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CO-OPERATION IN DEFENCE

During the recent months of international tension, much was said and written about what an enemy could do to us. There has been so much talk about the aerial and naval strength of the totalitarian Powers that it surprised people, even in Britain, when a French Minister replied to Italy's recent insolent demands with the curt reminder that the French navy was as strong as the combined navies of Germany and Italy. We British are too reticent about our own strength. If there were less said about what enemies could do to us, and if there were a more general realisation of what we could do to potential enemies, whether in Europe or in Asia, the British Government would be enabled to take a stronger line in international affairs.

But the first report of the mission was followed by a very detailed statement which indicated that the development of aircraft production in Australia was merely a secondary aim. It was learnt that one of the matters the mission would discuss with the Commonwealth Government would be a very comprehensive proposal for linking up the air defences of Australia, with those of India, Singapore, New Zealand and Fiji. Briefly the scheme involves the co-operation of the Royal Air Force, the Royal Australian Air Force and the Royal New Zealand Air Force in the most ambitious scheme yet suggested for the defence of Britain's possessions in the Southern Pacific. The scheme will entail not only the expanded production of aircraft in Australia; it will provide for the establishment of new aerodromes, of which one is to be in the neighbourhood of Port Hedland. The new aerodromes will form points in an elaborate system of triangles, or zones of aerial defence, which will extend from the Cocos Islands to Suva.

So far, the scheme has been presented only in bald outline. It would be too early, and perhaps inadvisable to make further comment; but it does not require any great flight of imagination for one to realise that a plan of which the essence is Imperial co-operation is capable of being widened to include the collaboration of friendly neighbours. It represents a healthy change from the defeatist outlook which, not so very long ago, pictured the British holding Hong Kong and Singapore, and the French retaining Indo-China, only by the goodwill of Japan. French co-operation with Britain in the defence of their common interests in south-eastern Asia is both essential and certain, and American cooperation may reasonably be expected, especially in view of President Roosevelt's latest outspoken statement on foreign policy. It is not generally known, however, that since the outbreak of the undeclared war in China, the Government of the Netherlands has been spending money like water increasing the naval and aerial defences of the Netherlands East Indies. If Britain and France were drawn into a war with Japan, much of the fighting would be in East Indian waters, and it is difficult to see how the neutrality of the Netherlands Indies could be preserved.

Regarding the probable role the United States would play, there is another factor, which is frequently overlooked. In the ordinary course of events, the Philippines were to have their independence some time next year. But the mere granting of independence to these large islands is not the simple matter it would appear to altruists in the States and elsewhere. To begin with, there are economic factors involved which must make the separation of the islands a very gradual one, if independence is not to be less of a blessing than a curse. The position has been further complicated by the Japanese invasion of China and Japan's subsequent interference with European and American trade in that country. The year before last, the Filipinos themselves urged the American Government to march at ease towards the declaration of
The Tragedy of Unemployment

Unemployment is one of the biggest tragedies of life. The right to work should be the privilege of every man; but when through a slight disability a man cannot take his place in the humdrum of everyday life, it is a bigger tragedy, particularly when that disability is the result of service in defence of one's country. Is it any wonder that some become disgruntled, and feel that had they refrained from answering the call they would at least have been able to compete in the open labour market, which evidently requires 100 per cent. physical energy?

Australia has been blessed by a Repatriation Act, stated to be unequalled in the world for its generosity; yet do we members of the League look after our men sufficiently who have partial disabilities? Take the man on 50 per cent. pension. His rate as a single man would be £1/1/- weekly. As a married man with two children he would receive £1/7/6 weekly. His great problem is, therefore, to obtain suitable work to provide a living wage for his household. The public generally regard a man on any sort of military pension as one who is receiving a lordly sum weekly with no cause to worry. Perhaps the Digger with a partial disability is one of the greatest sufferers in the community, because of his difficulty in obtaining suitable employment. Every employer requires 100 per cent. efficiency. He must have it to compete with other employers. Surely there are many positions in industry into which the partially disabled ex-soldier can be fitted?

At congress last year, unemployment was one of the most discussed subjects, one sub-branch being of the opinion that a full-time employment officer should be appointed. This is a financial impossibility at the present time; but something must be done when one realises that from 300 to 400 men report monthly to Anzac House in search of work. There is scope, too, for great expansion in the Corps of Commissionaires, composed entirely of ex-service men, and members of the League can push their claims. Their duties consist of nightwatchmen, escorts, attendants at football matches, carnivals, balls, dances, concerts, etc. Unfortunately, apathy and indifference exists amongst many of the business firms because they employ Afghans in preference to returned soldiers who served their King and Country faithfully and well in time of need.

It is with the object of breaking down this apathy and general indifference that an effort is being made to enlist the assistance of all members of the League to help in creating an atmosphere of goodwill and enthusiasm favourable to the ex-soldier, and with this aim in view the State executive has issued the following letter to all sub-branches:

To all of us it is particularly distressing to see or know of Diggers who are out of work. Many have family responsibilities which considerably weigh down the burden.

The State executive, therefore, desires to attack this scourge, and enlists the support of sub-branches, members generally and the public. Three methods are being adopted, viz., publicity, deputations to employers' organisations and the appointment of an employment officer or an employment committee in each sub-branch.

It is desired that sub-branches who have publications will feature unemployment in each of their journals by publishing articles which deal with Diggers out of work; the need for improving the lot of those on suspense and in poor positions by endeavouring to get them a better job; and by trying to create an atmosphere which will induce an employer to look around for a suitable ex-soldier when he desires an employee.
WHAT OF NEW GUINEA?

By A. Cresswell (New Guinea)

A question of paramount importance to Australia, and to Queensland in particular, the return of the mandates to Germany, does not appear to interest the average citizen to any great extent. When the probability of that event is mooted, his usual comment is: “We can’t give New Guinea back.” It seems useless to point out to him that the controllers of our foreign policy will make no definite statements as to the future of the Mandates. He is blinded by the soft insincerity of astute diplomatic statements, or half statements.

Let us estimate the actual worth of these political promises. To do that we must make comparisons.

We promised that we would not allow Japan to annex Manchuria, but she did. Yet we could have stopped the violation of Manchuria had we lent our co-operation to the United States of America, the only country to protest strongly against that conquest, and who has not yet recognised it. We said that Italy would not be allowed to conquer Abyssinia, but we condoned it, although the Italian venture could have been prevented by closing the Suez Canal against the passage of arms.

Then came the present war against China, to whom we were bound by treaty and moral promises. That war is now almost a fait accompli, and soon we shall be angling for trade rights in China. Also, Czechoslovakia was not to be invaded, but to-day the Swastika prevails there.

I fully realise that Britain cannot be expected to be the policeman of the world, nor do I expect the march of progress to be stayed. But the point I wish to emphasise is, that we are making almost the same indefinite statements about the Mandates, as were made prior to each of the foregoing events. And taking the latter as an example, we logically expect similar action over the Colonies. To each of the aforesaid countries we were bound by some treaty, or the Versailles treaty to effect which we gave a million lives.

Are the peoples of the Mandated countries to be deserted in the same way? Mr. Australian says not; because, he says, they are ours. Well, so was Jubaland (East Africa), which, with its people, was quietly presented to Italy in 1927.

So was a part of Somaliland offered to Abyssinia. Two examples of a part of the Empire (not mandates) that were given away as a sop. A recent question raised in the House of Commons as to adequate compensation to the British in the Mandated countries in the event of their transfer to Germany, indicates that some members of the House of Parliament consider it probable. The question was answered in the typical evasive Chamberlain manner. Mark the contrast when the Belgian Prime Minister was asked a similar question anent the Congo. “Only over the dead bodies of the Belgian nation,” was the Belgian Prime Minister’s reply. The Japanese were truculent, too, when they stated, “Whoever wants our Mandates must come and take them—if they can!”

It is noteworthy that Germany admits Japan’s claim to those Mandates, and as she is not interested in the Congo, then logically it must be those held by the British Empire that she wants.

A careful study of the news, however, shows that Berlin demands all her former colonies. So why the distinction? No statement, like that which came from London, has been made by Germany that she would be satisfied with the African colonies, and no straightforward “Yes” or “No” can be had by the people as to what is to be done with the Mandates.

From the foregoing, we must regretfully conclude that the British and Australian Governments will hand back the Mandates when they receive Hitler’s ultimatum.

Whether the latter has made definite demands in this respect nobody knows, as the conversation between Hitler and Chamberlain has not been published; but rumour is strong—especially in New Guinea—that the date has been fixed for September 30, 1939. But that, of course, is rumour.

Now, how would the return of New Guinea affect Australia? It would have a most unpalatable effect; it would place a potential enemy at the gateway of Australia. With excellent harbours to develop for use as naval bases and ample aerodromes, Australia could be raided almost within the selected hour.

An important point to be remembered is that, although Hitler insists that all
colony must be returned to Germany, he does not favour a widespread Empire, as he clearly sets out in his book, "My Struggle." It is quite feasible, then, to assume that, in return for great trade concessions in China, he would hand over New Guinea to his ally, Japan.

That Japan is eager to have New Guinea is well known. She regards it as the Southern Bastion in her planned Empire. An educational film, entitled "Japan's Life Line," was screened throughout Japan a few years ago. It was viewed by the writer; and it showed the Base of the "Life Line" at Madang, New Guinea.

With Japan's acquisition of New Guinea, and with naval bases and aerodromes within two hundred miles of the Australian coast, we would be in grave danger of coming under Japanese domination. In that event, our 40-hour week would quickly turn to 60; our White Australia policy and all our privileges would become only a memory, and Japan would decide the Ministers to govern us, just as Herr Hitler has done in Czechoslovakia.

Of course, I expect to be called an alarmist. But think back, only five years ago, and you will remember how Churchill was sneered at as an alarmist. Why, five years ago, had any man the temerity to have foretold what has happened during the last few months, he would have been laughed at. Who would have dreamed that British members of Parliament were to be implored not to irritate Hitler! Fancy, fearing to say whether we intended to hold on to our possessions! Bribing Italy for a Pact! An ambassador shot; British steamers sunk and British seamen drowned or killed; Great Britain insulted and ridiculed; and not a word said! A British Prime Minister flying to Munich to beg for concessions. Who would have dreamed it, and who would not have been laughed at had that been foretold five years ago?

But the vital point is: how can the return of New Guinea to Germany be prevented? It can be prevented only by a firm Australia-wide demand by the Australian people to their Government, sufficiently strong to impress our politicians; and by a direct message to the King and to the Prime Minister of England, a message so worded that it would leave no doubt as to the attitude of the Australian people towards this prospect. And it is only by the concerted action of the Diggers of Australia, through their League, that the people of Australia can be made to realise the grave danger the passing of New Guinea out of the Commonwealth's control would bring to this country. This is a great national question upon which a stand must be made if we are to be safeguarded. The constitution permits that stand to be made; and necessity demands it. Let it be done before it is too late.

**THE "OFFICER CLASS"**

In the Senate recently, a senator referred to the "officer class" in the A.I.F. Colonel Collett, in reply, stated that there was no such thing and cited some interesting figures in support.

A member of this Senate, said the Colonel, went overseas with 1,031 Australians, in which 150 civil occupations were represented, the principal ones being: Labourers 199, farmers and farm hands 109, miners and prospectors 70, timber workers 64, clerks 60, carpenters and joiners 27, horse drivers 18, pearsers 17, grocers 16, engineers 13 and butchers 11.

The officer class consisted of accountants, assayors, bank clerks, barristers, blacksmiths, bushmen, carpenters, civil engineers, civil servants, clergymen, clerks, coachmen, commercial travelling, dentists, doctors, draughtsmen, electrical engineers, engine drivers, engineers, farm hands, farmers, fitters, graziers, grocers, horse drivers, indent agents, inspector of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, insurance inspector, labourers, master plumbers, mechanics, miners, navvies, orchardists, painters, pearlrs, policemen, postal assistants, railway assistants, sailors, salesmen, school teachers, sheep overseers, sleeper hewers, station hands, station masters, surveyors, tailors, telephone operators, wool experts and two of no occupation. As regards the share which various sections of a unit took in action, perhaps these figures will convey some information. Of the 1,031 mentioned, 29.4 per cent. of the officers were killed and 29.3 per cent. of other ranks. Those are the figures in respect of an Australian unit, with an excellent record. Statements calculated to create suspicion and thwart the efforts of those rendering service are to be deprecated.

**PREFERENCE TO RETURNED SOLDIERS**


The provisions of the Commonwealth Public Service Act granting preference to returned soldiers in employment in the Commonwealth Service, which have been explained in previous reports, have been closely observed. The total number of appointments of returned soldiers made to the permanent staff during the financial year 1937-38 was 409, the appointments being mainly to Fourth Division positions of postman, assistant, lineman, mechanic, &c.; a limited number was made to professional and clerical positions. In addition, 4,066 returned soldiers were employed temporarily or under exemption on June 30, 1938, as compared with 3,578 on the corresponding date in the previous year.

The total number of appointments of returned soldiers made to the permanent staff of the Commonwealth Service up to June 30, 1938, was 6,437.

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Report of 23rd Annual Federal Congress

PRESENTED TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE (W.A. BRANCH) BY
THE STATE PRESIDENT (Mr. A. YEATES), Mr. R. A. NICHOLAS &
THE STATE SECRETARY

The Federal President and Eastern States delegates arrived in Perth by the Trans. train at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 12. They were met at the station and promptly conveyed to the Criterion Hotel.

At 11 a.m., His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor declared congress open and was thanked by the Federal president.

His Majesty the King conveyed his best wishes for the success of congress. Messages were also received from the Governor-General and the Grand President of the B.E.S.L.

Delegates then adjourned to the State War Memorial, where Sir Gilbert Dyett laid a wreath.

The entertainment programme previously approved by the executive was faithfully carried out with the exception of the visit to Yanchep on Thursday, November 17, which day congress continued until 11 a.m.

Financial clips for 1940 were to be gilt and white and the next Federal congress will be held in Melbourne. Most eulogistic references were frequently made by the Federal president and all other delegates to the courtesy and standing of the W.A. Branch, and before concluding, the Federal secretary (Mr. Raymont) expressed appreciation for valuable assistance rendered by the State and assistant secretary and for the most efficient services of Miss Purcell, adding that our staff had made this the easiest of all congresses he had attended as Federal secretary.

Sir Gilbert Dyett was unanimously nominated and re-elected Federal president for the twentieth successive year, and at the conclusion Mr. Holland (Victoria), on behalf of delegates and secretaries, presented to Sir Gilbert a token of appreciation and esteem.

Resolutions from our own State congress were submitted and dealt with as follows:

No. 33 (Harvey): "That where a motion emanating from a State congress is rejected at a Federal congress or Federal executive meeting, a précis of the debate on the matter without alteration or amendment be furnished to the State executive of origin and furnished in turn to the sub-branch of origin."

This item was defeated again as impracticable. Verbatim reports of delegates' remarks are not taken, but a summary of opposing views can always be taken back to the State of origin.

No. 104 (Pemberton): "That where the recipient of a service pension cannot earn any extra money towards the upkeep of a large family, the limit of four children should be amended to make it all children irrespective of date of birth." Carried.

N.M. 1 (Executive): "That the Service Pensions Act be amended to permit the granting of a pension and privileges to the widow and dependents of a returned sailor or soldier who died from T.B. prior to the commencement of the Act 1/1/36." Carried.

N.M. 2 (Kalgoorlie): "That Federal congress be urged to have Pension Act amended so that under the service pension allowable income be augmented by the difference in the basic wage, as between the Metropolitan as a mean and country or Goldfields, where such difference exceeds 5/-." Lost.

Resolution No. 102 (Kalgoorlie), re South African Veterans' and Service Pensions, was withdrawn in favour of the following, submitted by New South Wales and carried:

"That the Commonwealth Government be requested to review and alter that portion of the Repatriation Act relative to service pensions which will then enable veterans of the South African campaign to be entitled to receive a service or old-age pension at the age of 60 years and bring them in line with ex-A.I.F. men."

