Ex-service people prominent in Honours list

R.S.L. and ex-service personnel were prominent among the 27 West Australians named in this year's New Year Honours list.

They included the two new knights—Sir Norman Brearley and Sir Reginald Rushton—Mr K. J. Townsman (C.M.G.), Brigadier G. F. T. Richardson (C.B.E.), Professor C. Sanders (C.B.E.), Mr Percy Pearson (O.B.E.), Mr A. Spencer (O.B.E.), Miss P. F. Lee (O.B.E.), Major A. Howes (M.B.E.), Mrs W. M. Rolfe (B.E.M.), Miss M. Saggers (B.E.M.), and Mr A. Milford, of Geraldton (B.E.M.).

Sir Norman Brearley inaugurated the first regular commercial air service in Australia using a Bristol Tourer on the Perth-Geraldton route.

Eight years later he opened the first air service between Perth and Adelaide.

For years he conducted the air service to Derby. He returned the Perth Flying School and when it was absorbed by the Royal Aero Club he became its first president. In 1961 he became a life-member.

During the Great War Sir Norman served with the Royal Flying Corps. He was a fighter pilot in France until November 1916 when he was shot down. Because of his wounds he was declared unfit for further overseas service.

Brig. Richardson, now deputy Adjutant-General in Canberra, was active service in the World War.

The award of State President Pearson in the Commonwealth list was for his work on behalf of ex-service men and women.

Mr Pearson has been a member of the League since the World War, and State President since 1965.

In the World War he served with 1 Australian Armoured Division and the Royal Australian Engineers.

Mr Pearson is a Justice of the Peace.

Another prominent State branch member to be honoured is Major Owen Howes, J.P. His M.B.E. was for meritorious service to W.A. ex-service men and women.

Major Howes has been superintendent of the War Veterans' Home at Mt. Lawley since its inception in 1961.

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 716118).

HE WAS STAUNCH TO THE END

The recent death of Mr S. A. Macnamara, M.B.E., J.P., was a serious loss to his family, friends and community.

Mr Macnamara, formerly of Subiaco, was born in Sydney in 1891 and educated at Perth Boys School.

During the Great War he served with the 112 Howitzer Battery, Royal Artillery of the 1st A.I.F. After holding the position of Acting Major he returned to the army in Western Australia as a captain. He retired from the Army in 1946.

A West Perth footballer in early years Mr Macnamara later became involved with the Subiaco Club and was once president of its Social Committee.

In 1937 the Queen recognised his services to the R.S.L. and as a Hospital Visitor by awarding him an M.B.E. In one year alone Sid made thousands of bedside visits at Hollywood Hospital—a fine record by a distinguished gentleman.

As a representative of the R.S.L. Mr Macnamara sat on several hospital boards and welfare organisations, and was a League trustee for many years.

He is survived by a son and a daughter.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN TRAVEL?

Turn to Page 3 for details of a NEW R.S.L. SERVICE FOR MEMBERS
Outstanding Quest in the planning

The organising committee for the Miss Crowning Glory quest has the initial arrangements for this year's competition well in hand and looks for a bigger success than ever.

The quest, now in its 16th year, is conducted to raise funds to help finance the work of Legacy and the War Veterans' Home in Western Australia. Shortly the committee will be seeking financial support by encouraging their nomination by branches and auxiliaries and invitation to enter the quest as candidates.

It is hoped that once again the R.S.L. sub-branches and auxiliaries will become sponsors of entrants by guaranteeing their nomination fee and by encouraging their committee in its fund raising efforts.

The 1970 quest winner, Miss Suzanne Mann, was sponsored by the Mt. Tom Price R.S.L. Her contribution of $1,555.46 was most creditable.

Albany R.S.L. and the Legacy group there joined forces to sponsor Lesley Pearce, and her contribution of $1,556.83 won her the title of Girl of the Golden West.

Miss Sandra Anderson, who won the Charity Princess award, had no sponsor but made a magnificent effort which resulted in the quest funds receiving $2,051.

Freecorn Memorial watches were awarded to all young women who contributed $500 or more. They are named in the following list along with details of sponsoring body and the sum each raised:

Irene Hollis (Legacy auxiliary) $1079; Sally Lawson (Rivervale RSL) $510; Sandra Anderson (own committee) $2051; Lesley Pearce (Albany RSL-Legacy) $1556.83; Vivienne Harrison (Boons Perth Social Club) $729.50; Christine Rignall (Boons Morley Social Club) $1168.98; Kay Jarvis (Boons Innaloo Social Club) $663.71; Suzanne Mann (Mt. Tom Price) $1555.46; Dianne Marshall (Arthur River RSL) $908.60; Jean Tilbee (Bellevue RSL auxiliary) $1500; Wendy Hudson (Margaret River RSL) $1037.99; Eileen Cassin (Geraldton RSL) $618.44; Jeanne Clark (Cunderdin RSL sub-branch) $504.25.

It is very gratifying to see the R.S.L.'s involved in the sponsorship of so many successful candidates.

The War Veterans' Home at present is sheltering 152 elderly people.

NOW'S A GOOD TIME TO PAY YOUR 1971 SUBSCRIPTION

R.S.L. MEMBERS. Your 1971 subscription ($3) became due on January 1. Payment may now 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.

