Congress Strikes A Note Of Harmony

The 52nd annual State Congress of the League got away to a good start on Monday, July 15, when the Premier, Mr David Brand, formally declared it open in the presence of 300 guests and delegates.

State President F. Pearson presented a most interesting and informative report on the year's activities.

Sub-branch trophies were presented by the G.O.C. Western Command, Brigadier N. A. M. Nicholls, and the opportunity was also taken to recognise the services rendered by Mr C. R. Bunning as warden of the State War Memorial during the 1966-67 period in the shape of a Warden's Certificate.

As a token of appreciation and esteem Mrs. Hugh Leslie's contribution to Congress arrangements over a very long period was recognised by the presentation of a marcasite brooch, and this loyal League supporter was obviously touched by the tributes paid to her by the State President and State Secretary.

A successful opening ceremony concluded with supper provided in the traditional style by the Women's Auxiliary, to whom goes the grateful thanks of the League.

Business sessions commenced on Tuesday, July 16, formalities being dealt with prior to an adjournment at 11 a.m. to enable delegates to attend a wreath-laying ceremony at the State War Memorial, followed by a civic reception at Council House.

Delegates endorsed the State President's recommendation that Brigadier P. Hopt, C.B., R.L., be appointed Warden in succession to the Hon. L. C. Diver, M.L.C., who retires at the conclusion of his term on November 11.

WELL CONDUCTED

Generally speaking the whole of the Congress deliberations were conducted in a harmonious and friendly manner, and credit must be given to the State President for his efficient conduct of proceedings.

Main interest centred on items of a domestic nature, and these included:
- The future of Anzac House.
- The organisation of Anzac Day.
- Publication of The Listening Post.

Including six notices-of-motion a, total of 116 items were dealt with as follows: Carried, 68; lost, 28; withdrawn, 1; lapsed, 10; out-of-order, 1.

During the concluding stages warm tributes were paid to the State Secretary and staff for a well organised congress.

Results of State Executive elections appear elsewhere.

Vale Stella White

The League as a whole and the State Executive in particular lost a loyal and dedicated member with the passing of Miss Stella White on July 8.

At the time of her death Stella was president of the Returned Sisters' sub-branch and previously served for several years as sub-branch secretary.

She was a member of the State Executive from 1956 to 60, and following re-election in 1961 continued to serve the League in an energetic manner until she became ill in May this year.

Prior to her retirement from the staff of the Repatriation General Hospital, Hollywood, she was sister-in-charge and her war service included postings to the Middle East and New Guinea.

As the only female member of the State Executive, Stella contributed in an honest and forthright way to the discussions affecting League policy.

She was indefatigable in carrying out her functions as chairman of the Welfare Committee.

The League mourns her passing and conveys its sincere sympathy to her near relatives.
The Land As An Opening For Ex-Servicemen Of Today

The Minister for Primary Industry (Mr Anthony) has replied as follows to League representations based on a National Congress resolution which read:

That the Commonwealth Government be urged to set up a committee with R.S.L. representation to examine means by which young men being discharged from the services can be established on rural holdings: the scope of the committee's inquiries to include such alternatives as the continuation of the recently terminated War Service Land Settlement scheme, settlement under closer settlement schemes that have been established in some States and the provision of finance on such terms and conditions that will enable the ex-servicemen to acquire land and establish a successful rural enterprise.

As the League points out, this resolution was submitted for consideration in 1967 but the Congress has requested that it be considered again.

In his letter of June 21 last Mr. Adermann, then Minister for Primary Industry, conveyed the Government's negative decision on the matter raised by the item for which you are asking reconsideration.

Since Mr. Adermann's letter the re-establishment benefits available to National Servicemen on discharge have been implemented. These benefits include re-establishment loans for agricultural purposes.

In the nine months since these loans became available, 32 discharged National Servicemen from all States of the Commonwealth have lodged applications for agricultural loans.

This number is all that have been received from approximately 6,000 discharged National Servicemen throughout the Commonwealth. Of the applications received, 25 have been approved, 32 have been rejected and the remainder are under consideration.

Of the applications approved, 18 have been accompanied with participation in farming on land owned by the applicant's family.

Under the War Service Land Settlement scheme applicants had to show they had sufficient experience, including management, to operate a farm on their own responsibility.

Recognising the age at which National Servicemen are called-up I think it would be concerned to expect that many had acquired this degree of experience, and the information given on application forms for loans indicates that experience is relatively limited.

I think it could be safely concluded from this information that very few would qualify for allotment of a holding under terms similar to those of the War Service Land Settlement scheme.

This is the best factual information which could affect the previous decision regarding land settlement, and it does not convince me that the decision previously conveyed to you should be altered.

Outstanding Service

Those who attended State Congress this year will have noticed that a familiar face was missing from among those to be seen around the "top table."

After 25 years of dedicated and loyal service Hugh Leslie had decided to re-nominate for the State Executive this year.

It would be extremely difficult to call to mind a League member, past or present, with a keener interest in the general wellbeing of the organisation than Hugh, and this opportunity has been taken of expressing the League's deepest appreciation of an outstanding contribution.

Very appropriately his parent sub-branch, Yackandandah, conferred a life-membership award on Hugh and this was presented on behalf of the sub-branch at the conclusion of the June executive meeting by the State President.

In saying cheechoo to Hugh we are fully aware that his interest has been so many varied and it is hoped that he will maintain as close contact with the League as his rather distant domicile (Lancefield) will permit.

Sir—I paid my first visit to the R.S.L. War Veterans' Home at Mt. Lawley yesterday, and as a foundation member of the League I desire to express my congratulations to all concerned on the establishment of such a fine home for service veterans.

I spoke to quite a few of the residents and they all seemed very contented and spoke well of their treatment. If I ever become a sub-branch president at home I think I would be very happy to spend the rest of my life there.

As one who in his younger days took a keen interest in the good work of the R.S.L. as an honorary secretary and then chairman of the Karratha sub-branch, as Country Vice-president and, of course, as delegate to State branch conferences—I consider the Veterans' Home is one of the League's finest achievements.

With sincere congratulations and thanks and very best wishes.

Yours etc.,

Captain (ret'd) G. G. Curlewis, ex-16th Battalion, A.I.F.
2nd July, 1968.

Rifle-Shooting Results

The rifle-shooting championships conducted annually as part of the Archbishop Riley Memorial Shield games were held this year in the Anzac House basement on July 30 with the following results:

Rifle Championship: First, Mr F. Moore (Mt. Hawthorn); second, Mr. A. Paterson (Mt. Hawthorn).

Rifle Plate: First, Mr. A. Ericson (Mt. Hawthorn); second, Mr. A. Matson (Gloucester Park).

MEET AT ANZAC CLUB
The home of friendship!
Maltese Girl Guides In Role Of Devotion

For the past 23 years Girl Guides on the Island of Malta have been playing a devoted role in the Commonwealth War Cemetery.

This has been reported to the Department of External Affairs by the Australian High Commissioner on the Island. He says:

In 1945 the Girl Guides of Australia sent the Maltese Girl Guides a number of parcels for distribution among the Maltese.

In gratitude the then Chief Commissioner, Mrs M. Denaro, decided that the Malta Girl Guides should take a personal interest in the graves of Australians and New Zealanders killed during the World War.

Mrs Denaro lost a son in the war and felt that the families of the Australian and New Zealanders might be comforted to know that the graves were being tended with particular care.

On these occasions they have received considerable support from the Royal Navy, which has provided a launch to take the guides from Valetta across Grand Harbour.

The wife of the admiral turned to the guides and permitted the guides to make up wreaths from flowers growing in her own garden.