Resolution No. 103 (Wickepin), referring to service pensions to members of the Empire Forces, was withdrawn in favour of a similar motion from Tasmania:

"That congress, having reviewed the disabilities suffered by returned soldiers in the interpretation of the provisions of Section 45W (2) and 39B of the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act, regarding the benefit of doubt, earnestly requests the Commonwealth Government to amend the aforesaid sections to provide that where there is no proof that a disability was not caused by war service, the appellant shall be given the benefit of the doubt."

Resolution No. 100 (Nedlands): "That all ex-soldiers who are receiving pensions for a war disability of 50 per cent. or over be eligible for admittance to repatriation wards when such ex-soldiers are ill, irrespective of the nature of the illness."

Rejected in favour of the following presented by Victoria:

"That the Commonwealth Government be asked to provide medical or surgical treatment and accommodation for returned men who are certified as being in need for hospital treatment and whose condition is not accepted as being due to war service."
N. M. 19 (Nedlands): "That where an ex-soldier's death is accepted as due or attributable to war service, war pension shall be payable to the next of kin at the minimum rates of 84/- per fortnight irrespective of their financial circumstances."

A majority of delegates considered existing provisions equitable and the motion was rejected.

No. 113 (Kalgoorlie): "That, in the case of a wife pensioner, who disappears for no illegal reason and who cannot be traced by the C.I.B. or any other authority, and whose pension is not drawn upon, that his wife be specially considered by the Repatriation Department for a continuation of her wife's pension or some allowance in all cases." Carried.

No. 106 (Mt. Lawley-Inglewood): "That the War Service Homes Commission is not in a position to proceed with the Act passed by the W.A. Parliament providing for rates exempted for service pensioners."

The Commissioner War Service Homes (Mr. Richardson) was present, and explained the serious legal difficulties and the enormous sum that would accumulate against dwelling houses all over Australia. The resolution was defeated.

The following resolution, affecting returned soldiers in the Commonwealth Public Service, was carried on a resolution by W. A., seconded by Queensland:

"That in view of the dissatisfaction caused by the present system of determining seniority, be the Commonwealth Government requested to review the present method of determining seniority on 'date of appointment' and urges it to introduce a system of seniority based on 'salary received on appointment' or on some other more equitable basis than at present."

No. 49 (Margaret River): "That all ex-A.I.F. men be put on the same footing as ex-A.I.F. men re jobs in any Government works and to receive the same consideration."

This resolution was not favourably received.

Defence questions, covered by items 85 to 91, State congress agenda, urging the reinstatement of universal training and the recognition of values of health, man-power, material, and that in the event of a national crisis arising, the whole of these should be conscripted.

"That notwithstanding the League's reaffirmation of and strict adherence to its policy of the reintroduction of universal military training, congress is of the opinion that there should be some method of registration and organisation of the whole of Australia's resources of health, man-power, material and industry, and that in the event of an adequate and efficient defence force, this congress pledges itself to do everything in its power to assist in securing success for the proposed increase in the Militia Forces by means of an assurance to the training of the youth of Australia, and therefore will welcome any suggestions from the Commonwealth Government as to how the services of the League can be best utilised."

"Resolved that a special meeting of State executives be held and suggestions calculated to help the Government's defense policy be formulated and passed to the Federal president."

Nos. 94 and 154 (Press), referring to national physical training, collaboration between military and educational authorities and the registration of returned soldiers and surveyors were both endorsed.

No. 145 (Press): "That the Commonwealth Government be asked to arrange for the provision of a seaplane base on the Swan River, together with the necessary equipment." Carried.

No. 93 (Press): "Congress agrees that portion of the Royal Australian Navy should be based at Fremantle, consisting of vessels which could be used for surveying and training purposes." Carried as a suggestion to the Commonwealth Government.

No. 83 (Arath-Babakin), urging a vigorous renewal of the preference policy, was withdrawn in view of other resolutions on the same subject, which had been passed.

N. M. 22 (Executive), regretting the lack of co-operation on the part of the B.S.L. Headquarters was carried.

Nos. 119 and 120 (Wobin and Kalgoorlie), which are directed to the influx of aliens and the desirability of migrants of British and Nordic stocks were covered by resolutions submitted by Queensland and Victoria, reading:

1. That a quota system should be introduced to prevent the influx of a number of foreign immigrants which will ensure that the population of the Commonwealth will not at any time be less than 98 per cent. British, and that the quota system should be applied in such a manner that there can be no great preponderance of migrants from any particular foreign country.
2. “That all migrants be compelled to register on arrival in the Commonwealth so as to enable their movements to be checked in the same way as the movements of native-born adults are recorded under the Electoral Law.”

3. “That it be made illegal to establish or to assist organisations which have as their object the maintenance of political associations between foreign nationals and their native country.”

4. “That no foreign migrants be naturalised until they have acquired a sound knowledge of the English language.”

5. “That every foreign adult migrant shall apply for naturalisation within three years of his or her arrival in the Commonwealth, and also children reaching the age of 21 years, and that such applications must be accompanied by definite proof of the applicant having acquired a sound knowledge of the English language; and if for the reason that the language test cannot be complied with, or any other reason, the migrant is considered undesirable, the migrant shall return to his own country as apparently his retention in the country is unwarranted.”

6. “That this congress views with grave concern the continued influx of alien immigrants into Australia in proportion to British immigrants, and therefore recommends to the Commonwealth Government that steps be taken to ensure that—

(a) The alien immigrant be of desirable type;
(b) That every foreign adult migrant shall apply for naturalisation within the period provided for in the Commonwealth Nationality Act;
(c) The formation of such alien immigrants into colonies be prevented;
(d) The learning of the English language be made compulsory;
(e) The only language used and recognised in the execution of business, in Government notices and in the schools be the English language; and further, through the accepted alien immigrants to take their places as members of our Australian community and to assimilate standards and ideals as Australians.”

No. 150 (Press), urging the presentation of public demonstrations, ceremonies, pageants, etc., was defeated.

No. 45 (Kukerin): This resolution suggested an alteration of the Federal Constitution to reduce the life membership fee to £5.5/- for a man 60 years of age. The motion was defeated.

It will be seen that of the 32 items presented to congress by this branch of the League, 11 were carried, nine defeated and twelve were withdrawn in favour of resolution on the same question submitted by other State branches.

All States were represented by two delegates and the Australian Capital Territory was represented by Mr. J. Honeysett. Three State secretaries and three assistant State secretaries attended and the congress was assisted in its deliberations by Mr. W. Webster (Repatriation Commission) and Mr. H. Richardson (Commissioner for War Service Hones).

Right throughout the proceedings a most harmonious spirit prevailed, all delegates displaying a feeling of good will to each other, and naturally the Federal president himself was most helpful to everyone.

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**TREE PLANTING BY THE LEAGUE**

The congress resolution which urged the planting and care of suitable trees for ornamental purposes and to counteract soil erosion be undertaken as a national work was referred to the Conservator of Forests (Mr. S. L. Kessell), who advised the League that there was a departmental committee to advise on soil erosion problems. A further communication has been received from the Conservator, and as this is of outstanding interest to country members, a copy of Mr. Kessell’s latest communication is printed hereunder:

“Further to correspondence concerning your letter of the 14th October last, conveying resolution 148 of the recent annual congress of the League, I have to advise you that your letter was recently considered at a meeting of the Soil Erosion Committee and, as chairman of that body, I was requested to write to you as follows:—

“...The committee endorses the general opinion of your League with respect to the value of timber belts as one important factor in the control of soil erosion. It is agreed that, where possible, timber belts should be left along roads and also in paddocks and the establishment of timber breaks should be encouraged. In the opinion of the committee, properly adjusted farm management must always be the main line of control of soil erosion, and the provision of timber belts, construction of contour banks, etc., can only serve as adjuncts necessary in many instances to enable the proper farming programme to be followed.”

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**ANZAC DAY HOLIDAY**

A congress resolution asked, “That the matter of wages staff returned soldiers being granted Anzac Day as a holiday with pay at their home stations be represented to the Commissioner of Railways. Alternatively, should such men be called on to work on Anzac Day, they be paid penalty rates for the day in the same manner as for Christmas Day, Good Friday, etc., or that a day in lieu thereof be added to his annual leave.”

The Under Secretary of the Premier’s Department has advised the League that the position as stated in a communication last year, when a similar request was made, remained unchanged. That decision of the Government is again published hereunder:

“Returned soldiers may be allowed a holiday without deduction from their pay on Anzac Day, provided the leave can be conveniently spared from their work and proper approval is obtained for the leave. No day in lieu or extra payment is to be allowed to any employee working on Anzac Day unless the contrary is specifically provided in an award or agreement applicable to such employee.

“Every effort is made to release returned men on Anzac Day, the administration having every sympathy with the object for which the leave is provided, and heads of branches are fully seized of the policy of the department in this regard.

“The leave in question is undoubtedly given for the purpose of enabling returned soldiers to attend memorial services and parades and not as recreation leave. It is not, therefore, considered that there are any justifiable grounds for the granting of a day in lieu to those who, owing to the exigencies of their work, it is not possible to release for the day, or for the payment of penalty rates in such circumstances.”
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FREE FROM PRESERVATIVES
PERSONALITIES

Diggers of the 48th, and numerous other friends, felt a glow of justifiable pride when they read that Edgar Logan, jnr., had graduated at the top of the list from the Royal Military College, Duntruan, winning the King's medal for this feat and the Sword of Honour for exemplary conduct and devotion to duty. We understood that both honours have been won by the same man only on three occasions within the history of Duntruan.

The present winner was born on March 12, 1917, and received his early schooling at Ravensthorpe, Kurrawang and Merredin. In 1929, he won a secondary schools scholarship, which he took out at the Modern School, Perth. He passed the Junior in 1932, the Leaving Certificate in 1934, and entered the Royal Military College in 1935. He has specialised in engineering, and is to go to the University of Sydney for a special two years' course, which will admit him to a degree in civil engineering. The proud father, Edgar Logan, who served with the 48th and was wounded at Paschendale, is now head teacher of the White Gums Valley State school.

Arrived unexpectedly in Darwin at the beginning of the month, Lord Strabolgi passed through the Eastern States on his way to the New Zealand centenary celebrations. Notwithstanding the strange form of the name, the Barony of Strabolgi is one of the oldest of British peerages. The first Baron Strabolgi, of whom there is any documentary record, was summoned to Parliament in 1318. The title went into abeyance in 1601, but it was revived in 1916 in favour of the present Baron's father, who was described as the ninth Baron. The tenth Baron, who is now visiting these latitudes, was better known as Commander Kenworthy, who retired from the Royal Navy two years after the war and entered the House of Commons as a Labour member. In his service days, Lord Strabolgi was a naval boxing champion.

Mr. W. J. Hunt, the chairman of the State executive's Land Committee, was recently appointed to the Lotteries Commission for another year; but a far greater distinction came his way with the New Year. Our Bill appeared in the New Year's Honours List as a Member of the Order of the British Empire. Apart from his many claims to recognition, Mr. Hunt's services on the Land Committee have been of an outstanding nature, so much so that they have won the recognition of other agricultural organisations. A few years ago, when the wheat growers' organisations of this State held a conference in an endeavour to settle their differences and amalgamate, Mr. Hunt was especially invited to act as chairman of the conference. We feel sure that all readers who know of his unobtrusive yet sterling work will join us in congratulating him on his new distinction, with the hope that he will live many years to enjoy it.

British exchanges report the death, at the age of 61, of Lieut-General Sir Basil Burnett-Hitchcock, who served with distinction in the South African War, and took part in the retreat from Mons and the hard-fought battles of 1914. He was responsible for the demobilisation of five million British soldiers during the months immediately following the Armistice.

Mr. Drummond, who succeeds Mr. Royal as chemist at Gnowangerup, served in the war with the 2nd Siege Brigade of the A.I.F. He lost no time in joining up with the sub-branch, and Gnowangerup Diggers say that there is something special about his No. 9's.

A good Digger passed away at Nedlands last month in the person of Bob Bolton, at the age of 46 years. Bob was a live members of the Nedlands sub-branch where both he and his good wife were very popular. He served from 1915 with the 10th Light Horse. He will be sadly missed by his wife and mother, to whom we extend sympathy in their great loss.

Mr. Ernie Coleman, who passed away this month, was a South African veteran who left with the original 11th Battalion and since his return has been an active committee man of the 11th Battalion Association and the association's hospital visitor. He was usually flag-bearer for the 11th on Anzac parades and was very popular with his mates who would say to him. A provision in his will was that all attending his funeral should have two drinks at his expense on their return, a provision which was availed of by about 30 of his old comrades. Another instruction was that on his tombstone the only words to appear shall be "Dad, 11th Battalion."

There is at least one Australian-born member of the British Air Mission which will visit this country shortly. This is Air-Marshal Sir Arthur Longmore, who was born at St. Leonards, North Sydney, and educated in England. He was air officer commanding the coastal command of the Royal Air Force from 1934 to 1938, and a former commandant of the Imperial Defence College, London.

A telegram from Sydney reports the death, at the age of 73 years, of Mr. Andrew Reid, a well-known Sydney businessman and philanthropist. Soon after the Great War, Mr. Reid built and endowed a home at the Burnside Orphanage. At his own expense he brought out and installed there 25 Irish boys, the sons of Irish soldiers who were killed in action.

The funeral of the late Mr. Peter Stevens, of 115 Stirling Street, Perth, took place in the Roman Catholic portion of the Karrakatta Cemetery on January 9. The late Mr. Stevens, who was 66 years of age when the last call sounded, saw considerable service with the A.I.F. in Egypt and Palestine, as a member of the 14th Light Horse, and later of the Camel Corps. He was a good linguist, and on many occasions his services were utilised as an interpreter.

As we go to press ye learn with considerable pleasure that The Listening Post's old friend and energetic contributor, Bill Menkens, is improving after several weeks of illness. In wishing him all the best for the year we have entered, we hope the improvement in his health will continue.

At the January meeting of the Carlisle sub-branch, members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of their late comrade, Ossie Davis, whose recent passing has cast a gloom over the sub-branch. The late Ossie Davis was a foundation member of Carlisle, and one of the sub-branch's keenest workers until sickness overtook him.
Bad luck attended Arthur Nugent’s visit to Perth this year. He broke a leg in a motor accident and is still undergoing treatment, though he is bearing up against adversity in his usual cheery manner.

Phil. Carter, the secretary of the Anzac Club, went on his annual leave this month, leaving Peter Ross in charge of the peters for the time being. The State secretary (Mr. Dave Benson) has just finished his issue of annual leave, and Carl Ferguson, who carried on in his absence, will now go where they tell wondrous stories about the big fish that got away.

When a party of New Zealand tourists arrived in the State this month, a number of them were brought to Anzac House by a New Zealand Digger, Mr. J. R. Barber, who is the manager of an iron foundry in Auckland. Mr. Barber was greatly taken with Anzac House and the club which he preferred to similar institutions in other States. He also mentioned that if any local Diggers ever visit Auckland and neglect to look him up, there will be a big strain on the Perth-Auckland axis. His telephone number is 17777.

One of the stiffest men in the League this month is Bobby Harrison, the secretary of the Wyndham sub-branch. He took a ticket in the Charnites and got no more than second prize. Next to winning something big for yourself, it’s always most agreeable to be able to congratulate a cobber on winning something.

Big, genial Lieut.-Colonel Pat Currie, who commanded the 28th Battalion during the closing stages of the war, arrived by the Kanimbla on January 10, on his first visit to this State in 20 years. Many 28th officers, including Captains McIntyre and Jones and Lieutenant Armstrong met the boat. On the 10th, Colonel Collett took the visitor under his hospitable wing and showed him the beauty spots of Perth, including the spots at the Anzac Club. At 5.30 on the following afternoon, Lieut.-Colonel Currie was entertained at a cocktail party by the officers of the 28th (Militia) in the messroom at Wright Street, Perth. On the same night, he was the guest of honour at the battalion smoke social.

