 Concern felt for current trends  
— National President Sir ARTHUR LEE

There was grave concern throughout the League and in the community at large of the current trend in national policy, the National President (Sir Arthur Lee) said, at the opening of National Congress in Perth on October 29.

Sir Arthur praised the Government for the speed at which it had introduced a number of legislative measures of benefit to ex-service men and women and their dependants.

The progress made in the fields of Repatriation, Defence Service Homes and Social Security was of historical proportions, he said. He would express the League's appreciation of these advances.

Frank

At the same time he would be frank about League feelings on other aspects of Government policy, with defence and foreign policy much in mind.

The vast majority of members were gravely concerned at current trends, Sir Arthur said. He would hasten to emphasise that this was not just the viewpoint of the leaders; there was an uneasiness permeating the whole rank and file which reflected the growing concern of the majority of the Australian community.

Determinations

No-one who had experienced war could be blamed for forming a deep determination to do all he could to ensure that his sons would not have to share that experience.

He believed in the saying that none could speak more eloquently of peace than those who had known the tragedies of war.

But peace could only be achieved by ensuring that free nations remained strong and well prepared. It was not a question of an arms race but of the balance of power.

Australia must be prepared to contribute to the defence of the free world. The responsibility surely lay first with those more favoured by fortune and material possessions.

And what did Australia have with which to meet her responsibilities in the South-East Asian and South-West Pacific regions? The defence forces were approximately equal to those of Singapore which had a fraction of the population and no areas or range of resources to speak of.

Build defence

Was the mere matter of proximity the reason why the peoples of Singapore should be asked to make a greater effort to defend the region than Australians?

That was not good enough. The R.S.L. believed that the Australia-British defence forces sufficient to enable her to maintain her defence and to share in defending the freedom of the region.

One matter of concern, to the average Australian today was the apparent decline in the standard of good citizenship — the willingness, individually and collectively, to make a contribution to the good of the nation.

There was evidence of business interests exploiting shortages to raise prices of developers conniving to provide capital gains thus making it more difficult for young people to obtain land for homes, of exploitation in goods and services to the point of commercial or industrial blackmail, of unions taking industrial action to enforce their terms.

Sir Arthur called for Australians in all walks of life to think a little more about things of community and national concern and a little less about purely personal and selfish interests.

"Let us face the challenges of the age in which we live and the future to which we look forward," he concluded.

Their day of glory

The Premier, Mr Tonkin, when opening Congress, said that although the R.S.L. had developed out of war, among its main aims was the pursuit of peace. It had been well said that it was not the voluminous words of one individual that got results but the monosyllabic million of the million.

He wished Congress fruitful results from its deliberations.

Meet the candidate

More than 3,600 attended the opening ceremony of the 14th Miss Crowning Glory contest.

"We write up another success story," commented the State President at the September executive meeting in announcing some details of this year's Miss Crowning Glory contest— the 15th.

"We knew we were facing some difficulties this year because of the Frail Aged Centre appeal," Mr Pearson said, and we approached the final stages with the lowest number of entrants for some years.

"We thought we might get in $15,000 but in fact, through some last-minute efforts, the final result was $29,750.

"This was $1,000 up on last year in the gross result. Despite all our forebodings we will come out of it very satisfactorily."

Net result

Mr Pearson said the net result would be lower than last year's because of a marked reduction in the amount, of air-travel concession available this year.

"The result means that in spite of the price rise," he said.

Tom Price had received special mention as the town's candidate, Miss Annette O'Reilly, who had been awarded the Girl of the Golden West title. Miss O'Reilly and her supporters had brought in $3,600.

One girl, from the Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital, was able to go to Sydney, partly with the help of her raised $260.

The competition had totalled $385,000. The total had now jumped to $214,000.

Both the League and Torchbearers for Legacies had come to rely on the proceeds of the competition, Mr Pearson said.

Final judging was held in the Park Towers ballroom on the night of August 31 and the crowning ceremony was performed by the Premier, Mr John Tonkin.

