$17,606 raised by Crowning Glory entrants

The 1970 Miss Crowning Glory quest has been concluded and the R.S.L. Veterans’ Home and Legacy will again share substantial proceeds—$17,606. There were 26 finalists.

This brings the grand total of funds raised by means of the competition since its inception 12 years ago to $146,636. Altogether 341 young ladies have participated.

A remarkable year’s work was brought to a dazzling climax as the winners of the 1970 Quest were crowned by the Premier of Western Australia, Sir David Brand, K.C.M.G.

The crowning took place in the studios of STW Channel 9 on Saturday, 14th November, after a busy round of engagements by all the girls concerned. The ceremony followed the judging held in the Anzac House ballroom on Thursday, November 12.

The finalists were filmed in King’s Park, admired the view and had morning tea at the Legacy Look-out, were treated to a barbecue lunch and finished off with a visit to Legacy House in South Perth.

All these proceedings formed part of the telecast.

The girls were also interviewed individually by television commentator Lloyd Lawson.

This year’s awards went to the three top fundraisers.

Miss Suzanne Mann was crowned Miss Crowning Glory. Her interests include tennis, swimming and dancing and she is employed in the Clerical Staff and Drawing Office at Tom Price. She was sponsored by the newly-formed Tom Price sub-branch.

Miss Lesley Pearce, a stenographer from Albany, and was sponsored jointly by the Albany R.S.L. and Legacy branches. She was the highest fund-raiser outside the metropolitan area.

Miss Lesley Pearce won prizes valued at $1,260, including a return Ansett Jet holiday for two to Surfers’ Paradise with two weeks’ hotel expenses and spending money and furniture from Super Tim Pty. Ltd.

Miss Sandra Anderson, of Palmyra, was crowned Miss Charity Princess. Miss Anderson works as a computer documents clerk and depending on her own committee did a fine job in raising $2,051.

The organising committee wishes to thank all those who contributed to the success of the 1970 quest, including the judges, the “Sunday Times” and Miss Anna Marsden, Channel 9, and Mr. Tony Howes and his concert party (which entertained 290 friends and guests at Anzac House during the judging).

The committee has already started planning next year’s Crowning Glory quest and urges sub-branches to continue to give their utmost support to the obligation of caring for the dependents of those who served and died for their country, and to the aged veterans who need security and peace in their declining years.

BOOK AWARD: The State President, Mr. Pearson, attended the Marching-out parade at Pearce on 17th September and presented the R.S.L. Book to Midshipman A. F. Wright, of Victoria.
League praised for opposing "dictator ideologies"

(The report taken from ON GUARD, Broken Hill)

The Minister for Repatriation, Mr Holten (pictured right), said recently that Australia would eventually be grateful to the R.S.L. for its warnings on the threat of communism.

He was opening the R.S.L. Congress at Maryborough, Queensland.

He said there were very few national organisations dedicated to such work for the welfare of people that received so much unwarranted criticism as the R.S.L.

Not too many outside the League fully appreciated its work and the good that resulted.

He said "The League performs a very great service working against communism. People who belong to the R.S.L. have fought against mighty military machines trying to conquer countries, including Australia, and know what the threat of a dictator ideology such as communism means. "Without reservation I say that Australia should be, and one day will be, thankful it has an organisation with the strength, courage and awareness possessed and displayed by the R.S.L. to help keep Australians and their government alert to the communist threat."

Mr Holten said there were some Australians who wanted to see a communist victory in South-East Asia, and Australia under communist rule. Their voices and propaganda methods were growing and Australia needed all the opposition it could raise to counter their insidious and clever tactics.

He doubted whether any person could intelligently believe that the advance of communism would stop at the borders of South-East Asian countries if Vietnam fell.

The Minister assured that he would "use every endeavour and argument" in pre-budget discussions to improve repatriation benefits. The R.S.L. was one of a number of organisations that had forwarded detailed submissions seeking greater benefits.

The R.S.L. proposals alone would cost about $102 million a year, and above the estimated $350 million for the present compensation service and administration costs.

"You will agree, I think, that I would be very optimistic to expect that this result would be anywhere near capable of achievement," Mr Holten said.

"However, I can tell you that the funeral grants, the General Rate pension, the T.P.I. rate and War Widows' pension in particular are receiving my very close attention."

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R.S.L. MEMBERS. Your 1971 subscription ($3) becomes due on January 1. Payment may then be made either to your sub-branch secretary or at Anzac House, Perth.

DON'T—
• Wear a badge with no financial clip.
• Wear a badge with a clip years old.

DO—
• Wear your badge with pride.

Your badge deserves a financial clip.
The League needs your membership.

If you yourself don't need the League at the moment, one of your old service mates does. The League is only as strong as its membership.

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NAME .
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Army action saves Wiltshire landmarks

Report by courtesy of the “Southern Evening Echo,” Wiltshire (Eng.).

The Army has saved a Wiltshire landmark—the regimental badges cut on the hillside above the Salisbury - Shaftesbury road.

They have been in grave danger of obliteration, it is said. But a face-lift by men of the 30th Signals Regt. from Blandford, pitching camp locally, has completed the awesome job of refurbishing, trimming and relatchalking—real gardener’s nightmare.

The badges are well-known to motorists on the A30 from London to the West Country if only to give a suggestive sight of what makes most people wonder just who cut them out, and why.

It was in 1916 that the London Rifle Brigade had its first bright idea of cutting its regimental badge in the chalk. Soon other units were following suit with their own designs.

The top of the hill made progress difficult, and work, which began at 4 a.m. in summer, had to stop at 7 am when the rifle ranges opened for business.

The badge first had to be marked out to scale. The turf was then cut, removed and replaced by chalk from adjacent pits. To give some idea of the work involved, it took three months to finish the 6th City of London Rifle Brigade—overall 150ft.

As relaxation the work-workers would toboggan down the hill on their shovels after the morning work.

The road passes what was a huge first-world-war training area. Twelve camps were built—a small town of huts, canteens, roads, power stations, paradegrounds, rifle ranges, a cinema and railway track linked to the main line.