Among the many who are holiday-seeking or business bent in the Eastern States just now is Mr. Nicholas Marich, the popular consul in Western Australia for Yugoslavia. Mr. Marich, who has held that office for many years, is a dinkum Digger, who fought the good fight with the 11th Battalion.

We have been informed on unimpeachable authority that Paddy Fox, the tall stalwart of the 16th Battalion, did the honours in the Anzac Club on New Year’s Eve. He suggested that the drought might be broken by the opening up of a ten-gallon keg at his own expense, and those present enthusiastically swallowed this affront to our glorious climate.

LOST TRAIL . . .

Will Bill Baxter, of the 10th Light Horse, A.I.F., or anyone knowing his whereabouts please contact Dick Hummerston, secretary, 120 Salisbury Street, Marylands. His sister is calling him from Sydney, N.S.W.

Mr. J. Lee, of Nungarin, wishes to get in touch with Lieutenant Gilbert, who served with No. 4 Section of the 15th Field Coy. Engineers. Mr. Lee is seeking some assistance in connection with a pension claim. If anyone knows of the present address of Mr. Gilbert will they please communicate with the State secretary.

VALE:

WILLIAM WATSON

In the passing of William Watson last month ex-service men in this State lost their best friend. His monetary assistance to Diggers must have cost him thousands of pounds, and the kindly advice of this wise gentleman was of no less value. He gave to the worthy and the unworthy, and on being advised by the writer on one occasion that he was being presumed upon, he replied that he was sometimes of the opinion that he was having it “put over him,” but he was always afraid that it might turn down a deserving case. Mr. Watson built up a big business by hard work rightly controlled and by honesty of purpose. So sincere was he in politics that he refused to stand again for the comparatively safe seat for him at Fremantle, because he could not fit into the party political machine and felt that he was unable to achieve much as an independent member. His period in the House of Representatives was noted for his eloquent patriotic appeals to members to place country before party. He was known as the Abraham Lincoln of the House.

Mr. Watson had been awarded the League Certificate of Merit by the Federal congress and was a life honorary member of the Fremantle sub-branch, where his photograph hangs in their rooms as a constant reminder of one whose memory will always be held dear. Mr. Watson lost two boys at the war, both being killed in the same battle. He had the soul of a poet and a heart of gold, and the world is richer as the result of his life’s journey through it. To his widow and family we offer sincere sympathy on behalf of all ex-service men.
Colonel Collett’s summary of the occupations of the officers of an A.I.F. battalion published elsewhere set us working out the occupations of the members of the State executive. They consist of 5 legislators (including a Minister of the Crown and a Senator), 4 farmers, 2 orchardists, 2 civil servants, 2 accountants, 2 schoolmasters, 2 travellers, 3 business managers and one only clergyman, magistrate, storekeeper, master printer, artisan, works foreman, lithographer and dentist.

The conclusion of the Anglo-American Trade Treaty, and the seeming inclination of the United States to take parallel action with Britain in foreign affairs, recalls that Lord Kitchener was always an advocate of a closer union between the two branches of the English-speaking race. Sir Robert Whigham, who was closely associated with Lord Kitchener, and accompanied him on a visit of inspection to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich on May 25, 1916, only ten days before he left England on his last voyage, relates the words used by Lord Kitchener, when returning from Woolwich: “What I try to see,” Lord Kitchener said, “is the union of the British and American peoples. They speak the same language, but you must enlarge your geographical sense and learn to treat the Atlantic as if it was not there.”

True comradeship was shown during the festive season by a Digger at Kukerin who would not permit his name to

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AGRICULTURAL BANK

Replies have been received to a number of resolutions of the recent annual congress of the League which were submitted to the General Manager of the Agricultural Bank. The resolution and the official reply in the cases mentioned are shown hereunder:

Resolution 14: Manjimup.—Congress considers the time now opportune for a general investigation into conditions and standards of living of clients with a view to an adjustment of statutory demands by the Agricultural Bank, if it is proved that the living allowance be inadequate.

Reply.—Settlers have been given the opportunity of applying for Debt Adjustment and it is considered, with the exception of special cases, that the position has been covered.

Resolution 12: Capel.—That when any ex-service settler dies, his beneficiary or next-of-kin receive his property on the same terms as was held by deceased and without the consent of the Agricultural Bank being necessary.

Reply.—The property can be transferred to the person named in the will of the deceased soldier, but the question of continuing the soldier’s concessions is a matter which will have to be investigated in each individual case.

Resolution 11: Cranbrook.—That as the majority of soldier settlers receive their income annually, congress should approach the Agricultural Bank and request that their interest should also be charged annually.

Reply.—This was answered in letter of March 4, 1936. This reply referred to the fact that the Act provided that interest should be raised twice in each year. The department also expressed the view in other representations made that many settlers, particularly those engaged in dairying, are receiving monthly cream cheques, and therefore find it more convenient to pay interest by instalments. In the case of settlers engaged wholly and solely on wheat production, there is only one source of revenue and therefore the second interest notice has no useful purpose.

Resolution 10: Moorine Rock.—Where a district inspector of the Agricultural Bank has occasion to report adversely on an Agricultural Bank client who is a returned soldier, the client should be notified that an adverse report has been sent in.

Reply.—The Commissioners are unable to agree to your request and I have not drawn your attention to the fact that the Act provides for a soldier’s representative who is available to investigate in special cases.

Resolution 9: Narembeen.—That the Agricultural Bank is requested to issue a duplicate receipt for any money paid on client’s account to creditors, out of crop proceeds or otherwise, so that clients may know what has been paid on their accounts.

Reply.—Arrangements have been made to notify settler by letter when monies debited to their account.

Resolution 8: Rosa Brook-Rosa Glen.—That the burden of back rates on vacant Agricultural Bank holdings newly taken up by existing settlers should be lightened.

Reply.—The Commissioners have no power to adjust rates, as it is a matter for the rating authorities.

Resolution 4: Manjimup.—That ex-service men or their sons be allowed to take up abandoned holdings without payment of any deposit.

Reply.—The Commissioners are not agreeable to holdings being taken other than under the conditions set down.

A SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOUR

Mr. R. B. Dyer, the South Australian Government Tourist Bureau representative in W.A., advises that he is arranging a Primary Producers’ Inclusive Tour of South Australia, which is scheduled to leave Perth on Saturday, March 11, 1939.

The party will travel by rail to Adelaide and will spend three weeks touring South Australia by motor car, and will return to Perth on April 8, 1939.

Various towns to be visited include Lobethal, Victor Harbour, Naracoorte, Mount Gambier, Renmark, Burra, Clare, Port Pirie, Iron Knob and Whyalla.

Although the itinerary has been planned to interest primary producers and their wives, the tour will be open to other members of the community.

Amongst the many tours of inspection which have been arranged, the following are of interest: Roseworthy Agricultural College, General Motors-Holdens, Atlas-ors, Onkaparinga Woollen Mills, Waite Agricultural Research Institute, Naracoorte Caves, Mt. Burr Pine Forest, Broken Hill Smelters works at Port Pirie, Broken Hill Pty. Co.’s operations at Iron Knob and Whyalla. Various dairy, pasture and vintage properties and many scenic and tourist resorts will also be visited.

The inclusive fare covering first-class rail travel, accommodation, approximately 2,000 miles of motor travel, caves inspection and other excursions will be £5.

If you are interested, write to Mr. R. B. Dyer, South Australian representative in W.A., c/o. Government Tourist Bureau, 28-30 Forrest Place, Perth.
FUNDAMENTAL FACTORS IN AUSTRALIA'S DEFENCE

Speech by Colonel Collett

Colonel Collett made a most valuable contribution to the debate on defence in the Senate last month, and as ex-service men are vitally interested in this great national subject and are naturally anxious to study it in all its phases, we are publishing most of it. We congratulate the Colonel on his excellent effort. He said:

During recent months our attention has centred mainly on foreign relations and the undoubted need for strengthening the defences of the Empire. In addition to considerable discussion in this Parliament and comment in the Press, the Government has made certain proposals, for immediate action, and outlined others which are to be developed later. As the whole issue has become somewhat involved, I shall endeavour to throw some light on the subject and to stress some fundamental factors which should be within the knowledge of honourable senators. I hope that in my attempt to do so I shall have the indulgence of every honourable senator. I know that honourable senators are by no means disinterested. I do not wholly agree that defence is a matter for experts. The need, the capacity and the ability of a nation to defend itself are based, in the first instance, on the domestic and foreign policy of the government of the day. That policy is supposed to be controlled by Parliament. When that policy has been determined, it is the duty of the experts to do their best with the means at hand to save what might possibly be an erring policy from leading to a grave state of affairs. Field-Marshal Lord Milne, who was appointed Chief of the Imperial General Staff shortly after the expiration of the Great War, was asked by the British Government either to create a new army or reorganise the remaining elements of the old one. Being a man of great knowledge and experience, he was prompted to ask, "What do you want an army for?" In other words, he asked, "What is to be your foreign policy?" If we apply that question to Australia, the answer that I suggest is that we need a defence system. We need it first, to preserve our trade and commerce, and in connection therewith, to keep open the trade routes, failing which we should be starved economically, financially ruined and industrially destroyed. Secondly, we need a defence system that we may preserve our territory inviolate, and protect the lives and property of the people. In passing, I say that it is not necessary to assume that commerce routes are automatically closed at the outbreak of hostilities. It is to be regretted, although it is quite understandable, that the popular conception of a defence force does not extend beyond the possession of a few warships, aeroplanes that drop bombs, big guns, and men armed with either rifles or machine guns. Let us consider what are the chief elements in the defence of this island continent. I suggest that they are a navy, an air force and a field army, all of which should be strategically mobile, and capable of being placed and used where they would serve the best purpose at the moment. Behind those three forces there should be fixed and coast defences, including submarines. In addition, we should possess dockyards, airports, arsenals, munition factories, repair shops, oil and fuel reserves, and adequate means of communication such as railways, roads, bridges and telegraphs. Further, there must be provision for anti-aircraft and anti-gas protection, and the effective shielding of our power sources so that they will not be exposed to attack. There should also be ample supplies of large scale maps of any area which is likely to be included within the sphere of operations. Further still—and this is of almost supreme importance—there should be adequate man-power and large stocks of foodstuffs. The successful training, preparation, construction, collection and co-ordination of all these elements is the work of the Defence Department in times of peace. As to how they should be utilised in time of war, I remit honourable senators that war is in itself a natural science—certain natural laws have to be observed if we wish to avoid defeat. Strategy is governed almost entirely by such considerations. In this, Australia has the initial advantage of being entirely surrounded by the seas; yet that condition, from a strategic point of view, may be also a disadvantage in that it entails the defence of an enormous coastline, with possibly local weaknesses, which would enable an enemy which has the freedom of the seas to assail us at unprotected points. In fact, if left to ourselves—if we adopt a "stay at home" defence policy—we could, in effect, be surrounded, and possibly ultimately subdued. I shall offer a simple, but by no means classical theory of the strategic defence of Australia. I believe it was Euclid who said that "A line has length but not breadth..." For our needs a line should, in plan, be established some distance from our shores, each extremity resting figuratively on some secure points. Paradoxically, that line might be stronger at one point than at another. It would, of course, not be occupied along the entire length, but so long as it remained intact, our safety would be ensured. If, however, through pressure the line were bent so far back as to sever the ends from the secure points, it might ultimately coincide with the coastline of this continent, in which event we should have temporarily lost command of the sea, and the role of defence would then perforce have to be undertaken by the land forces. If that continuous line were cut at any point, what remained might cease to be of value. The result would be to place us at a great disadvantage. The best way to keep the line intact is not to sit down all day and wait for it to be assailed, but to maintain an active defence. If honourable senators have a map of the world in mind, and have some idea of distances, they will observe that there are certain avenues of approach to our shores which must be used by a major force of a potential enemy. It should, therefore, be the aim of our strategy to block those avenues. In other words, we should stop the leak in the dyke rather than endeavour subsequently to mop up the escaped flood. Even so, our flanks would not be immune from danger. Here, again, sound strategy requires sane measures for their protection. In order to illustrate my meaning as to the vulnerability of a flank, I point to the Maginot line on the western side of Czechoslovakia. That seemingly impregnable system of fortifications was rendered almost worthless when the Germans entered Austria to the south, and thus got behind that line. The same might be the fate of any one of our defended ports unless we have a reserve mobile force which would be available and fully trained to meet such a contingency. Therefore, the additional protection that is needed to maintain the original line can be secured only from.
elsewhere, namely, through the operation of the Imperial scheme of defence, which is based on the co-operation of all the units of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Every unit must play its part if it wishes to survive. With these units of the Empire we have the greatest trade; to the people of those units we are bound by ties of race, kinship, tradition and free institutions, as well as by feelings of natural gratitude for the protection that we have received throughout our history.

My faith is firmly embedded in a system of active defence within certain limits. I should not go so far as to say that there should never be another Australian expeditionary force. Circumstances may demand it. But I maintain that never again should we contemplate sending our armies to Europe. Looking back over the years, I think that an error was made in sending Australians to France and Belgium, although there may have been political reasons for so doing. Our soldiers could have been better used in one of the other theatres of operation. Had they been so used, I am convinced that the war would have been considerably shortened, and many lives and much treasure would have been saved. To sum up this phase, I maintain that our sphere of active interest lies between the limits of the Suez Canal and South Africa on the one hand and New Zealand on the other, with special attention to our eastern and western coasts, New Guinea and the Darwin to Singapore line. Having all things in mind, I regard that as a reasonable view to take. It will be supported by any one with a knowledge of history and actual experience of war.

As to our present needs, I think that the Government is proceeding along right lines, but it needs to take its courage in both hands and speed up the fulfilment of its plans. The test of any system of defence is the efficiency with which the three main elements of the defense force—the navy, army and air force—cooperate. Despite all the writings and the vapourings which honorable senators may have read and heard to the contrary, it must be accepted as a fact that, nowadays, no element can effectively function without the assistance of the others.

The practical value of the navy needs to be enhanced considerably, and that it will not be impossible to bring about by methods which, I feel certain, have not escaped the consideration of the Government. We need, inter alia, the backing of one or more capital ships, the value of which was amply demonstrated by the presence of the Australia on the outbreak of war in 1914. To that we owed the immunity of our coasts from bombardment. But relatively weak though our navy may be at present, its mere existence is a standing threat to a possible invader, and of immense strategical importance in regulating the movements of his forces. An historical example of this was provided towards the end of the seventeenth century when the presence in Plymouth Harbour of Admiral Sir Cloudesley Shovel's squadrons prevented the French from proceeding with their plans for an invasion of England.

Some concern has been expressed as to the efficiency of our air force. All I would say at this juncture is that it is a new service, the building up of which through many difficulties has been the work mainly of Air-Vice-Marshal Williams. It has still far to go and our hopes for it, and in it, will not, I am sure, be misrepresented. Further, there is nothing in Sir Edward Ellington's report to justify the extravagant criticism levelled at the air force by some members of this Parliament. There is, however, one desideratum in the creation of larger reserves of trained personnel. In this respect the Government would be well advised to offer much greater and more practical encouragement to aero and glider clubs, in addition to which there should be a fuller utilisation for training purposes of the services of ex-officers of the Air Force.

