AUSTRALIA ON THE ALERT

“This is the first time in the history of this land that it looked as though the enemy could enter here and break down the defences that have kept our homes from attack. It is now up to us to hold what God has given to us and maintain the traditions that have been born into our manhood.”

—Mr. John Curtin, on December 8, 1941.

Twenty years of pulpil and platform pacifism concentrated on the objective of restraining peace-loving nations from going to war. During this reaction from the war of 1914-18, and the confused thinking for much of which war-weariness was responsible, nobody seemed to bother very much about keeping war from coming to us. That attitude, which was common to all political parties in all parts of the Empire, white-anted what should have been a powerful ally, and made it possible for the gangster Powers to strike at a democracy that was not even half-armed. The latest development in the stark tragedy of unpreparedness and its inevitable consequences has been the extension of the war to the Pacific, and to Australia’s own front door-step. Future historians will vie with one another in seeking terms that will adequately describe the action of a Power which strikes treacherously while still negotiating a peace settlement, and gives the word for unprovoked war while still prating about its divinely-inspired mission of establishing a new order in Asia. Matters like that are the province of the historian; it is our business to see that we retain the heritage our pioneer ancestors developed for us in this white man’s country, and it is our duty to see that our civilisation is not written off like those of the ancient world.

The year ends in an atmosphere of gloom. We were still sorrowing for the gallant lads of H.M.A.S. Sydney when the news arrived of the sinking of H.M.A.S. Parramatta. The shock of those disasters had barely passed when came the news of Japan’s dastardly attack on British and American bases in the Pacific, and the loss of the Prince of Wales and the Repulse. Truly, as Mr. Curtin said, when announcing that Australia was at war with Japan, “We are entering the grimmest chapter of our history.” That is true of Australia, what must the future hold for Japan, other than her complete annihilation as one of the world’s leading Powers?

Japan has had the initial advantage of surprise. Again, it is not for us to assess the blame for that surprise. Our job is to remedy the damage done, and face the new menace, with a war effort that will make anything done to date seem little more than a trial gallop. Japan has had the advantage of knowing where and when to strike, but even the advantages gained from treachery cannot last for ever. It should be remembered that Japan has entered the war also with outweighing disadvantages. In all her sabre-rattling of the past few years, Japan has used the cant about encirclement, which forms such a conspicuous part of the vocabulary of her European accomplies. She certainly has the disadvantage of a geographical encirclement. Her territory lies within a ring of other nations—Russia and the United States to the north, Hawaii and the United States to the east, the Philippines, the Netherlands East Indies, Australia and New Zealand, Malaya and Burma to the south, and unconquered China to the west. That ring was not, in itself, a hostile ring. It presented no barrier to Japan’s legitimate aspirations. In fact, Britain and the United States did more to help Japan attain her present political and economic position than did either of her Axis partners. No nation content with living at peace with its neighbours need fear encirclement. From one point of view or another, there are few nations of the world situated so fortunately in the geographical sense that they are not encircled; but the only ones that have ever complained of this encirclement are those who seek to enslave their neighbours. In their whines about encirclement, the Axis gangsters have much in common with the man who poked his fingers into a hornet’s nest and complained because he was stung.

The Pacific position is one which denies Japan any hope of victory, except as the result of a blitz. Japan has tried to secure the sudden knock-out; now she must endure the slow constriction which will nullify initial successes and bring about exhaustion and collapse, probably far sooner than most people dare to expect. Japan has entered the war, presumably to relieve Russian pressure on Germany, but, so far, she has been careful to avoid by her non-aggression pact with Russia. Whether Russian will denounce that pact or adhere to it remains to be seen. An inkling as to Russia’s policy has been given by Mr. Litvinov, the new Soviet Ambassador to the United States. He declared that Germany had hoped Japan would create a diversion by attacking Eastern Siberia. He pointed out that Germany’s hope has not been realised, and then grimly stated that Russia will continue with the task of defeating Germany in Europe before attending to Japan. Russia, apparently, is satisfied with the position on the European front and in Libya, and is confident in the ability of her Allies to hold out against Japan. Japan lost her opportunity when she did not come into the war after the collapse of France last year, and before public opinion in the United States had been so overwhelmingly swung in the Allies’ favour.

There were reasons, however, why Japan feared to take the final step. Her undeclared war with China was far from finished, but she wrung a reluctant agreement from Britain that the Burma Road would not be used in sending war materials to China. When it became evident,
even to the most purblind devotee of appeasement, that no concession would curb Japan's aggressive spirit, the Burma Road was re-opened. Later the economic restrictions imposed on Japan by the civilised Powers added to the economic discomfiture of that country. Last February Australian political leaders warned their countrymen that the safety and peace of our country was menaced from the Near North. Fortunately the menace did not take material form just then. We have had time to increase our strength in Malaya, and to put the Commonwealth in a state of readiness for war. Japan, on the other hand, is not geared for a long war. What her spokesmen persist in calling the 'China Incident' has seriously strained her resources, just as the Chinese themselves have exploded the myth of the invincibility of the Japanese Army.

On the other hand, it would be both foolish and dangerous to underestimate the present strength and fighting qualities of the enemy. In Malaya, according to the latest reports, the Japanese are proving themselves formidable opponents in jungle fighting. In facing such opponents, we must meet cunning with greater cunning, courage with greater courage, and fortitude with an endurance even more magnificent. There is no reason for supposing that we cannot do all of these things. Again, Japan's economic resources have not yet been strained to the breaking point. She still has considerable supplies of coal available. The famine which the failure of the home rice crop foreshadowed was staved off by timely supplies from Thailand and Indo-China; and we do not know what reserves of oil there may be in the country. In this respect, our great advantage is that Japan has cut herself off from all the available supplies of oil and of raw materials for making steel and aluminium, and her European accomplices will be unable to help her.

The entry of Japan into the war has complicated matters, but it has not presented any difficulty that is insurmountable. The struggle may be much harder and much longer, but it is a struggle which will have a victorious ending if everybody pulls his weight and does the utmost to bring that victorious conclusion within measurable distance. Taking a long-range view of the matter, it is really better for us that Japan should have come in now instead of waiting till we were exhausted by our war against Hitler. There will be no peace in Europe until the Axis gangsters are overthrown, and there can be no peace in the Pacific until Japan has had the thrashing she has been asking for for over five years. The way to victory is open. It will lead through sacrifice and effort, through blood and tears, but it is the road we must travel if we are to have anything like an enduring peace on earth.

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Corps was composed of unpaid volunteers, mostly ex-service men of 1914-18, who, by reason of age or civil employment, were not able to serve with the AIF or the Australian Military Forces. "The corps," Mr. Curtin added, "has provided an opportunity for patriotic citizens to make a personal contribution to defence."

The Minister for the Army (Mr. Forde) also had something to say about the position. Mr. Forde said that the appointment of full-time personnel would provide the qualified instructors necessary to bring the Volunteer Defence Corps to the standard of efficiency warranted by its importance in the defence scheme of Australia. He made the following very significant statement—"The corps," he said, "was originally designed to provide reserves for the militia and garrison battalions, but the trend of the war made it necessary to allot an operational role to the Volunteer Defence Corps. Because of the vital part the corps may be called upon to play in the defence of Australia, it has been decided to provide in its establishment the full-time officers and non-commissioned officers."

The old soldiers of the Volunteer Defence Corps have already had their first spot of defence work in this State, in connection with the rounding up of survivors from the German raider Kormoran. The sinking of that raider was the last exploit of H.M.A.S. Sydney. In this connection, Western Command Headquarters recently issued the following statement:

"When the presence on the beach, about fifty miles north of Carnarvon, was reported to headquarters, Western Command, immediate arrangements were made for them to be apprehended. A party of soldiers, drawn from the Garrison Brigade, set out by sea transport from Perth, to collect the Germans. On arrival at Carnarvon, early on the morning of November 27, the officer commanding the garrison party found that the Germans had already been brought into Carnarvon by the local police and the Volunteer Defence Corps unit. The Germans were then in custody at the Carnarvon gao."

Those in the gaol comprised two boatloads of German sailors, who had landed in the vicinity of Quebla Station. A further boatload was encountered at sea by a passenger ship, which took their lifeboat in tow, and brought it to Carnarvon, where they were taken under escort by the garrison party.

The survivors from the sunken raider had suffered from exposure, and a number of them had burns, and slight wounds, mainly from steel splinters. The raider's doctor attended to them, and, at the Carnarvon Hospital, operated on one of the men who extracted a piece of steel. The majority of the prisoners were brought south by sea, but a few were transported by road with the returning motor column, which had taken the garrison party to Carnarvon.

Several companies of the Volunteer Defence Corps were inspected during their training on Sunday, December 7, by Lieutenant-General Sir Iven Mackay. The units inspected were the Press Corps of the Perth Battalion, the Maryland Company of the Swan Battalion, and the South Perth Company of the Fremantle Battalion. These units were being instructed by parties of non-commissioned officers from militia units. Sir Iven Mackay said he was pleased at the excellent spirit of co-operation which existed between the militia and the units of the Volunteer Defence Corps. He showed keen and approving interest in what was being done. The Commander-in-Chief of the Home Forces was accompanied by the commander of the corps in this State (Brigadier-General A. J. Bessell-Browne) and staff officers of the Western Command.

**PETROL PRICES**

This year's State Congress passed a resolution, submitted by the Dumbleyung sub-branch, urging that a flat rate for petrol be adopted all over the State, as the restrictions of the Liquid Fuel Control Board, in preventing farmers from carrying fuel direct from Perth, was throwing an unduly heavy burden on the farmers.

The following reply has been received from the W.A. prices branch of the Department of Trade and Customs—

"Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of November 14, 1941, relative to a resolution passed at the recent annual congress of your association pertaining to uniformity of petrol prices, and I desire to inform you that similar representations were made by the Federated Chambers of Commerce of W.A. in October of this year.

Petrol is a commodity dealt with on a nation-wide basis by the Commonwealth Prices Commissioner, Canberra, and, since the introduction of price control, much greater selling uniformity has been obtained.

This matter is being kept under close observation, and, whenever and wherever circumstances are favourable, the principle of uniformity of prices will be extended.

It must be realised that such an alteration presents many difficulties, but it is pointed out that, on account of the Commissioner's activities in this direction, uniform prices now operate in all State capital cities.

**INSIDE FRANCE**

According to cables received last month, widespread unemployment is likely to add to the misery of harassed France this winter. Like the so-called "priorities unemployment" in the United States, the ultimate cause is the difficulty of obtaining raw materials. By the end of November the crisis had not yet reached its height, but many factories, both in occupied and unoccupied France, were then using up the last of their supplies of raw material, and were expecting to lay off their employees very soon. The Vichy Government was doing its best to stave off the necessity of such plants closing, by distributing as evenly as possible the slender supplies still available in France and North Africa. Even then, it was seen that such measures could be nothing more than stopgaps.

French industrialists themselves can see only one way to keep their plants in operation throughout the winter, and that is to rely on Germany for raw materials. That policy, however, would mean still closer collaboration with the enemy, and it could not relieve the situation soon enough to prevent serious unemployment. To add further distress to the picture of distress in France, the European autumn was unusually cold this year, even in the south of Europe. The unfortunate French people can only look forward with dismay to the prospect of widespread unemployment added to the stringent food rationing already in effect.

It is only to be expected that the intensification of the food shortage, and the prospect of unemployment, would have political effects in France. The French people have been told repeatedly that, if they lack food and other necessities of life, it is because of the Atlantic blockade imposed by Britain. Observers in...
France points out that the average person actually feeling the pinch of hunger cannot help being influenced by these statements. The man in the street is notoriously unable to think in terms of strategy. He only knows that he is hungry and cold already, and is likely to be out of work, as well, very soon.

In spite of suffering and German propaganda, French opinion has remained loyal at heart to the old democratic alliances, but the well-informed correspondents of “The Christian Science Monitor” states, those who still hope for the victory of their earlier Allies are distressed to see a gradual change in public sentiment under present trying conditions. For a time the relief work of various American agencies did much to keep alive the underlying sense of brotherhood with the democracies; but recently relief work has continued with difficulty, and on a much smaller scale. So, under all these influences, more and more French people are turning with some hope of relief to the new plan for a complete corporate State. This does not mean, it is said, that France is adopting either a Nazi or a Fascist regime. It is simply hoping for a solution of bringing about a decent level of existence and of ending bitter class warfare.

Such hopes could be exploited, and no doubt have been exploited by the enemy, to sway public opinion in France against the Allies, but, luckily for us, the German has a single-track mind. The enemy is neutralising the advantage by the brutal mass executions of unfortunate hostages. The hope of dealing out retribution for these atrocities may harden French resistance, even to the point of enduring hardships of the coming winter. Even the pathetic Vichy Government has been moved to protest against the latest reprisal orders.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF ICELAND**

One of the earliest and most important moves in what is now called the Battle of the Atlantic was the occupation of Iceland by a British force, and the subsequent relief of that force by American forces. Iceland, though a Danish possession, is an independent self-governing country, whose king is the King of Denmark. It was at the request of the Government and people of Iceland that the peaceful occupation took place. Now the United States is building a naval base on this large island, which is only eight hundred miles from Europe. According to reports from Washington, the new naval base will be as powerful as American experts can make it. This Iceland base, they say, is to be strengthened until it is in the same category as the mighty naval strongholds at Pearl Harbor (Hawaii) and Norfolk (Virginia). The Iceland base will give the expanding United States Navy a major base for operations within six hundred miles of Iceland. Its situation is ideal for helping warships assigned to North Atlantic convoy duty. British or American destroyers and corvettes damaged by action with enemy submarines (as was the U.S.S. Kearney) will find themselves close to major repair facilities.

The announcement of the Iceland base marks the first time in peacetime that the United States has possessed a naval base so close to the British Isles and the continent of Europe. The new base will directly aid the British Navy as well, since British warships are expected to make full use of the American facilities. Among the many strategical benefits which the new base makes available is that of conducting raids against German positions in Norway by carrier-based aircraft. Iceland also affords a most convenient way station for merchantmen carrying supplies from American East Coast ports to the Russian Arctic port of Archangel. Freighters could take on fuel at Iceland, thus saving more of the space for cargo. More important still, the Iceland base will help to unite the apron strings which hitherto have bound the American Navy to its own Atlantic seaboard. If necessary, the Atlantic Fleet in its full strength will soon be able to operate in European waters from its own base. That in itself will change the role of the United States Navy from a purely defensive one to a position from which it can take the offensive in European waters.

