WAR WITHOUT LIMITS

"We are, then, committed heart and soul to total warfare."

"Our fighting forces are born attackers. We will hit the enemy wherever we can, as often as we can. The extent of it will be measured only by the weapons to our hands. Be assured of the calibre of our national character."

— Extracts from Mr. Curtin's broadcast to the American people.

With the enemy establishing footholds on territory over which Australia holds a mandate, and with his aircraft bombing Australians on Australian soil, we need no reminder that our country is now in the front line. What we do need to be reminded of is the grim fact that we are about to enter a life-and-death grapple with an enemy who was a pioneer in the black art of that fiendish method of fighting, known as total warfare. To cope with such an enemy on anything like even terms, we must adopt many of his own methods, not necessarily those which are still barred by civilized races, but all those which are conducive to thoroughness and ultimate victory. In plain words, we must oppose this total warfare with an all-in effort—sparing nothing, neither ourselves nor our property, in our determination to achieve a final and decisive victory.

The methods of the gangster powers have become familiar by constant repetition. Like the larrkin and the gunman, they have sought to overawe potential opponents by establishing the legend of their own invincibility. Side by side with that has been the war of nerves, carried on by every available medium of publicity, with the object of terrifying the faint-hearted and discrediting leaders with grit enough to reject outrageous demands. It is this war of nerves which has done more than any other form of propaganda to beget Quislings and generate fifth column movements. It goes on, even after the war of guns and bullets has started. Its methods are the wild rumours that are passed from lip to lip; the whispering campaigns against those in authority; and the hundred-and-one other devices to stir up dissention, fears and chaos, at a time when the Australian people should be a calm, determined and united nation. The latest move in the war of nerves has been the Japanese Prime Minister’s impudent attempt to threaten and cajole the people of this country at one and at the same time. With that mixture of blandness and blatancy, which is so characteristic of the Axis spokesmen, General Tojo has warned us of the dreadful fate awaiting us if we continue to resist Japan, and then spoken of sympathetic treatment we will receive if we surrender unconditionally to the threat of invasion. Australia’s reply to this mixture of slime and bluster was expressed in the blunt, manly message broadcast to the American people by our own Prime Minister, John Curtin. As Australians, and particularly as Australian soldiers, we must feel a sense of deep gratification at the reception Mr. Curtin’s speech has had, not only from the Press and public of the United States, but from the Press and Radio commentators of the Empire and every other country with a free Press.

Turkish comment on the threat to Australia, and Australia’s reaction to that threat, has been both illuminating and heartening. No one knows better than the Turk the mettle of the Australian as a fighting man, while the Australian soldier has a similar respect for his opponents of the Peninsular and Palestine. This mutual regard has much in it of what Sir Walter Scott described as

“Th lost are might which warriors feel in foes whom worthy of their steel.”

There is more in it than the mere diplomatic utterances of public speakers. Australians who have seen service in the Middle East during this war are unanimous in reporting the kindness that was showered upon them whenever they chanced to meet Turks who had fought against the A.I.F. in the last war. The Turkish attitude was what might be expected from present Allies, rather than from former opponents. That such an attitude should exist is surely a compliment to both nations. The heartening feature of the Turkish comment is Ankara’s recognition of the grim determination with which the Australian soldier fights. Turkish spokesmen have gone so far as to say that Japan’s wavering between threats and cajolery are evidence of that country’s recognition of the difficulty the enemy will have in invading Australia. That difficulty seems to be the crux of the situation, and it is one of which full advantage must be taken while there is still time.

We have had sharp lessons of what can result from over-confidence and wishful thinking; but, even with the enemy on our threshold there is no reason for us to fly to the opposite evil of undue pessimism. It is bad enough to overestimate our advantages, but it would be far worse if we were to turn round and under-estimate the difficulties which confront a potential invader. There is no need to elaborate on those difficulties here. We all know the task the enemy has set himself in lengthening his communications to a dangerous degree in order to over-run a country the size of Australia. While we should realise that neither difficulty nor danger will deter the enemy in his frantic fight against time, we should keep those difficulties and dangers ever before our eyes. We must maintain those difficulties and increase them when and wherever possible. In our new-found spirit of the offensive, we must never forget that the best defence is the attack, and the greatest difficulty the Japanese will have to confront is the Australian soldier. As Mr. Curtin told the Americans, “We are the Anzac Breed.” Australians who have met the Japanese in action are convinced of the enemy’s inferiority when the personal equation is resolved into its simplest form of man-to-man. It is now our business to convince the Japanese of their inferiority as a nation. That can be done only by an all-in effort, and that all-in effort is the task before Australia today.
What We Owe to Ourselves

By COLONEL H. B. COLLETT

In January last you published words of mine regarding the duty which the League owes to our country. Today I would offer some comment on that duty which, in my opinion, the organisation owes to itself.

