope with the demobilisation of the armed forces.

The chairman of the Commission, Brigadier Sir Frederick Chilton, C.B.E., D.S.O., retires in July, being succeeded by Mr. Richard Kingsland, C.B.E., D.F.C.

In congratulating Mr. Kingsland on his appointment your committee would record appreciation of the services of the retiring chairman during his period of office for his close liaison between the department and the League was formed.

Work is in hand for the completion of a million-dollar contract for the construction at Hollywood Hospital of a para-medical and occupational therapy day centre.

The ground floor of the para-medical building will house occupational therapy facilities; other areas will be provided for the re-training of patients with restricted mobility and for X-ray and pathology etc. The contract is due for completion by March 1971.

Also under construction is a chilled-water plant for air-conditioning of hospital wards and similar areas.

Your committee is pleased to report the continuation of the policy of obtaining the most modern equipment for the diagnosis and treatment of the ills which beset ex-servicemen and their dependants. This has been reflected not only in the new building programme but also in the installation of modern aid for the Pharmacy, Pathology and X-ray departments.

Special Repatriation officers have been appointed in each branch as liaison officers with ex-servicemen returning from Vietnam and will be known as Vietnam Repatriation Officers.

Your committee welcomes the appointment of Mr. W. J. Paramor as the WA branch holder of this office; his past willingness to assist ex-servicemen and the League gives an assurance that returned Vietnam servicemen will receive consideration, guidance and expert advice on their problems.

The State branch has continued to receive the fullest cooperation and assistance from the department. Visits by the Deputy Commissioner, and senior officers of the department, to country centres have been maintained to the advantage of many who, through distance, are unable to personally discuss their problems or obtain advice on Repatriation entitlements.

Thanks and appreciation is expressed to the Deputy Commissioner (Mr. J. W. Robson), to the Assistant Deputy Commissioners (Majeels, T. M. O'Sullivan and A. W. Pedler) and the Repatriation Staff in general for the generous assistance and advice given.

Vocational Training Scheme.

The scheme, which provides training, is proving valuable in resettling former National Servicemen in civil life.

To date nearly 4,000 applications for training have been received, of which about 3,000 have received approval.

Appreciation is also recorded to the Director of Social Services and officers of his department for assistance and advice given during the year to pension and other entitlements granted under the Social Services Act; to members of the medical profession for advice and medical opinions given to support appeals and claims.

Your Committee is also grateful to sub-branch officers who have assisted it.

The following extracts from the Commission's annual report should bring home to many ex-servicemen the privileges enjoyed through the efforts of the League, and the necessity to maintain a strong membership to assure the continuation of these rights:

- The Repatriation Department employs a total staff of 9,800 embracing a wide variety of professions and trades, in branch offices, hospitals, out-patient clinics, limb and appliance centres etc.
- There will be an increasing need for medical services in the years to come, the cost of medical treatment for the year 1969-70 being $267 million, and the estimated cost of reparation for 1969/70 being $315 million.
- Some 55,000 in-patients were treated in Repatriation Institutions during the year, the average age of patients being 61, and the stay in hospital 9 months.
- A total of more than 2,770,000 Repatriation patients were treated by local doctors, and more than 600,000 visits were made by out-patients to Repatriation institutions.
- Twenty-eight per cent of Australian men over 30 are ex-servicemen with the highest percentage (almost 50) being those in the age group forty-five to forty-nine.
- The total number of war pensions payable at 30th June, 1969 was 600,978, and the number of service ("burnt-out") pensions 67,168.

Operation New Life.

The League's nation-wide effort to collect clothing, garden tools, and household effects for war-ravaged homes in South Vietnam is one of the aims for the League in 1970.

A virile committee has been working very hard in Western Australia and has managed with the assistance of Schoolchildren and Rotary, goods and money are being received for despatch to Vietnamese families.

Donations up to $500 have been received and the money will be used for bulk buying of the most urgent goods required.

The League is very conscious of the wonderful assistance being given by headmasters of all schools, and sub-branches are collecting articles for despatch to the Supply Depot at Karrakatta where they are packed and forwarded to Vietnam via Sydney.

There has been some criticism of this type of assistance but the League has been assured by the Army Department and Civil Aid Unit in Vietnam that the efforts are a worthwhile contribution. Approximately 90 per cent of civilian needs are being contributed through the R.S.L. in this way.

Staff.