The guides then proceeded to the cemetery, which is close by.

April 11, the Royal Navy also provided a bus for the guides as the weather was most unpleasant.

The credit for this sustained interest is due to Miss Margot Bonello, who was a member of the Girl Guide Association in 1945 and Mrs Denaro entrusted her with the responsibility of looking after the graves.

Although she is no longer a member of the association she continues to look after the graves in conjunction with the Girl Guides and to organise the twice-yearly visits.

Bursary A Memorial To Dead Airmen

The Services Canteens Fund trustees are administering a fund known as the Palmer and Dawson Memorial Bursary.

This fund was raised by the people of Denmark to commemorate the memory of eight aircrew members who lost their lives in raids on Gestafo headquarters at Copenhagen, Aarhus, and Odense during the 1939-45 war.

Flying officers Palmer and Dawson, two of the officers concerned, were Australians, and the bursary is awarded each year in their memory. It is for education purposes.

The following conditions apply:

1. The award is made annually before the commencement of the school year.
2. The number and value of the bursary or bursaries is determined each year, the amount available being $256.
3. The award is open to children of men and women who served in the R.A.F. between 3/9/39 and 30/6/47, Sep-
4. (a) have died as a result of their war service;
5. (b) have died from non-war causes;
6. (c) are totally disabled as a result of their war service.
7. The award is not to be taken into account in determining education awards from the Services Canteens Trust Fund.
8. Applications will be made on forms available at the offices of the Services Canteens Trust Fund, 29 Barracks, Francis Street, Perth.
9. Applications will be lodged with regional committees, which will recommend to the trustees with their recommendation.
10. Applications close on October 15 this year.

Executive Chosen

By his re-election at Congress last month Mr L. L. O. Pyne continued on his fourth full term as State President.

He first took office in that capacity in March, 1947, and was re-elected to the vice-presidency for the first time. The election results were:

State President: Mr P. Pearson
Vice-President: Mr L. L. O. Pyne and Dr A. King


Named as emergences were: Messrs D. H. Carter, A. Mayor, D. Bennett, H. C. de Burgh and V. Tisch, and

League Contact With Famous Passers-by

The State branch of the League was delighted to make contact with a party of Victoria Cross and George Cross winners who passed through Perth on June 10-11.

The party was en route for London to attend a reunion of holders of either medal.

Transport was provided by the R.A.F. over, which picked up passengers in New Zealand, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.

The party of 13 that arrived in Perth was joined by two local men-Group Comdr. Len Terry, V.C., and Lieut. Commander Leon Goldsworthy, G.C.

Among the very select group were Charles Uppham (N.Z.), the only man living to have won a bar to his V.C., and Charles Limbu (Gurkha), the youngest living V.C.

State President Pearson, accompanied by Mr Ian Bonfilant, greeted them on arrival, and State Secretary Bill Webb was privileged to assist with their departure the following day.

Several of the party expressed appreciation of the co-operation extended by the State Branch of the R.S.I.

Thanks are due to the Army for providing bus transport, from and to the airport, which was considerable help to the visitors, particularly some of the older and less mobile among them.

The group was able to set out on the return journey: the plane arrived at 7.15 a.m. and took off at 9 a.m. on July 25.

Judging by reports the trip was a most enjoyable experience, although rather hectic.

Canteens Trust Help With Education

The Canteens Trust is inviting applications for its education awards for next year. The awards are granted on a year-by-year basis depending on family circumstances.

The awards are for children of ex-servicemen and women who served on full-time paid duty in the Australian Army Forces during the period September 3, 1939 to June 30, 1947.

If either parent is deceased, the entry age group is those children who will attain the age of 14 or over next year.

For children other than orphans, the entry group is those who will attain the age of 15 over the next year.

Special consideration will be given to children attaining the age of 14 or over next year, in circumstances of any kind.

The following categories apply:

1. Invalid, age and T.B. pensioners.
2. Derelict, divorced, or separated families.
3. Children who must live away from home to obtain secondary education.

Tertiary Education

Awards are not granted in respect of the first year of any tertiary education for which a student in receipt of a Commonwealth Scholarship has such scholarship suspended. The trustees will consider an application for assistance to enable him or her to qualify for the restoration of the scholarship provided funds are available after dealing with all other cases.

Applications close on March 31 next.

Closing Date for applications for education awards open on August 1 and close on October 15. Forms and full details of the means test can be obtained from application to the trust's regional secretary at Swan Barracks, Francis Street, Perth.
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Gallantry Awards

At the recent National Executive meeting in Canberra further consideration was given to conditions pertaining to awards to servicemen for gallantry.

A further submission to the Minister for Defence was resolved on, his reply to which was as follows:

"I refer again to your letter of May 1, 1968, regarding gallantry awards for servicemen in Vietnam.

"I understand that you have raised these questions with the late Prime Minister towards the end of 1967 and in December 1967 Sir John Bunting, on behalf of the Prime Minister, explained the position on these matters.

"Since that time the delegation being sought for the Governor-General to approve gallantry awards has been received.

"I have given sympathetic consideration to the question of seeking an increase in the range of awards that can be made posthumously. Sir John Bunting's letter explained the basic issues on this matter.

"In addition it must be borne in mind that the conditions applying to awards for gallantry to distinguished aces are common to all countries using the British system.

"No other country using the British system has, so far as I know, sought to vary the conditions on the granting of posthumous awards. I do not consider that we can present a case that would warrant a change in application of this well established and highly respected system for awards for Australian servicemen alone.

"In your letter of March 6 you informed me of a National Executive resolution that the committee be established by the Government to review all aspects of awards and decorations for gallantry. An examination at high level has been under way for some time.

"This examination is dealing in some detail with the question of acceptance of foreign awards, with particular reference to the unusual circumstances of the war in Vietnam. I shall write to you further on this when I am in a position to do so."

The C.M.F. and Anzac Day

Reports received at National Headquarters indicating that C.M.F. units had been depleted permission to march in Anzac Day processions were referred to the Army Department. A reply from the departmental secretary reads as follows:

"I refer to your letter of April 17 concerning C.M.F. units participating in Anzac Day processions.

"The local instruction in the area concerned has been reviewed and approval given for C.M.F. units to participate, when invited by the organisers and at the discretion of the C.O. of the individual unit.

"The members of the unit would be participating on a voluntary basis, and it may not always be possible for a unit to be represented, particularly as some members may wish to march with their old comrades of the former unit.

"The C.O. would be in the best position to decide whether his unit could participate.

"This approval was conveyed to the units concerned shortly before last Anzac Day, but it may be that some units will still find it the time to make arrangement on that occasion.

"The delay in replying to your letter is regretted."

Rivervale Bid For Recruits

The Rivervale sub-branch reports a concentrated drive for new members and is highly commended for a genuine attempt to fill the League's most urgent need.

Twenty additional members have been enrolled. In January, a dedicated and long-serving member, Tom Chappell, received a well merited award of life-membership—an appropriate recognition of a job well done.

At the annual general meeting in April, Norm Healey was elected (and installed as) president, and Owen Whitehurst as his deputy in command. Energetic John Culbertson took over as secretary and Bob Blake as treasurer.

Sub-committees have been formed to take care of the burden of membership and are working satisfactorily. A recent highlight was a visit from the State President who gave a resume of League activities and stressed the need for increased membership as the only means of maintaining the many services rendered in the interests of ex-servicemen.

Congratulations to Alex Croll who won the second prize in the Radio Competition—and incidentally donated the prize money to the A.F.O.F. Nice work, Alex!