The League has gained high standing in the community. This is a result of its past efforts on behalf of its special proteges and in the conversation or promotion of all that is best in the national interests. For these very good and sufficient reasons it is most desirable that no threat to its prestige should be overlooked, nor any opportunity neglected for advancing its power and usefulness. It must always be borne in mind that it has its special functions, and in order to give emphasis to its status and whole purport, I quote a paraphrased extract from a recent periodical,

"... In its own sphere the League has no rival. It makes its own special contribution to loyal citizenship and the stability of our common life."

It is incumbent upon us, therefore, to endeavour now to mentally grasp the nature and magnitude of the problems, actual and potential, which confront us or may confront us in the near future. These may be of a three-fold character, i.e., international, national and domestic. All three groups command our consideration as citizens of a free country and supporters of Democracy. The first two are matters for the contemplation, primarily, of statesmen and implementation by governments—both of which will be swayed in their advocacy by the known feelings and expressed opinions of the aggregate of individuals.

But on domestic matters (as apart, and yet impinging upon national affairs) we should lose no time in informing ourselves so that courses of action, deemed to be desirable, may not be belated. Our dictum for the mobilisation of men, money and materials for war purposes is in process of being enforced. The requirements of defence have rendered this inevitable, but the recoil upon the community is severe, and already is creating difficulties innumerable, affecting both business and private interests. How to deal effectively with some of these difficulties in an undertaking which the League, by reason of its makeup, wide-spread organisation and strength, might profitably contemplate. In the task itself, it can be assured of strong support from the public.

Particularly should attention be directed, unerringly, to the guarding of the interests of service men and their dependants. Herein we should concede first place to the giving of our experience for the comfort and encouragement of those who may be disturbed by the course of recent events. They will respond readily to sound precept and example in respect to a fitting demeanour in private-endeavour and public service.

As to our younger comrades. If we review Australia's contribution to the war effort demanded by the present conflict, we cannot fail to be impressed by its great range as compared with that of 1914-18. The scrutiny will disclose the immense problem of the fighting services and the makers of munitions. Both bodies have a direct and vital purpose—in fact the whole nation is being mobilised for the one purpose: the achievement of victory; but the first is scattered around the globe, whilst the second is concentrated within our shores. The post-war reconstruction of industry, trade and commerce, and the re-absorption therein of those who served in any capacity, is the major undertaking of the future.

We must, I maintain, have a share in this undertaking which holds, perhaps, the strongest appeal to us, and also sets an immense potential value upon the vigilance we display and the strength we exert in the observance of the principles for which we have stood for over 25 years, and for which we, more than ever, should have a haven against the political and economic turmoil of the years to come. From there the protection of the League and the guidance of its experience will enable them to go a long way on the road of successful rehabilitation. In union there is great strength, and again I paraphrase—this time from Abraham Lincoln: "The League must be preserved."

The League has to take stock of itself now. The situation demands both whole-hearted effort and the exercise of the maximum of foresight upon the part of every unit from the individual up to the State Executive. A "wait and see" policy is inadequate. The keenest brains and most willing workers are invited to heed the call. Otherwise we fail, and the torch passes from us.

The Prime Minister's Department has advised that, in respect of dependents' allowances, every endeavour is made to complete the inquiries rapidly, and to commence payment as soon as possible. In all cases, payments, where approved, are made retrospectively to the date of the allotment. Any cases where the period is unduly long would be reported to Command Headquarters through the State Secretary's office.

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NOTIFICATION OF CASUALTIES

One of the resolutions carried by last year’s State Congress concerned the method of notification of casualties sustained by serving men be inquired into by the Commonwealth Government, with a view to deciding upon the method which will meet, as far as possible, the appeal of the people of Australia. “That the whole question of the notification to dependents of casualties sustained by serving men be inquired into by the Commonwealth Government, with a view to deciding upon the method which will meet, as far as possible, the appeal of the people of Australia.” The matter was referred through the proper channel to the Prime Minister’s Department. Recent correspondence from the Federal Office included a reply from the Secretary, Prime Minister’s Department, as follows:

I am directed again to refer to your letter of January 21, 1942, embodying the text of Resolution N.M. 2 passed at the 26th Annual Congress of your League concerning the notification of casualties to next-of-kin, and to inform you that early last year the then War Cabinet reached the conclusion that the most appropriate course to follow would be to secure the co-operation of all municipal and shire councils throughout the Commonwealth with a view to the formation of local committees within their boundaries.