There have been changes in staff since last year in that Mr. Harold Hall retired on 30th June after 20 years' service with the League.

With untiring devotion to service he has held nearly every position in the office, the main one however being that of Pension Officer. In this field he has excelled himself to become widely known as one of the finest advocates in the League. He has given devoted service and assisted countless men and women in many ways.

An informal and Auxiliary State Executive gathering Mr. Hall was presented with a silver tray, glasses and decanter as a token of appreciation.

Mr. Hall has been succeeded by Mr. Norman McLeod. Mrs McLeod has replaced Mrs Shirley as senior typist and secretary to the State Secretary. They are settling down well and with the co-operation of Executive and sub-branch officials can be expected to give considerable service.

To the staff for support given the Executive and the League in general.

Group Conferences.

Four district group conferences were held during the year, the first at Armadale which was most successful, both business-wise and socially. Here we had the Deputy Commis-
sioner of Repatriation and Chief Administrative Officer of the War Service Homes present.

Business followed a civic reception. During the evening a delightful buffet was provided with an interesting social function and good attendance.

The second conference, held at Morawa, also followed a civic reception to delegates, after which business was discussed.

The Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation and Chief Administrative Officer were again on hand for a detailed discussion.

The next conference was at Margaret River, where we were again entertained by the Shire President—who sat out the deliberations—and his staff. There was an exceptionally good roll-up with the Repatriation and Housing Commission representatives again giving excellent talks about their departments and answering questions.

On the last occasion, at Bletch-Palmyra, there was a very good all-round discussion on a variety of topics.

The State President made a considerable increase in wages, provisions for holiday pay, pay-roll tax, cleaning, etc., and to keep these to a minimum very close control is necessary. In this field the Anzac House and Club Management Committee are constantly making every endeavour to maintain the standard of the Club, although being restricted to a tight budget.

Club Amenities.

The usual provision of cards, magazines and daily papers, together with refreshments for members at the after-work periods continues. Entertainment was also provided at various intervals during the year.

A buffet meal is provided between noon and 2 p.m. each day at a reasonable price. Thanks must go to one or two very good workers who have done an excellent job. The money for amenities.

For Miss Anzac Club, the Miss Crowning Glory entrant, $601 was raised and in addition to this $200 was donated to the War Veterans' Home for the Charlie Mitchell Room.

Also, a small amount was sent to the Perus Earthquake appeal. The bank balance at the end of the year was $5,110.

State Executive.

During the year there were six Life Membership awards, 39 Certificates of Merit, and one Certificate of Appreciation.

The State Executive tendered informal receptions to the State Executive members of the Women's Auxiliary, a farewell function to the U.S. Consul Earl Cleaveland, a reception for the Dean of Perth (the Rev. John Hazelwood), for the British High Commissioner, Sir Charles Johnston K.C.M.G.; Mr. John Lacey, new Consul for the U.S.; Brigadier Larkin C.B.E., O.B.E., Commander Western Command; the Most Rev. G. Sarnell, B.A., Th. Sec., Archbishop of Perth; The Minister for the Army, Mr. Peacock M.P.; Mr. A. H. Birch, C.M.G., O.B.E., Deputy British High Commissioner; Mr. A. Jocobsen, A.F.C., Trade Commissioner for New Zealand; Air Commodore A. E. Mather, D.F.C., A.F.C., A.D.C., Officer Commanding R.A.A.F. Pearson; Rear-Admiral David Welch, Commander U.S. Antarctic Force, who was visiting Perth in connection with Coral Sea Celebrations; the High Commissioner showed a movie of his Excellency Tansiri Donald Stephens, P.D.K., P.N.B.S.; the Ambassador of Turkey, His Excellency, Mr. M. Baydur.

Honours and Awards.

We are very pleased indeed to offer our congratulations to our esteemed Premiers, Sir David Brand, K.C.M.G., for the honour bestowed upon him by Her Majesty the Queen, and to our Lord Mayor, Mr. Thomas Warde, K.B. Both of these gentlemen have been a tower of strength to the League in many ways.

Other honours recipients who have given sterling service to the League are Mr. M. Finke, Chairman; C.R.E., A.F.C., past president of the League; Brigadier G. Larkin, C.B.E., O.B.E., Commander, Western Command; Mr. G. E. Aberle (of Bardon-Palmyra sub-branch) B.E.M., M.M.; Mr. H. L. Wilkinson, B.E.M. (sec. of T.P.I. Association); and the R.S.L. National Secretary Mr. A. G. W. Keys, O.B.E., M.C., J.P.