Sub-branch efforts in the A.R.M.S. Games, despite the combining of forces with Millen, have not been terribly successful; but there are prospects of improvement.

The Forces Fund

The following donations were received from sub-branches and other ex-service bodies since the last issue of The Listen Post are gratefully acknowledged.

Women's Auxiliary, $35; Boulder Ex-servicewomen's Association, $30; Boulder Ex-servicemen's Club, $10; Boulder Ex-servicewomen's Association, $25; 2/4th M.G. Bn. Association, $20.

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

52nd ANNUAL REPORT

Sub-branch Visits

P. PEARSON: Belmont; Highgate (M); Returned Sisters; Katanning; Kojonup; Arthur River; Medina; Coooram-Waddi Forest; Geraldton; Albany; Northam; Mt. Hawthorn; Bindoon; Shenton Park; Returned Ex-Servicewomen; Public Service; Wooroloo; Maddington; Harvey; Rockingham; Darling Range (M); Rivervale; Gosnells; Kenwick; Belford; Mandurah; Manjimup (Group); Fremantle (Group); Como (Group).

A. KING: Highgate (M); Public Service (M); Returned Sisters; Belmont (M).

L. G. PHENNA: Victoria Park; M.T.T. (M); Riverton; Kojonup; Arthur River; Mundaring; Maylands (M); Belmont (M); Bicton-Palmyra; Corrigin; Childoow; Nollamara; Manjimup (Group); Murray; Applecross; Fremantle (Group); Guildford; Brunswick; Como (Group).


C. BRIGGS: Applecross; Mosman Park.

J. BUCKLE: Peraloni (M); Blackboy Hill (M); Geraldton; Guildford (M).

R. CARTER: Mt. Lawley-Inglewood.

A. COOPER: Nollar (M); Narrogin; Osborne Park; Upper Swan (M); Pingelly; Glen Forrest (M); Kojonup; Nth. Perth (M); Mandurah; Maylands; Guildford; Childoow-Mt. Helena; Gidgegannup; Brookton; Belmont; Riverton; Merredin; Multiple tour (16 sub-branches).

M. CREWE: Manning.

S. CROOK: Albany; Boyup Brook.

P. A. FULLER: West Leederville-Wembley-Floreat Park; Nollamara (M); Yampi; Floreat-City Beach; M.T.T. (M); Rivervale (M); Fremantle (Group); Maylands; Geraldton; Gosnells; Como (Group).

H. H. HAY: Mt. Hawthorn (M); Maddington (M); Shenton Park; Northam (M); Upper Swan; Guildford (M); Maylands (M); Como (Group).

H. G. HOLDER: Bridgetown; Victoria Park; Welshpool; Rockingham (M).

E. F. JOLLEY: Northam; Millen.

R. J. STEWART: Derby; Hills Creek; Kununura; Wyndham; Broome; Guildford; Dongara (War Service Homes Conference).

Miss S. WHITE (deceased): Subiaco; West Leederville-West Botany-Wembley-West Park.

M. WILLIAMS: Peraloni; Geraldton; Wubin (M); Bindoon; Northam; Bindi Bindi; Dongara; Meechattarra.

F. GOMM: Mt. Barker (M); Denmark.

(M) denotes more than one visit.

Membership

Membership in 1967 totalled 13,899, which was 589 less than the 1966 total. Loss through death accounted for 642, but this should have been offset by the number of British ex-servicemen migrating to Western Australia, plus the influx of eligible ex-servicemen from other States who have moved to this State due to the expansion of our North.

The honorary membership offered to members of the services serving in special areas overseas has been used by a considerable number of servicemen. A total of 115 from Western Australia alone have taken advantage of this offer. The League is confident that most servicemen returning from active service will join the R.S.L.

At a conservative estimate the League in this State has recently expanded an annual membership of 45,000. The following figures represent a challenge to every member of the League in Western Australia:

- Surviving members of World War I ............ 7,000
- Surviving members of World War II ........... 68,300
- Surviving members of Korea, Malaya, Borneo .......... 1,500

- Total Membership (two-thirds) 67,800

The conservative potential, it is estimated, would be approximately 45,000. Surely then, these figures should give sub-branches an incentive to increase their membership.

It was noticeable during the year that sub-branches with strong leadership and hard-working committees took advantage of the potential within their districts and made membership their No. 1 aim, with the result that they either equaled or increased their membership total of 1966.

This proves that the members are there if only sub-branches would go out into the field and enroll them. Personal contact has been the best method of recruitment.

The membership sub-committee of the State Executive wishes to express its appreciation of the efforts made by those sub-branch officials who took active measures to improve their membership figures. During the year the Membership sub-committee met 24 times and the Special Membership sub-committee three times.

Meetings of sub-branch presidents and secretaries were held on January 31, March 20 and June 19. A noticeable improvement in attendance was a feature of these meetings and it is hoped that this interest will continue in the future.

The State Executive and Membership sub-committee desire to record their appreciation to Western Command for their gesture in providing both projectionist and films shown on March 20 and June 19. Those who did not attend these meetings missed viewing some excellent films.

In the coming Congress year membership policy will be directed to completion of the visiting of metropolitan sub-branches requiring assistance in membership-drives, and planned visiting tours to country sub-branches. Sub-branches are requested to notify headquarters of altered meeting dates and changes of office-bearers.

Life Membership

In recognition of outstanding service to the League the following members were honoured with the award of Life Membership:

A. V. Badger, J.P. (Northam); P. R. Ingram (Yealering); T. H. S. Chappell (Rivervale); A. G. Scott (Boyupanup); W. S. Ferrier (Rockingham); S. E. Evans (Rocky Gully); H. A. Lea (Dunsborough); E. J. Pateyn (Rye Park); V. G. Wills (Norseman) and T. J. Gurney (Bellevue).

Certificates of Service

Twenty-six Certificates of Service were approved by the State Executive during the year.

Group Conferences

Four district conferences were held during the year—at Manjimup, on 6th April; at Murray on 8th April; at Fremantle on 14th April; and at Como on 26th June. Each conference was a credit to the host sub-branch so far as the organisation was concerned and the support of other sub-branches within the districts could have been stronger.

Attendances at conferences have shown a decline in some instances and from the point of view of the host sub-branch and visiting State Executive members were most disappointing.

By arrangement on behalf of the Membership sub-committee, undertook a whistle-stop tour of 12 sub-branches on 26th April. This tour, covering 16 sub-branches—namely, Northam, Toodyay, York, Wanneroo, Gosnells, Joondalup, Ross, Kalamunda, Rockingham, Cockburn, Armadale, Wanneroo and Dowerin.

The tour was not as successful as previously and in some instances sub-branches failed to attend, thereby letting their own sub-branch down and also the League. This in itself is most disheartening for the visiting executive member, particularly when he undertakes such a visit during his own long-service leave period.
The Membership sub-committee extends its thanks to Mr. Cooper for his efforts.

The State President and members of the Membership sub-committee desire to record their appreciation of the hospitality given by sub-branches during their visits and add a special thank-you to the ladies who made such excellent catering arrangements at each sub-branch visited.

Finally, a plea from the Membership sub-committee: Be a man with a plan—enrol a new member this year!

If every member of the League today enrolled a new member in 1969 the problem of membership would be very close to being solved. Make this a personal project: the ball is now in your court! The pull is on the League by accepting this challenge. The responsibility is yours and that of every member of the League.

Receptions

The State Executive was pleased to tender informal receptions to:
- State Executive members of the Women's Auxiliary.
- The American Charge d'Affaires, Mr. E. M. Cronk.
- The American Consul, Mr. T. Mayfield.
- The Very Reverend J. Payne, Dean of Perth.
- The American Consul, Mr. E. Cleveland.
- Commodore J. M. Ramsay.