After the war it became one of the largest de-mobilisation centres in the country. Part had been used by German POW’s.

Now it is all agricultural land again and nothing remains of its former glory—except those badges.

Not all veterans are old

Facts and figures given recently by the Minister for Repatriation (Mr. Holten) revealed that there were only 286 Boer War veterans surviving in Australia as at September 1970, with an average age of 88.8 years.

There were 79,300 survivors of the Great War with an average age of 79.4 years.

From the World War there were 714,000 survivors with an average age of 52.6 years. These figures indicate that the League still has much to do.

In Western Australia there were 52,000 men and women eligible to be members of the R.S.L. and yet there are only 13,000 financial members of the League.

If it was possible to make non-members aware of the great amount of work done by the R.S.L. for the ex-service men and women no doubt many more would want to join.

Financial members, therefore, are urged to do their utmost to enrol one new member during the coming months.

At Fovant one group of badges commemorates the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, the Y.M.C.A., the 6th City of London Rifles and the Australian Imperial Force; another group shows the Wiltshire Regiment, the London Rifle Brigade, the Post Office Rifles and the Devonshire Regiment.

At Sutton Mandeville the crests of the 7th City of London Regiment and the Royal Warwicks can be seen; and at Compton Chamberlayne an enormous map of Australia is outlined.

When the camps finally closed the work of maintaining the badges remained.

Regimental funds and the Australian Government helped by paying for local labour: however, some of the crests disappeared entirely.

The second world war, however, brought work to a standstill. Not until 1948 was an effort at restoration made by the Fovant Home Guard Old Comrades. And the following years saw the addition of the Wiltshire Regiment and the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, the two crests not cut during the first world war.

Now, thanks to the men of the 30th Signals Regiment, all is well again; the unique memorial to first-world-war soldiers is preserved.
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THE CHEAP GROCER

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Former foes in common commemoration

At a ceremony at Wewak on Sunday, September 13, to mark the 25th anniversary of the Japanese surrender there, former foes stood shoulder to shoulder.

Among many distinguished visitors for the occasion were the United States Ambassador to Australia (Mr Walter L. Rice) and General Suki- yama. Representing the R.S.L. National President (Sir Arthur Lee) the W.A. State President, Mr P. Pearson, said:

We are assembled to-day in this historic place in very different circumstances to which some of you—Americans, Japanese and others—were here 25 years ago. At that time Lieutenant-General H. C. H. Robertson, then commanding the Sixth Australian Division, accepted the sword of Lieutenant-General Adachi, commander of the Japanese Eighteenth Army.

At that point of time Australians and Japanese faced one another with varying degrees of suspicion, resentment, hatred, fear, exaltation, pride, sorrow, bitterness, but with a feeling of relief that the one of the former years was over. A quarter of a century has passed, another generation has been raised in each of our countries made up of young people who do not understand the bitterness of war but which has mellowed with the passing of the years, so that we are now prepared to come together in this act of remembrance.

What each man did for his country at that time he did with a sense of duty.

Some of the acts performed by the Japanese in the treatment of Australian prisoners-of-war we found abhorrent in the extreme.

NEW APPEARANCE

Since the war however, we believe a new Japanese nationalism arising based on a democracy akin to our own in the countries, and it is in this context that we Australians are pleased to be associated with our former enemies today.

We all, I am sure, look forward to a time when there can be the same relationship between Japan and Australia as existed during World War I.

Then in friendship we together faced a common enemy, Japan using her warships to patrol Australian waters to allow Australian ships to join those of the Royal Navy in the Mediterranean. One would hope, as we come together in mutual understanding through trade and educational and professional exchanges, that we can come to trust each other more and so cement a relationship as will make war against one another impossible; and that as economically stable countries in this Pacific region we can provide a stabilising influence in association with the United States of America, and New Zealand, that will provide a bulwark against communist expansion.

If we have come here today to relive the events of 25 years ago, and to open old scares in our minds, then our coming is unworthy.

UNDERSTANDING

If we come in remembrance, acknowledging the war, terror, and folly of war, acknowledging the real brotherhood of man, and are prepared to accept the other as equally a creature of God, and have determined in our hearts and minds to dedicate ourselves for the cause of creating international understanding, then our coming is both worthy and meaningful.

But where do we go from here? It will be the young people of our two countries who will consider the young people of the world, who can change the pattern of the world, who will ultimately usher in the day when international differences be removed around the conference table.

If we work hard enough at the task it could be that the historians of the future will be able to record that in this late twentieth century, and onward, we worked together to establish the first world of universal peace, and justice, and freedom.

May the memory of this occasion, then, inspire us in our determination to direct our energies and our talents to this end, for if we can accomplish this, we will have achieved the interest of all those who paid the supreme sacrifice and whose bravery and devotion to duty we remember today.

The Repatriation Minister, Mr Holten, representing the Prime Minister, said the ceremony celebrated the culmination of 25 years earlier of a hard-fought combat which lasted about three years nine months.

It was appropriate to acknowledge not only the gallant actions of the Sixth Division but also the determination and teamwork of all Australian ex-service men and women who achieved the victory signed, sealed and delivered by the signing of the surrender document at this place on September 13, 1945,” he said.

The Papua-New Guinea war campaign had brought out in Australian service men and women very highly respected qualities courage, intelligence, stamina and coolness.

These qualities were the result of the experiences of war and the energy-sapping climate of the rain forest.

Mr Holten said payment to “our great allies, the United States of America”.

The surrender ceremony should serve as a reminder that Australia would not be deterred or defeated by any means or by battles.
The 1970 National Congress was held in Sydney from 26th to 30th October and proved to be a memorable occasion.

Following a wreath-laying ceremony at the Hyde Park Memorial, Congress was opened by the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Roden Cutler, V.C., President of the A.C.T. branch of the R.S.L. and also Slate Secretary of the New South Wales branch.

It was significant that greetings were sent from Her Majesty the Queen, His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, the Earl Mountbatten of Burma, and many others.

Two public relations films dealing with the work of the R.S.L. were premiered and one which drew particular attention was entitled: "What Changed Manuel Perera."

It is hoped that copies of these films will shortly be available to all States for cinema and television presentation.