I enclose $3, my subscription to 31/12/71

NAME ..................
ADDRESS ................
SUB-BRANCH ............
UNIT .................. No.

Use these membership coupons

This one is for you

This one is for your mate

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

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NAME ..................
ADDRESS ................
SUB-BRANCH ............
UNIT .................. No.
NEW TRAVEL SERVICE FOR R.S.L. MEMBERS

The State Executive has formed a sub-committee to investigate the establishment of an accredited travel service for members.

The sub-committee consists of Messrs R. J. Stephert, H. Holter and M. C. Hall.

The travel service is to be free to members except for possible nominal charges for extra services, but the formalities may take a little time.

Privileged house staff officers plus committee members, are prepared immediately to advise and assist members with such travel problems as passports, inoculations, visas, shipping berths, airfares (intrastate, interstate and overseas), railway and bus bookings, accommodation and overseas mail.

They will also arrange introductions to service organisations and kindred bodies with associated interests.

The initial group travel project is to be a group flight with B.O.A.C. to England and return, with one stopover in either direction-Singapore outward and Hong Kong on the return.

The proposed group return fare to one adult is $674.90—a saving of $97.60 on a normal adult fare of $1,270.50.

The trip will be of approximately six weeks duration and available to financial members of six months standing, including wives and families.

Forty adults are required for the first departure.

The first 20 members to register with the State Secretary will have their wives and/or families included in the first tour, planned for April 1971.

No individual obligation is incurred by registering, and no payment should be made at this stage.

When the service is accredited, commissions will be received from relevant shipping companies, airlines etc.

TRAVEL PLANS

Commemorating with this issue it is intended to draw the attention of members to interesting and worthwhile ocean cruises in the months ahead.

This summary will become a regular feature of the Listening Post.

The cruises recommended this month are:

- Asian Adventure Cruise (Shaw Savill Line)—leaves Sydney on 3rd March, 1971.

The schedule:

Days 1-4: Hong Kong.
Days 5-9: Teheran, Athens, Cape Town.
Days 10-14: Rome, Vatican City, Venice.
Days 21-25: Frankfurt, Heidelberg.
Days 36-40: London, New Zealand, Buffalo, Niagara Falls.

Further details on request from the State Secretary.

Any profits accruing from the travel service will go to the R.S.L. funds, and it is not intended at present to advertise through any medium other than The Listening Post.
SHOP AND SAVE CONSISTENTLY AT ANY OF THE 90 TOM'S STORES Throughout W.A. (Metropolitan and Country)

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

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HEAD OFFICE: T.E. WARDLE PTY. LTD., 87 Canning Hwy, South Perth, W.A. *6 3344
BITTERNESS ERODED BY TIME

The R.S.L. National President, Sir Arthur Lee, who has penned the foreword to Battleground South Pacific, says: "Time has eroded the bitterness and ugliness of war."

The sentiment is shared by the authors of the book through its dedication to "The soldiers of all nations who fought in the South Pacific."

Sir Arthur, in his praise of the book, commends it to all ex-servicemen and adds: "It is a significant contribution to contemporary literature, for it deals with a present that is a major link with a past in a way that no other book has attempted."

Battleground South Pacific is beautifully produced, concise and clear in story, with a profusion of pictures many in colour.

For Sydney photographer Robert Howlett, these pictures are the reward of time, skill and energy he spent in his searches throughout the South Pacific---land and sea.

The text, based on the pictures, was written by Robert Howlett. He laid down the foundation of his personal knowledge of the South Pacific before he joined the Fiji First Battalion on the outbreak of the World War. In the Solomon Islands he was attached to the U.S. 8th Army Corps.

Publishers of Battleground South Pacific are A. H. and A. W. Reed, of Sydney, Melbourne, Wellington and Auckland. (Available from leading bookstores.)

He wants to thank his benefactors

Mr Ben Falta, who served in the 4th Armoured Brigade (7th Arm. Division) with the 8th Army on the Western Desert would like those men of the 9th Div 2nd A.I.F. who cared for him when too ill to contact him at the Prince of Wales Hospital, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands.

It can pay to ask

In the last issue, "Listening Post" published the full text of the League's submission for consideration by the Federal inquiry into conditions of employment in the armed services.

The submission had a considerable amount to say on the need for improved pay and conditions of service in general.

On January 11 Defence Minister Fraser announced pay rises for the armed forces estimated to cost the Government an extra $24 million a year.

All 124,000 members of the regular and citizen forces will benefit from the rises.

Women officers will get the biggest rises—up to 40 per cent.

Mr Fraser said that the Corporation development was recommended by the Defence (conditions of service) Committee.

The Government accepted the principle of equal pay for equal work for women. They would get backdated to October, 1969, along lines set by the Arbitration Commission.

The rises included the flow-on of the 6 per cent national wage case decision to all men and women officers and other ranks and junior categories.

This alone is expected to cost $15 million over 12 months.

The higher rates for men officers, backdated to December 17, last year, follow the increases of 9 to 12 per cent granted recently to third, division employees of the Commonwealth public service.

Women officers' pay had been reviewed in the light of the wage level in the community and in relation to the pay of men officers.