**FREMANTLE MEMORIAL**

Mr. J. H. S. McCallum was recently installed as warden of the Fremantle War Memorial by the vice-president of the Fremantle sub-branch (Mr. H. G. Wilson). The installation took place in the presence of a representative gathering of citizens, councilors, and R.S.L. executives. Mr. Wilson, accompanied by the retiring warden (Councillor A. Hines) and the warden-elect, placed a wreath on the memorial, and retired to the steps, where he thanked Mr. Hines for his services during the past year. He then asked Mr. McCallum to accept the office of warden for the coming year. Mr. McCallum said he accepted the honour and expressed the opinion that the memorial, with its surroundings and elevated position, was one of the finest in Australia.

Members of the South Fremantle Boy Scouts were in attendance as assistant wardens. Following the placing of the wreath, Commissioned Bandmaster V. Smith, R.A.N.R., sounded the Last Post and the Reveille. Lieutenant-Colonel Olden, Sergeant Davie Paton, and the State Secretary (Mr. D. M. Benson) represented the State executive. The president of the Fremantle sub-branch (Mr. H. E. Hobbs), accompanied by his committee, also attended.
Another distinguished visitor who passed through Perth recently was the Bishop of Bendigo (the Right Reverend C. L. Riley), who, besides being Senior Chaplain of the present A.I.F., was better known to West Australian Diggers as a former Senior Vice-President of our own Branch of the League. Bishop Riley spoke very highly of the work the Y.M.C.A. is doing in the present war. "The Y.M.C.A. is doing free service," he said, "all over the front, and is doing this work extremely well. It has regained its proper place in the estimation of the men, because of the personal service rendered by its representatives, and because of the special traveling, supply and other work at the front." He pointed out that services to the troops are organized on quite a different basis from those of the last war. For instance, there is an amenities officer with each brigade. He is responsible for having Australian Comforts Fund goods and so on sent forward to the troops when required, and for concert and entertainment work. A Salvation Army officer might be with one brigade, and a Y.M.C.A. man with another, each doing social service work with the troops. Huts are equipped in the main from the Comforts Fund. There are 60 huts, each in charge of an Army corporal, who is paid by the Army. More Y.M.C.A. representatives are required with Divisional troops. Corps troops are numerous in this war, and a corps today is bigger than a division. In the original allocation of Y.M.C.A. representatives, that fact had been forgotten, and there should be at least another five Y.M.C.A. representatives with the corps troops. Bishop Riley said that the representatives at the front were doing remarkably good work.

Bishop Riley then went on to discuss transport difficulties in welfare work. There is a battle front of 1,200 miles from Tobruk to Syria, with two deserts in between. Because of the rapid movement of troops, it had not been worthwhile, for ordinary purposes, for any welfare unit to build its own huts. "Things change from day to day," the Bishop explained. "You make arrangements, and by the time you have got back to your camp the division has moved.

"In Jerusalem, we have the only show where there is any money question at all. The great Y.M.C.A. in Jerusalem cost a million dollars to build. The undercroft of one of the wings is given over to Australian work. There, arrangements have had to be made for selling meals. All the profits from these sales have gone into free gift work for the troops in the front line. The Y.M.C.A. in Jerusalem had to have some place where fellows could come in and get a feed. Tommies were in there all day, as well as our chaps, and anything up to a thousand of our chaps might be there on a Sunday. The place has been run very close to cost, all the way through. That is the only show the Australian Y.M.C.A. has run at a charge and, Bishop Riley said, he was satisfied the Jerusalem show could not be run on any other basis. The free distribution work of the Y.M.C.A. is tremendous. Y.M.C.A. vans distribute coffee, food, smokes and so on wherever there are troops. The vans are so invaluable that when one of them got smashed up the Army provided the Y.M.C.A. with another. By a series of mishaps, the three Australian representatives were not in Tobruk, during the Tobruk show, but the English Y.M.C.A. was functioning there all the time, and our fellows were going in and using their place.

Bishop Riley also paid glowing tributes to the work of the Australian Comforts Fund, the Red Cross Society and the Salvation Army. "I think," he said, "you can be satisfied that the troops are getting the stuff sent to them; and they are getting it up well."

Bishop Riley's remarks were followed up by Mr. A. H. Pantoon, the chairman of the Citizen's Committee, Y.M.C.A. War Service Appeal. In a letter to "The West Australian," Mr. Pantoon mentioned the special effort rates £10,000, chiefly by direct giving for the Y.M.C.A. War Service Appeal. This effort has produced about £5,000 since the beginning of last October. The appeal's purpose is to maintain the Y.M.C.A. welfare service among the troops at home and abroad. The work of the Y.M.C.A. in the field is described in a letter, which Mr. Pantoon received recently from Commissioner W. E. Pickering, who has charge of the Australian Y.M.C.A. activities in the Middle East. Mr. Pickering writes:

"I have had a busy few weeks; big extensions are taking place in our work. At the moment we have 33 centres in operation in Palestine, two in Egypt and, including three mobile units, 21 in Syria. Eleven others are in process of establishment. Some of the newer centres are as much as 480 miles from my headquarters. I have just returned from seeing practically all our northern centres, travelling 1,481 miles in nine days. I am more than proud of the way our leaders are accepting their great opportunities. All this extension has cost us a great deal of money and I should think that in the last five weeks I have spent £1,700. The chief items of expenditure have been purchases of wirelesses, moving picture projectors and films, writing paper and general equipment. But we cannot do all this work unless we spend money.

"We have had excellent help from the A.C.F. and in three strategic places we are already established in premises, which while under our charge, are in the joint names of the A.C.F. and Y.M.C.A. In each of these places most of the furniture is provided by the A.C.F. and they provide all materials for tea, coffee or cocoa and biscuits, which is always available absolutely free in the evening and in some places in the afternoon as well. They are also providing substantially for our hot drinks service from the mobile units which join with a unit for two
or three days, giving them hot drinks, providing picture entertainment, servicing them with writing paper, reading matter and games, if possible, running entertainment. It must be remembered that under present conditions small groups of men are in most inaccessible places, and the only entertainment they can have at any time is that provided through the mobile unit. In one high tableland a unit is spread out over a large area. There are snow-capped mountains on either side. This unit has five small Y.M.C.A. centres and I cannot imagine a better service under present conditions than rendered there. We know that the centres are too small and we hope for better and more comfortable ones at an early date. But the real thing is how they are appreciated by the men for whom they exist. In many cases the hot drink of the evening is a feature of more stable work both in Syria and Palestine. Often the material for its preparation is provided through the agency of the unit, but the service is provided through the Y.M.C.A. In some places the cold is so intense and the hours of sunlight so short, that the only escape from the cold is to get in between the blankets. Then the only forms of entertainment are reading, wireless and games, such as cards and draughts. I should have said earlier that the buildings we occupy in the main centres have been requisitioned for us by the military.

"Our staff on November 1 consisted of two commissioners, 15 representatives, 50 corporals, one driver, one typist, and this not including the Buffet and Information Bureau staff in Jerusalem. Then there are numerous places which our units visit at intervals, providing them with writing paper, games, etc., and entertainment."

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### The Evergreens

#### 5 Garison Battalion

Just now, "A" Company is anything but a company, in that they are scattered to all points of the compass. However, no matter where they are, just know they are doing a good job. Sergeant Bill Rowe has been appointed O.C. Flies under the able direction of the M.O. (Captain Anderson). They tell us that Bill is doing a great job. We at least notice the difference since he took over. The flies still use our plate of stew for a landing ground, with the difference that they are dead before they land, and now have to be shoved off instead of the usual push or crawl off, which reminds me I saw some of the boys examining their current duff rather suspiciously. Bill started by making an offer for scalps, 1s. males and 1s. 6d. females, carcass meat is quoted at 1s. per million carcasses, but he complains that since the offer of some lowdown person has been robbing the fly traps with an eye to the sale for carcasses, and unless this is stopped he will be faced with a considerable decline in royalties.

W.O. McLean has returned to recuperate, after a strenuous holiday in Melbourne, but, owing to the absence of R.S.M. Potter at a school, the said recuperation did not materialise, so much so that we are considering the issue of a pair of roller skates to enable him to take in his whole tour of duty in the time at his disposal. We would just hate to see those legs worn down any further.

The O.C. Lieutenant Morgan, together with Lieutenant Wright and some of the boys, are kicking up the dust "Down South" just now. We hope they will benefit from the change, but only C.S.M. McLean can truly say, "Oh, how I miss them, I'm lonely to-night." I guarantee he certainly will not miss them when they return.

Service has its reward, and our congratulations go to Dick Waddington on his promotion to corporal.

### H.Q. COMPANY

This company can claim similar distinction as "A" Company and "Support" Company as a parade ground unit, in so much that they now receive instruction on drill movements, and to date have acquitted themselves admirably that they are now the envy of all other ranks.

H.Q. take this opportunity of extending a welcome to Lieutenants O'Meara and Williams, of the 10th, who are doing an excellent job as guard commanders.

Congratulations were-the order of the day when Staff Sergeant Smith was promoted to the rank of lieutenant. The strain of O.O. will be somewhat relieved now that the additional weight has been added.

We all hope the I.O. has fully recovered from his sojourn overseas, which was apparently too strenuous, due to the overwhelming hospitality which was so cordially extended immediately upon his arrival.

H.Q. has been a very busy company over the past few weeks, mounting guard being their special job.

Support Company will long remember the month of November, 1941, for most of the personnel their duties, particularly towards the close of the month, must have brought to their minds memories of the Great War. "Nuf said."

Most of the sergeants attended various schools of instruction, and have come back with a wealth of information in regard to army tactics and army weapons. They have come back

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also brought back quite a number of corns, but not as a result of attentively listening to instructive lectures.

The rank and file have spent most of the time out of camp, and training was in consequence interfered with. It is a fact that on one fine morning there were but two privates on parade—one was awaiting discharge as being medically unfit, and the other awaiting trial by the C.O.

10 Garrison Battalion

Summer has now definitely arrived, and the glorious uncertainty of returning here from leave has vanished.

"Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown." We note that our Canteen N.C.O. i/c wears one, but that does not mean that we think he is a "head." We extend him our congratulations.

We are proud to say that we held our own with the mob that took part in the Armistice Day celebrations in Perth this year. This may sound like a bit of skite, but it is true according to unbiased opinion.

We are sure that everyone that has ever met our C.O. will join with us in extending him our heartiest congratulations on his promotion to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. We hope that this promotion is merely a step in the right direction.

We welcome among us Mr. Warner, of the Y.M.C.A. While we like his title, "Joe the man who gets around," he should be informed that most of us here are trying to get around our Q.M. for something or other, and have been doing so for a long time now.

Old Popeye has done his stuff again, and we are telling the world that we are proud of him.

Our Hush Hush mob have been stoutly reinforced lately. We wonder what odds they are picking for us.

Our adjutant is now three up. Congratulations, Captain Lathlain. While on promotions we would like to hand our congratulations to Corporal Fred Bis.

We also would like to congratulate Lieut. P. G. Gibbs on a matter purely domestic.

And now for Christmas!

CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS ON LAND PROBLEMS

At the recent meeting of the Land Committee it was reported that replies had been received from government departments in connection with some of this year's congress resolutions. These are quoted hereunder:

Resolution 17: Soldier Settlements. This resolution contained a protest against the extra ninepence per ton freight on bulk wheat above bagged wheat. The Secretary for Railways advised that the department is only recouped to the extent of ninepence per ton, whereas additional costs of handling bulk wheat, compared with bagged, is far in excess of that amount. The Commissioner regrets that he cannot see his way to agree to the cancellation of this charge.

Resolution 20 reading.—"That the Agricultural Bank be given statutory power to collect not more than 20 per cent of drought relief money this year, and 10 per cent. the following four years, the balance to be wiped off." The Agricultural Bank advised "that the Commissioner cannot agree to the request."

Resolution 26 reading.—"That in the event of a farmer going to the war, all charges against him be waived until his resolution.

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... and sends them on to victory
turn, if the profits of such farm do not meet commitments during his absence." The Agricultural Bank advised "that the Commissioners cannot agree to the request."

Resolution 30 reading.—"That statements issued by the Agricultural Bank to its clients should be ordinary debit and credit system. The bank advised "that, owing to deploration of staff by enlistment, the Commissioners are unable to entertain any change in the half-yearly statements issued to clients."

Resolution 14 reading.—"That, in the opinion of congress, any soldier settler who has paid back to the Commonwealth Government in interest the repayment of the war re-patriation loans, a corresponding reduction should be made in his indebtedness." The bank advised "that the Commissioners are unable to agree to the request."

Resolution N/M2 reading.—"That the Bushfires Protection Act be amended to permit of burning in summer time in swamp lands, always subject to approval of the district forest officer." The Under-Secretary for Lands advised "that the matter be referred to the next meeting of the Rural Fires Prevention Advisory Committee for their opinion."

Re Drought Relief.—Following representation made by a country sub-branch, the league wrote to the Minister regarding drought relief funds, and the Minister has informed the league that the advances are made under the Industries Assistance Act, and farm proceeds are secured to the bank until the amount so advanced is paid. The Minister advised the league as follows:

The advances were made under the Industries Assistance Act, and farm proceeds are secured to the bank until the amount so advanced is paid.

In cases where the surplus remaining after repayment of such advances is insufficient to enable settler to carry on his farming operations for the ensuing year, or where the farm proceeds do not equal the amount of the advance, the Commissioners will, in approved cases, re-advance sufficient to enable the settler to carry on for the succeeding year.

This arrangement will be continued each year, with a limit, however, of the period of the currency of the loan at which the money is obtained from the Commonwealth Government, and such advances will carry an interest rate equal to that at which the money is obtained from the Commonwealth Government.

The security to be taken for the advances made from the funds is as required by the Industries Assistance Act, under which such advances were made; and it is regretted that the Commissioners of the Agricultural Bank are unable to depart from these conditions.