In the election of officers the National President, his deputy and the National Treasurer and National Solicitor were all re-elected unopposed.

There were 269 agenda items, 47 of them from Western Australia.

Some of the main points are listed here—under:

**Constitution**

The new draft of the League's constitution was accepted and will be submitted in its present form to the Attorney-General for approval. At the same time it will go back to the States for perusal by their legal officials.

It will then be referred to the National Executive meeting in February with any amendments which may be required.

It is hoped that by the time delegates go to the 1971 Congress this will be under the new constitution.

**Membership**

A motion by South Australia to widen the eligibility to include any person receiving honourable discharge on completion of service in the Australian Armed Forces was defeated.

**Life-membership and Life-Subscription.**

Two motions for the reduction of fees payable for life-membership and life-subscriptions were referred for National Executive attention.

**Social Services**

Three W.A. motions dealing with liberalisation of the Means Test were carried, as was an item urging the Government to amend the Aged Persons Homes Act to enable service pensioners to be able to be accommodated in aged homes at the age of 60 years instead of the present 65 years.

**Repatriation**

General dissatisfaction was expressed regarding the slight increases in war-compensation as contained in the recent budget. However, the War Compensation Plan will again be presented to the Cabinet next year.

**Pensions**

A W.A. motion requesting the Commonwealth Government to assist new farmers to the extent that their properties be developed to the stage of being fenced, pastured and watered, and appropriate finances being provided similar to the senior W.S.L.S. scheme, was carried.

Also carried was an item for an approach to the Commonwealth Government to alleviate the financial situation of the small W.S.L.S. farmer.

**Migration**

The Restrictive Immigration policy motion, which W.A. asked to be strictly adhered to, was carried, while a motion calling for all Australian ex-servicemen to be eligible to enter England without hindrance was referred to National Executive.

**Ceremonials, commemoration and memorials**

A motion from South Australia requesting the Commonwealth Government to establish Anzac Day as a national remembrance day by the introduction of a single Anzac Day Act to supersede all previous State Anzac Day Acts, was lost.

**Civil Defence**

A Queensland motion, seeking to set aside $2 million for distribution among the States for the employment and training of Civil Defence personnel, was carried.

**Pledge**

A motion amending the Pledge of Allegiance, which New South Wales brought up, was referred to National Executive.

**Defence**

The R.S.L. Defence Sub-committee, as presented to Congress, was carried.

**Pictorial**

Pictured here is Mr John Spendlove, of 417 Marine Terrace, West End, Geraldton.

He is the League's State and North-West Country Vice-President and in the next few months will be visiting various North West towns. He is looking forward to seeing all the League members he can.

A former R.S.L. president at Geraldton Mr Spendlove was appointed to the regional vice-presidential office at State Congress this year.

51st BATTALION

Before the reunion the annual wreath-laying ceremony was held at the Villers Bretonneux Cross in St. George's Cathedral.

Prayers were offered by the Very Rev. Dean John Hazlewood and wreaths laid by Mr E. Wicks and the Consul for France, Mr. G. C. Lefèvre.
More cottages for Veterans’ home

A start has been made with the building of ten new Darby and Joan Cottages at the War Veterans’ Home at Mt. Lawley. This was announced recently by the home board.

This will bring the number of these units for elderly couples to 20, the original ten having been built in 1965.

The new building project includes a plant-house and an up-to-date canteen and other minor additions.

The cottages, situated on the south-west boundary, will command a most attractive view of the lake and the home generally.

The canteen, which will be an addition to the Townshend Recreation Centre, will serve a long-felt want as the present facilities are too limited in size for the holding of adequate stocks.

The Women’s Auxiliary has shown a lively and generous interest in the project.

The plant-house—consisting of a hot-house, shadehouse and tool shed—will be situated on the northern boundary of the homes.

This new amenity has been hailed with delight by the enthusiastic gardeners among the residents, and they and the members of the board are most grateful to Sublaco sub-branch members who have generously offered to bear the cost of the plant-house, which should be of outstanding therapeutic value to the residents.

Providing accommodation for male and female war veterans and war widows, the home was opened on its present site in 1961.

In 1965 ten domestic units (the first of the Darby and Joan cottages) were built and the following year the chapel was added.

The medical centre (providing for the care of 12 residents at a time) was opened by Health Minister MacKinnon two years ago.

There are about 140 residents at the home at present.

THE R.S.L. BALL A GREAT SUCCESS

The first R.S.L. Ball for many years was held on 1st October at Sublaco Civic Centre.

This proved to be a very successful function socially, though: it has been decided by the State Executive to make the ball an annual event (although it will probably be held a little earlier in the year.

[So chaps, put a note in your diary for August next year (mind your pockets though): if your wife may want to buy two new dresses in case she can’t make up her mind which one to wear —you know what these women are like) and we will hope to see you all there next year. — Ed.]

* Shown at right enjoying the ball are Mrs C. P. Fernie (left), whose husband is on the R.S.L. Executive at Yokine, and her stepdaughter, Mrs I. L. Smith, whose husband is on service in Vietnam.

R.S.L. Trophy goes to Queensland

Advice has been received that the R.S.L. Challenge Trophy has this year been awarded to the Queensland University R.S.L. Regiment.

The runner-up was the 10th Royal South Australian Regiment.

The R.S.L. trophy is presented each year to the best C.M.F. unit in Australia.

Last year it was won by the Northern Australian Regiment. Arrangements have now been made for the trophy to be handed over to the Queensland University Regiment.

Group conference at Wongan Hills

The final Group Conference for 1970 was held at Wongan Hills on 14th November.

The State President, with members of the executive, were warmly welcomed by the Wongan Hills-Ballidu sub-branch president, Mr. Ellis, and a special welcome was extended to the Deputy Commissioner for Repatriation, Mr. J. Robson, and the Army Service Homes Administrative Officer, Mr. Herlihy.

Many vital subjects were discussed, including defence, war-service homes, welfare, membership, repatriation and publicity, and the question period provided the sub-branches with an opportunity to clarify any problems.