Increases in women officers' pay granted from December 17 would cost $300,000 a year.

Pay increases to other ranks of the women's services would flow on from the decision to apply the principle of equal pay for equal work.

The extension of equal pay to these service-women would be brought in the stages determined by the Arbitration Commission and would date from October 1, 1969.

The present weekly active pay of men officers, including the daily disablement allowance of $1.35, is: Lieut.-colon. $146.03; captain $96.83; major $125.37; Lieut-col. $153.72 and colonel $174.86.

Women officers generally get about 70 per cent of the male rate.

Mr Fraser told the House of Representatives last September of Government concern that the armed services had failed to reach their target strengths.

Because of competition for manpower at a time of full employment and considerable civilian opportunities, pay and conditions of service were particularly important in recruiting.

Anti-tank weapon is deadly

Swingfire, the missile system that can destroy the heaviest known tank up to a range of 4,000 metres, may soon be mounted in helicopters.

The British Aircraft Corporation has already in service with the British Army in Federal Germany and the subject of sales talks with Canada, Belgium, the Netherlands and Norway.

The system is now working on a version to fit into a helicopter.

At present this anti-tank missile can be fired direct from the land vehicle on which it is mounted, or by an operator separated from the vehicle, allowing targets to be engaged with the missile behind cover.

Jubilee plans at Boulder

The Boulder sub-branch has already started preparations for its Golden Jubilee—to be celebrated on September 13.

A brochure to be published will give the history of the sub-branch from its inception, and to this end we are anxious to hear from any early members (whether they are financial or not), who may remember some sub-branch history.

A circular letter has been sent to all members and past members explaining our aims, and already this has caused some members who had lagged behind with their dues to bring themselves up to date, and has given us some new members who said they saw the letter and decided to join up.

The celebrations will culminate in a function in the Boulder Town Hall, and we have every hope that our efforts will be worthy of the Boulder sub-branch.

The festive season is the time when we see some of our members who seldom come to town. These include chaps who have spent the year working some dusty prospecting show in the bush, and Christmas time they load Mum and the Kids into the old truck and head for the bright lights.

We meet these fellows at our Christmas meeting, and in the Ex-Servicemen's Club, and are always pleased to see them again.

As in past years, members visited the hospitals on Christmas morning, accompanied by Father Christmas, and distributed seasonal cheer to those unfortunate enough to be layed up at that time.

Both the Women's Auxiliary and the Ex-Servicewomen's Association have worked hard for the sub-branch during the year, and President Tom Castlehow and members extend a big "Thank you" to them.

H. A. Fisher, Publicity Officer.
The progress of interstate bowls within the R.S.L. has been very exhilarating in the few years of its existence.

Affiliations made a move in 1967 with the formation of the Australian Capital Territory, followed in 1968 with that of South Australia with a team participating in the Jack Hamilton V.C. Trophy series.

Now in 1971 Western Australia has been accepted as a competing State.

The year 1967 also saw the formation of the National R.S.L. Council, with all affiliated States having representation on the council as a body controlling all aspects and activities of R.S.L. Bowls within Australia and its territories.

At the meeting of the National Council held in Adelaide this year Morrie Crewe (Alexander Park Bowling Club) was elected to the Executive and Norm Fraser (Perth Bowling Club) was elected as State delegate to the Council for the following year.

After a visit to Brisbane by bowlers from N.S.W. over the Easter period of 1968 the northern State of Queensland became an active member of the National Council to introduce it to the competition.

Considerable interest is evident in New Guinea and it is anticipated that it will not be long before the Territory is an active member and will be able to take its turn in conducting events within its boundaries.

Tasmania is not yet a participating State but every endeavour is being made by the National Council to induce it to the competition.

The competition is an annual event and is currently a round-robin test series between State sides.

A side comprises four teams of four players and the recognised State official party consists of 20 players, four officials and six wives of members desiring of visiting the host State.

In conjunction with this interstate series the National R.S.L. Fours Championship is held and is open to any four financial members of the R.S.L. who are members of a State bowling club.

This year the venue was Adelaide and South Australia were successful in taking out the honours from all States. They also held the Jack Hamilton V.C. Trophy until next December, when they will have to defend it against all States in Sydney.

A Ballarat team, skippered by Don Laing who, by the way, plays as second in the Royal Victorian Bowling Association State side, was the winner of the National Four Championships in Adelaide this year.

The W.A. representatives, although not among the top, acquitted themselves very well and it should not be long before the trophy will take pride of place in W.A.

PLAYERS SOUGHT

The committee of the W.A. R.S.L. Bowls Section will be making a very active endeavour to get together as many bowls-playing R.S.L. members as possible so that matches can be arranged to select the strongest possible side to represent the State in Sydney next December.

Also, every endeavour will be made to assist the selected players with the overall cost of the trip.

A further point of very great interest to R.S.L. bowlers is the Morriss Crewe Perpetual Trophy event which is open to all financial members of the R.S.L. who are members of bowling clubs associated with the R.W.A.B.A.

This event will be conducted on a sectional basis and is to be competed for on 28th March - 1st April over six games.

Entries for the competition close on 13th March with Norm Fraser, Anzac House.