Winners

Award winners were:
- Miss Crowning Glory — the personality girl with the finest head of hair — Miss Beverley Brennan, of South Perth.
- Miss Charity Princess — the quest's top fund-raiser — Miss Merry Craven, of Williagge.
- Miss of the Golden West — the top fund-raiser outside the metropolitan area — Miss Annette O'Reilly of Tom Price.
- Miss Brennan's main prize was a South African trip-for-two to London; Miss Craven's a trip-for-two with the same airline to South Africa and Miss O'Reilly's an Ansett Airways trip-for-two to Surfer's Paradise, Queensland.

LEBANON TABLET RESTORED

At the request of the League, the Commonwealth Government will restore an Australian memorial tablet in Lebanon.

The stone tablet commemorates the work of an Australian railway construction group there in 1942.

The request was made in April. Replying to it Special Minister D. R. Willesee said he agreed that the tablet should be restored as it commemorated an Australian achievement overseas.

His department was arranging for a suitably embossed copper plaque to be made in Australia and transported to Beirut. It would be placed in position under the guidance of the Australian Embassy there.
What IS happening to our State War Memorial?

The State branch of the League has received a report on the State War Memorial from a C.S.I.R.O. scientist who spoke critically of its condition when in Perth last August. The scientist, Dr Lance Finch, was described at the time of his visit as a specialist in structural stonework. He then spoke of considerable deterioration at the memorial including damage caused to name-panels in the undercroft by moisture seepage. He said he believed the granite base of the memorial would not be open to the ground surface for ever.

Dr Finch said he had been asked to undertake a survey of stonework in war cemeteries for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

At the September executive meeting State President Pearson said Dr Finch had made no approach to the League either at State or national level concerning the memorial. At the October meeting he said the State branch had meantime received from him a ten-page report. Mr Pearson said the report had not said what should be done wrong with the memorial, but Dr Finch had offered his services in its restoration.

For some time, Mr Pearson said, the executive had had the services of a panel of Perth architects to advise on matters affecting the memorial and there had been considerable expenditure on its maintenance in recent years.

40c—and we carry on the good work

The addition of 40c to the annual subscription to assist with the cost of this weekly publication will just enable us to "get by.

Mr C. Briggs said this at the September executive meeting.

He said the Publicity committee had called tenders for the production of the journal and had received two quotations, but these could not challenge the existing arrangement. The committee saw no reason for a change and they did hope to arrange for the canvassing of more subscriptions.

In the field of general publicity, League received many hundreds of column inches of space. An attempt would be made to supply the press with an increased number of newsworthy items.

Women’s Auxiliary

Executive members will be kept busy throughout November packing the Christmas Cheer parcels for delivery in December to ex-service men and women in homes and hospitals.

Here is a summary of activities over recent months:

May: 6 A Diggers Luncheon was held at Anzac House for ex-service men and women in homes and hospitals.

May 10 Medeas Rowe, Ford, Lowe and Holder celebrated the regin birthday social. Mrs Hawking received a Certificate of Merit.

May 16 Executive members attended the Basendean’s 50th anniversary and the Unity Servicemen party.

June 14 The executive was represented at the West Leederville-Wembly-Floreat 50th anniversary party at which life-membership was conferred on Mrs Maureen Grigg.

June 27 Certificates of Service were presented at Mundaring to Mrs Anne Clarke and Smith. July: Another successful conference was held and R.L.S. President Pearson presented Medeas Ames with the R.L.S. trophy, and Medeas with the Medeas Clark with Medeas Clark and Smith. The Frail-Aged Appeal was close to target.

Also, the present Memorial Warden, Mr Frank Statham (Commonwealth Director of Works), was himself an engineer.

Moisture seepage

The panel had already recommended a thorough going investigation of the moisture seepage and in conjunction with Perth architect Mr Athol Hobbs had made a further inspection of the memorial. Mr Hobbs’ father had been closely associated with the design and construction of the memorial and he himself with the second stage of development there. The architects could see no evidence of settlement but there was some cracking at the corners of marble name-panels attributed to the rusting of metal pins used to hold them in place.

Efforts over the last few years to make the structure waterproof had not been very successful, Mr Pearson said.