Representatives of ten sub-branches were in attendance, and also Mr. Merv. Williams, the senior country vice-president.

In a report to the November meeting of the State Executive, Dr. Jenkins, who represented the Albert at the civic dinner at the Wongan Hills Hotel.

Wongan Hills is to be congratulated for the success of this conference, and Mr. Herlihy (its secretary) for the planning and handling of the day’s proceedings.

At a march-past after the conference the senior Vice-President, Mr. L. Phenna (representing the State President who was in Perth for the “Miss Crowning Glory” ceremony) took the salute, which was preceded by a wreath-laying ceremony at the local memorial.

To end the day’s activities the host sub-branch entertained delegates at a barbecue.

Hospital-visitors wanted

(Appeal by the State President)

In a report to the November meeting of the State Executive, it was drawn to attention that the Corps of Hospital Visitors, due to a series of illnesses and deaths, has now reached an all-time low in numerical strength.

It must be remembered that in whatever else of national interest the League involves itself, of prime importance are those less fortunate than ourselves who are in hospital or otherwise in need.

Sub-branches and members are asked to involve themselves in some soul-searching to see whether or not it may be possible to allocate a portion of their time to this important work.

Our ladies’ auxiliaries do a magnificent job in this respect, as is evident from their annual report, but we cannot allow them to carry the full burden, nor do I feel there is any real substitute for a visit at a sick bedside by a fellow member.

Even if you can only set aside a few hours in the afternoon, or evening, or both, would you please let us have names and addresses at Anzac House so that we might be able to build up the Corps and so enhance this very important part of our social welfare activity.

P. Pearson
State President

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A League welcome to young campaigners

The State President and executive members held a League "At Home" on November 27. A group of young men who had returned from service in Malaysia, Korea, Singapore, Borneo or Vietnam.

The guests of honour, with their wives and relatives, were received in the Anzac House ballroom.

The "purpose of the exercise" was to endeavour to interest the young veterans in the R.S.L., to give them an insight into its work, and invite them to participate in its membership and in the welfare work still to be done.

Much activity at Exmouth

The following round-up of Exmouth sub-branch affairs comes from president J. K. Murdoch.

The sub-branch has been busy raising funds for the construction of a new hall. Members recently completed a walkathon and raised in excess of £2,500.

The sub-branch at present has 14 active members but it is expected that more will be enrolled in the near future due to the arrival in the area of 100 R.A.A.F. personnel.

From time to time eligible Americans from the United States naval communication station Harold E. Holt join the organisation but are with us only for a limited period due to their postings. The sub-branch has been instrumental in carrying out quite a few community services in the town. Since its formation in April 1964 it has built the Truscott Memorial Club premises and leased them to the club.

This club is now accepted as the town club and is progressing extremely well.

Due to its small numbers the sub-branch feels that it may well hold the key to bringing public recognition to the R.S.L. and the services it offers. This is expected to be brought to the public by the sub-branch and is to be carried out by carrying out community services. It is hoped this policy will continue as in a developing town of the nature of Exmouth such services are definitely needed.

It is expected that once funds are available and the hall completed, more will sell and the R.S.L. will be at least doubled.

A women's auxiliary has now been formed and is extremely active in many fields. The ladies outnumber the men in membership but both organisations are working in close cooperation and harmony.

It is felt that the sub-branch is achieving a good name for itself and the League in general by its efforts.

Games win for Mt. Hawthorn

The grand final of the A.R.M.S. Games was held at Anzac House on Monday 7th September before a well-attended audience.

Both teams really meant business and it would appear that one of them must have lost or been overtaken. Mt. Hawthorn finally beat Gloucester Park 8-2.

A social gathering ended the evening for the boys and their supporters.

R.S.L. social at Dunsborough

The Dunsborough-Yallingup sub-branch held a very successful social evening in the Dunsborough Hall in August to celebrate V.P. Day.

Sixty people attended the function and spent and enjoyed a pleasant evening. Its purpose was to obtain further information for the R.S.L. social branch.

Home for ex-service nurses

There are still several places vacant in the Clifton Wing, the Returned Sisters' section of the R.S.L. War Veterans' Home, Mt. Lawley. Returned and ex-service sisters of the two world wars are eligible for admission.

Further particulars may be obtained from the superintendent—Major A. O. Howes, R.S.L. War Veterans' Home, 51 Alexander-drive, Mt. Lawley (Telephone 716113).

Good progress after sub-branch merger

Once again we pass on the message of hope that everything can be done if you get your shoulder on to the wheel.

We have had a full year and under the guiding hands of John Culbertson we have progressed very well. We have gained in membership and now that we have amalgamated with Carlisle, to become Rivervale-Carlisle, we anticipate a very progressive year ahead.

To all old and new Carlisle members we extend a hearty welcome. Come along and join in the fun and games and help us on the more serious side.

We were not disgraced in the A.R.M.S. Games this year.

Our Miss Crowning Glory effort had some mixed fortunes but we have done fairly well.

MEET AT ANZAC CLUB

The home of friendship!
Armed Forces inquiry—what the League wants

A wide-ranging inquiry into pay and conditions in the armed forces is expected to begin early next year. It will be the most thorough review of the services ever conducted in Australia. It will be conducted by independent experts and could last up to two years.

The inquiry is likely to assess the worth of servicemen, particularly officers, in an increasingly technological age.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Gorton, has already agreed with the Defence Minister, Mr. Fraser, that such an inquiry should be held.

Mr. Fraser is expected to make submissions shortly. He will seek suggestions from the services on terms of reference and the composition of the inquiry authority.

The inquiry is a major victory for the Returned Services League which has consistently championed the cause of the serviceman.

The RSL has said the inquiry should look at salaries, taxation of compensatory allowances, compensation for injury or death, and early retirement and severance problems.

Here is the text of the League's submission:

Any consideration of conditions of service for members of the Armed Forces must be made against the background of two important prevailing factors:

The first, to which the Minister's reply refers, is the attraction of employment, or a career, outside the services. At no time in Australia's history have there been such opportunities.

The second factor is antipathy, amounting to antagonism, within certain sections of the community to the services.