Official Visits.

As State President I have personally attended:
- Various sub-branches, some having been visited on more than one occasion.
- Four group conferences—at Armadale, Morawa, Margaret River and Bardon-Palmyra—giving me direct contact with many additional sub-branches.

(Continued overleaf)
Annual Report continued

- Numerous public functions, and made various official calls, which, added to committee meetings and attendance at National Congress and four National Executive meetings in Canberra, has meant a very full year.

A very memorable occasion was when I led the delegation to Canberra to meet Her Majesty the Queen and members of the Royal family at a function on Anzac Day at R.S.L. National Headquarters.

The delegation consisted of my wife and myself, Mr. and Mrs. L. Phemister, Dr. and Mrs. A. King, Mr. and Mrs. M. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. R. Stoddart, and Mr. Sid Macamara. This was a wonderful experience which could only be appreciated by being a part of the celebration, which included a Royal Garden Party at Government House, Canberra.

A second memorable occasion was the laying of the 51st Bn. A.I.F. plaque in the undercroft of the State War Memorial.

A third was the presentation of the R.S.L. Trophy to the 16th Royal Western Australian Regiment at Bindaun.

A fourth was the presentation of the first R.S.L. trophy to No 2 Flying School at Pearce.

A fifth was the presentation of the Sword of Honour to the winning Cadet Officer at the Officer Cadet Cadre at Karra-katta.

I have also valued the opportunity of visiting, and addressing, Regular Army units and making visits to training establishments. All of these visits have also visited and addressed the Wongi Club, which consists of wives, mothers and sweethearts of serving men in Vietnam.

Australian Overseas Forces Fund

A further drive for funds for this project was made in 1969 and the amount raised increased to $85,000. In addition to meeting our share of the costs of administration, amenities and comforts in overseas theatres of operation we sent a further Concert Party to the Far East. This venture was very well received by both American and Australian servicemen.

Food parcels were forwarded to the troops at Christmas and Easter, and from the letters received from various servicemen in Vietnam they were very well received and appreciated by the men.

The national chairman of the A.F.O.F., Sir Author Leigh, visited Vietnam in November last and opened our own radio station which was built at a cost of some $20,000. This has proved a huge success and it is hoped for the troops to listen to their own local news, their "Top 40" music, and hear the pick of the sporting news.

He recommended that regular concert parties should continue to visit Vietnam under the banner of A.F.O.F. so that troops might be given a good standard of entertainment. It is also essential for the A.F.O.F. to continue to provide food parcels for the troops.

Sub-branches are reminded that the A.F.O.F. still requires funds to provide amenities and parcels. Donations may be forwarded to Anzac House.

A combined effort by the A.F.O.F. Committee and Western Command provided a Christmas party at Karra-katta for the children of men serving in Vietnam. This proved a tremendous success.

R.S.L. Jubilee Commemorative Fund

In adopting the resolution setting up this fund in 1966 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 national defence wise diplomacy is the most essential ingredient, and that in this area of special interest to Australia it can best be interpreted in closer contacts between the people of the various countries in the region. The second is the development of understanding, the encouragement of mutual assistance, and the pursuit of common aims and common interests.

The second is the practical application and interpretation of the League’s first object: “To perpetuate the close and kindly ties of friendship cemented by mutual service in the wars of the British Commonwealth.”

The establishment of the Jubilee Fund is a recognition that this object can best be promoted by providing some help where it is desperately needed among men who have served in the armed forces of the Commonwealth and now need the assistance that their former comrades-in-arms can give. The programme for the fourth year’s operations of the fund is:

1. MALAYSIA
   (a) A further $3,000 grant to be made available to the Ex-Services Association of West Malaysia through the B.C.E.L. to meet welfare and organisational commitments.
   (b) A total of $10,000 to be made available to the Ex-Services Association of West Malaysia to assist in erecting a National Honour Board and building in Kuala Lumpur. It will meet administrative requirements and provide an income through rentals, with the aim of making E.S.A.W.M. self-supporting, the grant to include the $3,000 allotted from the 1969 and 1970 programmes and $4,000 from the 1971 budget.

2. SINGAPORE
   Two youth leadership courses to be made available under arrangements concluded with National Fitness Council.