There was a masonry with a thin stone covering the peak of the memorial and it was proposed that entry to the interior be made by means of it for a proper investigation. It was thought that a preliminary investigation would cost about $250.

It was agreed that the investigation be made. At the September meeting Mr Pearson referred to an allegation of deterioration to the Mounts Memorial Commission, and that some steel stabilising pins had been placed in contact with some bronze work with a resultant chemical reaction.

Mr Statham would be making a personal inspection of the memorial.

Funds is close to target

The Frail-Aged Appeal fund was very close to the target, State President Pearson reported at the September executive meeting.

Mr Pearson said donations had reached $118,776. Administrative expenses were about $4,500 and payments from the fund to the committee had totalled $112,696. But the $130,000 target of payments for the appeal would be passed comfortably, as official opening was an amount of $4,000 still to come from an estate and a further $60,000 was expected from a fund associated with repatriation—held in one of the country towns. This was very gratifying.

"Don’t let us, a surplus here in no way become an embarrassment," he said.

State Vice-President L. J. Turner announced a further donation of $1,250 from his Frail-Aged branch auxiliary (Milling).

The R.L.S. President was joined by the Governor’s secretary and the Auxiliary President to open the new headquarters.

The request for an appeal meeting very encouraging.

Entertainment at Anzac House by the State President and Vice-President, Mr Pearson and Mrs Pearson was a great success with the Executive.

The Frail-Aged Appeal fund was close to target.

NAVAL RECRUITS and others at the Anzac House high tea on Fathers’ Day.

NAVAL RECRUITS and others at the Anzac House high tea on Fathers’ Day.

In the field of general publicity, League received many hundreds of column inches of space. An attempt would be made to supply the press with an increased number of newsworthy items.

INVITATION TO RSL FAMILY PARTICIPATION

An invitation to members and families to support the R.L.S. Shop, whose operations are wholly owned by the R.L.S.

"Dress up" the family at the R.L.S. Shop and help support a worthwhile cause.

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THE NATIONAL BANK

SAVINGS BANK LIMITED

K. N. MACDOUGALL, STATE MANAGER
Here are some points made by State President, Pearson, at the September meeting of the State Executive on the proceedings of the last National Executive meeting.

State-branch autonomy: A delegation of nine persons was sent to examine the constitutional position relating to the autonomy taken place in New Zealand for sub-branches. It was thought that the Constitution had diminished their autonomy.

Membership: Costs N.S.W. branch had arranged for a $1 levy on members to defray the cost of producing Reville, its official journal, compared with the 40 cent subscription adopted in W.A.

Means Test abolition: The National Secretary had advised that it was the Government's intention to abolish the means test for ex-service people at 65 years of age within the life of the present parliament.

Army adequacy: Stemming from the announcement of the Senate inquiry into the adequacy of the Australian Army, a resolution was passed that the Australian branch could only maintain its sub-branches. The matter was to be debated at National Congress.

State aid: A report on the Money and Districts sub-branch was made at a meeting that most of the credit for forming the new sub-branch was due to former executive member Alan Cooper. Lee of the new Wanneroo branch. The meeting discussed a motion asking for an inquiry into the non-nationals acquiring real estate in Australia. It was resolved to await further information.

A new sub-branch formed at Wanneroo:

A new sub-branch has been formed for ex-servicemen in the Hamersley-Wanneroo area. It is registered as the Wanneroo and Districts sub-branch.

The decision to form it was made at a meeting called for the purpose and held at the Wanneroo Country Club on October 2. It was arranged for all meetings of the sub-branch to be held on the club premises.

A report on the action was taken to form the sub-branch, which was made at the October executive meeting by members of the committee chairman Jack Wagland.

Anthem and flag: After discussion relating to a previous decision in favour of two national songs – the National Anthem and the Song of Australia (each for the appropriate circumstances) – the executive declared itself in favour of retaining the former by itself. But that did not negate the previous decision in favour of two songs. Victoria and W.A. were now the only States favouring two anthems. The question would be debated at National Congress.