I propose now to deal with two important features of our system, the weakness of which gives cause for grave anxiety. The first is the absence of a standard-gauge railway between Broken Hill and Port Augusta, and between Kalgoorlie and Perth. Standardisation of our railway gauges is needed, especially against a possible loss of our sea communications, for by no other means could we effectively transport reinforcements, munitions, raw materials and food supplies from one side of Australia to another. The second, and graver, feature is the insufficiency of the existing small mobile land force, with which I wish to deal in some detail. Before I do so, however, let me suggest the following:

(a) That our first line of defence is the Australian Navy, combining in its operations with the Royal Navy, and supported and aided by the air force.
(b) That the navy lose command of the sea, even temporarily, then the approach to Australia will be open to a raiding, or even a larger, force.
(c) In the latter event, successful defence will lie mainly with the fixed and coastal defences backed by the air force and a mobile field army.
(d) Any force sent against Australia would be adequately equipped and efficiently trained for the task in hand, the magnitude of which, in view of Australia's reputation, is not likely to be underestimated.
(e) Australia's field army must not, therefore, if it is to be successful in repelling invasion, be disadvantaged in either respect nor deficient in numbers.

In order to appreciate fully what I have just said, one can imagine what might have happened in Abyssinia, and in China during the last two years, if the people of those countries had been properly prepared to defend themselves. Let us see how far we, in our turn, are prepared to meet a similar possible contingency. In the first place, Australia has, as yet, no field army worthy of the name. On paper it has 35,000 men designated as citizen forces, sworn in to serve with various units, and distributed over the six States. These men voluntarily enlist for three years during which they undergo 36 days of instruction, only half of which is occupied in camp. Unfortunately, owing to economic causes, but due mainly to the exigencies of their employment, a considerable percentage of the men are unable to enter the camps. In view of the technical nature of modern weapons and equipment, the knowledge thus gained by this small force is almost wholly inadequate. Further, full war equipment is not supplied to many units and, therefore, they have had no opportunity to make themselves conversant with its uses. There is, too, the additional disadvantage to the nation that,
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contrary to the position which existed on the outbreak of the Great War, we no longer possess a large trained reserve of militia and volunteers. Those who have passed through the forces in recent years—and 50,000 have been discharged since the 1st July, 1933—have received only a minimum of instruction, whilst the surviving members of the Australian Imperial Force are no longer young enough to be able to serve effectively in a mobile striking force, valuable though they would be as garrison troops and instructors. No less than 83,000 of these survivors are drawing disability pensions.

Let us now consider the measures by which the Government hopes to remedy the present defects. I confess that the result of the examination cannot be very exhilarating. The Prime Minister has said that “Now that the urgent necessity for adequate man-power is realised, the Government proposes to make an extensive drive immediately to bring enlistment in the militia forces up to a strength of 70,000.” I hope the project will succeed. At any rate, it is one that must appeal so strongly to the Opposition that, in the interests of the nation, it will feel impelled to support the action of the Government with all its weight of influence and oratory. But I am urged to ask myself, “How can it be a success”? Drives have been made to secure 35,000 volunteers, yet to-day no one is satisfied with the result. To aim at 70,000 seems likely to double the error. Nevertheless, there is a glimmer of hope that the Government’s new objective will be achieved, provided that it can make service more attractive in some special and useful way—not by such a trifling as the granting of a badge to be worn with civilian dress—provided that it will more than double the period of training in camp, and come to satisfactory terms with employers so as to ensure that neither employees nor employers will be unduly prejudiced through their efforts on behalf of the nation. In the Sydney Morning Herald of the 8th November, the Minister for External Affairs (Mr. Hughes) is reported as making this call upon men to whom the country is already greatly indebted—

It is because I believe that ex-members of the Australian Imperial Force can lead the country in this great national crusade of preparedness that I turn to the men who fought and won the last war. They have earned the right to speak for Australia, to urge the young men to fit themselves to defend their country. Does the Government forget that the men now being appealed to have repeatedly availed themselves of the right to speak for Australia, and for years have been urging the Government to remove the suspension of Part XII of the Defence Act, to enable our young men to become efficient for the purposes of defence?

The Federal congress of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers’ Imperial League of Australia has expressed that opinion. Too well they know the fate of the untrained and the ununit. Is that advice still to go unheeded? Another solution of our defence problem has been offered by those who advocate a standing army. With our enormous territory and limited finances this idea is impracticable. I believe in strengthening the garrisons of the defended ports by enlisting more permanent troops, but with a standing army in peacetime we must either retain its units within a limited area or distribute them over the States. In either case the vast distances and absence of really efficient means of transport throughout the Commonwealth would, on the outbreak of war, partially immobilise them as a field army. Apart from these factors the cost of maintenance would be enormous. Is it not better to train the citizens who dwell in various areas to that they may be able to offer the maximum resistance until, if necessary, reinforcements can be sent from elsewhere?

One proposal which appeals to me is worthy of the consideration of the Government at a later stage. It is that we should make some direct contribution towards the defence of the Singapore Naval Base, which is of such vast importance to Australia. This contribution might take the form of a battalion of permanent infantry. It would be necessary to raise two in Australia by voluntary en-
listment, and they could interchange every two years, one being at Singapore and the other on home service, distributed over the States at important points and providing the cadres to aid in the training of the Citizen Forces.

To demonstrate how clearly my own views, and to come down to the immediate problem of the provision of a field army, I should say that I am not in favour of the restoration of the system of universal military training as formerly conducted. It was wasteful, unbalanced and produced inferior results from a training standpoint. More time and attention was devoted to its administrative side than to training, and instructors earned more kudos for a well-kept record book than they did for the standard of musketry attained by a trainee. Apart from that aspect, however, the effect upon the mind and body of a youth of a regulated life, food and exercise was greatly beneficial. I speak from a personal experience which covered the whole period of the operation of the law. I believe in the obligation for the efficient defence of Australia being spread over the whole of the people. To every individual who is a free member of this enlightened democracy we should readily concede the right to have some share in the measures necessary for the protection of his liberty and privileges. This is the essence of democracy. Senator Armstrong rightly said that there should be "no private enterprise in war." We are not without means to achieve the desired end. All must be aware of the existence in Australia of a large reserve of men of military age. According to the census figures of 1933, there were 1,898,202 male persons between the ages of 19 and 59 years. Of these, 930,453 were under the age of 35 years, and there was a further quota of 456,565 between the ages of 35 and 44 years. Therein is disclosed a great asset. I believe that to attempt to train fully such large numbers as I have indicated would be inexpedient, unnecessary and uneconomic.

With this in mind, and not overlooking the urgent necessity for action, I definitely advocate a limited application of the powers conferred by Parts IV and XII of the Defence Act, so as to provide ourselves, as soon as possible, with a citizen force of 200,000 men, including trained reserves. This force should receive the maximum of training as quickly as possible, having regard to the just claims of the civil community, so as to establish firmly the reserve against contingencies. The training would have to be much in excess of 36 days of eight hours spread over three years as at present. It would also be necessary to ensure that men were carefully allotted to duties for which they were best fitted, that key-men were not taken from vital industries, or square pegs jammed into round holes. A force thus trained and organised would be of great tactical and strategical value and would be well-fitted for front-line work. In numbers it would be sufficient to complete our present seven skeleton divisions and, at the same time, furnish lines of communication troops and reinforcements to replace initial casualties. Yet there is still something further to be done to improve the measures for defence. There should be some system of registration of the remainder of the people, so that in a national emergency every able-bodied person would have a definite task assigned to him or her. Men of a military age, not called up for service with the Citizen Force, plus women and youths, where suitably located, should be given instruction in what could be done locally in case of bombing or gas attacks, in assisting the collection and transmission of information, in supply and transport work, in first-aid, and in nursing and hospital duties.

I trust that it has been understood that I have been dealing with the problem of home defence only, and that the real primary issue is the recognition of a universal obligation to undergo naval and military training for the sole purpose of fitting the individual to aid in the protection of his country against invasion.

I am content to disregard the bogey of conscription for service abroad which is so often trotted out for political purposes.

I regret to say that any attempt to raise and train effectively the 200,000 men I have mentioned would be futile unless certain preparatory measures were at once undertaken. First, it is imperative that the planning and directing force—the Australian Staff Corps—be considerably expanded. At present, it is too weak numerically to cope with the extra work that would be entailed. At this juncture, I should like to say that the action taken by a Labour government in 1911 to establish the Royal Military College was fully justified. Its graduates have performed great service for Australia, and we can look to the future with confidence, knowing that we have a highly-trained and experienced corps of officers capable of putting into execution any reasonable plans for our defence. Secondly, preparatory measures must be taken to secure through the Staff Corps the instructors necessary to undertake the groundwork of the training of the citizen force army. Thirdly, we should have the necessary equipment to mechanise the force completely. This would have the effect of increasing the tactical power while at the same time conserving manpower. There would also be the great need to provide additional and easily accessible facilities for training leaders. Finally, we must have permanent cadres in order to afford standards and stiffening for the less-trained units. All these factors mentioned are vital; but we must travel beyond that goal. I say, without hesitation, that with any real scheme of national defence, capable of withstanding a test, there must be an active policy designed to improve the standard of public well-being. By that I mean the operation of some form of semi-compulsory hygiene and physical training, or supervision, entailing improved diet, education and housing. In other words, we must see that the much-talked-of national fitness campaign becomes a living force.

As profiteering has been mentioned during the debate on the Government's defence programme, let me state my own convictions upon this matter. They are that in the last war manufacturers greatly benefitted financially. So did contractors and shopkeepers. Primary producers gained through the rise of prices brought about by increased demands for their produce. Munition workers in England struck for higher wages while their brothers and former fellow-workers offered their lives in the front trenches for 1s. or 2s. per day. Even French and Belgian peasants acquired comparatively wealth through the sale, to our own soldiers, of trifling necessaries at exorbitant rates.

The only person who did not profit was the man who fought for us and who, to-day, if he survives, is fearful of another war and prays that it may be averted. To those who still suffer as a result of their patriotic service, and to the relatives who have incurred deprivation, we are this year—20 years after the war—paying over £7,000,000 towards some mitigation of their sufferings. It is no wonder that the ex-service man is to-day clamouring for a defence policy worthy of the name.

A senator suggested that we would be lost once an enemy landed on our shores.
Scabbards Off!

(QUOTED)

In a recent outburst of Fascist arrogance, an Italian newspaper declared that France and Britain must make further sacrifices in the interests of world peace. All right; let us start the New Year well by sacrificing Mr. Chamberlain.

One of the most despicable aspects of the sorry affair at Munich last September was the campaign of propaganda on behalf of Mr. Chamberlain, which represented an Empire disunited on the question of Czechoslovakia, and with defence forces too weak to resist the dictators. Before the end of the year, both arguments were given the lie direct by the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir Samuel Hoare). He “definitely and expressly” declared: “We had our defence deficiencies, but unlike some countries we made no secret of them. For all its incompleteness, our rearmament had reached a stage at which we should have shown ourselves unshakable in the early days of a war, and irresistible as the war progressed.” It was significant, he added, that in every crisis the British Commonwealth had stood together; and during the Czech crisis there was never a rift in the Empire front. This seems to deprive Mr. Chamberlain of his last shred of excuse for the betrayal of a virile democracy that depended on us in its hour of need, and was quite ready to fight very vigorously on its own behalf, had it been allowed. But Sir Samuel Hoare seems to have forgotten the advice tendered by a statesman in an earlier and more robust century: “It does not matter what we Cabinet Ministers say,” he declared, “so long as we all say the same thing.”

The Minister for Defence has announced that no action will be taken in response to a request that aborigines be allowed to enlist in the Militia Forces. Under the existing regulations, only persons of substantially European extraction may join the Defence forces and, apparently, the regulations are not to be amended. During the war, the regulation was honoured more in the breach than in the observance. Several full-blooded aboriginals saw honourable front line service in the ranks of the A.I.F. So did one or two natives of India. In my own company of the 47th, there was a Private Chang, the Australian-born son of full-blooded Chinese parents. He came back from the war with the D.C.M. and the Military Medal. It is the policy of Australian Governments, both Federal...
and State, to educate the aborigines so that they may become self-respecting and self-supporting citizens of the country that is really theirs, and yet Binghi is to be denied the right of every free man to bear arms in defence of his native land—and, if we go back to first principles, Binghi is the only "Dinkum Aussie" of us all.

Doctors in the south of France have been puzzled by a prevalent and peculiar form of poisoning, believed to have been caused by eating fish caught in Mediterranean tidal waters. As the French themselves might say, "One man's fish is another man's poison."

One of the most irritating examples of Nazi isolation has been the campaign of slander waged by the State-controlled German Press against the British troops in Palestine. The so-called atrocity stories transcended in fury virulence the libels the German Press perpetrated on the British troops during the closing months of the South African War. Diggers who fought beside him in South Africa and France do not need to be told that Private Thomas Atkins was ever the kindliest of mortals with too strong an instinct for discipline to act as the Germans have acted against Herreros on South-West Africa, the unfortunate Belgians and French in the occupied zones during the Great War, and the Jews in Germany in more recent times. It is hardly reasonable to suppose that the British soldier should have deteriorated in brief space of twenty years to the extent his square-headed traducers would have people believe. Nevertheless, the vindication by the British Dominions and Colonial Secretary (Mr. Malcolm MacDonald) in the House of Commons at the end of November was timely. After denying the "foul charges" which "certain interested propagandists" had levelled against the conduct of the troops, Mr. MacDonald said: "The whole world knew that the reoccupation of the Old City of Jerusalem a few weeks ago was an example of the way British troops could, with perfect humanity as well as with perfect success, conduct military operations amid civilian populations."

At the executive meeting held on January 11, I was requested to issue a statement for insertion in the current issue of The Listening Post, setting out the League's position in relation to the present recruiting campaign.

The League's reiterated proposals to the Government are contained in resolution 147 of the 23rd annual Federal congress which reads as follows:

That congress reaffirm the resolution of the 21st annual Federal congress (1936) reading—

That this congress is of opinion that the ideals for which the A.I.F. fought during the years 1914-1918 can be maintained in this era of intense nationalism only by the adoption of universal military training to provide for the adequate defence of Australia.

That simultaneously with the reintroduction of universal military training, congress is of the opinion that there should be some method of registration and organisation of the whole of Australia's resources of wealth, man-power, material and industry, and that in the event of a national crisis arising the whole of these should be conscripted.

The Commonwealth Government has not yet seen its way clear to adopt these proposals and its policy at present is to endeavour to double the strength of the Militia Forces by voluntary effort, allotting certain areas as recruiting centres.

The last federal congress of the League in addition to the above resolution 147, carried the following No. 147a:—

That notwithstanding the League's reaffirmation of and strict adherence to its policy of the reintroduction of universal military training as the real basis on which to build an adequate and efficient defence force, this congress pledges itself to do everything in its power to assist in securing success for the proposed increase in the Militia Forces by organising and assisting in the training of the youth of Australia, and therefore will welcome any suggestions from the Commonwealth Government as to how the services of the League can be best utilised.

Thus it was resolved to do everything in its power to assist in making the recruiting campaign a success, believing that this is a step in the right direction.

As the result of the offer conveyed in resolution 147a, the Government has now appointed a special committee consisting of the Inspector-General of the Australian Military Forces as chairman, the Adjutant-General or his representative, a representative of the General Staff and a representative of the Returned Soldiers' League, to examine the possibility of making extended use of the services of members of the Australian Imperial Forces as a potential reserve for war and to suggest a suitable method of organising such personnel if the proposition appears feasible.

At present, owing to the difficulties of building up and staffing training centres, only certain areas have been opened for recruiting, and it is hoped that the sub-branches of the League in which these areas are situated will throw themselves wholeheartedly into the effort to obtain the numbers allotted to their districts and that throughout the State the ex-service man will do everything in his power to assist the recruiting campaign.

Many sub-branches existing in areas where no training centres have been established in the new scheme have written to the State executive offering their assistance and making suggestions usually applicable to their own districts. I would point out to these sub-branches that the present scheme of the Commonwealth
A 32nd BATT. DISASTER— 
AND A NOT-SO-MERRY 
CHRISTMAS

BY S.G.D.

One of the horrors of the Great War is related by Frank Brain, of Upper Warren, and Charlie Bloxsome, of Manjimup. They recall it with many a chuckle now, but it must have been a harrowing experience.