State War Memorial

During the term of the present warden, the Hon. L. C. Dyer, M.L.C., immediate emergency ceremonies were conducted and we express sincere thanks to the warden, the assistant-warden Mr. H. D. Dargie and to the duty sub-wardens provided by the Highgate sub-branch.

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

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

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

Anzac Day

When the Dawn Service commenced there were many who were doubtful whether the main service could be conducted without the interference of rain. The threatening conditions certainly affected the presence of many veterans and this was reflected in a lower parade state for the Esplanade service.

However, although there was a strong wind to contend with, the morning remained dry and this traditional and most significant observance was conducted without incident.

The march-past was marred, to some extent, due to an uncompromising attitude on the part of some of the bands. In connection it is of interest to report that subsequently the Pipe Bands Association expressed dissatisfaction and in the process demanded that in future they be paid for their services.

Such an attitude on the national day of commemoration suggests an indifference savoring of a tendency towards self-glorification, with a total disregard of what the community as a whole contributed to the memory of those who lost their lives in the cause of Australia. At the time of going to press it is evident that the outcome of the bands' demands is a matter of conjecture.

Anzac Day meetings were again conducted by both the Turf Club and the Australian Association and we are deeply grateful for gestures which result in a worthwhile contribution to the Anzac Day Trust Fund.

Anzac Day Trust Fund

There was a substantial increase in the amounts made available as a result of the 1967 collections. The War Veterans' Home was credited with $10,270 and the Aged-Soldiers' Fund received $2,115, as compared with $8,350 and $1,800 respectively in 1966.

Some credit for the increased response must be attributed to the League and Torchbearers for Legacy, which jointly assisted the efforts to popularise the racing and trotting programmes staged on the day.

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

Miss Crowning Glory Contest

The Miss Crowning Glory contest for 1967 finished in a blaze of glory with the final announcement of winners, the crowning of the winner and presentation of the candidate on S.T.W. Channel Nine in a one-hour show on Saturday 7th October.

The competition was won by Miss Robin Dodd, of Ashburton Street, Bentley. She was sponsored by Boons of Waverley.

Second prize went to Miss Dona Bremner of Cottesloe, sponsored by the Coastal R.S.L. sub-branches (Nedlands, Mosman and Swanbourne), and the third prize to Miss Julia Hunter of North Perth, who was sponsored by the Central District women's auxiliary.

The 1967 competition was an all-time record for money raised, the total being $21,500.

Miss Carolyn Byrne, sponsored by the Highgate R.S.L., was Miss Charity Princess. She raised a record sum of $2,684.

Generally speaking the money-raising was of an extremely high order, and the following were the candidates who qualified for a D.A. Frecorn watch for raising in excess of $500:

Carolyn Byrne, Highgate R.S.L., $2,684.
Christine Wallace, Colonial Sugar Refining Co., $1,800.
Judith Jennings, Anzac Veteran, $1,739.
Margaret Morpia, R.S.L. Guild, $1,533.12.
Dianne Philipson, R.S.L. and Torchbearers, Albany, $1,100.
Dorothy Hughes, R.A.A.F. Pearce, $905.00.
Jill Chambers, R.S.L. Nollamara, $905.23.
Kaye Howling, R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary, Narrogin, $1,117.
Sylvia Kemp, Companions of Legacy, Fremantle, $1,800.
Maureen Toolin, R.S.L. Cunderdin, $1,006.
Joy Quantrell, Golden Fleece Products, Albany, $1,014.01.
Lorraine Smith, R.S.L. Riverton, $788.97.
Cheryl Poulton, R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary, Pinney, $1,297.99.

Amanda Westhoff, R.S.L. Bellevue, $900.
Jan Purcell, Belton Palmyra R.S.L., $501.
Leone Rodgers, Torchbearers, Bunbury, South Bunbury Rotary and R.S.L., $965.31.
Norma Payne, Boons, Medina, $502.
Mrs. Helen Tournay, R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary, Rockingham, $633.40.

In the first eight years of the Miss Crowning Glory competition a sum of $80,000 has been distributed between Legacy in Western Australia and the War Veterans' Home, and with the very excellent returns for this year, the total distribution over the nine years will now exceed $100,000.

National Congress

The 52nd National Congress was held in Melbourne from 23rd to 26th October and the Victorian State branch was responsible for its successful organisation. All States and P.N.G. were represented. Delegates from W.A. were Messrs P. Pearson (State President) and H. Holder—who were accompanied by the State Secretary (Mr. W. Webb).

His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, Major General Sir Robin Delacombe, K.C.M.G., K.C.M.G., CB, D.S.O., officially opened Congress on Monday, 23rd October, at 10.30 a.m. in the presence of a distinguished gathering including the Minister for Repatriation, Senator C. McKellar (representing the Prime Minister) and Mr. G. Whitlam, leader of the Federal Opposition.

As is customary the agenda covered all facets of League activity and 256 items were listed relating to Repatriation, Defence, War Service Homes, Security, Civil Defence, Land Settlement, etc.

An attractive, if rather strenuous, social programme was arranged and thoroughly appreciated by those in attendance.

Canberra is the venue for the 53rd Congress which is scheduled to commence on 21st October, 1968.

(Continued Overleaf)
Australian Forces Overseas Fund

A major project under the sponsorship of the League was inaugurated in September, 1967, when a strong representative committee comprising prominent citizens and members of the State Executive was formed. The W.A. commissioner for the project is the State President, Mr P. Pearson, and he is the local-member of the national council.

The fund was originally confined to N.S.W. and was placed on a national basis in July, 1967, with all State branches of the R.S.L. working in cooperation.

On February 1 this year the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor launched the Western Australian appeal and it is pleasing to report that the response within the State has so far realised $66,000. The target figure is $100,000.

Within the League we have received generous support from all branches and from many, but not all, sub-branches. The committee is hopeful that there will eventually be a 100 per cent response from sub-branches.

Overall the support from the country has been more generous than in the metropolitan area and some excellent returns have come from comparatively small country sub-branches.

The fund's objectives are clearly defined. We feel that the boys serving in Vietnam and in other areas are justly entitled to all the amenities and comforts which can be provided. We are not concerned with political issues; only with a strong effort to ensure a realisation on the part of serving personnel that they are not forgotten by the R.S.L. and the Australian community at large.

Donations may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, A.F.O.F., Anzac House, and the support of all League members is invited.

Women’s Auxiliary

As usual we are indebted to these loyal supporters for their co-operative efforts in the interest of the League.

Mrs E. A. Ames, who was re-elected unopposed for a further term as President, and look forward to a continuance of the friendly liaison existing.

Mrs. K. Phelps is undertaking a second term of office as State Secretary and we wish her a further successful tenure of office.

During the last financial year the auxiliary raised amounts in sponsoring League projects as follows:

- Australian Forces Overseas Fund—$1137.

Finance

The overall increase in the value of the League’s assets for 1967 was $43,000 represented by an increase of $54,000 in the assets of the War Veterans’ Home (liquids $39,000 and land and buildings $5,000) and a decrease of $2,000 in the other liquid assets of the W.A. branch.

The improvement in the War Veterans’ Home figures resulted from the receipt of donations and interest $12,000, proceeds of Miss Crowning Glory (1967) Quest $9,000, the final acquisition of the R.S.L. shop $18,000 and additions to reserves $20,000, less the working account deficit of $14,000, while the reduction in the League’s other assets reflects the year’s deficit of nearly $7,000 less the amount of $3,600 added to reserves and special funds.