Those concerned may rest assured that sympathetic consideration will be given to all cases where re-advances are necessary.

OUR PATRIOTIC SCHOOL CHILDREN

The school children of this State have been doing their bit for the war effort in many ways. Besides starting war savings certificate groups in many schools, they have made substantial contributions to the old metal collections. Metropolitan, South, and rural districts, have kept the voluntary buffets for the troops well supplied with tea and sugar. The latest examples of juvenile patriotism were mentioned on December 5 by Mr. E. C. Stewart, the headmaster of the Fremantle Boys' School, during the handing over of two mobile field dressing stations for the A.I.F. Because the pupils of the Fremantle School had contributed so liberally to the funds, they were invited to play a prominent part in the handing-over ceremony. They sang patriotic songs, to the accompaniment of the Western Command Headquarters Band. One dressing station was the gift of the children of Fremantle, and the other was presented on behalf of the Kalgoorlie section of the Red Cross. Mr. Stewart said that personal gifts from the school children already amounted to about £600, and another £1,500 had been raised in war savings certificates. The girls of Princess May School have knitted about 2,000 articles for members of the fighting forces. The Princess May School was named after Queen Mary, who, with his late Majesty, King George V, visited the State in 1917. They were then Duke and Duchess of York and Cornwall.

LEARNING BY OBSERVATION

For some reason or other, the blunders of a countryman in a more sophisticated environment, have been the stock targets of humorists in all countries and in all ages. In these troubled times the evacuation of children from London and other large cities to the country has allowed rustic youth to get some of his own back. The following essay, written by a ten-years-old London boy, who had been evacuated, will give some of the reason. In an essay on the cow he wrote:

The cow is a mammal. It has six sides, right and left, upper and below, and front and rear. At the back it has a tail on which hangs a brush. With this he sends flies away so that they don't fall into the milk. The head is for the purpose of growing horns, and so his mouth can be somewhere. The horns are to butt with, and the mouth to moo with. Under the cow hangs milk. It is arranged for milking. When people milk, milk comes, and there never is an end to the supply. How the cow does it I have not yet realized, but it makes more and more. The cow has a fine sense of smell, and one can smell it far away. This is the reason for fresh air in the country. A man cow is called an ox. The cow does not eat much, but when it eats it eats twice, so that it gets enough. When it is hungry it moos, and when it says nothing at all it is because its insides are full up with grass."

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WE CALL BY APPOINTMENT
George P. Owen is one of the senior members of the Gloucester Park sub-branch and senior trustee of the sub-branch's scout, war loan, and retirement funds. However, it is only on occasions like Poppy Day that people realise the tremendous amount of good and consistent work George does through the year. He is, in fact, one of those who does good by stealth and blushing to find fame, but although he prefers to hide his light under a bushel, the X-ray of appreciation can sometimes see through a bushel. George Owen has done wonderful work for the sub-branch this year and not the least of this is his connection with last month's Poppy Day appeal.

We regret to report the death of Arthur Laker, a well known and popular member of the Shenton Park sub-branch. He was the first leader of the sub-branch's Volunteer Defence Corps unit, and resigned that office when he enlisted in the 5th Garrison Battalion. From the 5th Garrison Battalion, he transferred to an engineering section. Our late comrade was given a military funeral, at which Messrs. Clegg, Taylor and Fricker represented the sub-branch. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his relatives and friends.

Squadron-Leader H. W. Fisher, representing the third generation of a fighting family, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was born at Cottesloe twenty-four years ago, and received his schooling at Guildford Grammar School and Wesley College. He left Western Australia three years ago, and joined the Royal Air Force on his arrival in England. He is married, and has a daughter. Squadron-Leader Fisher is the son of Hurtle Fisher, of South Perth, and the grandson of H. Hamilton Fisher. Hurtle and his father served together as lieutenants in the 51st Battalion during the last war. This must have been almost a record, especially as the son was senior to the father. Hurtle having been promoted to commissioned rank while his father was still a sergeant. However, Grandpa Fisher had one up on Hurtle. Years before he had been commissioned in the Royal Fusiliers. Incidentally, the first member of the Hurtle Fisher family to come to Australia, was prominent in the early public life of the colony of South Australia. Mr. Hamilton Fisher passed away in Perth a few months ago.

It was announced at the beginning of the month that Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Rockliff had been placed on the Reserve of Officers, at his own request. He had previously been commandant of Northam Camp. He is succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel Biles. Both these officers served in the 44th during the last war, and, as company commanders, each won the Military Cross in the same battle. This is the first service with the A.I.F. however, was with the 11th Battalion. In civil life he is an inspector of schools in the service of the West Australian Education Department.

The State was visited at the beginning of the month by a distinguished general of both wars—the Commander-in-Chief of the Home Defence (Lieutenant-General Sir Iven Mackay). He came to Western Australia to inspect the local units. Although a busy man, he made time to attend a reception accorded him at Antzac House by the State Executive. Responding to the toast of his health, Sir Iven gave a vivid description of the fighting in Libya, Greece, and Crete. During his speech he paid high tribute to the West Australian units which had taken part in these brave employments, and particularly to the West Australian artillery.

Once in a while tables are turned. While real soldiers in this State are seething with indignation at the appointment of a pronounced non-fighter from the local University to the field rank in the army, a spot of soothing balm has been applied by the appointment of a man with a distinguished war record to the office of Chancellor of the University of Sydney. This is Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Charles Bickerton Blackburn, whose appointment as Chancellor followed the resignation of Sir Percival Halse Rogers. The new Chancellor, one of the greats of Australian Medicine at Sydney in 1933. He has been lecturer in clinical medicine since 1932. Sir Charles Blackburn was elected president of the Royal Australian College of Physicians in 1938. He saw active service abroad with the 14th Field Ambulance during the last war, and was mentioned in despatches.

The G.O.C. Western Command (Major-General R. E. Jackson) has followed the example of several distinguished predecessors and joined the league. He has linked up with Nedlands sub-branch.

Gloucester Park's sick state shows a big improvement this month. The genial secretary, Cliff Lambe, is now convalescing after his recent severe illness. He has been at the M.G.L. Home, at Mosman Park, and will soon be fit for duty again. Jack Smith is still at Hill 60, Belmont, but is progressing favourably. Jim Whittaker has had trouble with his eyes, which needed a sojourn in Perth Hospital. He expects to leave hospital any day now. We join with the sub-branch and the many members of the public, who have contact with them, in wishing these stalwarts a full and speedy recovery, and all the best for the new year.

Major T. Darley, 9th Light Horse Association, Adelaide, would like to hear from two ex-service men who are believed to be living in Western Australia. They are Tommy Freeman (late King's Dragoon Guards) and No. 1063 L. R. Shannon (9th Light Horse).

Ex-service men of this State owe a debt of gratitude to the late Mr. G. P. Stevens, who died at Claremont on November 20. After long service in the Postmaster-General's Department, the late Mr. Stevens was appointed general secretary of the Civil Service Association, and held that office continuously until his retirement, in November, 1932. Besides his official duties, Mr. Stevens was actively interested in many movements for the good of his fellow citizens. He was a member of the Claremont Municipal Council for more than 25 years, and was Mayor of Claremont from 1914 to 1918. It was during this period that he initiated the Battalion Comforts Committee, and was associated with the welfare of the 44th Battalion. He was also vice-president of the State Recruiting Committee, and an original member of the State War Memorial Committee. In addition, Mr. Stevens was vice-chairman of the Sailors' Welcome Committee, vice-president of the Naval Comforts Fund, and actively associated with many other organisations.

Word has been received at head office that Mr. H. J. R. Saint, a former member of the 12th Battalion, and a very staunch member of the League, has passed away in New South Wales, where he had resided since 1929, with the exception of one period spent in England. Although a resident of another State, Mr. Saint had been scrupulously careful that his subscription was paid to the W.A. branch early in January of each year. He joined in 1929, and paid a subscription for the ten previous years. Since then he had been a member of the central sub-branch. The State secretary of the N.S.W. branch (Mr. J. Black) has advised that Mr. Saint had also been a respected member of his branch for many years.

We are pleased to announce that our Federal President (Sir Gilbert Dyett) is now convalescing after the very serious illness which prevented him from presiding at the Federal Congress held recently in Brisbane.

One of the "old boys" who has returned from the Middle East is George Gilmore. George is well known for his activity with military bands and for his perfect bugle calls. When last seen, George was camouflaging himself behind a large mid-Victorian moustache, but his broad smile and cherubic exterior revealed his identity.

"W.X. CORPORAL SMITH"

We have received from the author, Miss M. L. Smith, a copy of her latest book, "W.X. Corporal Smith," which has been published locally by Sampson Printing Co. Ltd., the sale price being a moderate 2/6. We will review this work in our January issue, but in the meantime recommend its purchase. It is a romantic story of a doctor who fights for Libya as a ranker. Miss Skinner was a nurse in the last war and naturally the heroine is a nursing sister.
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(Late 51st Battalion, A.I.P.)
Phone B1569
The West Perth sub-branch has for sale in good order and condition a table tennis table and a .22 rifle. Application should be made to the sub-branch secretary.

The new inflatable dinghy for airmen who bale out over the sea requires 10 seconds to pump and the discomforts considerably. It seems almost a miracle of compression. The dinghy cushion fits on underneath the parachute. The "boys in the backroom" have crowded a rubber dinghy large enough to support a 400lb weight; a small hand bellows; a water anchor which keeps the head of the dinghy to the wind: a special bailing bucket that compresses into a quarter of an inch, but sprays up like a jack-in-the-box; the instant pressure is released; a set of graduated hole-stoppers with which the pilot can plug anything from a pin-prick to a cannon shell; two rubber hand paddles; good for a speed of three knots; and, finally, a small flaring bomb to light the proceedings.

All these gadgets—believe it or not—fit into the dinghy cushion, which is fifteen inches square and three inches thick.

The Japanese are a bland, insinuating race. Their main characteristics are well illustrated by a story often related about a small Norwegian town recently reached from Honolulu. The story goes that the wife of an American naval officer had told her Japanese maid: "Suppose Japan light America, you no kill us, Yosko?" "Ooh, no, Missy," the maid replied. "That be yarldman's job."

In one of his articles on Generals and Leadership, General Wavell wrote: "A general who speaks to men individually may sometimes receive a disconcerting answer. A story is told of a major who, on inspecting men in a complete and stony silence. One of his staff told him that it would make a better impression if he spoke to one or two men. Accordingly, he said to a man: 'Where did you start this war?' 'I didn't start this war, sir,' was the astounding reply. 'I think the Kaiser did.'"

After Senator Alan MacDonald debunked the old purport that the A.I.F. had given a majority vote against conscription in the last war by quoting the official figures for both referendums, the anti-conscription crowd fell back upon their second line of defence, which was that the Yes majority was given by men in camps in England and on transports. This was stated in the House of Representatives by Blackburn, M.H.R., whose coquetting with parties banned by official Labour have got him into trouble with his own party. Blackburn quoted Bean to bolster his case, or rather, he quoted Bean, for what the Official Historian said about the matter was merely a repetition of anti-conscription claims, without any official figures to support them.

William Morris Hughes flatly contradicted Blackburn; and Mr. Bean was not a word of truth in what he said, and that his statement was not based on official figures. In any case, as far as one can gather, there was no means of telling what votes were given aboard transports, in camps or in the front line.

Poppy Day sales this year amounted to nearly 89,000. The State Executive has expressed gratitude and appreciation to the hundreds of local workers who put the poppies on the appeal day and who, in numerous cases, made thorough and effective organizing arrangements. We have been asked why it was necessary at the eleventh hour, to gain 1,000 poppies from each branch. The answer is that the Returned, Maimed and Limbs Men's Association had already used up all the available material for making imitation poppies. They supplied 76,310 poppies, or 1,310 over the original order and to get the parcel of 5,000 sent by air mail from Melbourne. An early meeting of metropolitan sub-branch representatives will take place for the purpose of discussing this year's experience, and to decide where further improvements in the organization can be effected.

Many, if not all, of the sub-branches, organize Christmas parties for members' children at Christmas time. Another State Branch has suggested that this year's parties should embrace the children of all men who are at present serving overseas. This suggestion has been commended by the State Executive, and has been passed on to sub-branches for their consideration. Those sub-branches who include the children of all men who have enlisted for service overseas, and who are at present stationed at Darwin or Rabaul. In this event, perhaps Members of Parliament and of the local governing body, and other prominent patriotic people could be invited to participate.

As a result of the appeal to sub-branches on behalf of the Malta Relief Fund, £386/6/8 has been subscribed, and this amount has been forwarded to the Commissioner for Malta in Melbourne, through the Federal Office of the League.

The New South Wales Branch has advised that the Year Book of the League is now available and may be purchased at 1/6 a single copy of 15/- a dozen, post free. Orders have been addressed to the State Secretary, R.S.S.A.I.L., Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park, Sydney.

Those who have had the experience of war, and all who have written of war from personal knowledge, as distinguished from hearsay, have been struck by the wonderful comradship, that grows among men, who have faced the common dangers and hardships of active service. An example of this comradship has been mentioned in a letter from a Digger, who was told that his old comrade, who is a returned soldier from the last war. The letter writer said: "As an old Digger, you will realize what it means to me—a poor old codger, when these boys—only boys—who have been in the same mess, drop in, in couples, of an evening to have a chat with me. I am one of them now. I know it. I now realize the wonderful bond which, in the years before this, bound these old and young men. It is more wonderful that the brothers' bond that you and I had. I don't like to say it, but I think God for being admitted to the privilege of this wonderful brotherhood." It is just that spirit of brotherhood with which the League has maintained itself in the war, and which will continue when Hitler is finally overthrown.

As the third winter takes hold of Europe, about four hundred million closely rationed Europeans are learning the full meaning of the Nazi slogan, "guns instead of boots." The most tragic clothing shortages are felt among the people of occupied countries. Germany and Italy are not alone in their difficulties. Germans and Italians cannot obtain leather clothes, as at least they can buy straw footwear, even though straw soles last only four weeks. Italy issued new clothing cards last month and now the Italians will be forced to decide between a change in the pattern of their shoes for the coming year, for they can't have both. Britain, today, is still the best provided for in Europe, since clothes rationing in the United Kingdom is still more accurately described as a negation rather than as a hardship. According to reports, Europe's greatest need is for footwear. In Norway, for instance, the shoe supply is seven months behind schedule. One little Norwegian town recently had 1,500 applicants for shoes, and it was received only 200 pairs a month. Moreover, Norway is infatuated and shivering because of German requisitions of blankets and shoes. Denmark and the Netherlands are turning to wooden shoes.

