

Last Tribute To U.S. War Dead And Unknown Soldier

BRISBANE, December 22.—Synchronising with the removal from Queensland by a special steamer of 1400 United States war dead temporarily interred in the State during the war, the body of an unknown American soldier was escorted in a solemn procession through the streets of Brisbane this morning.

Thousands lined the route of the procession to pay homage to America's fallen. People also gathered at St George's Square, outside the City Hall, where a ceremony befitting the occasion was carried out with quiet dignity.

The casket containing the unknown soldier's remains was received at the entrance to the City Hall from a United States guard by a guard of honour provided by the Australian fighting services. An RAAF band played a funeral march and the British and United States national anthems.

Wreaths were laid on the casket by the Governor (Sir John Lavarack), the Premier (Mr Hanlon), Senator Courtice (representing the Commonwealth Government, and other official representatives, including representatives of ex-servicemen's associations. Other wreaths which had previously been left at the entrance to the City Hall by the general public were added, after which the cortege moved off through the city, headed by an escort of mounted police, with Commonwealth, State, and other representatives participating.

At the Newstead wharf the band played "The Recessional" and a firing party fired three vol-

leys. A bugler from the AIF sounded "The Last Post" and "The Reveille," after which the cortege passed through the gates of the wharf and the body of the unknown soldier was transferred to the waiting ship that will take it home.

The State Government offices were closed during the service and city establishments allowed their employees off temporarily to pay their last tribute to America's dead as the procession moved through the city.

Flags everywhere flew at half-mast.

In America efforts will be made to identify today's honoured unknown soldier and other unknown soldiers. Capt J. B. Harris, of the American War Graves Unit, said that every American had been accounted for except 17 of the bodies recovered from the Ipswich cemetery. It was hoped that American anthropologists by teeth charts and other means, would be able to identify at least some of the 17. All the remains would be buried or cremated either in Hawaii or America.

AMERICAN TRIBUTES

Acknowledging Brisbane's

Acknowledging Brisbane's tribute to his country's war dead, Capt Harris, after today's ceremony, said: "Our people could not have asked for more."

The American consul (Mr W. L. Peck) said: "The simple but sincere tribute by Brisbane's crowds along the route of the cortege was touching to me as an American. The whole thing was beautifully arranged and went off without a hitch. I was particularly impressed with the solemn atmosphere and the silence of the crowds as they waited for the cortege to pass."

During the whole of the proceedings three four-engined bombers flew overhead. The official wreaths later were taken aboard the ship that will take the bodies home. The public wreaths and one from the United States services were taken from the wharf and laid on the Brisbane Shrine of Remembrance.

SYDNEY CEREMONY

SYDNEY, December 22.—A crowd of more than 7000 people thronged Martin Place this morning, when 50 American ex-servicemen now settled in Australia marched to the Cenotaph to lay wreaths in memory of their comrades who had fallen in battle in the South-west Pacific.

The ceremony, like that at Brisbane, was arranged by the Returned Soldiers' and United States organisations to mark the departure of United States war dead from Australia.