3. PAPUA & NEW GUINEA
   (a) A further advance of $2,000 to be administered by the Papua & New Guinea branch to finance 64 scholarships for children of indigenous servicemen in the Territory.
   (b) A grant of $1,000 to provide the deposit for the erection of meeting rooms and restrooms for the all-indigenous R.S.L. sub-branch at Waria, near Lae.
   (c) A grant of $450 for the purchase of a projector for the Waria sub-branch.

4. STUDENT GRANT
   A grant of $5,000 to provide a fare for a group of seven final year medical students from the University of Melbourne to travel to Indonesia and Malaysia to work in hospitals over the university vacation period.

5. BRITISH COMMONWEALTH EX-SERVICES LEAGUE
   (a) A special grant of $1,200 for general B.C.E.L. welfare to again be made available.

6. INDIVIDUAL SPONSORSHIP
   (a) R.S.L. Central Coast Council of sub-branches of the family of a deceased Malayan ex-service man in the Sydney branch of the A.F.O.F.

7. NATIONAL FITNNESS COUNCIL
   The work of the Jubilee Commemorative Fund has now reached a breadth and variety which should be the subject of publicity and promotional material. Since 1967, the first year of the fund’s operations, the R.S.L. has spent approximately $75,000 on international welfare work of various kinds. The work has included welfare grants, scholarships, special aid principally in the organisational field to kindred bodies in neighbouring countries and the general sponsorship of contact between young Australians and young people from countries that were our neighbours in South-East Asia.

The League stands firm by the conviction that, while military action must at times be employed to contain aggression, it is only by the solution of economic and social problems and only through the development of real understanding and friendship that war will eventually become a thing of the past.

The Jubilee Commemorative Fund, and the film about its activities over the last three years will, it is confidently anticipated, be graphic evidence of the League’s support for this great principle. On the practical side it is hoped that the film will be the means by which further moneys can be raised by the welfare work of the R.S.L. at home and abroad.

National Notes

The 54th National Congress was held in Brisbane at which all States and Pupua New Guinea were represented, Sydney is venue for the 55th Congress at end of October.

Resolutions: The 55th National Congress welcomed the Minister in the Executive Committee at Canberra last March and presented its submission in three parts.

(1) War Compensation Plan, which dealt with pensions.
(2) Re-establishment Land-settlement, dealing with men returning from Vietnam.
(3) Re-establishment Land-settlement.

Despite increases in the last two budgets there has been general erosion in contribution payments over the 20 years. The submission asked for:

(a) An exhaustive review of repatriation revisions; review of War and Service pension rates; increase of T.P.I. rates to amount equal to Commonwealth minimum wage, and the
100 p.c. general rate pension to 50 p.c. of the wage. Other
pensions and allowances proportionately.
(b) Free repatriation hospital treatment for all Great War
and Boer War men.
(c) An increase in the funeral grant from $50 to $150.

War Service Homes: We congratulate the State Housing
Commission on recent provision of homes at Cannington at
reasonable cost.

While Paper on Communism: The League is still making an
devotion to have the Government expose front organisa-
tions within Australia.

The Jubilee Commemorative Fund: We are spending $26,500
this year, and our plan for next year is to spend $28,000,
mainly in scholarships in Australia for sons of ex-servicemen
in South-East Asia.

Also, the hand of friendship is being extended to Indonesia
by sending Australian medical students to work in their out-
back.

Public Relations: While military action is necessary to
control aggression it is only by solution of economic and social
problems and the development of real understanding that war
will be overcome. The League is preparing a series of films
the first of which will deal with the J.C. fund and be for use
on TV and film circuits.