Most people would agree that the best time for a train smash is in fine weather. To choose a dirty, drizzly night in winter with snow on the ground for such a diversion seems to be the extravagance of misery. Again, a troop train wreck on the way “up the line” might be considered as forestalling some other kind of fate. To crash when coming out for a rest—and in bad weather—is just plain dirty work on the part of Providence. Add the near approach to the Christmas festive season—but stop it, or I’ll scream.

On the 20th or 21st of December, 1917, the two warriors aforementioned were travelling in a train that was conveying the 32nd Battalion (A.I.F.) to a rest posie called Desvres (pronounce it as you please), near Boulogne. The weather was of the unpleasant variety described above. Charlie Bloxsome estimates the length of the train at about a mile. Allowing a bit for Charlie’s exuberance we shall admit that it was a fair length, since it bore all that was left of the 32nd. Being French, it had to be different, and so had an engine at each end—front and rear.

When approaching Desvres, the hour was 2 a.m., a time when nobody wants anything but comfort. Even Charlie, whose capacity for climbing into trouble has been in evidence before, during and after the war, was at a low ebb just then. Actually, he was on his way to hospital after having been blown up.

What caused the smash is not quite clear and doesn’t matter much. Some said the rails spread; some averred that the front engine stopped at Desvres without consulting the rear one, which kept on coming on. The result was that nine coaches telescoped and lay flattened out like a collapsed house of cards. The casualties amounted to one killed and 70 injured. Experts considered that if the coaches had been more substantial—or had the men been other than Australians—the proportion of killed would have been greater.

Running true to form, Charlie was found to be in as queer a fix as anybody. He was on hands and knees and clamped good and tight with a bar across his back and another hard up under his chin. Underneath him was Frank Brain, and deeper down still was a bloke named Ted Sims. However, Frank and Ted scrambled clear first and helped to release Charlie.

The bad news spread and the place was soon alive with ambulances and transports insistent on taking all hands to hospital. Ted Sims displayed a marked dislike for hospitals by bolting off into the darkness and was not seen again until late in the day.

The troops’ cup of bitterness was not yet full. There was no tucker on the train, as it was to follow by road transport. Hour after hour went by and the transports did not appear, and in the meantime many of the men’s belongings were pilfered by the local savages, Frank Brain was quarter-master’s assistant and was waiting with Company Sergeant-Major Bob Bashford for the tucker to arrive, when, at 10 a.m., they received the stunning news that the ration lorries had been destroyed by fire. Were the men down-hearted? Well, nearly. So a fresh move had to be made and supplies brought from Boulogne which, happily, was not far distant.

Still all, the battalion managed to survive and were billeted in Desvres for Christmas, in conditions that were bearable only because they might have been worse.

OLD CONTEMPTIBLES

Fred Fairweather, the hon. secretary of the Old Contemptibles’ Association, in a letter to us is loud in praise of The Listening Post as a publicity medium. In your November issue, he writes, “your article advising those eligible to join the association that they must do so before December 31 brought letters from 140 ex-service Imperial soldiers who wished to join. About 50 were eligible. The Old Contemptibles’ Association in this State now has a membership of about 160 which, to my knowledge, appears to be the largest membership of any branch of the association in the world. You published that the late Captain J. P. Danny formed the W.A. branch. Actually he was the founder of the whole organisation. Captain Dick Bond formed the W.A. branch in 1931. The annual general meeting will be held in the board room at Anzac House on Wednesday, January 18, at 8 p.m.”

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Horse Brigade, the Imperial Camel Brigade the left. At 9 a.m. the 8th Regiment, in touch with the 4th Light Horse Brigade, would support the right flank, and the Imperial Camel Brigade the left. The dispositions of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade were as follows: The 9th Light Horse Regiment occupied a low hill on the right of the 10th Regiment; then came "C" and "B" Squadrons of the 10th Regiment holding the left portion of this hill and the Nek which joined it to the captured Turkish portion, held by "A" Squadron of the 10th. Further along to the left was the 8th Regiment, in touch with the 4th Light Horse Brigade (now reinforced by the Imperial Camel Brigade) on the left again.

As this position was reached and occupied, the first view of our real objective — the Atawineh redoubt — was obtained. It was still about 1200 yards distant. A valley with a branch of the Wadi Baha running through it, separated it from the small ridges we held. Evidently the Turks had reckoned on our advancing as far as these ridges, and we were under full observation.

We began to realise that we had walked into a trap. The enemy knew the ranges of our positions to a nicety, and had waited until our line had reached them before he unloosed the full fury of his resistance. Shrapnel, high explosive, machine gun and rifle bullets swept the ridges and the re-entrant behind them along which any supporting troops must needs have to pass.

The 8th Regiment and the 3rd Machine Gun Squadron were held in reserve, whilst the Notts Battery R.H.A. had been previously assigned its first position. At 9 1/2 a.m. the two lines moved forward on foot over very rough ground, broken by numerous small branches of the Wadi, until the first streak of dawn, when the Turks, observing our approach, opened fire at about 600 yards range. Simultaneously, the boom of heavy guns announced the commencement of the artillery bombardment.

But now the enemy, who hitherto had merely contented himself with a few salvos of shrapnel at our advancing lines, began to take a hand in deadly earnest. As our troops reached this second position, they were met with a furious artillery fire of shrapnel and high explosive, splendidly aimed and timed by the Austrian gunners, and our casualties increased rapidly.

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The 5th (Yeomanry) Mounted Brigade galloped up through the barley fields on the right of the 9th Light Horse Regiment, dismounted, and moved in extended order towards what appeared to be the left flank of the Atawineh system. Simultaneously the 9th and 10th Regiments pushed onward down the reverse slope towards the Wadi, but were now met by heavier concentrated fire than hitherto. The reason of this concentration was not far to seek. Two armoured cars had been sent up to assist in our attack. They came up the re-entrant to the crest of our position and pulled up in full view of the enemy. For some minutes they remained immobile, and the enemy gunners fired frantically at these fresh targets with a view to their disablement. Fortunately for the personnel of the cars, the shooting was erratic in aim, but many casualties were sustained by the advancing Light Horsemen in consequence.

The furious roar of guns in the direction of Gaza told of the battle that was raging round Ali Muntar, the knock-down blow which we fervently hoped
was being delivered to the famous fortress. If it succeeded, all would be well! In the meantime, the holding attack on Atawineh must be sustained by our people in order that no Turkish troops might be released to reinforce Gaza at this juncture! It was simple enough, but our firing line was getting thinner and thinner!

The Turks were holding a splendid position, and from the volume of their fire appeared to greatly outnumber the attackers. Were there any reinforcements handy, or could some of our guns get busy on this Atawineh place, if it was not asking too much?

The attention of our observers was at this stage directed to a fresh circumstance that had arisen which threw a startling light upon the general situation. Marching down the Beersheba road from the north was a force of Turkish infantry estimated at between 2,000 and 3,000. They came on steadily, deployed behind the Atawineh redoubt and, moving in extended order, were soon swallowed up in the maze of trenches and rifle pits. Though presenting a wonderful target for artillery, not one shell burst over them during their advance or deployment. Our Hotchkiss and machine gunners fired on them at long ranges, but a few only were seen to fall.

But serious as all this was, it was as nothing in comparison with the sinister meaning that their arrival at Atawineh portended. They were not required at Gaza! Could it be possible that Ali Muntar, in spite of all our guns, and tanks, and infantry was holding out?

However, there was no time just here to worry much about the general situation. What was our special task now? A message was signalled from Brigade Headquarters that the Auckland Mounted Rifles were being sent forward to reinforce the 3rd Brigade line, and at a given signal the whole line would attack the Atawineh system with the bayonet. This was at midday. Shortly afterwards a further order arrived instructing the 3rd Light Horse Brigade to move its firing line to the left in order to make room for some Yeomanry regiments. This was carried out with some difficulty—as a movement across a front in view of the enemy must always entail—and the right flank of the Brigade now rested on the Turkish outpost captured earlier in the day. As the afternoon wore on, it was realised that there was little hope of capturing Atawineh by assault with the force available. Indeed, it would be considered exceedingly fortunate if we could hold on to our present positions.

The steady stream of wounded going back told its tale, and the Turks—particularly their gunners—seemed to be fighting with renewed vigour. Their salvos of shrapnel and percussion shells were delivered with regularity and precision; their machine gun and rifle bullets tore up the ground increasingly, whilst their aeroplanes held sway in the air and swooped and bombed and shot down opposing aircraft as the fancy pleased them.

Away up at Gaza the roar of battle told of another attempt to shake the enemy defences, and hopes were still high that our infantry would yet win out. But it was not to be! Ali Muntar still raised its head in defiance, and thousands of our brave infantrymen lay dead and wounded in the green corn at its feet.

The tanks had gallantly moved over the open ground to the assault—one had even reached the outer line of the Labyrinth—but were driven back maimed and crippled. Already preparations were being made to meet a possible Turkish counter-attack. Every available man was now in the line in our sector. The New Zealanders came and assisted—not to make an attack, but a demonstration, to hold the Turks off. Following them came the Bucks (Yeomanry) Hussars, under Major Cripps, and lay down alongside the Light Horsemen, ready, if necessary, to fight to the last.

The 3rd Machine Gun Squadron, which under their dashing leader, Major C. L. Nicholas, had behaved most gallantly throughout the day, was distributed in sections along the line, whilst the remnants of the 8th and 9th and 10th Regiments, commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Maygar, V.C., held grimly on to their ridge.

During late afternoon, orders came to hand that the firing line of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade would retire to the led horses at 7.45 p.m. The new Zealanders had already left, under orders to rejoin their own Brigade, whilst Major Cripps, of the Bucks Hussars, had received instructions to withdraw at 6.45 p.m. Thus to the 3rd Light Horse Brigade was allotted the post of honour.

Dusk approached, and with it came a final sweeping of our positions by the enemy artillery, which further deprived the 10th Regiment of three splendid men—Lieutenant F. E. Throssell, Sergeant "Ron" Edgar and Trooper Hall. The handful of Light Horsemen lay with bayonets fixed, Hotchkiss and machine guns laid ready and manned by "scratch" teams—the Hotchkiss gunners had suffered heavily during the day—prepared to resist the expected counter-attack to the end.

It reminded one of Walker’s Ridge, 1915, and it certainly was the hardest hit the Regiment had received since the Gallipoli days. But the Turks did not come one. Probably they were unaware of the actual weakness of our line, or perhaps the lesson of May, 1915, was still fresh in their memory. Whatever the reason, they had evidently decided to make no move for the present and, to assist them in adhering to that decision, our line opened a brisk fire on their positions in the darkness.

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**WHITTY’S for WINNERS**

NEXT G.P.O., PERTH
At 7.45 p.m. the units quietly concentrated behind the ridge—the firing line of the 10th Regiment now numbered 35—and marched back to the horses which, in the meantime, were brought to within a mile of our recent position.

A number of horses had been killed during the day by shell-fire and aeroplane bombs but, gloomily enough, there were now plenty of riderless ones to spare.

The 3rd Brigade mounted and rode in column back along the Wadi Sihan, turning out of the Wadi to halt at El Munkheileh, where the water supply contained in six cisterns had been made available for the horses and men by a detachment of Engineers.

A line of resistance had been decided upon by the High Command, the portion assigned to our Brigade being about one mile in length and ran from the Wadi Sihan south-easterly to cover Munkheileh. The 8th and 9th Regiments, watering hastily, immediately returned to occupy this position, whilst the 10th Regiment remained in support.

The men were weary and dizzy. Though the night was weirdly quiet, the noise of bursting shells still rang in their ears. But, for them, there was little rest. They stood to arms throughout the remainder of the night, their horses saddled and ready for action. In early morning the 10th Regiment, leaving the horses in the Wadi Munkheileh, and bearing picks, shovels, barbed wire, sandbags and stakes, marched on foot to relieve the 9th Regiment from the outpost line. The 9th Regiment had already commenced to dig a system of trenches, and the 10th Regiment immediately set to work to improve and enlarge the defences. All ranks worked with energy, the officers taking their turn with pick or shovel.

On our left the 4th Light Horse Brigade was working in similar fashion to cover Aseiferiyeh, whilst the Yeomanry were digging and wiring on our right.

All along the ridges which our troops had occupied the previous day, the enemy could be seen, apparently also digging. Several times during the day parties of Turks were observed to advance towards our line in extended order. They disappeared in a fold of ground about 2,500 yards away, but did not reappear any closer. Reports reached us that they were massing for an attack. Another message from Brigade Headquarters stated that an intercepted wireless showed that the German High Command had ordered the Turkish Army to execute a wide turning movement on El Shellal.

But the men dug solidly and, as their defences grew, they secretly began to hope that the Turks really would come across the open ground and “give us some of our own back.”

Towards evening (April 20) enemy artillery fired a few ranging shots, but otherwise the Turks remained quiet throughout the day and night.

Digging and wiring were continued the following day (April 21). Further messages were received, amongst them being a report that heavy floods had occurred at Beersheba, which might cause the Wadi Ghuzze to spate. Interpreted, this latter message seemed to indicate a further retirement, as with the Wadi Ghuzze in spate, and no bridges, the disposition of mounted troops on the east side of it at this juncture would not appear to be altogether sound.

Consequently, it was not surprising when orders were received that the 3rd Light Horse Brigade would be relieved at dusk by the 6th (Yeomanry) Mounted Brigade, remain in support at Mendur that night and move back across the Wadi Ghuzze the following night to Abasan-el-Kebir.

This move was accordingly carried out, and on the night of April 22 the Regiment was in bivouac at Abasan and the work of reorganisation, consequent upon the severity of its losses in the recent battle, had begun.

Our casualties on April 19 were the heaviest the 10th Regiment had sustained since the Gallipoli days. The percentage of killed was, in the circumstances, amazingly small, but they were all very gallant men—mostly members of the original Regiment—and their loss was greatly deplored. In killed, we lost one officer (Lieutenant F. E. Throssell) and seven other ranks, whilst twelve officers and eighty other ranks were evacuated wounded. In addition to these, many others received slight wounds, but on receiving first-aid returned to duty. Lieut.-Colonel Todd, D.S.O., was wounded at 10 a.m., Major S. E. Grimwood (Second-in-Command) earlier in the day. Other officers wounded were Captain H. B. Hamlin (Commanding “B” Squadron), Chaplain Captain Goodman and Lieutenants H. V. H. Throssell (V.C.), H. G. Palmer, W. C. Palmer, A. N. Martin, A. G. Hughes, W. Woodrow, A. W. M. Thompson and A. J. Lee (D.C.M.).

The British casualties sustained in the Second Battle of Gaza were estimated in round numbers at 15,000. The Army had not succeeded and, in consequence, was soon to witness many important changes in regard to the High Command. That these changes were wrought considerably to the advantage of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force is now a matter of history, though many weary months were to pass before they were to be vindicated by the final test of battle.

(To be continued)
State Executive Meeting
December 14, 1938

Colonel Olden presided over the meeting of the State executive on December 14. Others present were Messrs. Aberle, Philp, Denton, Lamb, Anderson, James, Watt, Margolin, Paton, Potts, Mitchell and Austin. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Yeates, Butler, Collett, Panton, Hunt, Freedman, Nicholas, Thorn, Warner, Sten, Keeling, Cornell, Fairley, Logie, Cornish, Lawton and Johnston. Mr. R. Austin, a country vice-president, and Mr. A. Watkins, president of the Cardiff sub-branch, were welcomed to the meeting.

House Committee.—A rising out of the House Committee's report, that body was authorized to proceed with the disposal or the renovation of the stoves in the kitchen of Anzac House. The House Committee was congratulated on the excellent results of the community concerts this year.

Pensions Committee.—The report of the Pensions Committee dealt with an interview between members of the committee and the Commonwealth Director of Works.

Anzac Club.—Mr. Aberle reported on the change over from the old system of the management of the club.