The excess of expenditure over income was $6,915, an improvement of more than $4,000 on the previous year. This was due mainly to increased profits of $1,150 and $500 earned by the Corps of Commissionaires and Anzac House Rentals and a reduction of $2,800 in the loss on the production of the Listening Post.

A drop of $1,000 in the membership income was offset by increased interest earnings of nearly $500 and an appropriation of $400 from the Anzac Day Trust fund to assist in the recoupment of pensions administration costs.

The fall in the membership income reflects the continued decline in membership, which in 1967 was 13,889 compared with 14,658 in 1966 and 13,969 in 1965. This represents a loss of almost $4,500 in the League’s income for the last two years and coupled with the impact of inevitably rising costs makes the task of financing the League’s activities an increasingly difficult one.

Nevertheless, economies effected in 1967 substantially reduced the loss on the Listening Post and, despite the fact that salaries and wages again rose by nearly $2,000, the total of administrative expenditure in 1967 was nearly $300 less than in 1966.

It would appear, therefore, that although in the year under review the serious decline in the League’s finances has been substantially arrested, we must either obtain a material increase in membership or still more drastically economise, or both, before the financial position can be regarded as satisfactory.

The thanks of the League are due to the Finance committee for its handling of a difficult situation in a difficult year.

Anzac House and Club

Although the turnover was $700 and the gross profit $60 better than for the year before, the net loss in 1967, $1,915 was $183 greater than that for 1966.

This was occasioned almost entirely by the increase of nearly $1,100 in wages paid, the other increases and decreases in expenditure being offset by each other.

This means that the club does not receive enough support from members to enable a comparatively static turnover to withstand the increasing costs. Once again the plain fact emerges that we need more customers.

Although the rentals received were slightly less than in 1966 the net profit on rentals was $830 greater, this being due almost wholly to the fact that we no longer have to pay rent for the boarding area.

While the loss on this area would thus appear to have benefited the club, it is most certainly has not benefited the club, so that what we may have gained on the one hand we have assuredly lost on the other.

Although the items of repairs and maintenance and cleaning of the building were $285 less than for the previous year the maintenance and general order of Anzac House continues to be desirable and must become increasingly so as the years go by.

Anzac Club—Amenities

During the year the Amenities committee supplied cards, games, equipment and magazines at a cost of $90, spent $115 on entertainers and $180 on refreshments for members, provided for T.V. licenses and maintenance and Christmas decorations, supported the Anzac Darts Club and completed the year with $1,447 in the bank.

The committee contributed the sum of $692.92 in support of the candidature of Miss Judy Jennings as Miss Anzac Club in the 1967 Crowning Glory quest.

War Veterans’ Home

We are pleased to report that this important phase of activity is being maintained at the highest level, and for this fact we record appreciation of the services rendered by the Superintendent, Major Owen Howes.

The board, under the chairmanship of Dr Alan King, continues to function in a most satisfactory manner and every effort is made by the members of the board to ensure the maintenance of a progressive policy designed to promote the comfort, security and general well-being of all residents.

It is of interest to note that the average age of our guests is almost 78 years and this is obviously indicative that time is indeed marching on. The average daily parade rate is 116.

We are greatly indebted to the many people who contribute to the undoubted success of this major venture and special mention must be made of Dr R. J. Wheeler of the Repatriation-General Hospital, the Edward Millen, Royal Free Hospital and Sir Charles Gairdner hospitals for unfailing courtesy and support.

In the not-too-distant future the Medical Holding Centre will become operative, and with its 12-bed accommodation will add much to the amenities already provided.

Another point of interest is the extent to which the chapel is being utilized; average attendance at all services throughout the year was 14.

As is customary, special observances were arranged to mark the Anzac Eve and Remembrance Day commemorations.
The following table illustrates this point:

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<tr>
<th>Special Rate T.P.I. Pension</th>
<th>1920</th>
<th>1943</th>
<th>1950</th>
<th>1967</th>
<th>R.S.L.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Equivalent Committ.</td>
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<td>100%</td>
<td>101%</td>
<td>81%</td>
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<td>Committ. Basic Wage</td>
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<td>Minimum Wage</td>
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<td>Committ. Basic Wage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equivalent</td>
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<td>Committ. Basic Wage</td>
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<td>Minimum Wage</td>
<td>190%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In support of the request that all returned servicemen of the First World War and the Boer War are eligible for medical and pharmaceutical benefits, League inquiries and investigations indicate that 21 veterans would be affected, approximate cost being in the region of $3,000,000.

Sub-branches and League members throughout Australia testify to the need that exists amongst a high percentage of First World War members.

Those particularly affected are men who, by virtue of possessing a small private income, are just excluded from receiving Repatriation Service Pension, and are thus denied repatriation hospital benefits.

In many cases it is necessary for the League to assist members in this category. At the very least the provision might be adopted subject to a liberal means-test.

Income Tax: A reply has been received from the Minister for Social Services indicating that the Government has at last conceded that repatriation pensions no longer be taken into account for the purpose of ascertaining a person's eligibility for the age allowance concessions of the income-tax law.

Special Overseas Service Act: The Government has approved of repatriation benefits, similar to those available under the Repatriation (Special Overseas Service) Act, being provided as an Act of Grace to accredited representatives of philanthropic organisations, on the basis that the benefits will be accessible only to those whose service is certified by the relevant authority as comparable with allotment to special-duty for a member of the forces.

Unfortunately the Government has not yet extended the privilege of the automatic acceptance of pulmonary tuberculosis to servicemen under Special Overseas Service.

Medical and Hospital Benefits: The committee is pleased to report that complaints respecting treatment and care are a thing of the past.

The following extension of facilities have been made available or are proposed by the W.A. repatriation branch:

A new restoration centre for psychiatric patients came into operation in April, 1968.

The new building, of modern design, incorporating the latest features and located in the ground of Edward Millen Hospital, East Perth, William will be available for 200 patients and approximately the same number of visitor patients.

Provision has been made for occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and all forms of treatment.

At the R.G.H., Hollywood, plans are under consideration for a new multi-storey building which will house the Pathology, X-ray and Occupational Therapy departments, and also an associated day centre for out-patients who are undertaking occupational therapy.

It has been recommended that this building be air-conditioned by a large plant which could ultimately take over the air-conditioning of all areas throughout the hospital.

Air-conditioning of wards and treatment areas has been carried out progressively under a comprehensive programme during recent years.

Additions to the equipment and plant in the X-ray and other departments have been made during the year to introduce the latest and most modern methods of carrying out tests and investigations.

(Continued Overleaf)
Reparation Claims and Appeals: The appeal tribunal sat at Perth for 34 weeks during the year, 647 appeals being advocated by the League in addition to written submissions supporting initial claims or appeals to the Reparation Commission.

Reparation Department: Your committee and the League in general has continued to receive the helpful co-operation of the department.

The visits to country centres by the Deputy-Commissioner and senior officers of his department has continued to maintain the friendly liaison and to bring clarification of reparation queries to ex-servicemen unable by distance to visit the department.

On behalf of the League your committee desires to express thanks and appreciation to the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. J. W. Robson, to the Assistant Deputy Commissioners, Mr. T. M. O'Sullivan and Mr. A. W. Pedler, and the reparation staff in general, for advice so readily given to the numerous inquiries made during the year.

Appreciation: This is also recorded to the Director of Social Services, and officers of his department for the generous assistance and advice given during the year.

To the members of the medical profession for the time and care given in furnishing advice and medical opinions to support appeals and claims and visits.

Finally, to the sub-branch secretaries and officers who have aided your committee during its term of office.