International Notes

Disquieting developments continue to come out of the
expansion of both Communist China and Russia. In Thailand,
Cambodia and Laos the clouds are darkening and in the
Middle East and Africa there is little reassuring in the news.
The League in its 1970 Defence Submission recommended:
1. That Australia take bolder initiatives in contributing to
the defence of areas in South-East Asia.
2. That there should be clearly stated recognition that our
military presence in Malaysia-Singapore is vital to our
concept of regional defence and the strength of our forces
should be reviewed to meet developing contingencies.
3. Any programme of withdrawal from Vietnam must be
consistent with the ability of South Vietnam to ensure
her continued security.
4. Every effort must be made for closer co-operation and
friendship with Indonesia, and combined approach to
problems in Papua-New Guinea and West Irian.
5. Progress toward independence in N.G. should be finally
gauged to meet the capacity and will of the people to
assume this.
6. The Russian build-up in the Indian Ocean should be closely
watched.
7. Australia should take new initiatives in diplomacy to
strengthen old agreements, especially the U.S. and ANZUS
partnership.
8. There should be an increase in civil aid and encourage-
ment to private organisations to develop a greatly in-
creased people-to-people programme as distinct from
Government-sponsored activities.
9. Our regular forces be given increased mobility, flexibility
and fire-power.
10. The C.M.F. should be given greater incentives to imagina-
tive training, improved facilities and better conditions.
11. National Service should be progressively expanded and
should include civilian service.
12. Bold decisions should be taken on the defence of our
international approaches, involving co-operation with
United States, New Zealand and possibly Japan.
13. Investigation of means by which peaceful facilities can be
developed for strategic purposes, especially ship-building,
aircraft production and transport and communication.
14. We should sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty sub-
ject to safeguards.
15. Much more should be done through public relations media
to encourage full Australian awareness of the role and
responsibility this country must accept for a great future.

The Year Ahead

Let us address ourselves with vigour, in the year ahead, to:
- Further development of works planned for our Veterans' 
  Home, with feasibility study of its extension in other areas.
- Finalisation of plans for the future of Anzac House.
- Effective pursuit of aid programmes.
- Further injection of enthusiasm for the Miss Crowning
  Glory quest.
- Prosecution of a progressive membership-drive among sub-
  branches.
- The fostering of loyalty to Queen and country.

P. PEARSON, J.P., State President.
Service Pension

A Safety Bay sub-branch motion that the Service Pension be increased by an amount commensurate with the recent super-annuation increase was adopted at Congress last month.

It was argued that this would bring the pension into line with the current Cost-of-living Index figure.

Other pension-motions agreed to were:
- That Service Pensioners be allowed an additional $500 a year of total income without affecting the pension (Safety Bay).
- That Service Pensioners, on reaching the age of 70 years, be eligible for the T.P.I. Pension (Safety Bay).
- That recipients of disability allowances should receive fringe benefits irrespective of other allowances or pensions (Rockingham).

R.S.L. BALL

At Congress last month the State President advised delegates that a R.S.L. Ball would be held at the Subiaco Civic Centre on October 1.

Mr Pearson called for a full representation of country and metropolitan sub-branches to make the occasion the “ball of the year.”

Double ticket $12, including refreshments.

Straying stock

A motion asking for review of the law on stock straying on roads was passed at Congress last month.

It was submitted by the Northampton sub-branch. Its aim is to have negligent stock-owners made liable for damage caused.

It was argued that present-day speed and traffic densities made the need for review more pressing than ever.

16th Battalion

The Anzac Day march and gathering at the Railway Institute were well up to previous years’ standard. The committee especially wish to thank the women’s auxiliary for the catering arrangements.

Mr Bert Arnold was presented with a life-membership certificate during the Anzac Day celebrations. Many of his “clients” at Hollywood Hospital know how well he has earned it.

In the last issue of these notes the writer erroneously reported that Mr G. Simcock celebrated his 60th wedding in April. It should have read 50th.

Mr W. Truran has shifted to Darwin; the committee will miss him.

It is pleasing to note the number of visitors to both the committee and auxiliary meetings. Members and their wives are welcome at these meetings, held the third Monday afternoon of the month at the Railway Institute.

Home by air?

The State branch of the League is to ask for air transport for service personnel travelling interstate on home leave.

This was decided at Congress last month.

The idea is for first- and second-class air fares to replace second-class rail fares.

The time-factor was deemed to be more worthy of consideration than the cost involved.
NEW CALL FOR NAVAL BASE

For years State Congress has been pressing for the establishment of a naval base on the western seaboard. It has not tired of asking and last month it supported a fresh request for a base—from Press sub-branch.

The sub-branch also found support for a request for the setting up of a National Service training centre in W.A.

A Millen motion for seeking the formation of a training battalion here was also successful.

He led Poles in M.E., Italy

General Władysław Anders, K.C.B. (77), Commander-in-chief of the Polish Second Corps with the Eighth British Army during the World War and leader of Poles in exile, died in London on May 12 this year.

A great patriot, he served Free Poland during war and peace. In 1914 he was called up for national service in the Russian cavalry. At that time Poland was not independent but divided into three zones—Russian, German and Austrian.

As a young cavalry officer he fought against Germans (1915-1918) and proved his ability to lead. In 1918 when Poland regained independence, Władysław Anders joined the newly formed Polish Army.