One proposition put up was that there be no change to either the anthem or flag without a national plebiscite and it was the feeling of the meeting that the present ties with Britain and the British Commonwealth should remain inviolate.

Anzac Day: Point-blank opposition was expressed to any proposition likely to derogate from the importance of Anzac Day and the present estimate. The Oath of Allegiance: Questions were asked about the Oath of Allegiance taken by applicants for Australian citizenship. The matter was to be checked and State branches advised on the position.

The League's hospital visiting scheme is running short of visitors and the names of volunteers will be welcome at Anzac House.

Mr H. G. Holder said this at the July executive meeting when reporting on repatriation matters. Many private hospitals were not being visited at all, he said. There had been a mushroom growth of private hospitals.

The committee had received one request for a complete revision of the visiting scheme. Lists of repatriation patients were supplied to the hospital visitors were sorely needed.

Please do your bit for 'Operation Cheer-up'.

Open a Savings Account at your Friendly Society Chemist!

Make immediate deposits and withdrawals at any branch.

The Listening Post, November, 1973 — Page 3
Our forces today are at a peacetime 'high'... Barnard

Australia's defence forces today are of a size and capability without precedent in history at a time of no involvement in a substantial conflict.

The Minister for Defence, Mr Barnard, said this in his address at the first working session of the National Congress in Perth late last year.

In 1963, he said, the total size of the permanent and regular armed force was 59,142. Excluding one 1,600 member of the R.A.A.F., today's strength was almost 71,725, an increase of 42 per cent.

By June 1974, because of the introduction of new equipment, that strength would be reduced to a little over 69,000 with the effect of then reducing the increase on 1963 to more like 38 per cent.

Uncertainty

At a time of adjustment and reshaping in the defence forces there was bound to be uncertainty in various areas, some unsettlement and uncertainty for personnel.

The Government appreciated that it had to remove the uncertainty as soon as possible. The forces were well equipped. The Navy had modern guided missiles, the Air Force had an operational airbase and a large reserve of modern submarines, patrolled boats and support craft.

The air force had an impressive array of aircraft for a variety of purposes, including R.A.A.F. Fills, Mirages, Hercules, Caravans, 704, and so on.

First-Class

There was a very strong support infrastructure of bases and facilities.

At Townsville was a first-class army task force base. A modern complex of barracks, messes, warehouses, shops, recreation facilities and headquarters buildings stretched for two miles under Mt Stuart.

At Bathurst, a major R.A.A.F. base, supporting the Fills and various other aircraft, was modern and sophisticated electronic equipment and instruments to maintain the forces. Helicopter hangars were going up.

In Sydney a major naval complex was centred on Garden Island. In W.A.

The work at Cockburn Sound was progressing well. It had been decided that the completion date of the complex would be the same as that acceptable in the present strategic circumstances.

A new generation of basic class operational airstrip and taxway were being developed. There were examples, and much remained to be done.

Mr Barnard said that far more had been achieved than was likely to be matched by that of any other country in this neighbourhood and that the recognition of the country during the past two years had been marked by a determination to support the forces and to restore and increase the progressive intake of new equipment.

Expertise

While in this job, Mr Barnard said, the Air Force had brought our defence thinking to a level of sophistication which it is not certain that we have not seen in this country during peacetime. I did not become Minister for Defence until this had not dissuaded me from disbanding the country. Instead I have been thinking of the security, the forces and the achievement of our forces and the military and political consequences.

Mr Barnard said that the only policy regarding the shape and size of the armed forces government must consider and the prospects facing the nation.

Shortly after taking office, he said, he had called a study of alternative forces from the Defence Department for 15 years ahead.

The procedure for determining the defence programme was taken over from the previous government.

More Secure

The Defence Committee was comprised of the Secretaries of the Department (chairman), the Chief of the Air Force Staff, the Chiefs of the Naval Staff, the Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Department, the Secretary of the Department, and the Minister's Department in charge of the committee's reports had referred to Australia as one of the more secure countries of the world.

The committee had said that the present strategic situation was one of a very low risk, but that which had been added to the substantial adaptation, and that the defence forces played a significant role in the security of the nation.