Conclusion: The following statistical information obtained by your committee will be of interest to ex-servicemen and clearly indicates the necessity for continued vigilance in respect of reparation.

The surviving ex-service population in Australia is in the vicinity of 861,500 comprising 102,000 from the 1914-18 war; 747,700 from the 1939-45 war; and approximately 17,800 from subsequent wars — including Korea and Vietnam.

The average age of survivors from the 1914-18 war is 72.3 years, and 49.6 years from the 1939-45 war.

The surviving population of ex-servicemen in Western Australia at November, 1967, is estimated to be 7,000 1914-18 war personnel, and 68,300 from the 1939-45 war.

The statistical survey indicated that ex-service personnel represented 26 per cent of the Australian male population over 25 years of age, and of all Australian males over 45 years of age 37 per cent are ex-service personnel. The highest concentration of ex-servicemen in the Australian male population is 54 per cent in the age group 45 to 49 years.

Hospital Visiting

During the year under review every effort has been made to ensure the continuation of hospital visiting.

Sub-branch Activities

Major metropolitan hospitals and institutions are regularly visited by 18 sub-branches, working to a prepared roster. Country hospitals are covered by local sub-branches.

Advice obtained as to the admission of ex-service personnel to Hollywood Hospital is relayed to metropolitan sub-branches and to service organisations. Appointed hospital-visitors of the sub-branches or organisations concerned regularly visit their members in hospital or when inmates of C Class hospitals or rest homes.

A report received from the Returned Sisters' sub-branch advises that during 1967 the following visits were made by their members:

- 120 bedside visits to the Braille Institute for the Blind;
- 16 ex-service personnel constantly visited at the Home of Peace, Subiaco;
- 30 bedside visits made to private hospitals.

In addition visits were made to 25 sub-branch members at hospital or in their homes.

Unfortunately the continued reticence of other sub-branches to submit details does not permit of the full extent of sub-branch activities to be included in the report. However, there is no reason to doubt that the work of the League members quietly undertaken passes unnoticed.

The visiting of country or former country members is undertaken by the Corps of Hospital Visitors.

In accordance with the League's policy to assist all ex-service personnel it should be emphasised that hospital visiting is not restricted to visiting financial members. Endeavour is made by Sub-branches and the Corps of Hospital Visitors to visit ex-servicemen and women in general.

Women's Auxiliary

The activities of the Women's Auxiliary continued unabated throughout the year.

The thanks of your committee is conveyed for the continuing untiring efforts made by the auxiliary who have for years visited the sick.

Corps of Hospital Visitors

Your committee again records its deep appreciation of the untiring work undertaken by the Corps, especially to the members who have continued to serve since its inauguration in 1959.

During the year the Corps visited 849 individual sick ex-service men and women.


The late Miss S. White also served devotedly on the Corps.

Unfortunately the growing age of the veteran members often limits their activities and the time available for visiting.

There is still an urgent need for volunteers to enrol in the Corps.

Appreciation is expressed to the following sub-branches for donations to the Hospital Visiting Fund received during the year under review:

Esperance $10; Coorow-Waddy Forest, $10; Dunsborough-Yallingup, $10; Como, $5; Kukerin, $10.

The major portion of the fund is utilised to provide comforts for the unfortunate mentally sick. The fund is commended to all sub-branches as well worthy of their support.

On behalf of thanks are conveyed to Mr. S. A. Macnamara, M.B.E., for another year of tireless activity as State Executive Visitor, to sub-branches, to the Women's Auxiliary, to the Corps of Hospital Visitors, and to all who have assisted throughout the year.

Finally, it is with deep regret your committee records its deep sorrow at the death early this month of its chairman, Miss S. White.

Publicity

Our principal medium, The Listening Post, is at present continuing to face weekly obstacles as a result of a State Congress decision in 1967. This procedure has lessened the financial burden and this is reflected in a reduced deficit for the 1967 financial year.

This aspect of League activity became the subject of a spirited debate during Congress last year and a keen difference of opinion to the undertaking of a division became necessary on the issue. Voting figures were 61 in favour of the journal's continuance and 35 against.

This matter is to come up for further discussion during the 1968 Congress and consideration may be given to major difficulties arising from new Post Office regulations which require pre-sorting of mail into districts.

We must therefore be prepared for additional costs in the production of The Listening Post to an extent likely to seriously offset the savings resulting from a quarterly issue, plus an extremely heavy administrative burden.

Welfare and Relief

Twenty-one meetings were held during the year and 346 cases dealt with, the amount of $800 being made available in new applications alone, plus many orders for accommodation and rail warrants and assistance for employment.

The committee have investigated many cases of hardship on behalf of the E.C.E.I. and supervised the distribution of a considerable amount of cash on their behalf to needy British ex-servicemen and their families during the year.

With deepest regret we announce the death of Miss Stella White after a long illness. Stella passed away on July 8. Her determination and qualities were outstanding and she was tireless in her efforts to assist.
Aged Soldiers' Fund
Currently grants from the fund are going to 85 aged veterans and expenditure for the last financial year was $5,557. The fund is in a sound condition with an increase in assets of $6,046 and in forfeitures by non-payment of $1,181.
In December, 97 parcels were dispatched to needy applicants at a cost of $194.
Allocation from the Anzac Day Trust was $2,195 and Poppy Day proceeds were $4,062.

Housing
The committee has met regularly during the year and has dealt with numerous cases of hardship.

The services of Mr. George Sherrington were missed as he had such a thorough knowledge of the ramifications of the War Service Homes Act, the State Housing Act and the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement.

Mr. Chapman gave excellent service for a period, but now the committee has the services of Mr. McDonald who, it is felt, will serve the needs of ex-service men and women with sincerity.

The sub-committee has had the utmost co-operation from the Liaison Officer of the State Housing Commission.

Continued representations have been made in order that more land be compared with the War Service Homes applicants and, as a result, several blocks have been secured in various areas.

In particular, some blocks have been secured in the Warnbro Beach estate recently and there are a number of blocks in various areas awaiting titles and services.

The committee has considered the difficulties of getting separate titles and, as a result, a motion appeared on the agenda for Congress and was carried.

The difficulty is that the Town Planning Board will not permit sub-division in these cases and the committee does not feel that this is reasonable.

Bowls Competition
During the current year the League, with the aid of a very energetic committee, was able to conduct three lawn bowling tournaments. The first two were held at the War Veterans Home, mainly as a social outing with a view to inaugurating a bowls competition similar to those conducted in the Eastern States by some State branches of the League.

To say the least all functions were highly successful, culminating in the final competition being contested by 53 teams. The contest was won by the West Adelaide-Wembley-Floreat Park sub-branch, who narrowly defeated Bedford-Morley sub-branch.

The League is indebted to Mr. Morris Crewe for providing a perpetual trophy, with replicas for competition, and we hope this competition will grow to such an extent that we can put on a paxx, with our own League a.ist. residents.

Our thanks also to Mr. Ron Stone for providing trophies and to all those who worked so hard in order to bring about such a successful conclusion.

Operation “New Life”
A steady flow of articles has been received during the year by the committee, many of them are included in the year ahead.

More publicity is sought and required to educate the general public of the necessity to increase the flow of help to the Vietnamese people.

Much credit must be given to our services in Vietnam for the amount of work involved in the distribution of the civil-aid programme.

Our thanks go to all those who have assisted to make this scheme a success. The Army, community radio and TV stations, the West Australian, the Sydney Morning Herald, also the school children for their wonderful effort.

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

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

R.S.L. Shop
This facet of activity continues to provide substantial support to the War Veterans’ Home to which all profits are directed.