After the Russian revolution the Communist Red Army invaded Poland (1919). Anders took part in the desperate struggle for the freedom of his country.

Victory in 1920 saved Europe from the spread of communism over the Free World. Colonel Anders, as commander of a cavalry regiment, for his bravery was awarded the silver cross of Virtuti Militari (equivalent to VC).

When Poland was invaded in 1939 he fought Hitler’s forces and Soviet troops as commander of a cavalry brigade. The Soviet Army took him prisoner (1939) and he spent 20 months in Lublinka gaol, in Moscow.

At that time over one million Polish citizens were taken by force to the Soviet Union to work in slave camps and settlements.

When the war broke out between Germany and the Soviet Union (1941), and after the treaty agreement between Churchill and Stalin, the 2nd Polish Corps was organised in the Soviet Union. Men from the slave camps flocked to this army.

General Anders was released from Lublinka gaol to take command of the 2nd Polish Corps. This Polish corps (50,000 officers and men), under Gen. Anders, was evacuated from the Soviet Union to the Middle East (Iran) in 1942 through the Caspian Sea.

Finally, Anders joined the Allies and his 2nd Polish Corps played an important part in the Italian campaign, capturing Monte Cassino, Piedimonte, Ancona and Bologna.

General Anders—war hero, eight times wounded, many times decorated—after the war chose exile in Britain with thousands of other Poles rather than return to a communist-rulled Poland.

Lord St. Oswald, paying tribute to General Anders in the House of Lords said: “General Anders and a communist-rulled Władysław Anders should be known well in this unhappy, but always dignified, role. He is to be buried, most fittingly, at Monte Cassino, where he commanded the Poles in their heroic and historic assault, and he deserves to lie among his fallen comrades wrapped in his fame on the site of a noble victory.”

A Commemoration Mass was celebrated at St. Brigid’s Roman Catholic Church, West Perth, on June 7.

Lieut-Col. L D. Lee represented the British Ex-Service Association, and Mr Dawe the R.S.L.

Means Test "shot at"

There should be no means test for ex-service people applying for the Service Pension (Age Pension at age of 60 instead of 65) in the opinion of State Congress.

It adopted a motion to this effect from the Mandurah sub-branch.

On the motion of the Press sub-branch it also agreed that the War-disability Pension should be disregarded in applying the means test to applicants for Social Service pensions.

Games night at Shenton Park

The Shenton Park and Scarborough sub-branches have a Games Night recently, Shenton Park being the hosts.

The games—bowls and darts—turned out to be fairly, remained to be fairly, remained to be fairly popular.

Refreshments and supper were served buffet style and a good time was had by all.

Shenton Park will have a return match at Scarborough in the near future, as this is the regular form with these sub-branches.
ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICES

FEDERATED T.B. SAILORS AND AIRMEN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION (W.A. BRANCH) — 2nd Floor, Wellington Buildings, 138 William St., Perth; Second Monday, President, G. Chandler. Secretary, G. Blesley (5096).

SOUTH AFRICAN AND IMPERIAL VETERANS ASSOCIATION—Members meet in Anzac House basement, third Monday at 2 p.m. President H. Wilkins, 107 Geraldton Parade, Mt. Pleasant (64087).

ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION OF W.A.—Meetings third Thursday each month at 7 p.m. President, W. Bower. Secretary, A. S. Heales, 25 Wilcox-street, Applecross.

16TH BATTALION & 4TH BRIGADE ASSOCIATION—Meetings commence Third Monday (2 p.m.) at Railway Institute (main hall) last month in Anzac House. President, Roy Collins, 134 Vasse-street, Applecross. Secretary, W. B. Kyle, Box 83059, G.P.O. Perth.

16TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION—President—R. R. Christensen, 16 Guy Place, Melville (50917). Secretary—L. Anderson, 11 Kinchela Street, Shenton Park (19781). Treasurer—J. Russell, 56 Lockhart-street, Como. "Pigeon Post" quarterly with notice of meeting to be held in Anzac House, to be given to members.


2/4TH BATTALION ANZAC ASSOCIATION—Meetings second Monday each month in Anzac House. President, Roy Collins. Secretary, W. B. Kyle, Box 83059, G.P.O. Perth.


2/16TH BATTALION ANZAC ASSOCIATION—Meetings Third Monday each month at 7 p.m. President, W. Bower. Secretary, A. S. Heales, 25 Wilcox-street, Applecross.