The two-day match this year is because of the commitments of the R.W.A. Bowling Association events, but this should not affect the conduct of the competition very much.

North-of-river conference

The State President (Mr. P. Pearson) and executive have invited the W.A. North Perth sub-branch to host the first group conference for the year in the metropolitan area on Saturday 27th March, commencing at 10 a.m.

The Membership sub-committee has sent invitations to 26 sub-branches and many have already indicated acceptance.

Topics of interest will be national and State in scope and include Membership, Defence, War Service Homes, Repatriation, Welfare and Hospital Visiting, and it is hoped that a representative from the State Women's Auxiliary will be able to attend to encourage members to invite their wives to join auxiliaries.

The Mayor of the City of Stirling has agreed to sell all delegates to a civic reception to be held at the Civic Chambers, Cedric St., from 4.30 to 6.30 p.m. on the evening of the conference.

The State Executive express appreciation to the sub-branch president, Mr. E. J. Green and secretary Jim Dalglish for their full co-operation.

R.S.L. interstate bowls

visited the Anzac Club Lately? 
R.S.L. shares hall with Boy Scouts

There is something unique about the new R.S.L. hall at Albany — it is also the headquarters of the Albany Boy Scout organisation.

The hall was opened by the State President, Mr Pearson, late last year.

The hall was dedicated by the Right Rev. Monsignor C. W. J. Cunningham, of Albany.

The opening was attended by 500 adults and 120 Scouts and Guides from the Stirling district — including Mt. Barker, Denmark and Albany.

Guest speakers included Albany R.S.L. president, A. Whiteside, district Scouting Commissioner R. Lewis and Albany Mayor G. J. Formby.

The chairman for the occasion was Mr. John Morgan of Albany.

The official opening followed a Council reception.

During the afternoon a flag-raising ceremony was held and Mr. Pearson also made an inspection of R.S.L. members, Scouts and Guides.

During the ceremony 16-year-old Max Finlayson, of the 2nd Albany Scouts, was presented with a Queen's Scout Award.

A presentation was also made to Mr. Keith Abercrombie for his services to the Scout building committee and to Albany Scouting in general.

The new hall, built entirely of brick with asbestos roof, will be used by the R.S.L. three Scout groups and two Cub packs. The premises include a 52ft by 36ft hall, kitchen and three small rooms.

The cost has been shared equally by the R.S.L. and the Scouting movement. Some of the services were donated by local tradesmen Shaun Doyle and Merv Groke.

The new hall is a result of close harmony between the R.S.L. and Scouting groups who both required new premises but were not separately in a position to build.

Discussion between the two groups resulted in the building of the new hall.

ABOVE: State President Pearson is seen unveiling the name-plaque on the new combined headquarters.

BELOW: The new hall — built of brick with an asbestos roof.
Again a tribute to the League

The following tribute to the League for its part in public affairs was paid by Repatriation Minister Holten at National Congress late last year:

I want to pay a sincere and well deserved tribute to the work done by the R.S.L.

Your activities extend over a very wide range of interests. Most of them are directed towards helping other people—the highest field of human endeavour.

It is a pity that some of the more responsible members are not aware of the tremendous job the R.S.L. does for people.

A study of the index reveals an incredible activity, both in Australia and overseas, particularly in Asia.

Good Work

On behalf of the Government thank you for your good work. I also express my sincere appreciation of the assistance your officers and members give to the Repatriation Department.

I have travelled to every State of Australia, and to New Guinea, since I have been the Minister and I have been most encouraged and stimulated to observe the obvious spirit of cooperation between members of the R.S.L. and the Repatriation Department.

High Standards

In saying this I am not asserting that in all matters pertaining to individual cases there have not occurred some mistakes or oversights. This will happen in any big system.

You may be interested to know that I have addressed very briefly practically all employees of the department around Australia, impressing upon them the special place of the clients of the Repatriation Department in Australia's society and stressing the importance of giving the highest possible standard of service to these people who have given good service to Australia in time of war.

A better deal for some

Between January 11 and 22 the R.S.L. I have assisted 21 cases before the No. 5 War Pensions Assessment Tribunal.

The League is happy to advise that two-thirds of the clients were successful in their appeal for an increase in their assessment.

Ten more cottages for veterans

Ten more "Darby and Joan" cottages (for married residents) are now being built at the R.S.L. War Veterans Home, Mt. Lawley.

The cottages will provide accommodation for 172 residents at the home. The Subiaco sub-branch is financing a plant house, which will be of great therapeutic value for many residents who are keen gardeners.

R.S.L. Ball

This year's R.S.L. Ball is to be held in August at the Subiaco Civic Centre on Thursday, August 13.

This was decided recently by the State Executive following the success of last year's ball.

Commenting on the decision the State President, Mr Pearson, said that although the function was a great social success there had been insufficient sub-branch representation.

He urged members to reserve the date (August 13) at once and to make it a party early.

It was expected that when the tickets were printed there would have to be some restriction on the numbers so that early notification to Anzac House would be appreciated.

The price of the tickets would be announced shortly. Dress will be black tie for males and white ties for the official party.

Mr Pearson said the ball would be a prestige occasion that deserves the support of members. He hoped for a representation from country as well as metropolitan sub-branches this year.