A test of the new rubber boots is now mid-air. In this respect, the Nazis carried out a typical trick. They purchased five million pairs of shoes. Then they generously announced that France would be allowed to return 400,000 pairs for its own people. Despite the looting of the conquered nations, Germany now has as many as 150 million pairs in reserve. Berlin newspapers have announced that such articles as pyjamas, dressing-gowns, nightshirts, and bathing costumes are non-essential. From Sweden comes a report that handkerchiefs, which are so necessary on the Reich's Pats of non-essentials, and can be obtained only with a special permit.

W.A., Osborne Park, writes: The cost of living has risen, but old soldiers are still on the fixed pension of £1915. Then the basic wage was £2/14/; now it is £4/14/.

Of course the old soldier is supposed to be of no use now and he was not deserving a living wage. Increases have been made in old age and invalid pensions, children have been given £5/1/5 pairs of shoes for a maternity bonus. There is a saying that old soldiers never die; they only fade away, and under the present rates they probably will. There is another proverb that fits the case: "Nothing but the bones of a truly old soldier whom nobody owns." Now rumor has it that the Christmas parcels given to disabled military pensioners will not eventuate this year.

German experts today are hard at work on an industrial new order, which regards the continent of Europe as one vast economic area, to be used as Hitler and his fellow gangsters think fit. Plans have been laid for a gigantic oil trust which, Berlin believes, will make it possible for the German, as it has done for the famous British and American oil companies. The Nazi company, now being financed with paper and promises, has as its object the control of the mineral oil industry, not only in Europe and Asia but also overseas. It has been decided in Berlin that this company will control the Russian oilfields, and the Mexican oilfields. That will be nice work, if the Huns can get it.

An example of the extent to which huge new works are now being promoted by Ger-

DECEMBER 22, 1941 PAGE 13
half million dollars. Today, its assets, most of which belong to the German Government, are estimated at about two thousand million pounds sterling. This makes the Herman Goering works one of the largest amalgamation of industries that ever existed under a single control. In conquered countries, the Goering Trust has gobbled up honest companies, until it now has a million employees. The companies gobbled up make big changes, according to ordinary standards. In other industries, and even in agriculture, the Nazi gangsters are carrying out great schemes of amalgamation designed to bring the commerce of Europe under their thumb. This is Europe being turned into a single industrial unit of the Nazi State. It is all a beautiful scheme, but there is still one teatle in the sink—its success depends on the ability of the Huns to win the war.

One of the reasons why Russia has been able to turn the tables on the Huns is that Russia, in addition to a second line of military defense, has established a second industrial line of defense. As Joseph Stalin told Lord Beaverbrook last October, many Russian factories were originally designed on the "leap-frog" basis. Such a plan operated in Kiev. When the fall of Kiev was imminent, the plant was moved from several hundreds of miles away to the Volga river country. That happened in September. In its new location, the plant has more than doubled its Kiev output. The Soviet official bulletin announced the evacuation of biggest factory as most illuminating. It said: "Kharkov has been left by our troops for strategic reasons at a time when the Soviet Command deemed it expedient, and not when the Germans wanted. During this period, all the most important factories, plants, railway rolling stock, raw material, stores and other valuable were evacuated from the town in time."

It is point all in this quick moving is, of course, that the workers have been moved with the machinery.

The appalling lists of German casualties in Russia have invited comment from those anonymous persons whom the newspapers describe as neutral. The most striking by the fact that most of the German killed and wounded, up to date, are the original National Socialist Guard. These were the fanatic storm troops of the Hitler revolution. Now, in the new war on the Russian front, more and more of the older generation of Germans are being called into service. In short, the number of those fine professional soldiers that were developed by General von Seeckt (Mackensen's right hand man in the last war) has been greatly diminished by hard fighting. According to American estimates, 50 per cent. of the land forces with which Germany commenced the war in 1939, and about 70 per cent. of the original air force, have been put out of action in the last five years.

This was the group which best understood, most fervently believed, and best represented the Nazi claim to European dominance. Today, they are being gradually replaced by less trained men. And thus, the German Army is becoming less an organisation of lick-faddics and highly trained specialists and more of a people's army. And from the Boer War to the Spanish Civil War, a people's army has never won a war yet.

▶ WHY NOT THE RETURNED SOLDIER PRINTERS — IMPERIAL PRINTING COMPANY LIMITED.

"ON PARADE"
A Fantasia written by "The Office Nark"

Mr. Editor,—In my mental wanderings I had the good fortune to attend an inspection parade of the local A.I.F. Education Force—beg pardon, I nearly said "Fascie," which would have been an Ariste Lupin to detection of-I'm sure! Well, as our women's auxiliary correspondents would say, "It was a good show, and a very enjoyable time was had by all."

What impressed me most was the way every soldier and home service soldier, the Army will persist in reverting to type. We, in our sophisticated innocence, thought we were mechanised. Are weburglary? You should have seen the squad of horse that was paraded for location. They would have delighted your sad eyes to have seen the C.O., Home Service, Major Alexander, trying to ride all the horse that were at once. It was a hard job, but he had even greater difficulty in wearing his uniform as it seemed to have been worn by a soldier under-station. A medal must be given to the platoon of dart throwers. It is difficult for a mere soldier to see why the troops of today should be trained in dart-throwing, unless the service is adhering to the go-back method. Pragmatically, the Army is always trained for the last war.

One must not omit reference to the gallant and impressive work shown by other branches of this dare-devil unit. It may be hard for the casual observer to understand the measures that commissioned civilians are devising for the winning of this war. The RAF workers are possibly like the oft-quoted verses of the late Thomas Bracken, "The aeroplane, which crouches over the dinkum oil. They aren't being bitched about with childish amusements. They're working out a deep, subtle, dyed-in-the-wool camouflage scheme. They're camouflaging their usefulness to the Army.

There was also the parade of the panel. One doesn't know, does one, what the function of these panels are, but it seems that something must be done for others who are home. I refer, for example, to the home service men who are to be trained in Army Headquarters. I'm not a crystal-gazer, but I've formed the conclusion that there is something Rabelaisian about the work of this distinguished unit. The comments of Diggers about Major Alexander's appointment were extremely Rabelaisian, but that is by the way. Students of history will remember that dear old Rabelais propounded a system of education which might have had him burnt at the stake, if he hadn't banked on the judgment of posterity. He bunkered the ecclesiastical censors by disguising the substance of his argument with a superstructure of farce, and not very clean farce at that. Most critics of his day read his work as an entertaining, if shocking,大多行文如此。

Of course we would not attribute that degree of subtlety to the very stolid way the A.I.F. Education Scheme is presented in this Command, but we hope and pray that the authorities will not hand this scheme over to Army Headquarters. For, as far as the whole business was concerned, the army fighting soldier as a very expensive joke, but there may be some deep-laid plan underlying that joke which will eventually become obvious. We are only trying to prevent it from getting a hearing.

However, I started out to describe an inspection, and I fear I have gone A.W.L. from my subject. The most inspiring part of the whole show was the march-past to the stirring strains of the local A.I.F. Education show's regimental march. They have it. It is "Alexander's Ragtime Band."

ONE CHRISTMAS DAY
(BY W.A., OSBORNE PARK)

There are a few returned soldiers of Ward No. 1 who were at the No. 1 A.A.H., Harefield Park, residence of Lt.-Col. W.A. Osborne-Park, who will remember the Christmas of 1917. As we review the past, there is this a pageant of great events crowding on each other that we can only gaze at the gigantic world struggle and go on hoping. We look forward to the new year. We are now looking at life more seriously. Conditions are becoming harder, but we are becoming more fit to stand them. Sometimes we think that the pockets and the patience of men and women must be nearly exhausted, but we are now slowly beginning to know that people have become practised in giving, and do it like they themselves never knew it was possible before wars. Australia has given, and will still give.

And now for this memorable Christmas. War weariness and pain of wounds left us like magic as the spirit of Christmas entered and permeated every corner of Australia. The festivities really began in the early morning of Christmas Eve, when a blaze broke out under the field kitchen and bake fair to cook our Christmas fare without the professional aid. We are not at all without our campers. Christmas! Help! Murder! were the cries that awakened the slumbering staff on a cold, dark 5 a.m. Christmas Eve. All hustled and fell from beds and joined in the scrambling, panting, hurrying through the snow, and without the slightest idea that there found the field kitchen well and nicely and warmly and alight.

Our specially fitted and equipped and patented fire alarm would have aroused half Harefield had it worked, but this occasion its silence was since.

After a while a brilliant brain wave swept down on the crowd that water, likewise hose and buckets, might be of use, and some were speedily obtained. Then the chief army cook, arrayed in full kit (sноп, meat axe and gas helmet) broke tons of ice, enabling him to form a patio of water. The patients and nurses. Garlands of laurel and swords of the Q.M. were swept and a smoke-filled room, until another genius suddenly pressed a button and turned out the electric glimmer. Wires were worked red hot telephoning for the Uxbridge Fire Brigade, but, said not relate, it nearly, but not quite, a good few hours after the fire was put out by our local fire fighters. The show was the best and most dinkum and most exciting we had had. Our puddings were saved, and the visiting fire brigade decided that the fire was kept.

Now for the day. There was much bustle in the wards, and the ingenious methods of many decorations were greatly to the credit of all the patients and nurses. Garlands of laurel and spruce, bedecked with holly and mistle- toe, and flags were hung throughout all the wards. The patient's pockets were re-covered, and an air of subdued excitement pervaded the hospital. To those of us who were able to attend the Christmas service, the singing of the dear old carols brought a thought of home, Christmas, and Christmas. Then, with appetites sharpened by the frosty air and the excitement of the fire, we set about dinner. How the menu passed the eye of the O.M. we will never tell—we can only surmise that the festive spirit had got him. Certain it is that there never was such a dis-
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In these trying days, everybody wants to serve the nation in one way or another. This is a laudable ambition, finding expression as it does at the time our Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin) has described as the grimmest chapter in our history. Mr. Curtin's broadcast announcement that we were at war with Japan was comparable with that of Mr. Menzies, on that early evening in September, when he announced that the British Empire and its component parts were at war with Germany. On each occasion, the Prime Minister of Australia delivered a memorable speech. On each occasion the Prime Minister of Australia spoke in language, simple and well chosen. Mr. Menzies with the cold logic of a lawyer summing up a case for the prosecution, Mr. Curtin with the restrained but moderate language of the practised leader-writer and there is much in common between the advocate pleading a case in court, and the leader-writer summing up a position in a newspaper for all men to read. We are truly fortunate that the political leaders on our side are all men of radio personality, men who can convey their ideas and proposals to the public in plain, simple language, and men whose very dearness and simplicity of expression carries conviction. All the Allied spokesmen—Mr. Roosevelt in the United States, Mr. Churchill and others in Britain, Mr. Curtin and his predecessors, Mr. Menzies and Mr. Fadden—have all had that gift. They share a common denominator of appeal to the human intelligence, and they all have a key-note of expression—call it an accent, if you like—which would make it difficult for the listener who had missed the opening announcement to tell which is the American, which the Englishman and which the Australian.

That, however, is merely by the way. It leads up to the next point which all our British spokesmen have in common—the stressing of an even greater demand for effort in the present emergency. In a time like this, when almost everyone is thinking always on our front doorstep, it is up to every Australian worthy of the name to pull his or her weight and do his or her best in the cumulative effort for the defeat of the powers of darkness. That reminds one of the question so frequently heard in our streets today: "What can I do for the war?" Everyone appears to be anxious to do something; but, unfortunately, the ideas of what the individual should do vary so much. It is hard to understand what the individual should bother to write letters, and why newspapers should bother to publish such letters, asking how some bewildered patriot or other can do something for the war effort. There are a thousand and one different ways in which every member of the public can help if the desire to help is genuine.

The A.R.P. organisations are crying out today for increased membership. In the early days of the war, when there was little or no scope for the Digger of the last war to render personal service, many found an outlet for usefulness in A.R.P. work. The sub-branches of the League as organisations, and ex-service men as individuals, did very valuable service in pioneering A.R.P. work in this and other States. By personal example and the urge for service, they were able to give body and form to an activity which may soon prove a valuable asset to the defence of Australia. Of course, it is not claimed that League members were the be-all and the end-all of A.R.P. organisations. Other bodies, and other individuals played their part as well, but A.R.P. work is an activity which the League supported, and in which League members are playing a prominent part in all parts of the State; and the Diggers' capacity for organisation, his spirit of leadership and his ideals of teamwork and mateship have all been of valuable help to the Civil Defence authorities. A.R.P. work is earnestly commended to everyone who wants to do something, but can't yet find something to do.

But there is another job which should appeal to all fit men, and even to all partially fit men, who cannot make the grade to serve in the front-line fighting services. That is the job of service in the Volunteer Defence Corps. The Volunteer Defence Corps, or Home Guard, is the offspring of the League. The original idea was that of enrolling suitable men in a reserve of two classes, according to age and fitness. When the present war broke out, and after many representations had been made to the Army authorities, this present auxiliary force was re-modelled as a sort of auxiliary to the militia forces, under the name of the R.A. Volunteer Defence Corps. The spade work of organising the corps and the struggle to find it a place in the defence scheme have been the finest job the League has done since the outbreak of the war. It will be remembered that membership was, at first, restricted to men who had fought in the last war; but, in those early days, which are not so very far off, there were many men in country centres who were not returned soldiers, and who were debarred from militia service by the remoteness of residence from training centres. These men could obtain no training other than by service with the Volunteer Defence Corps. In some country districts, the sub-branches...
The Lord Nelson eye to the regulations and allowed these men to train, even though they could not admit them to membership of the A.I.F. What followed was one of the repetitions of history. Something which was fast becoming an established fact was appreciated by the authorities and sanctioned by regulation. In this way, the Volunteer Defence Corps was allowed to widen the horizons and rope in men who were not ex-service men, but who, by reason of age qualifications, man-power restrictions, slight medical disability, and so on, were not eligible for enlistment in the A.I.F., or for service with the militia. The scope of the organisation was widened, and this widening represented an advance from the intention of the Army authorities that the main purpose of the Volunteer Defence Corps was that of a reservoir of reinforcement for the garrison battalions.