Visits.—The following visits were reported: Colonel Olden, Defence League Committee, Victoria Park sub-branch, 10th Light Horse Association and Nedlands sub-branch; Mr. Johnston, Harvey sub-branch; Mr. Paton, Fremantle sub-branch; Mr. Potts, South African Veteran's Association; Mr. James, West Leederville and Mt. Hawthorn sub-branches; Colonel Mitchell, Cottesloe sub-branch.

Federal Congress.—The report of the delegates to the recent Federal congress was received. Appreciation was extended to the delegates for their able representation.

Pearling Industry.—The president of the Broome sub-branch requested that the Federal Government should be approached through the Federal Office, pointing out that the pearling industry in Broome was greatly menaced by the unfair competition of Japanese sampans, and asking for assistance. The request has been complied with, and this action met with the approval of the meeting.

Aged Sailors and Soldiers' Fund.—A donation of £51/15/3 from the Wyllkatccham sub-branch was gratefully acknowledged.

General.—Mr. C. Ferguson was appointed acting State secretary from December 24, 1938, to January 14, 1939.

It was agreed that the next meeting be held on January 11, and that if necessary the State president should call a special meeting in the meantime.

Authority was granted to spend an amount up to £10 for further comforts and furniture in the soldiers' ward of the Old Men's Home.

SOUTH AFRICAN VETERANS

Farewell to President

Brigadier-General A. J. Bessell-Browne presided over a large attendance of members of the South African and Imperial Veterans' Association at Anzac House recently when they met to bid farewell to their president (Lieutenant E. G. Pretty).

"By your numbers to-night, you have shown your appreciation of the wonderful work that our president has done for us during his 24 years as our leader," said the General in proposing the toast of the guest of honour. He recounted how the association had grown while Mr. Pretty had been in office. He expressed the regret of members in the departure of Mr. Pretty, but congratulated him on his promotion in civil life and his transfer to a more responsible post in New South Wales.

The two vice-presidents, Messrs. Schroeder and F. W. Bateson, and Major Rose, Dr. Wallace Nelson and the secretary of the association (Mr. A. George) also referred to the successful work that Mr. Pretty had done.

R.S.L. CRICKET ASSN.
Results

The R.S.L. Association's competition was resumed at Wellington Square on January 8. Maylands declared with five wickets down for 165 runs and Nedlands replied with 4 for 129. North Perth No. 1 also declared against Fremantle with six wickets down for 112. Fremantle, however, after being dismissed for 51 in the first innings, batted well to avoid an innings defeat, having lost 5 for 60 at stumps.

Scores:

Nedlands No. 1 v. Maylands—Maylands, 5 for 165, declared (Sparrow 56, Hackett 40 not out, McComish 30, Jones 14, Martin 14 not out; Winmbridge 2 for 32, Cook 1 for 30, Green 2 for 58), drew with Nedlands No. 1, 4 for 129 (Hewitt 40, Mayhew 30 not out, King 23 not out, Winmbridge 16; McComish 3 for 48, Graham 1 for 27).

NORTH PERTH NO. 1 v. FREMANTLE—North Perth No. 1, 6 for 112, declared (O'Grady 21, Sorensen 21 not out, Allsop 14, Higgins 12 not out; Jacques 2 for 21, Collins 2 for 29, O'Donoghue 1 for 14), beat Fremantle, 51 (Bell 20, Flower 11; O'Grady 3 for 1, Allsop 4 for 20, Stone 1 for 26) and 5 for 60 (Collins 19 not out, Bell 13, Willock 13; Allsop 1 for 25, Dyal 2 for 11, O'Grady 1 for 11, Stone 1 for 14) by 61 runs on the first innings.

11th BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION

Advance Subscriptions Needed for History Now

Captain W. Belford has completed the battalion history and publication through The Western Mail will finish shortly, so that definite action must be taken very soon if the copy is to be published in book form. In spite of the many thousands that passed through the battalion, less than 150 have so far subscribed for a copy of the book; so what about it, you Diggers of the 11th. Surely you think enough of the old battalion to make publication possible. Advance subscriptions (10/- per copy) should be sent to R. W. Blair, 79 William Street, Perth.

je. d.

Frank Dale

W. S. Bellamy 10

W. J. Hayden (Clarey) 10

G. O'Rourke 5

D. Simpson 10

L. A. Kirt (Tasmania) 10

P. J. Arkell (Miling) 10

W. H. Henson (Geraldton) 10

Alf. Barlow (Northampton) 10

W. S. Hedges (Koolberrin) 2

11th Battalion A.I.F. Assn.

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AUNTIE MAC'S CORNER

Matrimonial Worries Solved

Are you in need for heartsease or love balm? If so, tell Auntie Mac all about it. She knows all the answers and this page is at your service.—Ed.

AUNTIE MAC'S COLD IS BETTER

Oh, my dears, I feel all upsydoodlums! Thank goodness this “festy” business is all over for another year. Y’know, the boys and girls of the Carlisle R.S.L. and auxiliary got together during Christmas week and they sent me an invitation to be present. As I do not as a rule attend these functions without a male escort, I asked “the chief” to go with me, but Stan was too busy, so I decided not to go. However, hearing that Maudie, Curtis other old friends of this page would attend these functions without a male to go. However, hearing that Maudie, and auxiliary got together during to be present. As I do not as a rule all over for another year. Y’know, the man and lemon and pop into the old flea-bag. said weakly, in my low state, preparing to undress. But she didn’t seem to want to go. I looked at her and she looked at me, then we swopped looks. It was so funny.”

“But the money, my dear,” she said; and then it occurred to me what a silly I was. “Of course, Georgina,” I said, “whisky costs money, doesn’t it?” just to cover up my forgetfulness. Anyway, I gave her a pound note and she got away to a good start. It’s a long way to Bill’s hide-out and she seemed a terrible time away, and when she got back I got the impression that she had been knocking a couple back on the q.t. to make sure that she didn’t catch my cold. She forgot to give me any change; but wasn’t that whisky divine, dears? After I had the first dose I wanted to croon, and when I had got the second dose nicely down and around, I wouldn’t call the Jeanette McDonald wench my sister.

Nurse took a small dose “just in case, my love,” then tucked me up and said I’d sleep like a top. But, if I did happen to wake up I was to have another good whisky and slice of lemon.

My dears, you simply wouldn’t believe how I kept waking up. I ran out of lemon in no time. And the next morning, my lamb’s! The jolly old furniture was playing, “Here we go round the mulberry bush.”

And you know what a tongue like a pudding cloth is, don’t you?

* * *

LOVE BALM

Dear Auntie Mac:

Whenever my boy friend talks to me I blush terribly. Is there any cure?—Maudie (Cannington.)

Tell him you don’t like those sort of stories, Maudie (Cannington). I once knew a man in the 12th Battalion myself.

* * *

Dear Auntie Mac:

A nice man I know has, very decently, given me a lift home late at night on several occasions after dances. Do you think I should send him a New Year card as a slight acknowledgment? I do hope you can advise me.—Nervous (North Perth.)

Send him a New Year card! Don’t send me into hysterics. You have spent a sheltered youth, dear. New Year card! I should like to see his dial when he got it. Be your age, Nervous (North Perth.)

Next time he takes you home, tell him you are enjoying the drive immensely, and the car can have a breakdown wherever he likes.

* * *

Dear Auntie Mac:

Since I have been back at work after the holidays, I have a feeling that the boss does not seem to like me any more. Do you think I should give notice?—Peter (Perth.)

RETURNED SOLDIER POLITICAL CANDIDATES

This journal is, of course, non-partisan in politics; but, as in other spheres of employment, we suggest that preference to returned soldiers should be a consideration with Diggers, particularly in assessing the merits of contending candidates for political honours. For the forthcoming State elections to be held in March we will follow our usual custom of publishing the personal particulars of returned soldier candidates (if supplied to us) in our February issue. We are also prepared to include photos if blocks are sent to us. All copy must be in our hands by February 8.

FINANCIAL EMERGENCY TAX

The Commissioner of Taxation (Mr. H. H. Trebilco) notifies that owing to an amendment of the law, alterations in some of the rates of Financial Emergency Tax will operate on and from January 1, 1939.

For persons with dependents, 4d. in the £1 will apply to wages and salaries at the rate of £4/2/- to £4/19/11 per week.

For persons without dependents, a fixed amount of 4d. per week should be deducted from the wages amounting to £1/10/- to £2 per week; 4d. in the £1 from wages and salaries at the rate of £2/0/1 to £4/2/- per week and 5d. in the £1 applies from £4/2/1 to £5/19/11 per week. For higher amounts of salaries and wages the rates remain unaltered.

Schedules of amended rates may be inspected at all post offices and railway stations.

Certainly not, Peter (Perth). Show a little dignity. Your obvious course is to sack your employer.

* * *

Dear Auntie Mac:

I have been deeply in love with a man for over a year, but he has failed to make any response to my love. I am so affectionate and I long for a good man’s love. What can I do about it?—Ann (Albany.)

I am writing, Ann. Do nothing in the meantime. I am writing.

Auntie Mac wishes the editors and staff of The Listening Post and all her nieces and nephews “A Peaceful, Prosperous and Happy New Year.” Do not miss this page in our next issue. Auntie Mac is going “on the air.” Order your Listening Post now, or write to your subbranch secretary—but don’t forget to enclose your R.S.L. subscription!
WYALKATCHEM
At the annual meeting on December 10, the retiring president (Mr. Stan Robinson) gave his report on the year's activities. It was pointed out that, although the balance at the end of the year was very small, the sub-branch had made donations of over £50 during the year, £43 of which went to the Aged Sailors and Soldiers' Fund. Financial membership at the end of the year was 46. The new president (Mr. Hugh Leslie) was installed in the chair by his predecessor. Popular Freddie Pancoust was elected vice-president and Ted Rice has taken on the secretaryship (for the duration, it is said). After formal business was disposed of, members joined the women's auxiliary in a very happy social evening. It is the intention of the committee to make a feature of the social side at gatherings in 1939. All ex-service men in the district and visiting Diggers are cordially invited.

VICTORIA PARK
President Eric Lloyd and his committee welcomed a large gathering of members and friends to the social and dance in the R.S.L. Hall on November 16. The main feature of the evening was the presentation to the sub-branch of a handsome painting of the late General Sir Talbot Hobbs by the artist (Mr. C. W. Hadley). The unveiling ceremony was performed by Brigadier-General Bessell-Browne, whose remarks were supported by the Lord Mayor of Perth (Mr. C. H. Harper), Mr. H. S. Raphael, M.L.A., Mrs. J. McKinlay and Mrs. Hopperton (representing the State executive of the women's auxiliary), Mrs. Clear (F.U.S.W.) and others. The sub-branch is greatly indebted to Mr. Hadley for his generous gift, which now occupies the place of honour on the walls of the hall. There was a good attendance at the monthly meeting on December 8, when Colonel Olden explained the change-over at the Anzac Club.

BOYUP BROOK
At the meeting on December 2, Mr. E. Campbell reported on the Junior Farmers' Club. A vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. V. Chidgey on the sale of poppies. Considerable discussion occurred over the provision of a building fund for the sub-branch. The matter was left in abeyance until the annual meeting on January 27. The children's Christmas Tree was pruned on December 23.

GNOWANGERUP
President Tom Wilkinson occupied the chair at the monthly meeting, held at Borden on December 1. Mr. Drummond, who has succeeded Mr. Royal as chemist in the town, was welcomed to the meeting. A motion advocating the reintroduction of universal military training was carried, and was submitted to the meeting of No. 4 District Committee at Katanning on December 3. Poppy Day accounts were finalised and it was agreed that a letter be sent to the women's auxiliary in appreciation of the auxiliary's wonderful effort in selling poppies. After considerable discussion a committee, consisting of Messrs. Dolley, Wellstead, Dennys and Skewes, was appointed to investigate all aspects of the medical fund. Arrangements were commenced for the challenge cricket match with the Cranbrook sub-branch.

ALBANY
The monthly meeting was held on January 3. On the motion of Messrs. D. McNaughton and A. H. Richardson, the following were elected endowment members of the Soldiers' Institute: Messrs. T. H. Barnett, W. J. Day, F. M. Vaughan, W. Donness, F. Bryant and Doctors, A. R. Home, A. Vivian and H. J. O'Hanrah. Mr. S. J. Barrow was appointed to the Graves Committee in place of Mr. Carson. The secretary was instructed to convey to the Albany Municipal Council the sub-branch's wishes in connection with the Avenue of Honour. It was pointed out that the Council had agreed to plant trees of a uniform evergreen variety, and members suggested that this be done as soon as possible.

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as possible, and that name plates be placed in front of the new trees. The sub-branch strongly disapproved of a suggestion that the trees be planted only on one side of the road. It was considered that the whole scheme would be spoiled by such an action. In his report, Mr. Neall expressed great satisfaction at the help given by Mr. Neall. It was resolved that this fact be recorded in the minutes. The Secretary was instructed to thank Mr. Jorgenson for his offer to adjust lockers in the returned men’s ward of the Albany Hospital, free of cost. It was decided that the annual picnic be held on January 22. The President (Mr. Carson) tendered his resignation; but, on the recommendation of the management committee, it was decided that Mr. Carson be permitted to remain in the chair, and that he be granted three months’ leave of absence.

GERALDTON

On December 14 a concert was given by the Lyric Orchestra in Birdwood House in aid of the sub-branch funds. Their kindly action was very much appreciated. The programme was high class and enjoyed immensely. During the evening the opportunity was taken to their departure for the sub-branch; Mr. Fred Ruck, who is transferred to Bridgetown. In making the presentation of a bridge set to him, Mr. Ray Anderson (the President) mentioned that Fred was a great worker in the League’s interests and would be greatly missed by this sub-branch; but that Bridgetown would gain an enthusiastic member. Many other speakers spoke in similar terms. The annual Christmas tree for children was held on December 17. Over 200 children were present, and enjoyed themselves immensely. Much credit is due to the women’s auxiliary for the arrangements, as well as providing the sweets and foodstuffs. Matron Bell, of Mullawa Hospital, is in hospital here, and has been visited by members of the committee. On Christmas Day, the president and secretary visited the hospitals and distributed sweets, cigarettes and drinks to our sick diggers. During Christmas week, we were very pleased to receive a Christmas card, expressing all good wishes to the sub-branch and its members from Lord and Lady Birdwood.

FREMANTLE

We are giving full support to the State executive in their drive to lessen unemployment amongst returned men; for in addition to keeping them posted as to the conditions in Fremantle, we have opened our own bureau to help things along a little quicker, which is working out very well. Our Christmas tree was a great success. The children and the grown-ups had a good time. Mr. Les. Smith made a perfect Santa Claus. The ladies worked as never before, the artists gave of their best and the whole function was an outstanding success. The passing of our esteemed friend and patron, Mr. William Watson, came as a great shock. His generosity to ex-service men knew no bounds, and it would be impossible to compute what his assistance meant to the Fremantle sub-branch. "Rest In Peace, Willie."

MT. LAWLEY-INGLEWOOD

Contrary to expectations, 68 odd members turned up to the first new year meeting and considerable business was disposed of. The chief item was the forthcoming moonlight excursion per s.s. "Emerald" on February 3 (Friday), and indications at the meeting would seem to predict a full ship. Dancing and cool drinks will be available. The organiser of the Christmas picnic reported a small profit and a large amount of pleasure being the lot of those who made the outing. There were no serious accidents to mar anyone’s pleasure, though one young Aussie, as all young Aussies do at some time in their gay life, climbed a sapling and then fell. He soon received treatment, and I daresay he is another tree. Sports were run off by the officials, and ran ahead of schedule all the way. The members’ race (for half a dozen of the, in bottles) was responsible for last time. W. A. Dixon, a dark horse, collected three bottles, Ken Sallam threw himself at them, but missing, grabbed and bolted with two, just a whisker ahead of Tommy Lamb, who was left standing with the solitary one. Will Dixon also bolted with the needle and cotton race, which he won easily by the larger that far that it nearly got lost. Eight new members were welcomed to the meeting by President Williams, who stated that the total financial strength was 235 and still creeping up. A very busy social year is forecast, and a tentative programme is being drawn up.