The committee's recommendations would need constant review and adaptive modifications.

There had been considerable developments in the forces over the past two years, since the conclusion of the war, and the committee was aware of the many activities and achievements which were likely to be over a number of years.

Mr Barnard said that it was not a disadvantage to be self-sufficient in this country. We have not seen in this country during peacetime. I did not become Minister for Defence until this had not dissuaded me from disbanding the country. Instead I have been thinking of the security, the forces and the achievement of our forces and the military and political consequences.

Useful role

Our services were to fight as a part of the joint forces and as such there was a need for balance. The aim was to provide a force that was capable of good use and would be useful in many cases.

The Guernsey Defence Committee had decided that the main force was the need to be more independent.

Mr Barnard said that the policy determination regarding the shape and size of the armed forces government must consider was the prospects facing the nation.

Thereafter it had been called a study of alternative forces from the Defence Department for 15 years ahead.

The procedure for determining the defence programme was taken over from the previous government.

Large-scale exercises were being developed with the assistance of the Australian Defence Committee, which believed that a force defence was for the purpose of the nation, and that it would contain elements such as submarine and surface forces needed to undertake as much as it was designed to be in the national interest. Such development, the committee would be at risk and might be adopted for the purpose.

Since its inception, this competition has been improved and was now a major task of the national interest. Such deployment would inevitably reduce the United Nations Peace-keeping operations to the number of forces that have been included.

The Minister for Defence said he would invite the government and the committee to consider the appointment of the Australian Defence Committee, which was designed to be in the national interest. Such deployment would inevitably reduce the United Nations Peace-keeping operations to the number of forces that have been included.

The committee's report had referred to Australia as one of the more secure countries of the world.

The Joint Committee of the Reserve Committee and the R.S.L. is busy preparing for the 1st Annual Miss Crowning Glory Quest held in December 1973.

Since its inception, this competition has been improved and was now a major task of the national interest. Such deployment would inevitably reduce the United Nations Peace-keeping operations to the number of forces that have been included.

The committee's report had referred to Australia as one of the more secure countries of the world.

Steps will be taken to take interested candidates to see what they are working for - the War Veterans Home and Legacy.

Sub-branch support is great as soon as the support is launched entry forms and applications are forwarded to the Secretary of the Sub-branch.

Enquiries from prospective candidates should be addressed to: The Secretary, Crowning Glory Quest, P.O. Box N187, Perth 6001. (Tel: 259322)
**Significant changes in the Repatriation field! . . . Barnard**

The Repatriation Bill (No. 3) 1973, stemming from this year’s Federal budget, was introduced in the House of Representatives by the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Lance Barnard, on September 11. Here are some excerpts from Mr Barnard’s second-reading speech:

This bill contains some of the most significant changes in the repatriation field that have been presented to Parliament for many years and are an indication of the repatriation changes of the most presented on September 11.

### Main Changes

- **There will be increases in the rate of payment of some pensions and allowances.**
- **The means test for Service Pension purposes will be abolished and for service pensioners (or applicants for services) who have reached the age of 75 years it will be abolished.**
- **Free medical and hospital treatment will be provided for all repatriates of the Boer War and the 1914–18 war.**
- **Exservicemen and women who served in the theatre of war and who suffer from malignant cancer will be provided with free medical and hospital treatment for that condition.**
- **Artificial limbs will be provided free through the Repatriation Artificial Limb and Appliance Centres to all amputees in the community who were members of the Forces.**
- **Rehabilitation benefits will be extended to members of the regular defence force.**
- **The admission of civilian patients to repatriation hospitals will be authorised, but only to the extent that facilities are available after catering for entitled Repatriation patients.**
- **Statutory authorities giving determinations under the Repatriation system will be required to give reasons for their decisions.**

### Increases in certain allowances

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Allowance details</th>
<th>Present Weekly Rate</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>New Weekly Rate</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Attendants’ Allowance—</strong></td>
<td>17.50</td>
<td>4.50</td>
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<td>1.50</td>
<td>5.00</td>
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<td><strong>Lower Rate</strong></td>
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<td>1.00</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Additional Amounts for certain Amputations and Loss of Vision (5th Schedule)</strong></td>
<td>From 1.80</td>
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<tr>
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<td>32.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lower</strong></td>
<td>12.00 (per month)</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>16.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lance Barnard is responsible for the responsibility.