So successfully have the anti-conscriptionists and those opposed to the Vietnam war pursued their campaign that they have created conditions in which objection to National Service and the war have united to become opposition to anything of a military nature.

It is somewhat ironical that in attacking National Service the so-called peace fronts, among other individuals and groups of like mind, have created conditions in which, even if they were desirable, Australia could not sustain her defence commitment without National Service.

It is against this background that any examination of pay, allowances and conditions of service must be considered.

POSITION NOW

Available figures indicate a critical manpower position in all the services, especially at the junior officer/senior N.C.O. level.

In the Regular Army in 1965 there were 11 resignations in officer power levels and 33 in 1969. This figure has risen to 81 last year.

There were 13 resignations in the R.A.A.F. in 1965 and 1969. This situation is reflected in quite a number of other key postings in the three services. It means, in simple terms, that the attractions of employment outside the services, and frustrations within the services, are producing a critical manpower shortage.

Remedial action to be effective will need to be undertaken without delay and be imaginative in the range of improvements it provides.

WEAKNESSES SEEN

The Minister has favoured the R.S.L. with a reply to its original submission which analyses in some depth the various points submitted.

It is pleasing to note in the reply that a number of the League's earlier examination at the present time, including housing, education allowances and certain post-retirement conditions. The League remains of the opinion, however, that there are certain fundamental weaknesses in the present approach to correct legalities.

The R.S.L. is aware that the Government must apportion its available funds in furtherance of its general policies and that defence expenditure must be designed within this framework.

It is noted that pay and allowances form the largest single item of expense in the defence budget. It must still be remembered, however, that the nation's defence is principally dependent on a highly competent professional force of dedicated members who have voluntarily chosen the services as their career.

SELF-RELIANCE

It is important to realise that, for the first time in its history Australia will have to rely from the outset on the top-quality people needed in the services for its defence.

Hitherto we have had time, for final training and have had the benefit of current lessons of battle experience available to us before our troops left this country.

Even then our formations operated under the direction of non-Australians. In this context the Minister's statement that "pay and allowances are designed to seek, attract and retain the requisite manpower level" becomes particularly significant: "It is not only a question of numbers but also for quality."

Figures indicate that even the aforesaid numbers are not being maintained at the present time and that if the current trend continues shortages may well be critical within 12 months.

SPECIALISED

Under the "principle of the common employer" the Minister considered that a "considerable number of the Commonwealth Public Service" is likely to assess the worth of service men, particularly officers, in an increasingly technological age.

The R.S.L. has said the inquiry should look at salaries, taxation of compensatory allowances, compensation for injury or death, and early retirement and severance problems.

The fundamental point the League wishes to emphasise is that the quality of leadership available in the services at all levels can in war influence our nation's future. The best must be sought and their status be recognised by the community.

The great responsibilities they accept should be rewarded by appropriate pay and conditions.

RECOMMENDED

It is with the foregoing thoughts in mind that the R.S.L recommends that a special Board of Inquiry should be established to examine improvements to pay, allowances and conditions of service that will properly reflect the responsibilities and conditions involved in service life.

The committee, in addition to possessing skills as an administrator or as a policy maker as in the case of a Public Service counterpart, must acquire and maintain military skills. He must maintain a physical standard that will enable him to cope with the demands of service life: he must teach and must be a leader.

In exercising those wishes he is the responsibility, in war, for the lives of his subordinates, and himself, and the risk of injury and death.

His day-to-day living is on the basis of 24 hours a day, seven days a week throughout the year if called on. He lives under stress of discipline and is obliged to serve under a wide variety of conditions which may settle his tenor of family life enjoyed by civilians.

He may not act in concert with his fellow servicemen to air his grievances as can public servants through the associations as can public servants or civilians through their associations.

Finally, the majority of the best leadership material will be retired very early to take up non-military careers which will do nothing to brighten the dim outlook of the current services.

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**Armed Forces probe**

(From previous page)

**REFERENCE TERMS**

The League suggests that terms of reference for the committee of inquiry should include the following matters of principle:

(a) The need to consider the defence forces as a distinct and highly specialised industry and to suggest ways in which this might best be achieved.

(b) Salaries and pay rates

These should be established as a first step by recognising the services as a special industry which includes skills having no parallel in the Public Service nor in industry, as well as skills which are comparable.

(c) Scale of allowances

This should be drawn up to compensate for conditions of service. The board should be asked to examine any Treasury regulations which inhibit the availability of these allowances to claimants.

(d) Compensation for injury or death

The board should be asked to recommend as to compensation arising out of a serviceman's employment, and in the event of death as to special benefits to provide for the readjustment of the member's widow and family or other dependants.

(e) Taxation of compensatory allowance

Recommendations should be asked for as to whether an average designed to compensate for service conditions should be reduced by taxation or should be tax free.

(f) Administrative machinery for revision

The board should be asked to enunciate the principles and relevant factors which form the basis of the above decisions and so provide guidelines to facilitate automatic periodic reviews of scales.

(g) Service conditions, early retirement and severance problems

The board should be asked to examine the question of early retirement as an adverse element in attracting "above average" people to the services as a career.

With the pyramidal rank structures, early retirement is a necessary feature. The services offer less than a full lifetime career as compared with the Public Service or private industry. This applies particularly to officers also to other ranks who serve on extended engagements and who have no technical skills.

Retirement may well occur when the individual is facing up to his maximum family commitments and his D.F.R.B. income is only a partial solution to the complex problems of a career, and its premature departure from the services, particularly for an individual who has not had his full complement of years in service, means an end to the security that has been provided.

The League therefore recommends:

**RECOMMENDATION**

(a) That the appropriate board member of each of the services be appointed to the Defence Services Committee. It is noted that one of the Minister's objections to service officers being involved is that the work requires experience and expertise in industrial affairs generally. It may not be found among service officers. Equally, however, expertise in industrial affairs is to be found among Public Servants.

(b) That as an interim measure pending the appointment of an independent board of inquiry by including them in the terms of reference of the inquiry. The inclusion of the Minister in the staff.

The appropriate service board members are not a part of it. It is not known to the League, but the committee is insulated from the services.