Members of the Volunteer Defence Corps have been impatient at what used to seem the lack of official encouragement, and the delay in supplying arms, equipment, and facilities and equipment for training. Most members, however, recognised the magnitude of the task the Army authorities had to face in equipping, training and despatching the A.I.F. overseas, and in the parallel task confronting the Army in respect of the militia. The Volunteer Defence Corps, like other shows, had to wait its turn, and its turn came slowly, mainly because of the priority of the first and second lines of defence, and the time factor in the development of the industrial side of the war effort. Everything, however, comes to him who waits. By patient service, unremitting zeal and the unselshness of members who gave up Sundays and other periods of leisure to training, members of the Volunteer Defence Corps gradually convinced the authorities of their earnestness and also of their usefulness. The corps has won recognition as an integral part of Australia's defence force. It has achieved the distinction of being allotted a definite role in the defence of Australia. A year ago, dark and all as the skies of Fate seemed then, the most adventurous optimist of us all would never have conceded to the Volunteer Defence Corps any role other than that of a reserve. Today, events have moved so quickly and the menace of war is being brandished so closely in our faces, that the Volunteer Defence Corps stands just as good a chance of smelling powder as any other formation of the Army.

Both organisations—Volunteer Defence Corps and A.R.P.—need the support of the public. They are doing wonderfully good jobs, and doing them well and consistently, in spite of initial difficulties that seemed like discouragement. They both present avenues for service to everyone who wants to serve. That fact is so apparent that it is very hard to understand why people should write to papers in these times and ask what they can do about defending Australia. It all makes one wonder whether inquirers of that sort are looking for service or looking for jobs.

There are some people blessed with a perfect genius for understatement. A lady of our acquaintance, after listening in to Mr. Churchill's latest speech, remarked, approvingly, "Well, there's one thing about Mr. Churchill. He takes a great interest in the war, doesn't he?"
THE GERMAN MORALE

CAN THEY TAKE IT?

(TRY OUR SPECIAL COMMENTATOR)

It was Hitler himself who said that if you tell a lie often enough the whole world will eventually believe it. Something like that happened after the last war, when German propagandists planted the seeds of the fond belief that Germany lost the war, not because German armies were beaten in the field, but because the home front collapsed. Actually, what happened was the reverse of that statement. The German home front did not collapse until Germany's allies, one by one, had been forced to surrender at discretion, and Germany's armies on the Western Front had been well trounced and driven into hurried retreat. The German people suffered many privations in the hope that their armies would at long last defeat the Allies. It was when they were deprived of that hope that they ceased to hate the Germans. The Allied blockade of the last war, severe though it was, did not by itself win the war; but it made such an impression on Germans ever since that they tried to make their country economically self-contained long before the chief gangsters were ready to submit everything to the arbritement of battle. The slogan "Guns before butter" was no idle one. The German people were taught in advance that the way to victory would not be easy. A home front does not collapse while the battle front holds—at least not as a general rule. The pitiful story would not be easy. A home front does not collapse while the battle front holds—"COMPLETE RELAXATION OF ALL LIMBS AND BODY AND GIVES THAT HEAD-TO-TOE SUPPORT SO NECESSARY FOR REALLY RESTFUL SLEEP."
It is fashionable these days to speak of the Huns as Nazis, implying that Germany's political leaders, rather than the German people, are responsible for this war. That view does not march in step with the course of history. A German is still a German, whether we call him Junker, Boche, Hun, or Nazi. They are intensely nationalistic, and their treatment of the underdog has hardly varied throughout the ages. Way back in the days of Imperial Rome, it was the Emperor Claudius who said there were only two arguments a German could understand—the sword and the whip. This is what W. A. Sinclair has to say about the German people, as the poet and the Nationalistic Germans think that there is no break between peace and war. As their revered authority, Clausewitz, put it, "War is the continuation of (peace time) policy by other means." The old German imperialists and the present-day Nazis are at one in thinking of Germany as being always in conflict, actual or potential, with all other nations.

Germany began to prepare for the present war on November 12, 1918—the day after the armistice which ended the last war.

I have always thought those those superlatively good people who used to pester the Government for a precise definition of what we are fighting as having been entertaining some lurking fear that we might possibly be nasty to the enemy. One has only to hear "Shairmany Calling" on the short wave to find out how many things the enemy are fighting for. In fact, in his war aim, the Hun is all things to all men. Here are a few war aims picked up by the B.B.C.'s Listening Post:

**Zeessen.**—"Germany is fighting for the rights of small nations."

**Another tirit** refers to the New Order as "a united continent which works for the benefit of all its members, and not for that of a few."

Dr. Alfred Rosenberg. —"What we are fighting for is a Germanic Europe."

Even more cynically outspoken is this gem from Dr. Goebbels's newspaper, "Das Reich": "We, the leaders of Europe's new era, must avoid the temptation to devote their energies to the good of others."

It is all very confusing, but, looming through the confusion is the same old German ambition to boss the world, if the world will let him.

The world that survives the present war will be as different from the world that preceded it as the world of 1920 was from the world of 1918. For in the rest of all possible worlds if the new world order is to be planned and directed by many of those who most have to say about it now.

The new world must not be allowed to degenerate into the hobby horse of all manner of cranky minorities. Such a danger is both real and apparent. As an instance of what is meant, one has only to consider the efforts of people like W. H. Rose, of the W.A. Temperance League, to abolish the wet canteens in camps and barracks. It is a piece of colec-sal check for any body of civilians to tell the army how it should run its business, but, when they stultify the cause of temperance by using intemperate language, and distorting truth to a degree which borders on the absurd, we have no right to ask official notice of these people. Some time ago Mr. W. H. Rose weighed in with the absurd and surpressive statement that the real fifth columnist in Australia were the advocates of wet canteens. The authorities let that pass with the comment that it was just another wild and stupid statement. When the same merry gentleman got on to something specific, the refutation was prompt and decisive. He declared that he had it on the best authority that the position of a German Camp as bad, if not worse, than it had been in the dry canteen days. It would be interesting to know who is this "best authority," and why he must remain anonymous; but the lie direct was given to Mr. Rose by the Mayor of Northall (Mr. H. C. Colbeck). At a recent council meeting, Mayor Colbeck recalled the representatives of the Northall Council had made for the restoration of wet canteens and the reasons which prevailed. The Mayor said: "I am a German citizen, by birth and by can-teen," Mr. Colbeck added, "and had an undoubted success, and had had a most beneficent effect on the town."

The following gems of misinformation were supplied by "Salt," the weekly journal of the Australian Army and Air Force Education people. In an article on war songs, reference is made to the songs of the American Civil War. The writer states: "The South had but one famous marching song called 'Dixie Land,' and then quotes the chorus of 'I See Georgia Baa Dixie Baa Dixie,' which was another song altogether. He then weighs in with the astounding statement that the North's best recruiting song was 'Marching Through Georgia.' Obviously, the song must have been written after the event it commemorated, but, as Sherman's dashing Yankee boys marched through Georgia in the closing stages of the war, it came rather late as a recruiting stimulus. The South fought for the Lincoln and his advisers adopted conscription without waiting for it. That, however, would seem to be all one to the commissioned civilians who are entrusted with the duty of educating the troops.

According to the stories told by prisoners of war, H.M.A.S. Sydney was sunk by a characteristic German act of treachery. Nevertheless, the German naval spokesman, Admiral Gensoul, denied it. Our joy is the greater because the majority of the kormor's crew was saved, whereas the Sydney was so quickly overcome that all her crew perished. Now it remains to be seen what will be the Third Class. The Third Class, by the way, is the highest class, and that led to another amusing situation. During the latter stages of the Palestine campaign, a number of Rumanian awards were made to British and Dominion troops. Generals and colonels bagged the first class, under the impression that this was the highest, while the gallant staff captains swanked round with the third class.

**Commenting on the extension of the war to the Pacific, Mr. De Valera declared that the people of the Pacific will not remain neutral, though the...**

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country would prepare to resist aggression. "If war comes upon us, it will come like a thief in the night." Mr. De Valera has seen what has happened to almost every other neutral country in Europe, but he sticks to neutrality with a persistence which is yet another example of the triumph of optimism over experience. In any case, Eire is sitting pretty, as our American Allies would say. She hopes against hope that she may be able to keep out of trouble by waiting her turn to be gobbled up, and she knows full well that if she is attacked the much-disliked Sassenach will have to rush to her defence. An attitude like that does not win the respect of people in the Dominions who used to be proud of their Irish descent.

One of the many amiable qualities which make our American Allies so likeable as individuals, apart from the respect we have for them as a nation, is their quaint gift of expression. Most of the world's great soldiers have had this gift of expression. For instance, it was Napoleon who called us a "Nation of Shopkeepers." In more recent times the Americans, who never call a "Ding" a "Dago"—they call the abject object a "Wop"—have improved on Napoleon. Having read the war news and learned of the enthusiasm with which Mussolini's books have been bought by the American public, I might have done the "Arms Upward Raise" exercise to smaller bodies of British troops, and the drain placed on our resources in feeding these useless mouths, our American friends have called us "A Nation of "Wopkeepers." That means game and rubber to Uncle Sam.

Incidentally, the people of the United States never apply the term "Dago" to people of the Latin American Republics. They prefer the term "Latin American." In older days, when there was chronic trouble along the Mexican border, North Americans called Mexicans "Grocers," and Mexicans retorted by calling their northern neighbours "Gringos." Happier relations have prevailed between the neighbouring Federal Republics since the last war. The United States man of the present generation uses the word "Mexican," which is almost Spanish for "Mexican" but not quite right, because the "X" as in Mexican is interchangeable in the fluent Spanish language for the Spanish "H" or "J." I defy any English-speaking person to get the sound correctly, but the nearest approach is the "SH" sound, as in "shower," "have," "short" or any other word which starts with "eh." When the United States became interested in the Panama Canal Zone, American engineers started the fashion of calling Latin Americans "Spiggoties." That was because the local lads, when applying for a job on the Canal invariably advanced as a qualification, "I speak-a-de-English." Hence the word "Spiggoty."* *

* * *

Italy's declaration of war against the United States means one thing, if it means anything at all. The Italians have now joined the Japanese in the war against the white races.

A few years before the first Great War against the Hun and his Hun-like Allies, a very ribald writer whose ribaldness I sincerely envy wrote a book entitled "Hints to Junior Officers," by "The Junior Major." The publishers, who were even wickeder than the writer, turned the booklet out with stiff red covers, and gold-printed title, with an appearance for all the world like the official wars, those "little red books," which the officers "read or don't as the case may be." It was accepted seriously by the Army, and found an honoured place in every Garrison Library in Australia, until some Junior Major, who was senior enough to have a sense of responsibility, read it. Then the "pseude text-book doubled up into the ranks of best sellers. Its fame was eclipsed only when C. J. Dennis published his "Sentimental Boke" in the following year. The route-march of the years has trodden down many memories, but I still remember one definition from the "Hints to Young Officers." It is the "Junior Major"'s definition of the Pay Office. "An Army Pay Office," he wrote, "is an institution which prevents so soldiers from being paid. The memory revives there comes, as a background to that base libel a refrain from Kipling—

"Shilling a day, —dy good pay,
Lucky to get it. A shilling a day."

And now to come to the third person singular, "The Listening Post's" veteran contributor, dear old Bill Anderson. In another part of this issue, there is published a complaint from "William," of Osborne Park, that the soldier's pension has not advanced in step with the cost of living and the clect of living's covering tile, the basic wage. It is a sad but solemn fact that pay and pensions, throughout the ages, have staggered sadly behind the cost of living. Indeed, they have hardly kept pace with the living. Nevertheless, the gradual change from soldiers' wages to civilians' wages has, to some extent, awakened public conscience.

Strangely enough, in former ages, when armies where really people's armies, troops were not paid at all. In ancient Greece, Rome and God knows how many other ancient civilisations, it was recognised that the man who lived in a country was legally and morally bound to fight for it. He did so without pay, the idea being that the land he lived on was the regard for his military service. That was the germ of the Federal System of the Middle Ages, the system which demanded that a man should render military service as rent for the acres he farmed. It was an unwieldy system which could be employed efficiently only in short and local wars. As society became more complicated, the casual spasmodic service of feudal levies was not sufficient, nor even efficient enough, to win major wars. The defect soon found the remedy in the professional soldier, the mercenary, as he was called before standing armies came into being. From the days of Greece, Rome and the Carthaginians, to the era of the Thirty-Years' War and the English Civil War, professional soldiering was a matter for private enterprise. States, officially at least, retained as their military systems the amateur feudal levies, although kings and others who had the money to pay for them hired bands of professional soldiers to serve them in wars, and, if possible, to maintain order at home during peace. Ancient Greeks, Romans and Carthaginians employed mercenaries, so did William of Normandy in his invasion of England; and so did his Angevin successors.

Naturally the mercenaries were more efficient than the feudal levies and were gradually supplanting. They had to be efficient; otherwise nobody would hire them. The method of hire and payment seems to have been a happy-go-lucky one. The king or war lord did hire a contract with the leader of the mercenaries, who preferably from the neighbours, who preferred to call their organisation, regarding the period and terms of the service. The leader drew the money in a lump sum, and he disbursed this to the other ranks in accordance with the conditions of their engagement. The pay was not high, but the prospects of service were good, because the other ranks always had their opportunity for loot. The opportunity for loot was so good that many men joined the Free Companies, engaging to serve without pay, but stipulating that the booty they acquired should be their own, and not dumped into the common pool. Such men were called "free-booters." They were not robbers, but honourable soldiers who served for booty instead of pay. Even when the booty were scarce, there were still the smiles of battle. The man who took a prisoner in battle was entitled to the captive's arms and equipment, and horse if he was a horse-soldier. If the prisoner were a man of rank and substance, there was also his ransom to be collected. When King John of France was captured by the Black Prince at Poitiers his ransom was fixed at three million golden crowns, and the French King remained a prisoner of war in England until the ransom was paid. It was at Poitiers that the English missed a ransom. Among the prisoners was Archibald, Earl of Douglas, one of the many Scots who served with the French against the English in those days. Another Scot, seeing Douglas, bullied the English general, and ordered him to "Pull my boots off, you base knave." English knights standing by protested. "How dare you speak thus to a man of rank?" one said, "Man of rank!" the Scot snorted. "He's nothing but a base varlet tricked out in his master's clothes. Doubtless he has murdered his master." Then the Scottish knight kicked Earl Douglas on that part of the anatomy which Nature has designed as the target for kicks and ordered him to get out and
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flavours about that story. We left banner to derive the honourable designation.