MOSMAN PARK

A complimentary social and dance was tendered to the President (Geo. Ashworth) and his good wife prior to their departure for a well-earned holiday in the Eastern States on December 13. The function was well attended and the guests of honour were each made the recipient of a small token of the esteem in which they are held. During George’s absence, the boys will also enjoy a well-earned respite from the usual week-end fatigue at the hall. The Christmas season held on December 17, with Bill Gibson in the chair, was attended by 50 members. Business was restricted to important matters only, and at 8.45 convivialities were commenced. A very pleasant evening was spent and items were contributed by Messrs. McDavitt, Staniswood, Godwin, MacFarlane, J. James and Chris. James. Messrs. Gibson and Parker also entertained with reminiscences of 1914. Mr. Cunningham ably officiated at the piano. The Christmas tree for children was held on the 22nd and was well attended and provided a lot of pleasure for all concerned. Every son and daughter up to 12 years of age returned men who were known to the committee and resident of the district was the recipient of a gift from the tree at the hands of Father Christmas (Harry Budge). Musical items and dance numbers by pupils of the district contributed towards the success of the evening. Social Secretary Bill Stothard and the ladies of the auxiliary were to be congratulated on their effort. Ted McDavitt and Bill Gibson made a further contribution of their handiwork to the sub-branch; this time with a splendid table for table tennis. Not their fault if we do not give a better account of ourselves in this section of the A.R.M.S. competition this year. Frank Gibson is getting in a lot of telling work in a quiet way towards increasing our membership. A poor old fellow who remembers his days in the army will join the members to follow. The next general meeting is booked for Tuesday, 31, and members are asked to bring forward any ideas towards the formation of an organisation for boys and youths of the district. The anniversary cup competitions will be continued at the close of business.

SUBIACCO

The president duly pushed the boat out as threatened in our last report, and December 8 was a great evening, the president’s birthday being celebrated in a fitting manner. Although the sub-branch is so unusual that we lack a pianist for our stream-lined upright grand, we make up for it by a wealth of dancing talent as becomes a sub-branch which supports a famous ballet. Jim Cope supplied harmony of the highest quality on his concertina. December 22 was celebrated as a Christmas double number, the sub-branch having a lot of business to dispose of—ten-gallons of it—and, to coin a phrase, a good time was had by all. There is no doubt the boys are becoming more civilised as the rest of the world relaxes into barbarism. Time was when we stuck out our tongues at sergeant-majors and bit pieces out of enemy trenches in sheer waywardness. But all our functions lately have been noteworthy only for good cheer and brotherly regard, a sad falling-off from the days when they put the women and clergy to bed if the returned soldiers were celebrating.

PERTH

At the annual meeting on January 10, the retiring president (Mr. J. O’Farrell) reported on a very successful year, during which membership had been increased by 63 and now stands at 529. The sub-warden of the S.S.L. reported a membership of 40. Several Sons were present, and the president (Mr. R. Nugent) made a fitting reply to Mr. O’Farrell’s words of commendation. The follow-

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ing office-bearers were elected for 1939—President, Mr. J. O’Farrell; vice-presidents, Messrs. Hood and A. Laughon; treasurer, Mr. F. B. Howard; secretary, Mr. W. Hold; auditor, Mr. J. Prendergast; director of the R.S.L. Trading Co., Rabbi Freedman; warden of the S.S.L., Mr. J. O’Farrell; sub-wardens, Messrs. F. Bateson and G. Massey; committee, Messrs. J. Brown, M. Collins, F. Connes, R. Edwards, E. Hartnett, M. Johnson, M. Lewis, G. Massey, E. O’Brien; trustees, Messrs. J. O’Farrell and F. W. Bateson. The sub-branch decided to donate trophies for the S.S.L. competitions, and a trophy for the annual S.S.L. sports. It was decided to urge the State executive to investigate ways and means of further augmenting the Aged Sailors and Soldiers’ Fund.

Do all the wives and daughters of the members of this sub-branch know of the cool, comfortable ladies’ room at Menasha House? The room is furnished entirely by the ladies of the committee, and you are welcome to rest in this room whenever you are in the city and feel weary. Our bridge afternoons are being continued again on Thursday, January 9, where an enjoyable time is assured. They are a river trip which was held on December 18 proved a very successful event, while the children’s plain and fancy dress party held on December 20 was greatly enjoyed by all who attended. We hope that all our members on the sick list will soon be up and around again and attending sub-branch functions.

CARLISLE

The first meeting of the year, presided over by Mr. H. Crofts, was attended by 40 members. Considerable progress during the latter part of 1938 was reported. Membership has increased to 68, and the finances are in a healthy condition. Members were reminded of the picnic to South Beach on February 5. A train leaves Carlisle at 8.45 a.m. Special accommodation has been reserved. The next meeting will be held on February 2.

GLOUCESTER PARK

The annual smoke social was held in Anzac House on December 29. The president (Mr. Albert Wilkins) presided over a happy gathering and the troops did mutual justice to the Greggler crays, hot dogs and rolls, 50 dozen hard boiled eggs, to say nothing of the usual large quantity of biscuits, cheese, salads and other boneless food. The annual election of officers on January 5 provided some keen contests. The results were President, Mr. W. O. Andring; vice-presidents, Messrs. R. B. Watson and N. Bush; secretary, Mr. C. Lamb; treasurer, Mr. C. Robin; auditors, Messrs. I. Crowe and W. Hudman; committee, Messrs. A. Maddaford, T. Scott, H. Caple, S. Brayshaw, J. Shields, G. Owen, A. McDonald; publicity officer, Mr. Tom Scott; amelioration committee, Messrs. A. Maddaford, H. Caple, J. Shields and G. Owen. During the evening, the past president (Mr. Albert Wilkins) received congratulations on his appointment to the permanent staff of the Australian Military Forces. Albert did not nominate again as president owing to his uncertain movements for the year.

COTTSLOE

Bill Eddy, our cricket fiend, is arranging for a trip with the team to Armadale on January 29, and an invitation is extended to all members and their families. Those desiring to go are asked to get in touch with Bill early so that all transport arrangements can be made. Arthur White was in great glee over the success of the Christmas tree, and Mayor Black, who is a member of the sub-branch, assisted in the distribution of prizes.

BULLSBROOK

On Sunday, November 25, the patients from the Lemnos Hospital and the Edward Millen Home were entertained by the auxiliary. After a visit to the Pearce Aerodrome, which was splendidly supported by all, high tea was served in the Bullsho Hill Hall, a feature of which was strawberries and cream. Mrs. Cunningham (president of the auxiliary) and Mr. Newton (president of the sub-branch) welcomed the guests. A pleasing feature of the afternoon was the presentation of a tray to the auxiliary by the boys from the Edward Millen Home. Two trays were also presented by these boys to two of the auxiliary members (Mrs. J. Rutland and Mrs. Devonsrshire) in appreciation of their kindness. All the girls were called for dinner. After tea, dancing was enjoyed and the singing of Auld Lang Syne brought a pleasant afternoon to a close. The auxiliary held their third birthday party on December 10, the guests of the evening being members of the State executive, loyal supporters in the district, also sub-branch members. Three new members were welcomed. A programme was arranged by Mrs. H. Hopperton, the artists being Mses. N. Kershaw, M. Dallikins, Mr. Bruce and Misses Hope Hopperton and Mrs. Hopperton. A very enjoyable evening was spent by all present.

NEDLANDS

After the business had been disposed of at the December meeting, the prizes won at the annual garden competition, held by the sub-branch, were distributed. The prize-winners were as follows: Medesames Jorgensen and Synott, Messrs. Harper, Sharp, Milane, Synott; Lockwood, Dent, Atwell, Matther, McMillan, Loom, Field and Burgess. Most of the gardens were real pictures, and we sincerely thank the judges (Messrs. Braithwaite, Briggs and Gates). Both our cricket teams are doing well in the R.S.L. competition, and some fine individual performances have been achieved. Good luck, cricketers, and keep on to the sub-branch laurels. The present bridge competition, which we hold over four months, is still very popular and at the end of last meeting we had 24 members enjoying themselves. For the benefit of other sub-branches, we run this competition with an entrance fee of 1/- per member and 3d. sweepstake each night for highest score, and at the end of four months a trophy is given for the best three hands played. Not a bad idea, eh! The usual Christmas tree was held on Saturday, 17th inst., about 350 kiddies being entertained. Our thanks to all who contributed to giving the kiddies a great treat. The women’s auxiliary entertained their menfolk at a Christmas party on Tuesday, December 6, and believe me did the Diggers show a leg and thoroughly appreciate the evening? Just prior to our meeting our 100th issue of “Splinters” was released from the printers, and what an issue! The members are very appreciative of our various editors’ job over the last eight years and Roy Potts moved a vote of thanks to the Editor, which was carried unanimously. During the evening of our meeting, members indulged in carol singing which was enjoyed by all, and the president extended to all members, their wives and families the Compliments of the Season.

CRANBROOK

Although only a few members, the auxiliary have been busy during the past year and able to make several donations towards various funds—£1 was forwarded to the Aged Sailors and Soldiers’ Fund, £1/1/- towards Christmas cheer for the inmates of the Edward Millen Home, 10/6 to the Blind Appeal and £1 towards expenses of the Cranbrook delegates who attended conference in September. Funds are raised by membership fees and various entertainments. During September, at a bridge evening, the sub-branch took the opportunity to present the Captain Carlisle with the Certificare of Service, which had been awarded him in recognition of his services to the sub-branch since its formation. Country Vice-president Mr. Austin of Gnowangerup made the presentation. During the season the sub-branch played cricket matches with neighbouring R.S.L. teams, and when entertaining, the catering for luncheon and afternoon teas is always in the hands of the women’s auxiliary.

VICTORIA PARK

Since the November meeting the auxiliary has been in recess, and will re-open on the fourth Friday in January, i.e., the 27th inst., at 8 p.m. Owing to the dark and cold Saturday night, the committee have held their meetings as usual. On December 12, we gave a Christmas social, and a large number of visitors from other auxiliaries came along and had the time of their lives. Games, novelty dances, for which prizes were given, and a dainty supper served by the committee helped speed the time. A pleasing interlude was the presentation of a cup, donated by Drs. Meagher, Martin and Bladen, for the team gaining the highest scores in the McKinlay Shield competition, by Mrs. McKinlay, to the winners of the quoids team, including Medesames Haigh (captain), Tolmie, Barnes and Stahl. Mrs. Haigh, on behalf of the team, thanked Mrs. McKinlay and expressed the wish that they would again have the good fortune to play the next year. On December 20, the auxiliary took afternoon tea and Christmas gifts to the Edward Millen Home, and a programme arranged by Mrs. Prue including cornet solos by Hannah Colley, Irish jig and tap dance.
by Irene Day, military toe dance by Pat Dudney, song and dance by Lynette Hendry, songs by Mrs. Primrose, Irish jig and song by Pat Farrell, "Little Baggy Britches" by Geoffrey Prue, toe dance by Mary Farley, song and dance by June Hendry, waltz clog by Pat Farrell and Pat Dudney, acrobatic display by Mary Farley, and carols and community singing. Accompanists: Mesdames Henley, Farrell and McGrath.

**NOWANGERUP**

Ten members attended the monthly meeting on December 1. Mesdames Dolley and Fennell were the hospital visitors for December. Arrangements were finalised for the sending of Christmas cheer and the carnival songs was held in the local R.S.L. rooms on December 22. 

**CLAREMONT**

During the year on the first Tuesday of each month, the auxiliary entertain the ex-Diggers from the Old Men's Home to a games afternoon, followed by afternoon tea. These functions are much enjoyed by the men; quoits, bridge, bowls and table tennis are played, and the last one took place in December, prior to the sub-branch being in recess for the Christmas vacation. On December 1, after the monthly meeting, all the members were invited by Mrs. Gully, one of the vice-presidents, to her home, where a very enjoyable evening was spent with music and games and the opportunity was taken to say farewell to our late president, Mrs. Cooke, who is leaving the district. Mrs. Fuller, the newly-elected president, in expressing best wishes for her future, presented Mrs. Cooke with a very attractive hand bag.

An enjoyable dance was held in the Parish Hall to raise funds for the Christmas cheer for the ex-Diggers in the Old Men's Home. We greatly appreciate the assistance rendered by the members of the Heath Club and the proceeds enabled us to present a pair of socks to every Digger in the Home, and this function took place on December 14, when the members provided and served afternoon tea to the Diggers at the Home. We take this opportunity of wishing the members of all the sub-branches of the women's auxiliaries a happy, successful and prosperous New Year.

**MT. HAWTHORN**

December was a very busy time for the auxiliary on Christmas activity, but all thoroughly enjoyed the work. Mesdames George and Richardson distributed Christmas cheer to the patients in ward XI. A bus was hired and took the auxiliary to the soldiers wards of the Old Men's Home on the 18th, while the ladies prepared a Christmas high tea the inmates were taken for two hours drive, the bus returning to take the auxiliary back to Leederville. Mesdames Kay and Lee accompanied the men on the drive for the auxiliary and Mrs. Stockman represented the outing committee. The men all expressed their thanks of what they called a very unique outing. Mrs. W. Fletcher visited Edward Millen Home and took each patient a fly swat; comforts were also sent to soldier patients at Wooroloo and Home of Peace.

We very much enjoyed the evening at Victoria Park and would like to thank the ladies of that auxiliary for their kind invitation, especially for the prizes won by our ladies. The children's Christmas party, run by the sub-branch and auxiliary, was a great success, all children of the above participating. Our thanks are due to Mr. Love, of North Perth, for Punch and Judy show, enjoyed by all; also to Peter's and Marshall's pupils for dancing items. The auxiliary goes into recess until February 9. We would like to take this opportunity of wishing all sister auxiliaries the very best of good luck for 1939.

**MT. HELENA**

The secretary reports that the dance on New Year's Eve was successful, both socially and financially. Excellent music was provided by Mrs. Troy's Orchestra, which Mrs. Gosling is an old member of the Midland Junction auxiliary. The raffle for a ten shilling note was won by a lady patient in the Wooroloo Sanatorium, a book of tickets having been sold there by Digger Marsh. The novels and lucky number prize, a pair of silk stockings donated by Messrs. Foy & Gibson, was won by Mrs. Cousins, of Mt. Helena. The prizes for the spot waltz were won by Miss Doggett (Parkerville) and Mr. J. Marsh. Mr. Marsh was a very efficient master of ceremonies.