Evidence of a lack of real understanding of the serviceman's situation occurred in the recent reassessment of flying pay rates.

It was hoped that this examination might well have had regard for salary levels applying to employees of the Department of Civil Aviation, but after a protracted investigation it appears that this principle was rejected in the determination of new rates. The review committee was set considerably below the level which would have applied had they been equated.

The League considers that the servicemen who have no professional training to safeguard his interest should have a voice in the councils where his conditions are determined.

The maxim "justice being seen to be done" does not apply in this case. Increasingly this is a matter which is having an all-important and vital effect on morale in the forces.

The protection of the public interest requires the recognition of the services as a special industry.

The League therefore recommends:

**DEFENCE BODY**

The Defence (Conditions of Service) Committee appears to be a unique concept which performs for the services what the Arbitration Court performs for private industry and the Public Service Board (plus arbitration) does for the Public Service. The League understands that the committee is composed entirely of Public Servants, though there are some servicemen of lower ranks involved in its staff.

The appropriate service board members are not a part of it. It is not known to the League, but the committee is insulated from the services.

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It was hoped that this examination might well have had regard for salary levels applying to employees of the Department of Civil Aviation, but after a protracted investigation it appears that this principle was rejected in the determination of the new rates. These were set considerably below the level which would have applied had they been equated.

It is not known whether the reasons for this rejection have been promulgated.

The League considers that the servicemen who have no professional training to safeguard their interest should have a voice in the councils where their conditions are determined.

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The protection of the public interest requires the recognition of the services as a special industry.
Donations needed for Christmas parcels

An appeal is being made for cash donations for the provision of Christmas parcels for Australian servicemen abroad.

Since December 1965, more than 50,000 parcels have been dispatched by the Australian Forces Overseas Fund to Australians overseas.

Before this it was the practice of the R.S.L. in each State to send individual Christmas parcels. In carrying out the tradition of sending individual parcels, A.F.O.F. has dispatched them twice yearly—at Easter and Christmas normally. However, funds are now limited due to a few commitments for amenities and concert parties to Vietnam.

Hence the appeal for the parcels' commitment. Donations should be sent to the R.S.L. State Secretary, Anzac House, Perth 6000.

Each parcel will contain boot polish, shaving cream, razor blades, deodorant, pretzels, peanuts, cordial, tin of mushrooms, ball-point pen and writing paper.

The contents have been carefully selected and will be very popular. It is regretted that donors cannot nominate recipients, but they can be assured that their message will gladden the heart of a fellow Australian on active service.

The effect of the greeting card could be twofold, as servicemen will welcome the parcel and may write to thank the donor.

The method of greeting was decided on to demonstrate to servicemen overseas that they have not been forgotten. Donations of $2 and above are tax deductible, and receipts will be issued to donors.

At the August meeting of the National Executive the award of Certificates of Appreciation to Miss Loraine Desmond and Mr. Lucky Starr were announced.

The certificates were for outstanding work in entertaining troops in Vietnam. Miss Desmond was awarded the M.B.E. recently for her work in entertaining overseas.

Membership of Club

At the July Congress it was decided to extend the membership of Anzac Club to include Provisional and Associate members in accordance with the new Liquor Licence Act.

Provisional Member means a member of Her Majesty's Imperial Navy, Army or Air Force or of the permanent naval, military or air forces of the Commonwealth on the active list and such other person who may be approved by the National Executive in nomination and seconding by a financial member. These other persons may include ex-servicemen, sons, fathers of R.S.L. members, the annual subscription is $3.00.

Associate member means a female member who is entitled to exercise such of the provisions of the Club as may be provided by its rules. This membership would include those serving in Her Majesty's Forces, wives and daughters of financial members of the R.S.L. The annual fee for each Associate Member is $2.00.

The rules of the Anzac Club provide that no Provisional or Associate member, whilst entitled to the privileges of the Club, has any voting power.

What Ex-servicewomen have been doing

At this year's annual meeting of the Ex-Servicewomen's sub-branch the following were elected to office:

President: Mrs. F. Fealy
Vice-presidents: Miss S. Perry and Miss S. Thomas
Hon. Secretary: Mrs. E. J. McManis
Treasurer: Miss G. Smith

A very active social committee was elected and the duties of liaison officer with the Clifton wing of the War Veterans Home is again being carried out by Mrs. R. Pigott.

The publicity officer is Miss S. Perry. Members continue to provide supper for the war-blinded at their regular bi-monthly meetings, and again entertained many veterans from various hospitals to lunch on Anzac Day as well as the Remembrance Day services, and then gone to a film to complete the day's outing.

Books were collected and sent through the Australian Forces Overseas Fund to Australian troops in hospitals in Vietnam and a donation sent towards Christmas parcels.

Practical support was given to other deserving causes.

All goes well at Boulder

Mrs. Castlehow, Ex-servicewomen's Association president and her members made a donation of $200 to the Boulder Women's Auxiliary which has continued to prosper. Mrs. Castlehow, Ex-servicewomen's Association president and her members made a donation of $200 to the Boulder Women's Auxiliary.

The Boulder sub-branch has continued to prosper during the past 12 months, with an increase in membership and the finances in a healthy position.

Additions to the memorial hall include an air-conditioning plant, which cost $600, and extra lighting.

Owing to an increasing demand for hire of the hall the sub-branch has also purchased extra chairs. The hall has been painted throughout and the ex-servicewomen have added extra fittings to the kitchen, making it by far the best equipped kitchen on the Goldfields.

President Tom Castlehow attended Congress as our delegate and gave an interesting talk on his return.

The auxiliary president, Mrs. O'Grady, and her members did their usual great job of penny-selling and the sub-branch is grateful.

The Remembrance Day service, held at the main intersection of the town, had a good attendance. Bugler Fred Asher played "The Last Post" and Revell.

Holding on

At the last advice from Millen that sub-branch membership was reduced, there were 3 financial members but was still on the lookout for more. Especially large losses were from Vietnam or Korea. Four members were prepared to offer themselves for State Executive office.

Two members had died, V. J. Murray and G. C. D'Arcy. The latter was a member of the Victorian branch.