R.S.L. TROPHY AWARD: Of particular interest to League members during the graduation parade at Pearce of the No. 2 Flying School last December was the presentation of the R.S.L. book.

The trophy is for the highest qualities of leadership, and the State President is here seen presenting it to Flight Lieut. A. W. Stephens, of South Australia. The recipient was also the first R.S.L. presentation to the air force here.
Among the guests at the Christmas party

ABOVE (from left): Mr Chris Briggs (State Executive) with the Air Minister, Mr Tom Drake-Brockman.

***

RIGHT (from left): Mrs A. H. Birch, State President Pearson and Mrs Pearson, and the British Deputy High Commissioner, Mr A. H. Birch.

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BELOW (from left): Mr H. D. Dargie, Police Commissioner R. T. Napier, the Hon. L. C. Diver and the Consul for Greece, Mr C. Belegris.

Mr Dargie is Assistant Warden of the State War Memorial and Mr Diver is President of the Legislative Council.
R.S.L. WOMEN'S AUXILIARY NOTES

(Omitted last month through pressure on space)

Country Vice-President's letter
The following letter was received by the State Secretary (Mrs Phelps) at the conclusion of Mrs Jackson's term of office as Country Vice-President:

"Early next month I shall be handing in my badge of office as Country Vice-President and I wish to take this opportunity of thanking Mrs Ames for giving me the honour—though I don't feel I earned it—of holding the position. Never the less I have won it with pride in our branch and in all auxiliaries and the good work they do.

"I was thrilled when invited to attend a lovely dinner organised by the Bassendean sub-branch at which a Certificate of Merit was presented to a staunch auxiliary member. I felt most honored to be present and it was really a delightful evening.

"Then, another thrill when myself and husband attended the annual get-together held by that wonderful cup-winning auxiliary, Geraldton.

"This was held at the home of their treasurer, Mrs B. Heath, and a more friendly time could not be imagined—all that wonderful food; it was fantastic.

"So thanks to Bassendean sub-branch and Geraldton auxiliary and my host and hostess with the latter body—Mr and Mrs Jim Buckle.

"Thanks also to Mrs Ames for taking me into her home during last conference. Whoever I hand over my badge to at Conference will, I am sure, wear it with as much pride as I have done.

"Best wishes for a wonderful session at the 1970 Conference, Mrs Rowe, as it will be your first as State President and I am sure you will be a worthy successor to Mrs Ames."

Message of Loyalty
The Loyal Message which was approved at State Conference was forwarded through the appropriate channels and Mrs Rowe, State President, acknowledged it has been received from Her Majesty.

Mandurah Auxiliary
On July 30th the State President, State Secretary and Mrs Ford attended the Mandurah auxiliary's birthday party. This function was thoroughly enjoyed by members of the Harvey, Dwellingup, Waroona and Murray Districts auxiliaries—especially the comedy item provided by the hostess branch.

The State President (Mrs Rowe) presented a Life Membership Certificate to Mrs Muncie (a founder member of Mandurah) and a Certificate of Service to Mrs May, another wonderful worker for that branch.

Rocky Gully
Mrs Rowe and representative Mrs Ferres traveled to Rocky Gully to attend the dinner given by the local sub-branch to auxiliary members. From the reports they received it was clear everyone had a wonderful evening.

Mrs Rowe presented certificates to two hard-working ladies of this branch, namely Mrs Watts and Mrs Miller.

Collie
Mrs Phelps and State Vice-President Mrs Ford were guests at the 50th Anniversary Dinner given by the Collie sub-branch on September 5th.

Belmont
This busy auxiliary celebrated its birthday on September 2nd and several Executive members attended their luncheon and most enjoyable concert. Mrs Rolfe (vice-president) presented Certificates of Service to Mrs Horton and Mrs Jolley.

At Geraldton
Geraldton's women's auxiliary president, Mrs T. Ashplant, reported at the annual meeting that despite family commitments and ill health the auxiliary completed another highly successful year.

Mainly as a result of catering activities they had been able to make donations totalling more than $900. The organisations to benefit had included hospitals, Legacy, A.F.O.F., the State War Memorial, the Community Centre, Sea Cadets, Citizens' Youth Club, Friends of Braille, the War Veterans' Home, the High School and Stella Maris College Libraries, sheltered workshops, Nazareth House lift appeal, Miss Crowning Glory and Women's Auxiliary headquarters in Perth.

In addition the auxiliary had presented Christmas gifts at both hospitals and Nazareth House, assisted the sub-branch at various functions and helped the Red Cross.
Mrs Stockmin retires from executive

At the last R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary State Conference former president Mrs S. V. Stockman, M.B.E., J.P., who is well known to auxiliaries throughout W.A., announced her retirement from the State Executive.

Delegates present accepted her decision with regret and there is no doubt many memories of the early days of the auxiliaries flashed through the minds of those who worked hard with Mrs Stockman to achieve what today is a highly respected women's organisation.

Mrs Stockman was elected to the State Executive of the Women's Auxiliaries in 1931, having joined Mt. Hawthorn in the twenties. She held the position of Vice-President in 1933 to 1944 and 1968 to 1970, was Honorary Secretary (1945-1949), was appointed State President in 1949 and held this office until 1960.