It was nicknamed in the camp Latin "salarium" and it was not always easy to service it. Each of his knights drew one shilling and eightpence a day. Among the Welsh levies who followed the English King's banner to France, the chaplain got sixpence a day. The bowmen, the herd, five ensigns, and 27 ensigns of officers got 20 shillings, got fourpence a day each. In these days of high fees and low stipends, it is interesting to note that in Plantagenet England, the Fee was paid at a higher rate than the M.O. The fee was set at 24s. per day, and a sixpence a day, other foot soldiers only two pence. An Earl received the lawyer's fee of six and eightpence a day. Knights banneret, who differed from ordinary knights in that they received a knight's fee for the last year in action, were paid at the rate of four shillings a day.

The rates of pay at Agincourt, not quite 60 years later, were substantially the same, though a little higher. When you compare them with the rates paid to the Regular Army up to the time of the last war, the advance has been very little, and when the purchasing power of money is taken into consideration, the raciones of Mons were worse paid than the bowmen of Agincourt. A soldier paid more than he drank today than his ancestor earned in 18th War. In the days of Henry VIII, beer in England was only fourpence a gallon. Is it any wonder that the student of history looks regretfully back at the past. The steeply ascending graph of the price of beer, compared with the flat trajectory of the rise in Army pay convinced me long ago that economics is one of the saddest of sciences.

Rates of pay during the English Civil War are also worth considering. In King Charles' army, a captain was paid for seven men: one captain, one lieutenant, one ensign, three sergeants, three corporals, three drummers and 188 rank and file. Their aggregate daily pay was £7 8s. 10d. It must be remembered that the headmaster had to depend for funds on the loyalty and generosity of his adherents. Consequently, the 'pay of the soldier was in arrears more often than not. In fact, the same situation pertained in the armies of the Parliament, which had greater facilities for raising money from the confiscations of the New Model Army, a lieut.-colonel of infantry was paid at the rate of £4 3s. 4d a week; a captain at £2 10s. 7d a week, and a private at 3/6 a week or sixpence a day. A lieut.-colonel of cavalry was paid £5 a week; a captain £4 10s. 6d; and a horse; a captain £5, and a trooper 10s. a week. An artilleryman received £1 10s. a week. Rushworth, a historian of the period, relates that Thonardagh's Nottinghamshire Horse served for five years and received barely six shillings a week each during the whole of that period. Their arrears of pay amounted to £4,000. Students of the history of the period will remember that Charles I surrendered the Scots, who had come south to fight in alliance with the English Parliament, when his last army was defeated. The pay of privates due to the Scots was the condition on which they handed the King over to the English Parliament. It was on these days, too, that the punishment of cashing was first referred to in official documents. Nowadays only an officer is cashiered, and next to death or imprisonment it is the most disgraceful punishment that can be inflicted by sentence of court-martial. Consequently it is inflicted only for some very serious offence. In Cromwell's day, cashing was not a very serious matter. We read of private soldiers being cashiered and punished for obeisance of subordination. What happened was they were given their arrears of pay and dismissed from the service. There was no attached stigma. The cashiered man could find his way home, or join the regiment next door, as he pleased.

When the standing Army came into being in Charles II's day, army pay became more or less established and, unfortunately, stationary.

Under the command of Captain C. Shipley, of H.M.S. "Hippomane," and Brigadier Drummond, a force was landed about 30 miles to the south of the great river on the flank, when the enemy had a post. The object of this landing was to establish water communication with the country to the rear of the fort at New Amsterdam, and to cut off a considerable Dutch force at another post; and on the same day, H.M.S. "Emerald," "Pandour" and "Drake" attacked Brants Point, where there was a battery of seven eighteen-pounders. These were soon silenced. The Dutch withdrew and a detachment of our troops landed and took possession of the work, which commanded the entrance to the Surinam River. The frigates and smaller vessels then sailed into the river. The Dutch commodore now raised a lament on boards. "Emerald," as the flagship, the "Centaur," from her greater draught of water, could not approach. Captain Maxwell of the "Centaur" and Captain W. Drummond of the 60th were sent up the river with a flag of truce to demand surrender. As the Governor refused to surrender, no time was lost in compelling him to do so.

"Nothing," says Sir Charles Green, in his despatch, "can be more difficult of approach than the Surinam." The enemy's navigators called it "The Wild Coast." Its shores are accessible only by the mouths of its rivers. Everywhere they are covered by dangerous banks, quicksands, rocks and impenetrable thickets. The appearance of the coast from the sea is wild and uninviting. The country is so flat that, even where there are plantations along the coast, there is often little visibility at first but a continuous forest close to the beach, sough that the country appears like a line of trees staring abruptly from the water. The shores on either side of the Surinam River were equally difficult of approach, until the battery of Frederici was reached, with the exception of one plantation among the backwaters. The enemy were, therefore, very strongly fortified with redoubts, while ships of war and other armed vessels commanded the still flow of the river that ran so turbidly to the sea. At the confluence of the Surinam with the Commewina River, stood the Fort of New Amsterdam, mounting 80 pieces of cannon. Near the same place, but on the right bank of the Surinam was Port Leyden, armed with 12 heavy guns, and commanded by Fort Amsterdam at a distance of 200 yards. Lower down the river, occupying the right and left banks, were the two 12-gun forts of Frederici and Pomerendum. The latter is called after an old walled town on the western shore of the Zuyder Zee. The area between these forts was a tenealed wilderness, impenetrable forests. They could give cross-fire which completely commanded the navigation of the river.

Putting the capital of the province, situated on the left bank of the Surinam, and six miles from its mouth, was also defended by a powerful ten-gun battery, called Fort Zeelandia. The town was in the form of an oblong. Its streets were lined with neatly trimmed trees. The whole town was landscaped in the Dutch fashion with orange, shaddock, lemon and tamarind trees. The fort protected it on the east. A large savannah lay to the west, and an impervious forest to the north-west.
On April 28, the squadron resumed operations by moving up the Surinam to attack Fort Purmerend. Next day, Lieut.-Colonel Shipley of the Royal Engineers, and several of his men, led his force into the village, and attacked the enemy, who were retreating. A force of 200 men engaged the enemy and took possession of the town, and the British captured many prisoners.

**MAGINOT LINE RECLAIMED**

The Maginot Line, in which millions of Frenchmen once placed reliance, is today busy again, but not with military activity. For the mighty French fortress system that was supposed to stop the Nazis at the border is now in the process of being reclaimed for military use.

The French had already started a single fort by 1404, the French had pre-empted some of the best farm lands in northern France for military purposes. Rich fields were stripped to provide places for gun emplacements, pill-boxes, tank traps and other paraphernalia of war.

Now that the Line has no more usefulness, the Nazis have thrown the process into reverse. More than 300 thousand acres of fertile fields that lay in the danger zone already have been put back into production.

To do this work, the Nazi labour battalions have been aided by thousands of French soldiers-prisoners. Captured tanks, 500 tractors and 7,000 horses were pressed into service. But, here and there, some of the mightiest forts of the conquered Line remain as show places and points of interest for German tourists.

**SYRIA BECOMES FRIENDLY**

After the British and Free French defeated the Vichy forces there, Syria was at first both suspicious and resentful. But, recently, the feeling toward the Allies has shifted to one of friendliness and sympathy. So reports a Christian Science Monitor correspondent on the scene. He cables that although Allied military transports are now the commonest things on Syria’s highways, not a single truck or car is allowed to pass the hilly land without receiving an ovation. Dislike for the Nazis was expressed from the first, but now only are the Syrians showing an enthusiasm for the Allied occupation.

This general atmosphere has communicated itself to the Vichy officials and men who have not yet embarked for France. Many thousands of them are joining the Free French cause. The machinations of General Henri Dents, the former Vichy Commander in Syria, have backfired. Many of the most recent recruits to General de Gaulle’s forces admit they have been motivated by disgust at the attempts of the Vichy authorities in Syria to decoy them into returning to France. In their place their families and baggage were sent to embarkation ports by press-gang methods.

And any who sought to remain with the Free French were denounced as deserters. Some were even arrested—and released only after Allied protests.

One good reason for the Syrian change of heart is that they have much better prospects for independence under Allied control than under France. Vichy already had ignored the agreement that was to give Syria its freedom in 1940.

**FRENCH FLOUR SACKS**

Many French political actions are no longer pleasing to the people of free nations. But, despite the collaboration which Germany imposed upon them, the French people apparently haven’t changed much. They’re still simple, thrifty and ingenious. The people of unoccupied France have received thousands of sacks of flour as gifts from the United States. These are distributed by the Red Cross.

After the sack is emptied, the French woman who received it supposed to note the material of the sack in which the flour was distributed. To an American, this material might seem the most valuable part of the package—except for the flour itself. The sack is scrubbed to remove any traces of flour, and washed. Then the sack is pressed into service. For years previous to 1940, the sack was used for anything from sheets to aprons, dresses and shirts. For the purpose of many of these, the sack is put to further service. It is combed into yarn, from which several thousand suits of romper have been knitted.

**CRETE GUERRILLAS**

Although little is heard about Crete now-days, there is still bitter resistance to Nazi rule there. According to reports from the Near East, Guerrilla warfare continues among the mountain crags of the island, where thousands of Australians, New Zealanders and Britons are said to have been left behind in May’s evacuation.

These men are hiding in the mountainous back country, perilously befriended and fed by the natives, in their families and baggage were sent to carry on supplies, watching with especial eagerness for opportunities to obtain ammunition.

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At the meeting of the State Executive on November 26 there were present Colonel Olden (chairman) and Messrs. Watt, Kahan, James, Zeffert, Fairley, Wood, Paton, Smith, Warner, Abbott, and Newton. Leave of absence was granted to the remainder of the executive.

Hospital Visiting.—Mr. H. Kahan presented the report of a meeting on November 3, which was attended by representatives of metropolitan sub-branches adjacent to hospitals. The report was adopted, with the following additions—N. Engleam was included among the sub-branches directly concerned with visits to the Naval Base Convalescent-Depot, West Leederville, Subiaco, and Mt. Hawthorn sub-branches were appointed visitors to the St. John of God Hospital, and Mr. Fairley will also visit 110 Garrison Hospital, Davis-road.

Armistice Day.—The State Secretary submitted a report on Armistice and Poppy Days. The report referred to the excellent parade of the Garrison Battalions, and the work of the fifteen buglers, twelve of whom were detailed from the Western Command, who sounded the calls at city street intersections; the luncheon to the sick and wounded; the change-over at the State War Memorial on November 19, and the magnificent response of the public to the annual poppy appeal, the estimated sales of which were 80,000, or 20,000 more than those of last year. The executive expressed appreciation of this result of the appeal, and of the efficient and loyal service of the staff in the successful issue of the appeal. It was agreed that a meeting of metropolitan sub-branches be called for the purpose of reviewing the features of the appeal.

S.S.L.—A report of the S.S.L. Committee was presented by the State Warden, Mr. R. Nicholas. After consideration it was resolved that a committee, consisting of Messrs. Watt, Zeffert, and Abbott, be appointed, with power to co-opt others, and to go into the questions raised in the report. It was resolved that the S.S.L. committee be asked to give further consideration to the proposal to cancel the picnic this year.

Welcome Committee.—A report, presented by Mr. Kahan, referred to the recent meeting of a hospital ship, and the entertainment of patients in the upper room at Anzac House. It also referred to the welcome extended to Col. L. Riley, a former vice-president of the W.A. branch. In receiving the report the executive decided to send a letter of appreciation to the State Executive of the Women's Auxiliaries for their excellent service and ready co-operation at the two functions.

Visits.—Reports on visits were received as follows:—Messrs. Watt and Zeffert reported on visiting the Thomas-street State School on Armistice Day, and on the impressive function carried out there. Other visits were reported by Messrs. Watt (A.R.M.S. committee), Mr. H. K. Kahan (Claremont sub-branch and ex-Naval Men’s Reunion), Mr. D. W. Paton (Fremantle sub-branch), Mr. V. Abbott (Flying Corps Association), Colonel Olden submitted a short interim report in connection with the Federal Congress, after which it was agreed that an expression of sympathy with the Federal President (Sir Gilbert Dyett) on his illness be conveyed by wire.

Welcome.—The senior vice-president extended a cordial welcome to Mr. Newton, who was appointed to the executive vice Mr. R. A. Keeling.

Broadcast Rover.—The following roster for R.S.L. broadcasts was arranged:—December 3, Mr. Fairley; December 10, Mr. D. W. Paton; December 17, Mr. A. V. Abbott; December 24, Mr. M. E. Zeffert; December 31, Mr. H. K. Kahan; January 7, Mr. R. A. Keeling; January 14, Mr. H. E. Smith; January 21, Mr. D. W. Paton.

The executive decided to continue membership of the W.A. League of Service.

Christmas Cards.—It was agreed that no Christmas cards be purchased this year, and that the annual greetings from the State president and the executive be conveyed to sub-branches in the State secretary’s circular.

Precedence.—The State secretary submitted information concerning the status of a Commonwealth public servant who had enlisted in the A.I.F., as compared with that of another who had not. Another portion of the report dealt with the employment of aliens in the mining industry. The report was referred to the Pensions and Employment Committee.

Committees.—Mr. W. H. Newton was appointed a member of the Club and House Committee, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. R. A. Keeling. The report of the R.S.L. Welcome Committee dealt with a visit to a hospital ship which passed through Fremantle some time ago. Complaints had been received in regard to delay in evacuation to Australia, the bad conditions at a hospital overseas, the alleged misuse of Australian comforts, and, in some cases, pilfering. The information was sent to the Federal Executive, and this action was approved.