Turnover for the current year may be affected due to extensive alterations being carried out in the shop. The difficulties associated with the completely chaotic conditions can better be imagined than described. It is to the credit of the manager (Alastair Walsh) and his staff that trading has been maintained at all.

There is room for a great deal of improvement in the patronage of League members. The R.S.L. Shop is worthy of support.

State Executive
We have to announce with genuine regret the passing of Miss Stella White whose death occurred on 8th July after a long period of unconsciousness while a patient in Hollywood Hospital.

Stella served on the Executive during 1959-61 and 1961-68, and followed Miss Mary Meares (1962-69) as the representative of the women’s services. We extend sincere sympathy to her relatives.

The only other change in personnel occurred with the resignation (in November) of Mr. Roy Carter, who was replaced by Mr. B. J. Flanagan.

A number of changes are apparent for the 1968-69 year and absentees from the voting paper include Mr. H. Leslie (after 25 years of loyal service), Messrs. J. S. Bell, S. Crook, B. Flanagan, W. Haymes and C. Shave.

There are 13 new nominees and the names of the successful candidates appear on another page.

Staff
In an effort to balance the budget, reductions were made last July to the extent of one senior male and one senior female. To say that this has imposed a severe strain on the administration in general is putting it mildly.

Two of the problems were several staff changes which also caused major complications. Under these trying circumstances the staff as a whole have done a magnificent job and must be given full credit.

One notable change concerned Mr. George Sherrington who sought pastures new after six years with the League. A replacement officer left after only a few weeks but we feel that the present Welfare Officer, Mr. Don McDonald (ex-New Zealand) will, in time, fill the requirements.

Obituary
We regretfully announce the names of prominent League members who have passed away since our last report—the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, Mr. H. Holt; Brigadier Arnold Fottis; Mr. Frank Boan; Miss Stella White.

A.R.M.S. Games
The Archbishop Riley Memorial Shield Games were again successfully held in the 1967 season with the grand final being played on Monday, 11th September, 1967.

The Archbishop Riley Memorial Shield was won by Mt. Hawthorn from West Leederville-Wembley-Floreat Park. Congratulations to Mt. Hawthorn on their second successive win.

Adding to Mt. Hawthorn’s achievements was Mt. Hawthorn’s second in the William Henry Taunton Shield and Mt. Hawthorn’s third. The annual Rifle Championship went to R. J. Nyman of Applecross Sub-Branch, B. Williams of Gloucester Park, filling an important place in the premier grade.

The Plate again went to R. Miller of West Leederville-Wembley-Floreat Park, the runner-up being C. Lindau, also of West Leederville-Wembley-Floreat Park.

The-sidebar games were played again this year and the V.W.L. (Wembley) and Salvation Army teams taking part, namely: Floreat-City Beach-Nedlands, Millen-Rivervale, City of Perth, Gloucester Park, Mt. Hawthorn, Swanbourne, and West Leederville-Wembley-Floreat Park.

Again this year competition is strong.

P. Pearson, State President.
W. Webb, State Secretary.
Y.A.L. Tours For Girls

Another tour for girls to England and the Continent is being arranged by the Young Australia League for next year.

The tour party will leave Fremantle in the Lloyd Triestino liner Galileo Galilei on February 15.

The ship's itinerary takes in the other mainland Australian ports and Suva, Fago Fago and the Panama Canal, with disembarkation at Lisbon.

An extensive tour of the Continent will include Spain, France, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, West Germany, Holland and Belgium.

Following a tour of England and Scotland the party will return to the Continent, cross to Rome and embark for the homeward journey at Naples.

The return voyage will be by way of South Africa, with visits to Las Palmas and Durban.

E.S. TOUR

The Y.A.L. girls' tour to the Eastern States—conducted every second year—will be on again.

The girls will travel by air to Melbourne for a six-day visit, and thence by train to Canberra.

They will spend six days at Cairns, and from there fly to Sydney for an 11 day stay. The return to Perth will be by air direct.

For further information contact Y.A.L. headquarters, Murray Street, Perth.

Farm Loans: Easier Terms Sought

The League has recently been seeking an extension of the time within which young men returning from service in Vietnam might apply for re-establishment agricultural loans, and has received the following ministerial reply:

I refer to your letter of April 8 to my colleague, the Hon. D. J. Anthony, in which you raised the question of the time in which National Servicemen in applying for agricultural loans.

The object of a re-establishment loan is to enable the applicant discharged National Serviceman to establish or re-establish himself satisfactorily in civil life.

In seeking to achieve this objective the Defence (Re-establishment) Act requires that an application for the loan shall be based on a nominated project which will give reasonable prospects of re-establishment, subject to vocational training or illness, to be lodged within 12 months of discharge.

If, as suggested in your letter, the taking-up of loans were to be deferred beyond the period 12 months, the question would arise as to the total length of time for which deferment should be allowed.

Indeed, this time could only be granted for practical purposes, and could be regarded only as a temporary deferral in the time required.

I would naturally have to be relatively short to come within the conception of re-establishment, subject to vocational training, or illness, to be lodged within 12 months of discharge.

It seems to me that the prescribed period of 12 months following discharge is a reasonable period for the individual to make the decision in respect of the project he wishes to undertake for re-establishment, and I am not convinced that an alternative to the current legislation is necessary.

A further letter has been written to the Minister, pressing the case for an extension of time to enable young men to qualify for agricultural assistance and apply for the loan.

Remembering

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's latest publication, entitled 'Their Name Liveth', details—both pictorially and in story—the manner in which our servicemen who died in the Far East and the Pacific are honoured, in such a way that—for all time—their memory be preserved in surroundings worthy of their sacrifice.

Lieutenant-General Sir John E. Chilvers, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., D.S.O., MC, C. S. A. of the campaign, intimate knowledge of back country and military life, rendered him eminently suited to do so, was invited to forward the book.

The foreword now included in the book holds Sir Edmund.

It is felt that each branch of the League would wish to possess a copy of this book.

Copies are available at $1.50 each plus postage.

Thrityuniners Going Well

The Thirtyniners Association was paid a very hearty welcome at the last Honours List when its federal patron, Major-General Ivan Dougherty, O.B.E., R.A., was awarded a knighthood.

Congratulations have been sent to him on behalf of the W.A. branch.

Most teething troubles are now over and the association is becoming fairly well organised.

Much work has been done by the committee, but much more remains to be done—not only by the committee but by all members.

Sub-committees are in the process of being formed—where new members will be especially welcome.

Membership is steadily increasing and may not try and bring along at least one new member to the next meeting?

The association is an honour and a privilege.

On Sunday, September 1st at 3 p.m., the association will lay a wreath on the W.A. War Memorial. All members are requested to attend. Formal dress and medals are to be worn.

A stained-glass donation to Red Cross is being organised, and members will be informed of arrangements personally. This would be good publicity.

16th Battalion Association

The attendance at the Anzac Day march—and the Railway Institute afterwards—was about the same as last year.

Some new faces were noted by the committee who would like to see more of the battalion's most colourful figures be present at committee meetings in future.

Bill's mates at the War Veterans' Home deeply appreciate his old pal and miss his good humour.

The sympathy of the Association is extended to Mr. W. Truran on the death of his wife.

Capt. Dan Aarons spent a few days in Western Australia recently.

All in all, statistics show that the enthusiasm is growing.

The idea of the next-branch of Pte. Richard Henry Rennie (No. 4891), 15th Reinforcement, is to be congratulated on his recent marriage.

The secretary has well received and is looking forward to the next-branch of Pte. Richard Henry Rennie (No. 4891), 15th Reinforcement, at their next meeting.