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The Listening Post, 15th January, 1939

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**ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICE MEN**

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<tr>
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<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday</td>
<td>Lt-Col. J. W. Finlay</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
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<td>D. M. Benson, Anzac House, Perth</td>
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<td>BRITISH UNITED SERVICES ASSN.</td>
<td>Wentworth Hotel, Perth</td>
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<td>Annual reunion, Monday, 4th October</td>
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<td>16th BATTALION ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Committee, as arranged</td>
<td>2nd Monday</td>
<td>W. C. Armstrong, 20 Ruislip Street, West Leederville</td>
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<td>Date of Meeting</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARDAH-BABAKIN</td>
<td>Ardhath Hotel</td>
<td>1st Saturday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>T. G. Retalia, Babakin</td>
<td>A. F. Cant, Ardhath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALBANY</td>
<td>Soldiers’ Institute</td>
<td>1st Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. H. Carson, Vancouver</td>
<td>W. F. Hall, King Road, Albany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALLIDU DISTRICTS</td>
<td>R.S.L. Hall</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday</td>
<td>R. Petchell</td>
<td>Geo. Stocker, Ballidu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASSENDEAN</td>
<td>Town Hall Basement</td>
<td>Alternate Thursday (pension days, 7:30 p.m.)</td>
<td>J. E. Cloughton, 4 Sackden Street, Bassen</td>
<td>A. Wishart, 71 West Rd., Bassen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUNBURY</td>
<td>R.S.L. Hall</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday</td>
<td>H. E. Gibson, Bankeis</td>
<td>W. N. Freeman, 111 Victoria Street, Bunbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAYSWATER</td>
<td>R.S.L. Hall, Murray St.</td>
<td>Alt. Wednesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. R. Ashby, 44 Copeley Road, Bayswater</td>
<td>J. J. Paine, 23 Burnside Street, Bayswater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUSSELTON</td>
<td>Soldiers’ Institute</td>
<td>2nd Monday</td>
<td>L. N. Weston, Busselton</td>
<td>M. W. S. Greatorex, Road Board Office, Busselton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRUNSWICK JUNCT.</td>
<td>Memorial Hall</td>
<td>1st Friday in month</td>
<td>C. J. Piper, Brunswick Junction</td>
<td>S. Chamberlain, Brunswick Junction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARLISLE</td>
<td>Bickford Soldiers’ Memorial Hall</td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
<td>H. R. Crofts, 10 Moorongaate St, Victoria Park</td>
<td>G. Graves, 34 Mars St., Carlisle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARNAMAH</td>
<td>Hotel Lounge</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>J. K. Forrester, Carnamah</td>
<td>W. G. Mulligan, Carnamah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLIE</td>
<td>Soldiers’ Hall</td>
<td>Alt. Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>J. Giblett, c/o. Forestry Department, Collie</td>
<td>H. H. Stuchbury, Hawthorne Ave., Collie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COTTESLOE</td>
<td>Council Hall, Jarrad St.</td>
<td>1st Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>A. White, 110 Broome Street, Cottesloe</td>
<td>A. G. Cook, “Lilydale,” 4 Keen St., Peppermint Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COWARAMUP</td>
<td>Cowaramup Institute</td>
<td>1st Saturday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>S. Frohawk, Cowaramup</td>
<td>E. A. Holben, Cowaramup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAREMONT</td>
<td>Parish Hall, Claremont</td>
<td>1st Thursday in each month</td>
<td>C. H. Briggs, 15 Walter Street, Claremont</td>
<td>W. Ford, 13 Shenpton Rd., Claremont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DARLING RANGE</td>
<td>Kalamunda Hotel (unlicensed portion)</td>
<td>Last Saturday, monthly</td>
<td>W. L. Wilson, Kalamunda</td>
<td>Alex. Findlay, c/o. P.O., Kalamunda, 'Phone 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUMBLEYUNG</td>
<td>Dumbleyung</td>
<td>3rd Friday</td>
<td>J. W. Negler, Salmon Guns</td>
<td>C. Nicholson, Dumbleyung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOWAK</td>
<td>Salmon Gums</td>
<td>3rd Friday</td>
<td>H. W. Wood, Donnybrook</td>
<td>Alan Morton, Salmon Guns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DONNYBROOK</td>
<td>Memorial Hall</td>
<td>Last Monday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>H. E. Hobbs, 147 High Street, Fremantle</td>
<td>D. M. Ferguson, Donnybrook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREMANTLE &amp; DISTRICT</td>
<td>Soldiers’ Institute, South Terrace</td>
<td>Alternate Thursday (pension night), at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>C. A. P. Costello, Carnarvon</td>
<td>E. Timcombe, 7 Little Howard Street, Fremantle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GASCYOYNE</td>
<td>Gascoyne Hotel</td>
<td>1st Monday</td>
<td>O. W. Strang, Albany Road, Victoria Park</td>
<td>W. S. Appleyard, Council Chambers, Carnarvon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLOUCESTER PARK</td>
<td>Anzac House</td>
<td>First Thursday</td>
<td>T. Wilkinson, Gnowangerup</td>
<td>C. J. Lambe, 40 Eton Street, North Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNOWANGERUP</td>
<td>Soldiers’ Room</td>
<td>1st Thursday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>E. Way, Gutha</td>
<td>W. D. Adshead, Gnowangerup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUTHA</td>
<td>R.S.L. Hall</td>
<td>1st Sunday, 3 p.m.</td>
<td>Dr. H. E. Clarke, Gwalia</td>
<td>E. A. Matthews, Gutha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GWALIA</td>
<td>State Hotel</td>
<td>1st Thursday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>B. H. Lothfouse, Wokalup</td>
<td>E. Shepherd, Gwalia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HARVEY</td>
<td>War Memorial Hall</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>H. James, Forests Department, Brookman Street, Kalgoorlie</td>
<td>D. D. Johnstone, Herbta Road, Harvey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KALGOORLIE</td>
<td>Soldiers’ Institute</td>
<td>Every 2nd Tuesday in month at 8 p.m.; Executive adj. Fridays</td>
<td>V. Monti</td>
<td>F. Berthold, Government School, East Kalgoorlie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KARRIDALE AND DISTRICT</td>
<td>Derby</td>
<td>Bi-monthly</td>
<td>S. S. Waycott</td>
<td>J. Whooley, Karridale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIMBERLEY</td>
<td>Club Rooms, Garew Street</td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
<td>H. W. A. Tylor, Kat’ning</td>
<td>E. C. West, Derby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KATANNING</td>
<td>Alternate Kellerrin and Taminin</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>F. R. Hall, Shackleton</td>
<td>W. Bailey, Katanning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KELLERPERRIN</td>
<td>Memorial Hall, Kojonup</td>
<td>2nd Wednesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>J. G. Finlay, Kojonup</td>
<td>H. Sullivan, Kellerrin</td>
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<td>KOJONUP</td>
<td>Koorda</td>
<td>4th Friday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Chas. H. Smith</td>
<td>D. C. MacPhail, Kojonup</td>
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<td>KOORDA</td>
<td>Koorda</td>
<td>Quarterly (committee 1st Friday)</td>
<td>F. R. Hall, Shackleton</td>
<td>J. W. Morgan, Koorda</td>
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<td>KUKERIN</td>
<td>Kukerin Hotel</td>
<td>Last Saturday, quarterly (Jan., April, July, Oct.)</td>
<td>J. C. A. Pike, “Falcondale,” Kukerin</td>
<td>R. V. C. Davidson, Kukerin</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAKE GRACE</td>
<td>Road Board Hall</td>
<td>2nd Sunday in month</td>
<td>J. Collins, Lake Grace</td>
<td>E. Wood, Lake Grace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAKE KING</td>
<td>Lake King Hall</td>
<td>2nd Thursday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>R. D. Allen, Lake King</td>
<td>M. G. Johnston, Lake King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANJIMP</td>
<td>Town Hall, Manjimup; Jardee No. 1 State Mill (alternate month)</td>
<td>2nd Thursday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>J. L. Mackenzie, Manjimup</td>
<td>B. Beer, Manjimup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOUNT BARKER</td>
<td>Mt. Barker</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>H. V. Jenkinson, Mt. Barker</td>
<td>B. Hickling, Mt. Barker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAYLANDS</td>
<td>Supper Room, Town Hall, Maylands</td>
<td>Alt. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. (pension week)</td>
<td>H. Woods, 51 Seventh Avenue, Maylands</td>
<td>L. T. King, 10 Carrington Street, Mt. Lawley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENZIES</td>
<td>Menzies Road Board Hall</td>
<td>1st Sunday in month</td>
<td>R. Pugh, Menzies</td>
<td>C. H. Jacobsen, Menzies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Branch</td>
<td>Place of Meeting</td>
<td>Date of Meeting</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
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<td>--------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDLAND JUNCTION</td>
<td>R.S.L. Branch Rooms, Railway Parade</td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
<td>B. Knight, York Road, Midland Junction</td>
<td>H. B. Stephens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOSMAN PARK</td>
<td>R.S.L. Hall, Johnston St., Cottesloe</td>
<td>Last Tuesday in each month</td>
<td>G. A. Ashworth, Bond Street, Mosman Park</td>
<td>C. E. James, 16 Glyn St., Mosman Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOORA</td>
<td>Rd. Bl. Hall, Bencubbin</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>W. W. Boyce, Moora</td>
<td>C. Ryan, Moora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT. MARSHALL</td>
<td>Wallish Hall, Grosevoir Road, Mt. Lawley</td>
<td>1st Wednesday, monthly</td>
<td>W. H. Wright, Mandiga</td>
<td>V. M. Creagh, Bencubbin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT. LAWLEY - INGLEWOOD</td>
<td>Commercial Room, M.ukinbudin</td>
<td>1st Thursday, 7.45 p.m.</td>
<td>O. J. Williams, 21 Grosevoir Rd., Mt. Lawley</td>
<td>J. K. Craze, 119 Central Avenue, Maylands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUKINBUDIN</td>
<td></td>
<td>Every fourth Saturday</td>
<td>T. B. Conway, Mukinbudin</td>
<td>W. E. Roberts, Mukinbudin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUNDARING &amp; DISTRICTS</td>
<td>Alternately, Mundaring, Darlington, Parkerville</td>
<td>Every fourth Friday</td>
<td>A. S. Forsyth, Parkerville</td>
<td>Wm. J. Lochhead, Mundaring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MORNINGTON MILLS</td>
<td>Mornington Mills</td>
<td>Every alternate Sunday</td>
<td>J. M. Loudon, Mornington Mills</td>
<td>W. J. Fulton, Mornington Mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAREMBEEN</td>
<td>Narembeen</td>
<td>Quarterly, by notification (Wed., June 30, 8 p.m.)</td>
<td>A. S. Graham, Narembeen</td>
<td>J. T. Wylie, Eau rull, via Narembeen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEWDEGATE</td>
<td>Picture Theatre Building, Broadway, Nedlands</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday in each month</td>
<td>R. A. Wood, 81 Archdeacon Street, Nedlands</td>
<td>W. A. Duffield, 55 Tyrel Street, Nedlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH EAST FREMANTLE</td>
<td>Artillery Barracks, Burt Street, Fremantle</td>
<td>Quarterly, 3rd Saturday Month</td>
<td>D. G. Kinlock, Newdegate</td>
<td>J. H. Kane, Newdegate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHAM</td>
<td>Railway Hotel, Northampton</td>
<td>3rd Saturday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Lieut-Colonel H. C. Bond, Artillery Barracks</td>
<td>S. Tugby, 42 Holland St., Fremantle (East)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH PERTH</td>
<td>St. Hilda's Hall, Glebe St. (off View Street)</td>
<td>Last Saturday in each month</td>
<td>H. C. S. Colebatch, Fitzgerald Street, Northam</td>
<td>A. Barlow, Northhampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Office hours 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.)</td>
<td>Monash House, 23 King Street, Perth.</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Monday at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. L. Menkens, 30 Redfern St., North Perth</td>
<td>G. C. Curlewis, 145 Fitzgerald Street, Northam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PINGELLY</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday</td>
<td>J. O'Farrell, 223 Fitzgerald Street, Perth</td>
<td>H. V. Rigg, 26 Elizabeth St., North Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRESS</td>
<td>At Luncheon, Antac House</td>
<td></td>
<td>F. Archer, East Pingelly</td>
<td>W. Holder, &quot;Monash House,&quot; 23 King St., Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PITHARA</td>
<td>Pithara</td>
<td></td>
<td>E. S. W. Watt, c/o Imperial Print, Hay St., Perth</td>
<td>M. Sargent, Pingelly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POPANYINING</td>
<td>Yornaning and Popani ning</td>
<td></td>
<td>E. T. Roberts, Pithara</td>
<td>R. Biggs, c/o &quot;West Australian&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PILBARA</td>
<td>Port Hedland</td>
<td></td>
<td>T. Cowan, Yornaning</td>
<td>L. G. W. Brown, East Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUARRADING &amp; DISTRICTS</td>
<td>Quairading Hall &amp; Dangin Hostel, alternately</td>
<td></td>
<td>E. L. Taplin, Pt. Hedland</td>
<td>C. J. McGarrigal, Popanyining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAVENSTHORPE</td>
<td>Warden's Court</td>
<td></td>
<td>V. D. Fallon, Quairading</td>
<td>E. J. Gregan, Pt. Hedland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUBIACO</td>
<td>Branch Rooms, Rokey Road, Subiaco</td>
<td></td>
<td>E. P. Newton, Ravens thorpe</td>
<td>J. R. T. Keast, Quairading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAMBE LLUP</td>
<td>R.S.L. Club</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ern. Congdon, 65 Hens man Road, Subiaco</td>
<td>T. F. Smith, Ravens thorpe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOODYAY</td>
<td>Town Hall, Toodyay</td>
<td></td>
<td>R. Steele, Tambellup</td>
<td>J. Newman, &quot;Marsden,&quot; 17 Ord St., West Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAYNING - YELBENI</td>
<td>Traying</td>
<td></td>
<td>K. Somers, Toodyay</td>
<td>A. Dickson, Tambellup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VICTORIA PARK</td>
<td>Memorial Hall, Salford St.</td>
<td></td>
<td>F. Smeeton, Traying</td>
<td>E. W. Wright, Toodyay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WUBIN, BUNTINGE JIBBERDING</td>
<td>Each place alternatively</td>
<td>1st Sunday, 3 p.m.</td>
<td>A. B. Dinnie, Buntine</td>
<td>F. E. Dyson, Traying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST LEEDERVILLE-WEMBLEY</td>
<td>Town Hall, Cambridge Street, Leederville</td>
<td>2nd Monday, 7.30 p.m.</td>
<td>G. E. Timmell, 34 Har bourne St., Wembley</td>
<td>F. Matthews, 3 Manchester St., Victoria Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YARLOORP AND DISTRICT</td>
<td>Yarloop Hotel</td>
<td>4th Friday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>I. Meredith, Yarloop</td>
<td>T. Bailey, Wubin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEALERING</td>
<td>Comm'l Hotel, Yealering</td>
<td>3rd Saturday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>J. H. B. Lawton, Yealering</td>
<td>E. Tonkinson, 37 Cambridge St., W. Lee'ville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YORK</td>
<td>Lesser Hall</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday, 8th months</td>
<td>Colin Thorn, York</td>
<td>P. G. Rieger, Yarloop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YOUANMI</td>
<td>Youanmi Hotel</td>
<td>Portnightsly (Friday)</td>
<td>D. Johnston, Youanmi</td>
<td>Roy J. Kerr, Yealering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WYALKATCHEM</td>
<td>Lesser Hall</td>
<td>3rd Saturday, bi-monthly</td>
<td>Hugh A. Leslie, Wyalkatchem, Tel. 33</td>
<td>S. Hardwick, York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WARRONA</td>
<td>Memorial Hall</td>
<td>April, June, Aug. etc</td>
<td>C. F. Baird, Warrona</td>
<td>G. M. Maley, c/o &quot;Y.G.M. Ltd.,&quot; Youanmi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST PERTH</td>
<td>Padbury House, cr. St. George's Terr. &amp; King Street</td>
<td>1st Friday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>R. E. Tyler, Rivervale</td>
<td>E. E. Rice, Wyalkatchem, Tel. 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILUNA</td>
<td></td>
<td>3rd Tuesday</td>
<td>Dr. Johnston, Wiluna</td>
<td>L. W. Allen, Warrona</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>P. L. Ross, 116 Churchill Ave., Subiaco, &quot;Phone B9621&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>D. Fullarton, Box 104, Wiluna</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

R.S.L. Sub-Branch Women's Auxiliaries

VICTORIA PARK R.S.L. Memorial Hall, Albany Road 4th Friday, 8 p.m. Mrs. E. Tolmie, 88 Teague Street, Victoria Park

Mrs. E. Prue, 64 Basinghall Street, Victoria Park
The Hat for longer wear and dressier appearance is a CHEVRON Pure Felt

"CHEVRON" FELT HATS are made of the best grade fur felt. "CHEVRON" FELT HATS are in the latest styles, the newest colours and are finished with high-grade trimmings. "CHEVRON" FELT HATS are of the dressiest appearance and retain their style to the very last. Wear a "CHEVRON" and get full hat satisfaction, full hat value. PRICE: 12/6.

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