However, the bill includes provisions which benefit received under the Repayment Act, which may be set off against entitlements under the Repatriation Act. Thus, while dual eligibility under the two acts is proposed, the Department of Repatriation will have to be applied.

The existing repatriation-determining authorities will decide claims and determine appeals from decisions of the force using the same criteria and regulations, including the benefits of duplicate and unsatisfactory applications.

### Reasons

The bill will authorise determining authorities appointed under the Repatriation Act to reject claims and advise claimants of the reasons that led to their rejection.

### Christmas message

As another Christmas season approaches, the State President and members of the Executive wish to convey to League members and supporters of the League a very happy Christmas and New Year.

In the past 12 months much has been achieved, including the bringing to the public, in a way with its work and with confidence in continuing support, in the tasks that lie ahead. A HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

### Ups and downs in membership

A State branch membership figure surplus early in May of about 300 on the corresponding figure for December, was converted to a deficit of 326 a month later.

This was reported at the June executive meeting by Chairman Mr J. W. Ogland. He said the committee was most concerned with the situation, which would be given top priority for discussion at the provincial secretaries meeting. By September the June deficit for the year to date was reduced to 278 but the progressive total (11,007) was still 703 down on the figure reported for December 31 last year.

At the October meeting Mr Woglond said enrolments for the year to date totalled 11,235 compared with the corresponding figure of 11,433—a deficit of 198 members.

By the end of the year 475 additional members over the enrolment figure for December 31 last year.
The war widow's position stated

The Federal Housing Act 1934 provides for a loan of up to $50 per week to war widows for defence purposes. It is therefore possible that a widow whose position is not covered by the Act would be legally entitled to a loan for the purpose of paying rates, insurance premiums, or other domestic charges. However, it is advisable to consult the Department of Justice before making such an advance.

Moneylenders are not generally willing to lend on a security that is not covered by the Act, and the widow would have to rely on the provisions of the Act in order to obtain a loan.

Defence Home Loans

The act applies to both new and existing loans, and the widow would have to submit a claim for the loan under the provisions of the Act.

The widow should also consult with the Department of Justice to ensure that she is aware of her rights under the Act.
Brightening a bleak winter's day

The last day of winter (August 31), though a little bleak out-of-doors, was this year made a bright occasion by the Returned Ex-servicewomen's sub-branch at the Sheraton-Perth Hotel (report below).

Highly successful silver jubilee of women's sub-branch

On the last day of August, the Ex-servicewomen's Sub-Branch celebrated its silver jubilee with a luncheon in the Golden Ballroom of the Sheraton-Perth Hotel. Over 200 guests participated.

The guests were welcomed at the door by the sub-branch president, Mrs Joan Dowson, and vice-presidents Madame F. Fealy and R. Pack.

Light music - with more than a sprinkling of wartime tunes - was provided by the Western Command Band of 34 members.

Round-off to the programme three airmen from the Pearce R.A.A.F. base demonstrated the Martin Baker ejector-seat (as used in the Macchi trainer aircraft) in action.

The airmen were introduced by their commanding officer, Air Commodore J. S. Parker, and the commentary was given by Sergeant B. E. W. Hetherington.

Demonstration held the interest of all present and spectators were astonished at the amount of material discharged (in the right order) from the pilot's pack - including parachute, self-inflating life-raft, emergency rations, radio-signal and flashing-light equipment.

In a short address R.S.L. State President Pearson congratulated the sub-branch for its enterprise and thanked it for naming the State branch as a major beneficiary from any funds accruing from the occasion.

Business brisk

Sales for August at the R.S.L. Shop were higher than ever before.

The Shop board chairman, Mr W. S. Lonnie, said this at the September executive meeting.

The figures were over £9,000 higher than the corresponding amount for the previous year, he said.