Alex, Les Hesketh and Stan King were present at the annual meeting of the National Executive and gave an interesting talk on his return.

Get with the Strength
REMEMBRANCE: In Perth on Remembrance Day—at the “eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month”—once again bells were posted at focal points throughout the city and at the State War Memorial to sound The Last Post and Reveille. This picture was taken at the intersection of Hay and Barrack streets.
Did You Know?

A married returned servicewoman over 55, subject to the Means Test, can receive a Service Pension. However, if her husband dies from a war-cause disability and she becomes a War Widow her Service Pension is automatically cancelled. She can then receive a part Age Pension, but not a part Service Pension. The Repatriation Act is definite on this.

Service at Geraldton

Here, in brief, are several items from the October R.S.L. meeting at Geraldton:

An offer was received from the British-Australian association to help entertain sailors from anti-aircraft frigate H.M.S. Lynx and Royal Fleet auxiliary Resource during this visit to Geraldton in November.

The president, Mr Clem Burns, congratulated the town band on its good performance at the band championships in Perth. Regional vice-president Merv. Williams, of Coorow, and the Mayor of Geraldton, Mr Vic Askew, accepted invitations to the sub-branch reunion in November.

It was disclosed that there were 243 financial members, an improvement of two on the previous year's figure.

The sub-branch decided to seek as many members as possible before the end of the year, and to endeavour to obtain the attendance of all past-officers at monthly meetings.

It was decided to invite all personnel who served in Korea, and South-East Asia, including Vietnam, to attend the State President's "At Home" in the Anzac House ballroom late in November.

FINAL PAYMENT ON HALL

"Do it yourself" has been the keynote of the Nollamara sub-branch campaign to provide its own hall.

Members not only cleared the wooded site themselves—making a present of the timber from it to pensioners—but then worked busily at weekends to build the hall itself.

The whole undertaking was brought to completion recently with the final payment on an R. & L. bank loan of $3000—repaid in seven instead of the ten years specified.

Passing of "Digger" James

With the death on September 23 in the Northam District Hospital of Reginald Brand James (T T) of Newcastle Road, Northam, and 21 Third Avenue, Mount Lawley, both the Northam R.S.L. sub-Branch and community suffered a great loss.

"Digger" James, as he was affectionately known to his many close friends, was born at Kalgoorlie and following service with 12th Battalion A.I.F. and the Royal Australian Flying Corps, came to Northam as a chartered accountant in 1920.

He took a keen interest in civic affairs and served as a member of Northam Town Council from November 1947 to November 1949 and then held the office of Mayor of Northam until November 1955.

During this period highlights were the visit to the town of Her Majesty Queen and H.R.H. the Prince of Edinburgh.
ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICEMEN

FEDERATED T.B. SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION (W.A. BRANCH)—2nd Floor, Wellington Buildings, 158 William Street, Perth, Second Monday, President, C. Chandler, Secretary, G. Fieley (215086).

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN AND IMPERIAL VETERANS' ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, basement, third Monday at 8 p.m., President, Wilkins, 103 The Esplanade, Mt. Pleasant (643087).

ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION OF W.A.—Meetings third Monday at Anzac House at 8 p.m., President, A. G. Douglas, Box T1869, G.P.O. Perth (243360), Secretary, A. S. Heales, 25 Wilcox-street, Applecross.

16TH BATTALION AND 4TH BRIGADE ASSOCIATION—Monthly meetings 3rd Monday at 8 p.m., Railway Institute (main hall) Perth, President, W. Lileyman, 152 Rokeby-street, Floreat (874030), Secretary, O. C. Young, 28 Oakover-street, East Fremantle (932934).

2/16TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Meetings 3rd Wednesday at 8 p.m., President, A. A. K. Christian, 16 Guy Place, Melville (302703), Secretary, L. Anderson, 11 Keith-street, Bassendean (821351), Treasurer, J. P. Pilkington, 52 Lockitch-street, East Fremantle (932790), Secretary, R. J. Bishop, 32b Jernudd-street, Bassendean (951956), with notice of meetings—editor J. P. Pilkington, 52 Lockitch-street, East Fremantle (932790), Committee meets first Wed. each month in Anzac House.

28TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Meet Anzac House fourth Tuesday in month at 7.30 p.m., President, G. Pickett, Lower Chittering Secretary, J. Farrell, c/o Anzac House, George's terrace, Perth. Annual Reunion Show Week.

2/28TH BATTALION-24TH ANTI-TANK ARMS ASSOCIATION—President, J. Pritchett, 4 Central-road, Rossmoyne (4612518), B or 693891 H), Secretary, Bill Goggin, 7E Elizabeth-street, Bassendean (71749), Annual Reunion Show Week.

4/24TH BATTALION—A.I.F.—President, E. Fraser, 83 Alexander-street, Wembley (6718541), Secretary, J. Wilson, 889865 M), 2 Devlin-place, Morley, Committee meets Anzac House, President, W. S. Thomas, Secretary, J. C. Wilson (H), 1210166 M), Bassendean (951956).

RAE ASSOCIATION—meets 2nd Sunday March, June, Sept and December at W.A. R.A.E. Round, Secretary H. Doherty (248102).

10TH LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION—Anzac House Officers' bi-monthly meeting fourth Friday (2 p.m.) in January, March, May, July, August and October, President, John J-Fitzmaurice, Secretary, J. E. Wallis, Doubleday Street, Como (461202), Secretary, Jack Syme, 28 Martin-street, South Bentley (687946).

EX-P.W.O. ASSOCIATION of W.A.—President, J. Burton, 60 Browne-avenue, Dalkeith, Secretary, A. L. Thomas, 51 Bennett-street, East Perth (223254), Meetings first Wednesday of each month at Y.M.C.A. HQ, Murray-street, Perth.

BRITISH SERVICES ASSOCIATION INC.—Meets third Friday each month in the basement, Anzac House, Perth at 8 p.m. President, Capt. W. J. Thomas, 213326 M), Hon. Secretary, A. M. Scally, Box S154, G.P.O, Perth.