In 1959 Mrs Stockman was awarded the M.B.E. in recognition of her services to ex-service men and women.

The League in 1952 awarded her the Gold Badge of Merit for outstanding services.

Mrs Stockman was a member of the first Board of Visitors to Lennox Hospital, and secretary of the Citizens Reception Committee during the war years. She is currently a member of the Miss Crowning Glory Committee and Torchbearers for Legacy.

The No 2. Life Membership badge of the Auxiliaries is held by Mrs Stockman. This amounts to a truly remarkable record of dedicated service and to Mrs Stockman, on behalf of all auxiliaries, we extend a sincere thank you for all the wonderful work and example set by her.

Members sincerely hope that Mrs Stockman will be spared for many years of good health and happiness on her retirement from Executive.

---

Town Band and Friends of Braille street appeals.

Mrs Ashplant said Geraldton motions were well received at State Conference and of which was the announcement that Geraldton had again won the Country Cup as outstanding auxiliary in W.A.

Mrs Ashplant said it was a proud moment when she was elected a Country Vice-President.

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Cunderdin's Christmas luncheon

Cunderdin Branch of the R.S.L. Auxiliary held its annual Christmas luncheon followed by the general meeting, at the home of Mrs C. Toolin.

Seventeen members were present including Matron Park-Burns, who always comes back to be present at this function. Election of officers resulted in re-election of Mrs C. Toolin president, Mrs H. Woodley, vice-president and Mrs M. Treasure, secretary-treasurer.

Trustees were Misses Colquhoun, Pascoe and Fulwood. Mrs Armitage was elected publicity officer.

General business was discussed, correspondence and financial statement read and accepted. The meeting closed and a competition was won by Mrs Lundy.

A delicious afternoon tea was enjoyed by all, and the afternoon came to a close with best wishes for the festive season.

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Mrs Stockman, who was Auxiliary State President from 1949 until 1969, that Mrs Stockman will be spared for many years of good health and happiness on her retirement from Executive.
UNIT ASSOCIATIONS

16th Battalion

Recently the secretary received a request (through Australia House, London) from a Miss Russell of Dorset, England, asking for particulars of her grandfather, Charles Colin Russell, 16th Battalion. To date nothing has been ascertained.

Would any member with information please contact secretary O. C. Young, 28 Oakover Street, East Fremantle (phone 392354).

Despite a reduced attendance this year's reunion was enjoyed by all present.

Col. Sharp (R.W.A.R.) was a guest and in proposing the toast of the 16th Battalion said its present members were always interested in those who had gone before.

The R.W.A.R. is the present 16th.

Messrs. A. Heasman and C. Roney (country members) were missing from the gathering this year and Mr C. Williamson (16th Asoc, Adelaide) sent a telegram regretting the gathering's success.

Because of the difficulty of age members attending the function by their own means, the president suggested a daytime reunion next year.

There was unanimous support for the proposal.

Mr W. Truran is now living at Darwin. He will be missed from the committee.

At the annual meeting Mr W. Lilleyman was re-elected president and Mr O. C. Young secretary. The committee was also re-elected.

Vacancies exist and members are urged to come along and help—every third Monday afternoon of the month at the Railway Institute.

The secretary reports 31 deaths for the year, and the hospital visitor (Mr Bert Arnold) having made 408 bedside visits to Hollywood.

DONATION: Ex-members of the Woorooloo sub-branch are advised that the indoor bowls set and carpet have been sold and the proceeds, amounting to $60, donated to the War Veterans' Home.

28th Battalion

An enthusiastic gathering of 48 members attended the annual reunion of members of the 28th Battalion Association.

Apologies were received from Colonel W. J. Johnson and many members and visitors.

Several toasts were proposed and replied to, including Fallen Comrades.

Major Arbuckle (28th R.W.A.R.) proposed of the 28th Battalion, 1st A.F.

Mr Fitzmaurice proposed the toast of the R.S.L., which was replied to by Mr N. Fraser.

Mr Heick was at his best entertaining the gathering during the function.

Mr H. Kahan informed those present of progress with the St. Quentin Memorial.

Kindred associations of the 44th Battalion, 51st Battalion, 10th Light Horse, 28th Battalion and the 11th and 2/11th Battalion Associations were welcomed by the chairman and the toast to these responded to by Mr Pritchard.

28th Battalion Association

In case country members of the 10th Light Horse Memorial have been forgotten that there exists in this city an association of which there is no record as far as the secretary is concerned, here are some reminders:

Every Friday (without fail or encouragement) at approximately 1100 hours up to 30 odd (sometimes fewer) of "Tom Todd's Terrible Ten" or "Old Mob" gather peacefully at Anzac Club for a "do."

A young Air Force type by name of Fraser is in charge and he is delighted to ask his friends to join in by name of Buller, or perhaps Pat) to set up a table (large tables in line of troop.

In the centre is religiously placed a replica of Bubba-Nooka, old Tom's charger. It is about 4 feet high and made of wood, with a front man and a rear man, and in the centre a large "T" which was replied to by Mr N. Fraser.

Mr Heick was at his best entertaining the gathering during the function.