L.B.A. (ROYAL ARTILLERY) S.A.—Meetings Third Monday each month at 7 p.m. President, H. D. Smith. Secretary, G. Blesley (5096).


L.B.A. 2/2ND BATTALION ANZAC ASSOCIATION—Meetings fourth Tuesday each month at 7 p.m. President, W. Bower. Secretary, A. S. Heales, 25 Wilcox-street, Applecross.

2ND BATTALION ANZAC ASSOCIATION—Meetings second Tuesday each month at 7 p.m. President, W. Bower. Secretary, A. S. Heales, 25 Wilcox-street, Applecross.

L.B.A. 16TH BATTALION ANZAC ASSOCIATION—Meetings second Tuesday every month at 7 p.m. President, W. Bower. Secretary, A. S. Heales, 25 Wilcox-street, Applecross.

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'Give them a go,' says Congress

The State branch of the League is to press for immediate implementation by the Commonwealth of the League's War Compensation Plan.

This seeks improved pension benefits for ex-servicemen.

This was decided at Congress at the request of the City of Perth sub-branch.

Its delegate claimed that the Government had been procrastinating in the matter far too long.

The plan was prepared by the R.S.L. National Executive and presented to the Government some time ago.

Congress also adopted a Northam sub-branch motion asking for Regular Army personnel to be given the same repatriation rights and privileges as National Servicemen.

Other motions agreed to read as follows:
- That Congress strongly condemns the practice of making grants to returning servicemen conditional upon all sorts of contingencies, and emphatically affirms the principle that equality of service entitles all returned personnel to equality of reward for that service (Mr. Barker).
- Where a man served on active service with the British Imperial Forces during World War I then served for a period of years within the A.I.F. (but not war zone) in World War II such service be regarded as continuous, and such persons be eligible for repatriation benefits such as Service Pension and medical benefits (Maylands).
- That the expression "indigent circumstances" be deleted from the terms of the Funeral Benefits grant (Maylands).

St. Quentin Memorial pilgrimage

Mr. Maurice Brisbouf, well-known wool buyer and natives consul in W.A., recently returned from a visit to his homeland where, on behalf of St. Quentin Memorial Committee, he contacted local government authorities at Amiens, Villers Bremen and Peronne, to advise them of the process being made in respect of the projected pilgrimage to Mont St. Quentin.

All of the authorities concerned expressed great satisfaction on learning that the memorial, which had been damaged during the World War, was in process of being restored and they pledged their cooperation in the functions which will be arranged when, in September 1971, a pilgrimage of those interested—particularly members of the 2nd Division—will visit Mont St. Quentin to attend the unveiling and rededication of the memorial.

Visits will be made to other battlefields and centres of particular interest to the A.I.F.

Included in the pilgrimage will be a number of memorials to prisoners, POWs, convicts, and civilians, and in the company of the representatives will be men who served during the World War in France and Belgium.

Anyone interested in details of costs, itinerary etc., should contact Henry K. Kahan, 27 Millson Street, South Perth 615.

Geraldton excels

At the Geraldton Town Council meeting on July 29 Mayor Vic Askew congratulated the R.S.L. sub-branch and auxiliary on what he described as "the grand double."

He said the sub-branch had won the Collett Cup for the ninth time as outstanding country sub-branch, and the auxiliary had won the Country Cup for the fifth successive year to take its tally of seven wins from nine attempts. —B.J.B.

Cleaning up the mess

In a pollution-conscious world it is not surprising that Congress found time to have its say on the subject.

This was by way of adopting two motions, which were as follows:
- That in the interests of national safety this League urges that disposable bottles and metal containers be either abolished or severely restricted due to the injuries that can be inflicted on the population.
- That this Congress instruct the National Congress to urgently investigate the growing menace of air, water and environmental pollution and to make representation to the Federal and State Governments to institute a strict control on all types of pollution that are affecting the continuance of the human race.

Award for leadership

The State President (Mr. Percy Pearson) is seen here congratulating Pilot Officer Rhys James, of W.A., on winning the R.S.L. Trophy for highest qualities of leadership at No. 2 Flying Training School at Pearce on May 28.

This was the first time the R.S.L. here had made a presentation to the Air Force.

The League has presented awards to the Naval Academy in Victoria, the Royal Military College, Duntroon, and presents a Sword of Honour each year at the Officers Training Cadre, Western Command.

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