12TH AND 52ND BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION—Meetings second Monday each month, Anzac House, President, W. T. Bower, Phone 812646 Secretary-Laurie Porteous (J.P.), 14 Reunited-street, Bentley.

BRITISH BATTLE ASSOCIATION—Committee meets when called. Annual Reunion Show Week Mon. President, Roy Collins, 34 Rosebery-street, Bedford (714448), Secretary A. J. Williams, 121 Filinders St, Yokine (492731).

48TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION—meets 4th Friday in January, April, July and October at Anzac House, President, Syd Mackenzie, 131 Circus-Circle, Dalkeith, Hon. Secretary, S. G. Power, 113b Wandana, Thomas-street, Subiaco (532008).

51ST BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION—Meetings on 2nd Monday alternate months, starting in June at Anzac House, President, E. Wicks, 26 North Road, Bussendien (791328), Hon. Secretary, E. R. Alderman, 45a Hector-street, Yokine 6060 (246801), Hon. Treas., N. Moore, 31 Minors-street, Dalkeith (862702), Assistant Sec. P. G. Turner, 7 Alvan-street, Mt. Lawley, Annual reunion Friday, Sept. 25 in Anzac House basement.

BRIGADE OF GUARDS ASSOCIATION OF W.A.—President, W. Lileyman, Secretary, A. Phillips (532008), Armadale, Officers' Meeting and Junior Officers' Meetings every Monday at Anzac House.

PARTIALLY BLIND MILITARY FORCES ASSOCIATION Inc.—General meetings at 11am Monday, Social Meetings 3rd Thursday of each month at Anzac House, Railway Institute, Welliingston-street, Perth. President, W. C. Wallis, 48 Macquarie-street, Como (674471), Secretary, A. R. MacDonald, 98 Bannister-street, Murray-street (604222).

RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION of W.A.—President, H. Haddleton, 35 Acton-avenue, Kenwick, Secretary, J. G. Smith, 51 Bennett-street, East Perth (223254), Meetings first Wednesday of each month at Y.M.C.A. HQ, Murray-street, Perth.

LIMLESS SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION INC.—Wingies, President, C. H. Lay, 14 Radaum-street, Como, Secretary, Mrs. R. Young, 28 Oakover-street, East Fremantle (932934).

THIRTY-NINERS' ASSOCIATION of Australia: Meeting Anzac House, 4th Wednesday each month, President, Col. W. E. Clementson (828213). Secretary-Treasurer, W. B. Kiley, Box S1039, G.P.O, Perth.


GALLIPOLI LEGION OF ANZACS—Meets in base- ment, Anzac House, as notified, President, J. Fitzmaurice, 11 Malahide-avenue, Doubleview, Secretary, B. Lamb, 28 Marquis-street, Bentley (6102) (682546).

32ND BATTALION (1ST A.I.F.) ASSOCIATION—President, F. R. Mocken, 64 Claudel-street, North Perth (244118), Secretary, L. G. Williams, 21 Railway-road, Kalamunda (6076), Committee meetings as called. Annual reunion nearest Friday to July 19.


ARMY MEDICAL UNITS ASSOCIATION (W.A.)—President, E. G. Shier, 117 Selby-street, Floreat Park (461304), Secretary-Treasurer, C. H. Lockhart, 234883 Christian 16 Guy Street, Como 6152. Meetings as called.

KOREA & SOUTH EAST ASIA FORCES ASSOCIATION (W.A.)—Branch—Meets second Monday each month in Anzac House, basement, 8 p.m. President, Jack Gerke, 1 Geraldton-street, Como. 6152. Secretary, W. F. Odgers (215888) 79 Collin-street, West Perth 6005. Meetings, first Thursday each month except January.

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LOWEST PRICES
A Marble Bar anniversary

This account of an important R.S.L. occasion at Marble Bar comes from former 10th Light-horseman Bill Thompson.

The Marble Bar sub-branch recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of its formation in 1920 with a reunion and dinner at the Ironclad Hotel.

As I was an original member and although living in Perth for the past 21 years I have always retained membership of the sub-branch, and so was invited up, all expenses paid.

Marble Bar would be one of the smallest sub-branches in the State but it has a big heart and the members are very fortunate in having as President Mr Wally Nichols (M.M., B.E.M., J.P.) who is a Gallipoli veteran.

Also secretary Ern Lenihan is a very live wire and between Wally and Ern everything was well organised and went like a clock.

There were between 20 and 30 ex-service men and eight or ten ex-service women at the function.

Before the dinner we met in the lounge of the Ironclad and had drinks and got to know each other. At 8 p.m. we sat for the dinner. The tables were beautifully laid out and were attended by four lovely waitresses.

The invitation cards and the menu cards were specially printed in the colours of the sub-branch—blue and gold—and were done by Bill Webb who was R.S.L. State Secretary for a number of years.

The cards were something "out of the box" and I'm sure everyone there will keep them and treasure them.

Among those present were Andy Boyle, Jim Edwards, the Maddigan brothers (Bert and Nat) from Port Hedland and Jack Hunt, president of the Port Hedland sub-branch.

Harold Ward and big smiling Bill Welford were also there representing Port Hedland.

Among the ex-service women, who looked (and were) charming were Pauline Edwards, R.A.A.S.S.; Phil Johnston, W.R.A.A.F.; Molly Perle, R.A.A.F., and Norma Welford, nursing sister (sorry if I have missed out anybody).

The dinner itself was delicious—and couldn't be bettered anywhere, and a great credit to the cook.

The toasts (six all told) were drunk with champagne. After the dinner we went back to the lounge, chatted, and drank beer till midnight.

Before we broke up the president suggested passing the hat around in appreciation of the efforts of the waitresses and in all $28 was counted—very nice for the waitresses, who well deserved it.

Thank you, Marble Bar R.S.L., for giving me such a happy time! I assure you I greatly appreciated it.

Sword of Honour awarded

This year the R.S.L. Sword of Honour was won by a young officer of the Cadet Training Centre, Karrakatta—Geoffrey Sach, who was dux of the training school.

Geoffrey has served with the C.M.F. for eight years and is currently in the 10th Light Horse Regiment.

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