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Did you know?

- That exemption from Probate Duty will be given to bequests to the Returned Services League Amelioration Fund, when it is clear from the wording of the bequest that the moneys are to be paid to the amelioration fund for distribution in accordance with the Administration Act 1924-1970.

- That National Executive have been requested to proceed with the establishment of a medical panel to assist the League's case for automatic acceptance of cancer as war-caused.

The 10th Light Horse—in retrospect

In case country members of the 10th Light Horse Memorial have been forgotten that there exists in this city an association of which there is no record as far as the secretary is concerned, here are some reminders:

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Hospital visits at Geraldton

Mrs R. Buckle reported to annual general meeting of the Geraldton sub-branch that she had made 179 bedside visits to Women's Auxiliary members—36 more than in 1969.

During the Christmas period the auxiliary president, Mrs Ashplant, had presented gifts to all ex-servicemen and auxiliary personnel in the regional hospital as well as to elderly women patients.

Mr Clem Burns, the sub-branch president, has made 136 bedside visits.

Mr A. Milford reported having handled 32 repatriation cases during the year and attended 18 funerals of ex-service men.

Mr A. Milford entertain sub-branch and auxiliary members to celebrate his New Year honour. His sister, Mrs E. Urwin, of Embleton, was a visitor for the occasion.

Appreciated

The Geraldton sub-branch has received a letter from Mr H. A. Finlayson praising the work of its Repatriation and Pensions Officer, Mr. Artie Milford.

Mr. Pheasant Mr Milford's advice and tireless efforts in connection with an application to the Repatriation Department were worthy of praise.

Mr Milford is now in his 42nd year as Repatriation and Pensions Officer, after serving with the several battalions of the Great War.—B.J.B.

Have you visited the Anzac Club lately?
The inquiry into repatriation

In reply to a League request for an independent review of the repatriation system in Australia the Repatriation Minister has replied as follows:

"As you know, a review is being conducted into the repatriation system, and appreciate that the R.S.L. has been asking for an independent inquiry. This review does not meet this request, but it at least goes some of the way.

"Soon after the decision was taken that there was to be a review of the repatriation system my department was in touch with the Returned Services League and arrangements have been made for the League to put the points it wishes to be made for consideration in the review.

"The review will be taken of the rationale and principles of the repatriation system, and in that context the suitability and effectiveness of current provisions.

"It is a tremendous task, but the chairman and the officers are tackling the task with dedication and determination.

"My hope is that this review will be finished next year."

Cunderdin's annual meeting sees better gathering

On 1st December the Cunderdin sub-branch held its annual general meeting.

This was better attended than usual.

The president, Mr Barry Beckett, gave his report on the past year, saying in view of a difficult year all round for everyone the sub-branch had had a successful year in the functions it carried out.

Nominations for office were called for. Mr Stan Armitage was elected president, Mr Beckett being unable to stand again. Stan is an ex-R.A.N. man, and all wish him success in his new post.

Others elected were:

Vice-presidents: C. Dart and C. Toohey

Secretary: D. Malling.

After the meeting members enjoyed a few hours on the billiard table. Play was not strictly according to rules and the eventual winner is still not known.

On 11th December a social evening was held, but was not quite up to last year's standard.

Mr Allan Fox, a member who is quite adept with his tricks of magic, entertained during the evening. One lady is still not sure if he was cheating.

Invitation to the R.A.A.F.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the inception of the R.A.A.F. and many celebrations will take place—mainly centred at Pearce.

The R.S.L. is proud to be associated with these celebrations and has invited the R.A.A.F., in view of its Jubilee Commemoration, to mount a guard-of-honour for the Anzac Day march and to provide the Parade Commander for the day.

The status quo of the march will otherwise remain the same.

THE LAST POST

(Continued from the previous page)

JANUARY, 1971

ANDERSON, B. J., 46007, R.A.A.F., Shenton Park.

ARNOTT, W., 34443, Toowalga, Manjimup.

CARTER, P. G., 6018, 11th Bn., R.A.A.F., Busselton.

CHANDLER, A. B., WX129975, 11th Div. Sigs., Gosnells.

COLLARD, R. R., 7559, 51st Bn., Ravensthorpe.


FELS, F. Y., 62802, 3rd G.S.R., Nedlands.

GILSENN, L. R., 2387, 28th Bn., 16th Bn., River-vale-Carlsruhe.

GODDARD, H. H., WX18842, 16th Bn., M.T., GURNEY, W. S., 3119, 28th Bn., Kalgoorlie.

HEAD, P. H., 2873, 28th Bn., Guildford.

KEARNS, H., 4300, 48th Bn., Argylls.


LATTO, G. S., 85, 51st Bn., Midland Junction.

MOONEY, T. J., 2204, 3rd Plote, City of Perth.

MUIRHEAD, R. C., WX3782, 30th Bn., Kalgoorlie.

MCCOWAN, D. D., 7104, 1st D.S.C., Maddington.

PATERSON, A., B.E.F., Mundijong.

POLLARD, J., 3430, 51st Bn., Press.


URQUHART, P. E., WX13654, 2/11 Bn., City of Perth.

RAINE, B. E., 531, 44th Bn., Maylands.