The secretary has also been asked to find out what happened to Private E. R. R. (1904–4th Reinforcement), and to report back on the good list of any assistance.
Reply From The P.M. On Pensions Issue

Following the meeting of national ex-service organisations convened by the R.S.L. last March a submission was made to the Prime Minister protesting at the erosion in the value of war and service pensions. A copy of the Prime Minister’s reply is quoted.

“You wrote to me in March about a resolution of a meeting of representatives of a number of ex-service organisations concerning repatriation pensions.

The Prime Minister has replied as follows:

“You wrote to me in March about a resolution of a meeting of representatives of a number of ex-service organisations concerning repatriation pensions.

“Fixing the level of repatriation pensions is no simple matter, involving as it does consideration of the Government’s responsibility to the whole community, some assessment of the prospective availability of resources and consideration of many compelling and competing demands on them. For this reason the Government’s practice has been to review repatriation matters not just occasionally, but every year.

“There has, in fact, been some change for the better in repatriation arrangements every year since the Government came to office, and there have been some pension increases almost every year.

“We will shortly be conducting our annual review of these matters again and I assure you that the resolution put forward by the interested ex-service organisations and, in addition, the further points you refer recently to the ex-servicemen’s committee of Cabinet will be kept well in mind in the course of the Government’s discussions.”

Death Of Blind Veteran

The death occurred on July 30 in Hollywood Hospital of a well known and widely respected ex-serviceman who served with the 1st Battalion in the Great War and was totally blinded during service in France.

He was Bill James (74), a prominent member of the R.S.L. and who served on the R.S.L. State Executive for 25 years.

In addition he rendered valuable service as president of the W.A. Blinded Ex-servicemen’s Association, of which he was a foundation member, and in that work was ably assisted by his wife (now deceased).

The late Mr James held the position of secretary to the Association for more than 20 years.

Bill was noted for an extraordinary ability to recognise voices and was always kind-hearted and self-reliant. In spite of his serious disability, he leaves two sons.

Obtaining A Better ‘New Life’ Picture

The R.S.L. has constantly sought more regular and detailed reports and photographs on the application of the New Life programme in Vietnam.

The latest information on the subject comes from the secretary of the Army Department, who says:

“Thank you for your letter of May 13, about progress reports on Operation New Life.

“I was aware, from my officers, that you were concerned about this, and so we were. As a consequence I discussed the matter fully with the officers forward for the next visit in Vietnam during my recent visit, and I hope it will be found possible to provide us with a list of Information and photographs to the R.S.L.

“Naturally we are anxious to give similar reports to other organisations who are helping our Civic Action in Vietnam, but there is no doubt in some instances this is quite difficult to achieve.

“In the case of New Life I believe the task should be easier because most of the items, or at least the packing cases, are readily identifiable.

“Just prior to viewing your letter a proposal was put to forward for a regular newsletter to be sent from the department to the organisations, such as R.S.L., helping us. This may well be the best answer.

“I shall write to you again as soon as possible.”
ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICEMEN


SOUTH AFRICAN 2/16TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION—meets in April, June, September, and December, at 8 p.m. President, C. A. Broome; 2nd Branch, South Perth (67 2067).

BRITISH SERVICES ASSOCIATION INC.—meets on 2nd Monday each month, at The Strand, Bedford Park (71 5581).

10TH LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION—meets on 2nd Friday in each month, at Anzac House, 96 Mosman Park, Subiaco.

ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION OF W.A.—meets in September, November, and January, at 8 p.m. President, G. A. W. McDowall, Secretary, L. Slattery.

ROYAL ARMoured CORPS ASSOCIATION—meets 4th Thursday of each month, at 8 p.m. President, R. A. Wood; Secretary, R. E. F. Walker.

ROYAL ARMED SERVICES ASSOCIATION INC.—meets on 2nd Friday each month, at Anzac House, 96 Mosman Park, Subiaco.
Life Assurance Cover For Servicemen

The League has made a number of submissions to the Government in recent months seeking some form of life-assurance cover for serving personnel, or alternatively payment by the Government of war-service loadings imposed on policy-holders.

To the latest submission Defence Minister Fairhall has replied as follows:

"Whilst recognising that not all life-assurance societies adopt a uniform practice concerning the types of policy offered to servicemen or the maximum sum which may be assured I have confirmed that the life offices continue to insure any serviceman at normal premium rates, and that a war clause attached, provided he applies for a policy before he is posted for service in an operational area.

This is well advertised at recruiting centres.

I have also confirmed that some life-assurance societies do impose limits on the amount of life cover they will extend to servicemen.

The limit imposed by the society you have quoted is $10,000. There is nothing to prevent a serviceman taking out cover to the maximum extent with a number of companies if he wishes to do so.

The position, then, is that servicemen may take out life assurance at the same rates and under the same conditions as civilians provided they do so before being posted for operational service, and that if they wish to insure themselves for sums in excess of $10,000 they can do so by going to two or more companies.

Servicemen are informed of this position.

In the circumstances I do not accept that the government has any responsibility to extend special assistance in this matter.

All servicemen on operational service are now entitled, to the death or invalidity cover of the D.F.R.B. scheme, as well as reparation benefits.

As the Treasurer announced in Parliament last year the government has examined in detail the question of additional life-assurance cover for servicemen and has concluded that, having regard to Australian conditions, adequate provision is made under legislation to meet the immediate and future needs of dependents of personnel killed on active service.

Medical Benefits For Ex-service Dependents

From time to time inquiries are made as to the medical benefits available for dependents of living ex-servicemen.

Briefly the position is that wives or other dependents of living war veterans or pensioners are not eligible, as such, for medical treatment at the expense of the Repatriation Department. However, they may have eligibility in their own right as ex-members of the forces. Here service pensioners have eligibility under the Pensioner Medical Service administered by the Commonwealth Department of Health; but eligible dependents qualify for treatment under that scheme.

As a matter of convenience the Repatriation Department does issue Entitlement cards on behalf of the Department of Health to service pensioners' dependents as holders of the initial grant, and normally an ex-service man obtains treatment under the Repatriation Department. Eligible dependants use the Department of Health entitlement card for their treatment needs.

Protecting Awards

A motion seeking protection for the Anzac Medallion and lapel badge was carried at the 52nd National Congress and submitted in due course to the Minister for Defence. It read:

"That the Commonwealth Government be asked to ensure that specific regulations be gazetted with the issue of the medallion so that under no circumstances shall Anzac commemorative medallions and badges be sold."

In reply the Minister said:

"I refer to your previous correspondence regarding resolution No. 109 of the 52nd National Congress of the Returned Services League which asks the Government to ensure that the same protection is given to the Anzac commemorative medallion and badge as at present pertaining to service decorations.

"The Comminwealth's legal advisers are satisfied that the provisions of the Defence Act, 1939-1966, relating to the manufacture and disposal of service decorations apply to the Anzac commemorative medallion and badges, and that no further action is therefore required."

Concerts For Men Abroad

A letter in the following terms has been received by the National President (Sir Al Lee) in connection with the West Australian concert party's visit to Vietnam.

"May I, on behalf of the committee and all ranks of the Australian forces in Vietnam, thank you for the entertainment provided by your West Australian concert party.

"Their performances were professional and enjoyed by all. The standards of co-operation and the good spirit shown by Mr Blaksett and all members of the party were exemplary.

"It's members were unfortunately subject to last-minute changes in itinerary, means of transport and accommodation, and these unexpected difficulties, and their case and willingness under adverse conditions made it a pleasure for all of us to have them with us."

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