Visits.—The following visits were reported:—Mr. H. E. Smith (Subiaco and Bassendean), Mr. T. W. Edmondson (Kukerin Newdegate, Katanning and Subiaco), Colonel Olden (Fremantle War Memorial, Diggers’ hospital) and Subiaco Sub-branch, of the Subiaco, and Mr. O. J. Williams (Kalgoorlie).

Federal Congress.—Mr. Williams submitted the report of the West Australian delegates to the Federal Congress. It showed that over 400 items had been dealt with by the congress. Of the items submitted by the West Australian branch, 20 were carried, 14 lost, and four were withdrawn. Nine were covered by other items and withdrawn after explanation. Items referred to State branches, one was referred to the Federal Congress, and one was referred to the Federal Executive. Expressions of appreciation for

R. N. Mooney

Fruit.—Produce Merchant and Commission Agent, Metropolitan Markets, West Perth. Potatoes, Onions, Java Bananas, Fruits in Season. All North-West ports Supplied.

Contractors to AUSTRALIAN MILITARY CAMPS
hospitality extended throughout the trip were also contained in the report. The report was received and adopted, and the delegates, Messrs. Temple and Williams and the assistant State secretary (Mr. Ferguson), were thanked for their representation.

Commissioned Officers and Conscription.—The South Australian branch sought freedom of speech on matters of national policy so far as returned soldiers on military duty were concerned, particular reference being made to conscription. The branch also urged that a special meeting of Federal Congress be called to implement a conscription campaign in all States. It was agreed that the State president should forward a reply not approving of the calling of a special meeting of Federal Congress, as the matter was dealt with at the congress recently held in Brisbane, and the Government had not replied to representations made. It also pointed out that commissioned officers were subject to army regulations.

Annual Report, Canteen Funds.—This was laid on the table for the information of delegates.

Army Education Scheme.—The Press sub-branch forwarded a resolution concerning the army education scheme, making certain suggestions in regard thereto. Delegates were reminded that some time ago the Director of Education had requested a representative of this league to act on a council for the education of the services, a meeting of which had not yet been called. It was agreed to get in touch with the director and request that a meeting be held.

Complaints Returning Hospital Patients.—A communication was received from J. Newell, prisoner of war in Germany, in which he requested cigarettes, etc. The matter has been brought under the notice of the Red Cross Society.

Bayswater Women's Auxiliary.—The Bayswater sub-branch sought permission to re-form their women's auxiliary. Permission was granted, and the women's auxiliary State executive advised.

Complaints Returning Hospital Patients.—A report of the R.S.L. Welcome Committee which was submitted to the State executive on April 16, 1941, had been referred by Colonel Collett to the Minister for the Army. The Minister's reply was submitted for the information of delegates. A delay had occurred because inquiries had to be made in the Middle East and elsewhere. The incidents related were regretted, and it was considered that the conditions under which A.I.F. personnel are now returning to Australia are unlikely to give rise to a similar occurrence.

Mercantile Marine.—The Fremantle sub-branch urged that the authorities issue a badge to the nearest female relative of members of the mercantile marine who lose their lives through enemy action. It was agreed that the matter be referred to the Federal Executive.

Local Products' League.—This league requested the appointment of a representative to act on its committee. The matter was referred to the Empire and Local Trading Committee.

Appointment Sub-branch Official.—The appointment of officials as advised by the Ora Banda-Gran's Patch sub-branch was confirmed.

Disposal Guns King's Park.—The secretary of the King's Park Board asked if this league had any objection to the board disposing of several guns at the various memorials in King's Park for the purpose of munition making. It was agreed that this executive was not in a position to express an opinion, but that the matter should be referred to the unit associations concerned, who no doubt would consider that the guns had a sentimental and historical value.

Hospital Visiting.—The Cottesloe sub-branch reported having visited Lady Mitchell's Convalescent Home.

Next Meeting.—It was agreed that the next meeting of the State Executive should take place on January 7, 1942.

Sub-Branch Activities

GLouceSTER PARK

In our last issue we referred to the members of Gloucester Park as "The Trammin's." Our Gloucester Park correspondents have since

OATMEAL STOUT

A NEW PRODUCT OF THE KALGOORLIE BREWERY

OBTAINABLE at all LEADING HOTELS & CLUBS
reminded us that the members of the sub-branch has just signed up three new members who have returned from the present war. Others not awaiting discharge will soon be joining as well. Gloucester Park wishes the rest of the league the season's greetings.

**T. AND P.D.S. ASSOCIATION**

The Lord Mayor of Perth (Dr. T. W. Meagher) performed the official opening of the Totally and Permanently Disabled Soldiers' Association Rest Room on December 4. There was a record attendance of members.

Among the guests were Mr. E. Needham, M.L.A., Mr. H. T. Berry, M.L.A., the Mayor of Fremantle (Mr. F. E. Gibson), Councillor Melvin, J.P., and Messrs. L. Vick and A. McTavish. The following office-bearers were elected: President, W. P. Griffiths; vice-presidents, H. W. Rigg and G. W. McPhee; treasurer, A. Wallace; secretary, W. H. Carr Boyd; assistant secretary, M. McInnes; committee, Messrs. L. S. Averly, E. W. Munyard, A. Wallace, S. Newham, J. Johnson, J. Forbes, J. Moorman, and H. Burridge; liaison officer, B. J. Wahle.

**WOOROOLOO**

Vice-president G. Cornford was in the chair at the monthly meeting on November 29. Many letters of appreciation have been received from lads who enlisted from the district in respect of canteen orders sent to them by the sub-branch. It was decided to send them all the season's greetings. The secretary (Tom Crosse) is putting in a lot of useful work for the sub-branch, and the recently-formed social committee has got into its stride by organising dances for charitable purposes. The annual visit will be paid to the ex-service men in the local sanatorium on Christmas morning, when Christmas cheer will be distributed to patients. It was also decided to hold a raffle for the amelioration fund. An effort is being made to enlist all the ex-service men of the district in the sub-branch. Members were pleased to hear of the promotions of old comrades serving with the force: Captains H. Allen, Captain S. Evans, Sergeant J. Allen, Staff-Sergeant G. Mitchell, and Petty Officer Vickery (R.A.N.).

**OSBORNE PARK**

During November Mr. A. Dane presided over good meetings. Good results were reported from the Poppy Day Appeal. The Popular Girl competition, held in connection with the Patriotic Show on November 29, resulted in a win for Miss Florrie Guelchi, the representative of the Osborne Park Ladies' Camp Comforts Fund and the Osborne sub-branch. Her votes were valued at nearly £150. The final results amounted to £500. Miss Roden, nominated by the Yugoslav Society, was second, Miss Kennedy (Red Cross) third, and Miss Hamer (Yokine sub-branch) fourth. The proceeds of the show are being deposited in the society and the Camp Comforts Fund. There was a large attendance at the Hallowe'en party organised by the sub-branch. The customary games of "duck apple" and so on were interspersed with old-time dances. These were conducted by the local "witches" and "broom-sticks". The witches' cauldron was in working order, and many prophecies were distributed amidst sulphuric flames. The event was one of the most novel and successful yet staged. The sub-branch extended season's greetings to the State Executive and all other sub-branches.

**BUNBURY**

One of the outstanding functions of the year was the annual reunion. Approximately one hundred were present. Among the visitors were the State President (Mr. A. Yeates), the assistant State secretary (Mr. C. Ferguson), the president of No. 1 District Council (Mr. D. Johnstone), and representatives of the Collie, Pemberton, Pinjarra, Mr. Lawley, Leederville, Harvey, Kalgoorlie, and Coolgardie (Victoria) sub-branches. Speakers were in good form. Among those filling 'place of was the O.C. Garrison Company (Frank Sice), who, for the occasion, nearly convinced his audience of the romanticism of the paid corps. It was reported that Mr. Wood was eloquent and forceful in his comments on the apparent apathy of many of the younger generation of to-day. The president (Bob Gibson), looking none the older for his seventh year in the chair, spoke feelingly of the beholding of all company sergeants-major. Bill McKenna ably lauded the constructiveness of the civic fathers, while Ted Piggott was favoured with the most popular toast of the evening. Almost to the embarrassment of previous speakers, he had the opportunity of extolling the excellent work carried out by members of the women's auxiliary. Mr. Harry Joel's orchestra and the very pleasant items comforted by Mr. Ron Taman, were in large measure responsible for the success of the social side of the function.

**NEDLANDS**

At the general meeting on November 11 the balance sheet showed that the financial affairs of the sub-branch were in a healthy condition. Mr. Perry reported that the Choral Society would hold a night during December. The secretary reported a record in connection with this year's poppy sales, the amount realised being £170. Major-General Jackson addressed members on "The War In retrospect." At the close of the meeting the G.O.C. was awarded a special mention from the Governor, of his own initiative, he made himself a financial member of the sub-branch. The annual dinner was held on November 12. The president (Mr. T. S. Edmonds) was in the chair and the guests of honour included the State president (Mr. A. Yeates), Mr. Norbert Keenan, M.L.A., the auxiliary State president (Mrs. J. McInlay), the chairman of the Nedlands Road Board (Mr. Kentis), and Mrs. Kentis, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Benson, and Padre Jacquet. Musical items were rendered by Miss Carmel Burrows (violin), Mr. Lenegar (songs), and the orchestra of the Burrows Sisters and Mrs. Joan Day. During...
the evening the State president presented the Newdegate Cup, which has been won by the sub-branch for the second year in succession.

**VICTORIA PARK**

On November 12 the R.S.L. Hall was packed by the large crowd who had come to welcome 13 members of the present A.I.F. who have returned from active service abroad. The Lord Mayor (Dr. T. W. Meagher) officially welcomed the new returned men, and he was supported by Mr. C. McIntosh. Corporal Portsmouth responded on behalf of the guests. An entertaining programme was arranged for the evening. Miss Thelma Barry's pupils rendered some excellent items, and dancing kept the party merry until a late hour. It is the intention of the sub-branch to hold similar "welcomes" as the occasions arise.

**SHENTON PARK**

A meeting was held on Monday, December 1, and was well attended. The results of the Poppy Day appeal were received, and a fairly heavy carry-over somewhat reduced the cash results. Messrs. Ogg and Strachan were appointed to attend the next meeting of representatives in connection with arrangements for military hospital visiting. This matter should be finally arranged early in 1942. Members, please note: No meeting in January unless specially called.

**NORTH-EAST FREMANTLE**

The monthly meeting was held on November 24, with Mr. Tomlin in the chair and a good number of members present. Mr. Paton reported on the "Welcome Home" Committee. A report by the treasurer on "Poppy Day" appeal showed an improvement on last year. Three new members were given a hearty welcome—Mr. F. Cann, Mr. Gibbons, and Mr. Burt. A welcome was also given to Mr. Coles, a vice-president from the Albany branch, who gave a brief review of the activities of his sub-branch. It was decided to instruct our delegates to conference to try to get the train to Northam on Sundays to go through to Fremantle, and save the inconvenience to people returning without having to wait for long periods in Perth before proceeding to Fremantle. Delegates will also see whether recognition be given to the Merchant Service as being on active service, and entitled to all benefits of returned men in the league. The sick visitor (Mr. Frederick) reported on visiting sick members in hospital. The local unit of the Home Guard is still going strong under the able leadership of Mr. Les. Charlton. Enlist now, boys, and build up the unit. We have Lewis guns, Vickers, signal section, ambulance section, bombing section—in fact, everything. Parades are held every Sunday morning at East Fremantle Oval at 10 o'clock. We are shortly to have another all-day stunt, the area this time being Armadale. Sunday, December 31, is a surprise packet. Keep it in mind.

**ARMADALE**

The monthly meeting was held on November 12, the president (Mr. Spencer Gwynne) officially welcomed the new members, in the chair, and an inspection of the sub-branch to hold similar "welcomes" as the occasions arise. This trusty friend of the "Old Diggers" is now being supplied to the Commonwealth Military Forces.

(All Westralian Leather)

Pearse Bros. Ltd.

**NORTH FREMANTLE**

**WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES**

**STATE EXECUTIVE**

On November 24 the combined auxiliaries' quarterly social was to have been held at Anzac House, Subiaco auxiliary supplying the...
programme. Shortly after 8 o'clock about 280 boys from a hospital ship arrived unexpectedly, and were also entertained by the auxiliaries till 11 p.m. The supper provided for the social was very willingly sent to the Red Cross ladies in the supper room for the boys, and a wonderful evening was spent. The spontaneity and wholeheartedness with which the auxiliaries acted went to show that they are just as keen for the new digger as for the old. Several short acquaintances were renewed between members and boys. On November 26 Mrs. Stone entertained executive members to afternoon tea at her home, just as a parting gesture, seeing she did not seek re-election on the State executive this year. The approach of Christmas means that Diggers in all institutions must be remembered, so, for the intervening days, members will be very busy. On December 22 the State executive of women's auxiliaries are entertaining all returned Diggers from the present war who are in hospital to a luncheon at Anzac House. The State executive wishes all auxiliary members and readers of "The Listening Post" the compliments of the season, and trusts the new year will bring better, brighter, and happier days for us all.

F.U.S.W.

At the Christmas party of the Friendly Union of Sailors, Soldiers, and Airmen's Wives, Mothers, Sisters, and Daughters, His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir James Mitchell) and Lady Mitchell were present, accompanied by Colonel Manning and Mrs. Manning. Mrs. Harold Dean, M.B.E., president over six hundred members. Mrs. Dean received the vice-regal guests and other guests, including the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress (Dr. and Mrs. Meagher), the Minister for Health (Mr. Fanton), Mrs. C. Farquhar-Smith, the Consul for America (Mr. Mason Turner) and Mrs. Mason Turner, Mrs. R. H. Moore, Mrs. N. Brearley, Col. T. C. Wilson and Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. E. Clear, and Mrs. Walsh (hon. secretary and treasurer), Misses Joy Percy and Miss Biddy Baker (president and treasurer of the Younger Set, F.U.S.W.). Mrs. Dean presented the Lord Mayor, who is president of the Citizens' Reception Committee, with a cheque for £50 towards the new hostel, and also promised, with the unanimous wish of the members, a cheque for £50 towards the building of the new Sydney. Mrs. Henry Greig arranged the musical programme presented, which was contributed to by Mr. David Lyle (songs), Miss Betty Higham (recitation), and Mrs. Elsie Clear, who sang "Land of Hope and Glory." Mrs. Greig accompanied the singers. During the proceedings the Lieutenant-Governor made presentations to several men from the Royal Humane Society for acts of bravery. Mrs. Dean made presentations to Mrs. E. Lynch, the retiring treasurer, who, through ill-health, has had to retire, after many years of service, and Mrs. S. Vincent (chairman of the refreshment committee). The former received a handbag, and the latter an anniversary case. Afternoon tea was served on tables decorated with beautiful roses and fern, and the Christmas cake was cut by Lady Mitchell.