READ, A. C., 3601, 51st Bn., City of Perth.

RODBELL, L. A., 3667, 10th L. Corp, Bunbury.

SCOTT, J. A., WX6729, 4 M.T., South Perth.

SMITH, A. H., 2890, 44th Bn., Kalamunda.

STEPHENS, A., 133, R.A.A.F., Rockingham.


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POLLARD, J., 3430, 51st Bn., Press.

ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICE MEN


SOUTH AFRICAN AND IMPERIAL VETERANS’ ASSOCIATION—please direct inquiries to Mr. Major W. G. Haynes, R.S.L., Veterans Home, 51 Alexander-drive, Mt. Lawley, W.A.

ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION OF W.A.—Meets third Monday at Anzac House at 8 p.m. President A. G. Douglas, Box 4365, Perth (283360). Secretary, A. S. Proctor, 23 Wilcox-street, Applecross.

16TH BATTALION AND 4TH BRIGADE ASSOCIATION—Meets every third Monday at 2 p.m. at the Railway Institute (main hall) Perth, President, W. C. Hughes, 3A Hall-place, West Perth. Secretary, H. D. Cross, 155 House basement, East Fremantle.

ROYAL CANADIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION—Annual reunion nearest Friday to July 19.


1ST BATTALION A.A. MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION—General meetings at 8 p.m. 2nd and 4th Tuesday in each month at 36th Unities Home, Subiaco.

RED CROSS MILITARY AUXILIARY—General meetings at 2 p.m. 3rd Wednesday in each month at 36th Unities Club, Subiaco. President, W. E. G. Williams.

PARTIALLY BLINDED SOLDIERS ASSOCIATION—General meetings at 2 p.m. 4th Tuesday in each month at 36th Unities Club, Subiaco. Secretary, A. E. Gordon, 24 Mount-street, East Fremantle.

KOREA & SOUTHEAST ASIA FORCES ASSOCIATION—Meets 2nd Thursday in each month at Anzac House, basement, 8 p.m. President, T. J. English, 26 Morgan-road, Claremont. Secretary, W. D.enguins, 25 Whittaker-street, East Fremantle.


MEET AT ANZAC CLUB
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LOWEST PRICES
Only one survives prison ordeal

On 16th May, 1943, 3,000 Indian prisoners-of-war taken by the Japanese in Singapore were landed in New Guinea to work as labourers for the Japanese army.

Among those who came ashore at Wewak after a voyage in intolerable conditions was one Chint Singh, a junior officer.

It was Chint Singh, now a major and still in the Indian Army—the sole survivor of those 3,000 men—who was invited to Australia to take part in the “Back to Wewak” week recently.

Major Chint Singh was entertained at Apex House by the State President and executive when he passed through Perth on his way back to India. He gave a first-hand account of some of his experiences and told of the pleasure it gave him to visit Australia and meet again many of those who had been present at the Japanese surrender at Wewak.

The worst period of the time in New Guinea, said the major, began when the Allied offensive against Japanese shipping had reduced the number of incoming ships to nil.

The Indians had mainly been employed on unloading ships. There was no bread for the Japanese soldiers and none at all for useless prisoners. So the Japanese turned the Indians out into the jungle to fend for themselves.

As times got worse the Japanese too had to live off the jungle and they forbade the Indians to eat anything the Japanese could eat themselves. One Indian was executed for having four lemons in his possession.

The native people helped the Indians and showed them great kindness, but were very afraid of the Japanese and their savage reprisals.

On 19th September, 1945 the Indians got the news they had been waiting and praying for all the years—that the war was over.

It was not, however, until 25th September that the remnants of the various Indian working parties were collected and brought in by the Japanese to Merinberg. They were 11 in all.

It was not until 13th October that the Indian survivors got to Wewak where full hospital treatment could be given to all who needed it.

Then began a period where evidence was collected from the Indians by War Crimes Commission officers, and the Japanese—now prisoners—themselves—were interrogated. Sad to relate, ten of the Indians who had survived the terrors and hardships of the prisoner-of-war period were killed in an air crash.

This left only Chint Singh—sole survivor of 3,000. His evidence, given subsequently at the War Crimes Trials in Tokyo, was instrumental in bringing to justice many of those responsible for the ill-treatment.

The League salutes a gallant gentleman and a lasting friend of Australia!

Past year reviewed at Geraldton

In his report to the annual general meeting of the Geraldton sub-branch the president, Mr. Clem Burns, said that during 1970 the sub-branch had enjoyed an unparalleled rate of progress and achievement.

Apart from experiencing the biggest Anzac Day observance in memory the sub-branch had been represented at various school observances. As well the observance to mark Coral Sea Week was introduced.

Mr. Burns said other highly successful events had included the Sunshiny Festival parade. Poppy Day appeal and the annual pilgrimage to the War Cemetery.

Mr. Burns also told the meeting that a site had been allocated at the corner of Marsden and William Streets. This would enable Geraldton to establish the first country war veterans’ home.

The new office-bearers are:

President: C. Burns
Senior Vice-President: F. Heath
Junior Vice-President: R. Guy
Secretary: J. Buckle
Treasurer: J. Mathews

A newcomer to the general committee is Mr. Mick Ash.