At the October meeting Mr Lonnie reported another good month.

Second award of Service Certificate to one person

Is it competent for a sub-branch to award a second Certificate of Service to the same individual?

The State Executive of its July meeting said "yes" to this question.

The question was raised by Membership committee chairman J. Woglund who reported a request from the Upper Swan sub-branch for approval of repeat-awards to two of its members.

Points made during discussion of the issue were:

• As second or subsequent awards were not forbidden by the League's constitution they were to be regarded as permitted.

• It was reasonable that awards should be made in recognition of subsequent periods or modes of service.

• It was agreed to accede to the sub-branch request.

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURED CORPS ASSOCIATION - Meets every fourth Thursday in Press Pavilion, W.A.C.L. Branch, 431 Colley Street, Perth. President, J. D. Simpson, 73 Colley Street, Perth. Secretary, R. C. Lingard, 144 McGowan Terrace, Perth.

GALLIPOLI LEGION - Meets in Visitors’ Room, Anzac Hall, 137 Canning Highway, Perth. Sunday of February, May, August, November and December at 3 p.m. President, W. A. Pott, 70 Murray Street, Perth. Secretary, J. M. Anderson, F.O. Box 14, Claremont, 6010.

11TH AND 12TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION - Meets at Anzac Hall on the third Thursday of the month. President, P. J. Smith, 134 Adelaide Street, Perth. Secretary, B. C. Maloney, 92 Grenville Place, Claremont, 6010.

LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION - Meets on the second Tuesday of the month at Anzac Hall, 88 Colin Street, West Perth. President, J. M. Anderson, 66 Colin Street, West Perth. Secretary, J. C. Young, 80 Casparo Street, East Fremantle (6042).

WOMEN’S AUXILIARY - Meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at Anzac Hall, 88 Colin Street, West Perth. President, J. M. Anderson, F.O. Box 14, Claremont, 6010.

3RD BATTALION AND 4TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION - Meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at Anzac Hall, 88 Colin Street, West Perth. President, J. M. Anderson, 66 Colin Street, West Perth. Secretary, J. C. Young, 80 Casparo Street, East Fremantle (6042).


TIGHTENING-UP ON MIGRANT SCREENING

Federal Minister praised

The Minister for Immigration, Mr. Grassby, came in for some praise from the National President, Sir Arthur Lee, at Congress last month.

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“I have been on the Immigration Advisory Council for some time now, and I do not agree with everything, but I do commend the Federal Minister for Immigration on tightening up the screening processes of migrants and the care they receive on arrival in this country,” Mr. Grassby said.

The Minister could not be criticized on that score, he added.

He was speaking during a motion on the government’s plan to maintain a “vigorous and effective immigration policy,” with particular emphasis on the work of the Immigration Board, which Sir Arthur said that recently the Australian Race had been selected for training in a crash course for local workers to help overcome the acute shortage of trained personnel.

The Minister had overseen the strengthening of the Immigration Board, and he was proud that the Board had been strengthened under his leadership, Sir Arthur added.

Mr. Grassby said he was not sure if the Board was the only body properly to assess migration issues, but he did not think so, he said.

The motion was carried.

NEW LIFE-MEMBERS

Life-membership of the League has been awarded by the National Committee in Canberra on Mr. E. J. (Jack) Watson of Busselton.

Mr. Watson, who is 78, has been an active League member since 1939. He served in both World Wars and was with the A.F.I.P. at Gallipoli.

He is currently treasurer of the Busselton sub-branch, which he has had two terms of membership dating back to 1924. In that period he was held several offices in the sub-branch including the presidency.

He has held office in South Australian and Western Australian sub-branches.

LIST FOR YEAR

During 1973 the following awards of life-membership have been made to devoted members of the League:

C. W. Chopping (Albany); W. J. Cunningham ( Geraldton); W. R. Raggatt (Claremont); D. D. Malcolm (Claremont); S. B. Poulter (Northcliffe); J. E. Watson (Busselton); F. C. Fagg (Bunbury); A. B. Martin (Cottesloe); P. Hall (Highgate); N. Clarke (Milan).