BOULDER

Boulder auxiliaries are continuing with their good work of sending parcels to the overseas men. Nearly 400 Christmas parcels were sent to the Navy, Army, and Air Forces, and to six nurses. Many letters of appreciation are still coming in, so there is no doubt the boys do enjoy a parcel from their home town. Plans are well in hand for a carnival dance to be held on Boxing Night. This should prove

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**FIRE MARINE ACCIDENT**

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- **PRICE:** 12/6.

**Sold Exclusively by FOY'S**
the success that all auxiliary functions seem to be. At their last meeting the president (Mrs. Bosstow) thanked all members for their willing co-operation through the past year.

MOUNT HAWTHORN

Poppy Day is over again, and our ladies worked harder than ever, with record sales of over £90. Our energetic worker, Mrs. Shepherd, did very well to sell over £8 worth. Letters of thanks were received from the Reception Committee for our assistance in collecting for the Soldiers’ Reception Hotel and the Y.M.C.A., to whom a donation was sent. Mrs. Lee handed in a lovely wool rug. The squares were knitted by members and friends. Mrs. Lee stitched them together. It is to be sent to the new Hollywood Hospital. Members are now knitting hard to make another one. The auxiliary spent a happy day at Araluen, together with friends. A few mishaps occurred, unfortunately. However, we hope Mrs. Ashdown has now recovered. Ladies made their fortnightly visit to the Repat, and, as usual, were well received by the sick Diggers. Mrs. Moxham’s little girl handed in 6s., collected by herself for the R.S.L. Auxiliary. Christmas cheer will be carried out as always.

SOUTH PERTH

The yearly entertainment to the old boys from Sunset Home was a very enjoyable affair. The boys were picked up at the home and conveyed to Swan-street Hotel, where high tea was served and musical items were rendered by various members. The outstanding feature of the entertainment was the music supplied by Mr. De Laeter and his orchestra, which was warmly applauded. The State president attended, and thanked the auxiliary for the good work done during the year. She was delighted to see the old boys at South Perth again. Mrs. Stockwin and Mrs. Randall also attended, and spoke feelingly of the kindness shown by all to returned soldiers generally, especially the presenting of 50 vases to the old men for their lockers.

Mr. Heales (secretary of the sub-branch) represented the president, and thanked all for the splendid day given the old boys. All members are at present very busy sewing and knitting for the Naval Base Convalescent Home. They will present three knitted quilts when these are completed at a near date. The auxiliary will hold a river trip on January 13. Tickets are on sale from members, and the committee hope all auxiliaries will be aboard. The secretary (Mrs. Notis) is going to Adelaide, under doctor’s orders. All members regret the cause, and hope she will soon return in a much better state of health. The president and members wish all other auxiliaries a prosperous new year, and hope to see the cessation of hostilities and peace resumed during the coming year.

VICTORIA PARK

There was a record attendance at the November meeting, several new members joining and old ones linking up again. Arrangements were made for the Christmas cheer to be given to the various hospitals, especially the Edward Millen. There will be an afternoon tea and a concert party for Edward Millen on Sunday, December 21, at 2 p.m. A collection in support of the Y.M.C.A. Service Appeal was taken. Donations were acknowledged for the wool fund from Mrs. Moxham, Buchanan, and Harvey (social afternoon), Mead, Stockton, Mitchell, Richardson, Mrs. Turpin, and Mrs. Perks. A collection was also made for the Naval Auxiliary W. R. S. L. The Victoria Park Auxiliary extends greetings to the “Listening Post” staff, also to other auxiliary members in the hope for a prosperous and peaceful new year.

SUBIACO

At the monthly meeting 50 members were present. The president (Mrs. Turpin) welcomed Mrs. Grosse back after her illness, and Mrs. Pope, a new member. Miss E. M. Gunning tendered her resignation as secretary, and Mrs. B. Brown was duly elected to fill the vacancy. The annual fete held on November 7 was very successful, in spite of inclement weather. It was opened by the State president (Mrs. McKinley). Medamas, Carrell-Oliver and Hopperton, Mr. and Mrs. Richardson (Mayor and Mayoress of Subiaco), and Mr. McCormick were present for the opening ceremony. The auxiliary birthday party was held on November 19, and members from various auxiliaries, including the State president (Mrs. McKinley) and secretary (Mrs. Hopperton) were among the guests. A very enjoyable evening was the result. We wish to thank the Waroona Auxiliary for their donations each month for Lemnos, where members of the auxiliary spent an enjoyable afternoon on November 12. The president (Mrs. Turpin) thanked Mrs. Strue for the wonderful job she does at Lemnos, with the aid of Mrs. McMahon, in entertaining the men. Letters of thanks were received from the sub-branch president and secretary for help accorded them by auxiliary members on Poppy Day. Mrs. James reported visiting the Home of Peace and Hospital, and Mrs. Coridgon reported having sent 15 parcels overseas from our camp comforts. The Camp Comforts Committee would like it to be known that they hold a bridge party every Tuesday afternoon in the R.S.L. Hall, Townshend-road, Subiaco, at 2 p.m. Admission, 1s. each. The auxiliary concert party visited the Lady Mitchell Convalescent Home on November 29, and a very enjoyable evening resulted. Special mention was made of the concerted items—"The Wedding of the Painted Doll," "The Hawaiians," and the Nigger Minstrels—which all called forth a great deal of hearty laughter and enjoyment from the audience.
ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICE MEN
RATES: £1/1/- PER ANNUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Place of Meeting</th>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTILLERY COMRADES' ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>Last Friday each month</td>
<td>W. Beadie, 450 Newcastle Street, Perth</td>
<td>Jack Kenny, 138 Sirih Avenue, Inglewood</td>
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<tr>
<td>BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>When necessary</td>
<td>D. M. Benson, Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>Mrs. W. James, 18 Marion Street, Leederville</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th BATTALION ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>Monthly lincheon, 1 p.m. on 11th of month</td>
<td>W. Kruger, 79 St. Leonard's Avenue, Leederville</td>
<td>R. W. Blair, 79 William Street, Perth</td>
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<tr>
<td>EX-MACHINE GUNNERS' ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Gregson's, 32 King Street, Perth</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>A. C. Jackson, c/o F. H. Faulding Ltd., Perth</td>
<td>E. S. Everett, Temple Court Garage, Perth</td>
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<tr>
<td>44th ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>As Advertised</td>
<td>Annual reunion, Monday of Show Week</td>
<td>M. Lewis, 530 Fitzgerald St. North Perth</td>
<td>E. C. Rose, 65 Fairfield Street, Mt. Hawthorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDICAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>3rd Thursday, quarterly</td>
<td>Dr. C. H. Leedean, chairman</td>
<td>H. W. Rigg, 26 Elizabeth Street, North Perth</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th BATTALION ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Committee, as arranged</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>Col. E. L. Marqoll, 62 Tryrell Street, Nedlands</td>
<td>E. J. Massey, 41 Harvey St., Victoria Park</td>
</tr>
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<td>26th BATTALION ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>2nd Monday</td>
<td>E. Morse, 72 Second Avenue, Mt. Lawley</td>
<td>W. C. Armstrong, 20 Rutalip Street, West Leederville</td>
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<tr>
<td>32nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Nearest Saturday, July 19</td>
<td>2nd Saturday</td>
<td>L. D. Loharcher, 27 2nd Floor, Economic Chambers, Perth</td>
<td>J. Rutherford, 5 Elizabeth Street, North Perth</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>2nd Wednesday, November</td>
<td>Sydney Johnston, Ingwood Hotel</td>
<td>B. F. Perry, 22 Cooper Street, Nedlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th and 52nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>80 Bannerman Chambers, Perth</td>
<td>1st Pension day of the month at 3 p.m.</td>
<td>B. J. Walka, 47 Balmoral Street, Victoria Park</td>
<td>A. Cook, 168 Railway Terrace, Maryville</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTALLY and PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
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<td>W. H. Carr-Boyd, Commercial Hotel, Fremantle</td>
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<td>Phones: B6740, L2062</td>
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R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH DIRECTORY
RATES: £1/1/- PER ANNUM

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Branch</th>
<th>Place of Meeting</th>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
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<tr>
<td>ARMADALE</td>
<td>R.S.L. Clubrooms</td>
<td>2nd Wednesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Spencer Gwynne</td>
<td>J. Mclean</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>1st Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
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<td>E. W. Wheeler, Grey Street, (West) Albany</td>
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<td>1st Thursday, 8 p.m.</td>
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<td>R. Drannfield, Collingwood</td>
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<td>2nd Monday, 8 p.m.</td>
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<td>H. Fry, 72 Railway Parade, Leederville</td>
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<td>2nd Thursday, 8 p.m.</td>
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<td>E. J. Massey, 41 Harvey St., Victoria Park</td>
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<td>3rd Friday, 8 p.m.</td>
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<td>B. F. Perry, 22 Cooper Street, Nedlands</td>
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<td>3rd Saturday, 8 p.m.</td>
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<td>L. M. Power, Bassendean</td>
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<td>4th Monday, 8 a.m.</td>
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<td>J. H. McGuigan, East Cannington</td>
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<td>4th Thursday, 8 p.m.</td>
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<td>John Lang, Cannington</td>
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<td>5th Friday, 8 p.m.</td>
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<td>H. May, Collie</td>
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<td>5th Saturday, 8 p.m.</td>
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**Sub-Branch** | **Place of Meeting** | **Date of Meeting** | **President** | **Secretary**
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GUTHA | R.S.I. Hall | 1st Sunday, 3 p.m. | E. Wray, Gutha | E. A. Matthews, Gutha
HARVEY | R.S.I. Hall | 2nd Tuesday, 8 p.m. | Rev. J. C. Lund, Uduc Road | J. M. R. Irving, c/o Uduc Road, Harvey
KALGOORLIE | Soldiers' Institute | Every 2nd Tuesday in month at 8 p.m.; Executive, alt. Fridays | J. I. Hylton, Great Boulder | D. F. Edwards, Kalgoorlie
KIMBERLEY | Derby | When called | Jock Sherrill | H. Ulrich
KATANNING | Clubrooms, Carew Street | Man. Committee, 3rd Sunday, after 2nd Tuesday in month | Jas. Old, Katanning | W. Bailey, Katanning
KELLERBERRIN | Tammin, meet quarterly | Quarterly (committee 1st Thursday in month) | T. O. Chambers, Kellerberrin | T. G. Griffin, Kellerberrin
KOORDA | Koorda | Last Saturday in quarter | H. E. Smith, Koorda | E. W. Robinson, Koorda
KUKURIN | Kukerin Hotel | When called at 3 p.m. | D. Hamilton, Kukerin | R. V. C. Davidson, Kukerin
KULIN | R.S.I. Institute | 1st Wednesday in month | C. G. Gordon, Kulin | W. A. Tumber
LAKE GRACE | Lake King Hall | 1st Thursday each month; commenced 2nd Thursday each month | H. A. Potham, Lake Grace | H. W. J. Sherry, Lake King
LAKE MARRAH | R.S.I. Hall, Manjimup | Alternate Thursday, 7.30 p.m. (penisit week) | J. H. Cote, 36 Parker Street | T. O. Chambers, Kellerberrin
MANJIMUP | | 1st Sunday in month | E. C. Grounds, Kellerberrin | C. H. Jacobsen, Neabind
MAYLANDS | | 1st Monday in month | F. C. whiteman, Maylands | E. B. Williams, Neabind
MENDIE | | 1st Tuesday in month | W. R. Thrap, Mendie | H. M. Kneke, Mendie
MIDDAY | | 1st Thursday in month | C. G. Gordon, Midday | H. A. Tumer, Midday
MIDLAND JUNCTION | | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
MOSMAN | | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
MOORA | R.S.I. Hall & John Street, Cottages | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
MT. BARKER | R.S.I. Hall & John Street, Cottages | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
MT. MAGNET | | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
MT. HAWTHORN-NORTH | | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
LEEDELLERIVE | R.S.I. Hall & John Street, Cottages | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
M. MARSHALL | R.S.I. Hall & John Street, Cottages | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
MT. LAWLEY-INGLEWOOD | | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
MUNDARING & DISTRICTS | | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
MULLEWA | | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
MARTYR, LOCH | R.S.I. Hall, Mullewa | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
NARROGIN | | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
NAREMBOON | R.S.I. Hall, Narrogin | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
NEDLANDS | R.S.I. Hall, Nedlands | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
NEWGATE | R.S.I. Hall, Newgate | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
NORTH-EAST FREMANTLE | | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
NORTHAMPTON | | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
NORTHAM | | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
NORTH PERTH | | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
OSBORNE PARK | | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
PERTH (Office hours: 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.) | | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
PINGLEY | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
PRESS | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
PITHARA | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
QUAIRADING-DANGIN | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
REEDY | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
SOUTHERN CROSS | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
SHEPHERD'S PARK | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
SHACKLETON-KWYLIN | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
SUBIACO | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
TAMWALLUP | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
TAYLING-YELBING | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
VICTORIA PARK | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
WEST LEEDELLERIVE - WEMBLEY | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
WUBIN | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
Y EA L E R I N G | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
YOURE | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
YOUANNI | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
WYALKATCHEM | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
WAROONA-HAMEL | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
WEST PERTH | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
WICKEPIN | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday
WILUNA | R.S.I. Hall | | | H. A. Tumer, Midday

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