It was then considered that local committees, with the assistance of the clergy and postmasters, could devise a scheme to enable personal notification to be made to the next-of-kin when telegrams were received containing advice of fatal casualties. As regards cases in which next-of-kin had specially asked that messages concerning fatal casualties should be delivered direct to them, or through a named person, it was agreed that such requests would be acceded to. The decision was also reached that notification of other than fatal casualties should continue to be made by telegram.

At the request of the Commonwealth, each of the State Governments circularised the municipal and shire councils, requesting their co-operation in the scheme. It was contemplated that as far as practicable a local committee should be established for each post office area, and that upon the receipt by a post office of a fatal war casualty telegram the postmaster would arrange for the news to be appropriately conveyed through a member of the local committee to the next-of-kin of the deceased member of the Forces.

Whilst a considerable number of municipal and shire councils took prompt steps to set up local committees within their boundaries, a large minority of the councils throughout the Commonwealth did not do so. The experience gained as the result of the endeavours made to bring about the establishment of local committees indicated that in the absence of a uniform scheme a state of affairs would be likely to arise where, for example, a fatal war casualty telegram would reach a local post office, from which it would be passed direct to the postmaster, without being transmitted to a member of the local committee. It was decided that where such circumstances arose, it would be more expedient to revert to the system of notifying next-of-kin direct by telegram regarding fatal casualties, except where otherwise voluntarily requested by the member of the Forces or the next-of-kin. This scheme enables any member of the Forces or his next-of-kin to nominate someone other than the next-of-kin as the person to whom a fatal war casualty telegram shall be delivered. Moreover, the Postmaster-General’s Department has issued special instructions to all postmasters in an endeavour to ensure that the delivery of fatal war casualty telegrams to next-of-kin or persons nominated to receive such messages is carried out in a sympathetic manner with due regard to the necessity of avoiding as far as possible unnecessary distress to the relatives of the members of the Forces.

CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS

The following are some brief references to Congress Resolutions submitted by the Federal Office to the Commonwealth Authority, and the summarised reply of the Departments concerned:

General Recruiting Centre for All Services.—This matter has been considered at a conference of the Chiefs of the fighting services, and it was decided that the policy of General Service Enlistment should not be implemented at present. (Incidentally, all the distinguish sirmen of the A.F.C. in the last war were recruited from A.I.F. units in the field—Ed. L.P.)

Preferential Letters of Garrison Battalions.—This matter is receiving the serious consideration of the Government. (Garrison Battalion personnel should note this as only one activity in which they are being employed.)

Internates Employed on Productive Work:—The Prime Minister’s Department states that internes cannot be compelled to perform work, except in connection with camp life. Some are, however, engaged, especially in comprehensive schemes of paid employment projects within camp areas, and a large number have accepted such employment. Payment at the rate of 1/- per day of six hours is made.

The Minister advised recently that arrangements are now being completed where certain overseas internes of the refugee type, and of a satisfactory security standing, are being released for labour units of the A.M.F. Pending complete utilisation they are employed fruit-picking in Victoria. Others will be released for work of national importance.

Long Service Leave, Permanent Forces.—The Defence Department advises that the question of members of the permanent forces having their A.I.F. service counted towards long service leave, if, they rejoin the permanent forces within twelve months of returning from active service, is receiving consideration. Discharges for Subversive Conduct.—Appropriate action is being taken to keep under observation the activities of persons who have been discharged, and to guard against the continuation or subversive activities of dischargees.

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ANZAC DAY OBSERVANCE

The question of Anzac Day observance this year has given both State and Federal Executives much food for thought. On the one hand, there is the natural reluctance on the part of the League and those who guard its destinies to see the day shorn of any of its solemnity, or of the features which have stood the test of years, and which mean so much to all of us. Anzac Day last year was an exceptionally impressive commemoration. The weather was almost made to order, and the attendance, both of the general public and of the men and women marching, left nothing to be desired. One striking feature of the day was the fact that, for the first time in the League’s history, returned men from the present war were on parade. Now, however, the situation is entirely changed. Japan’s treacherous attack on the white nations, and her open assistance to her European accomplices, have brought the war to our own door-steps. While we must look ahead and arrange things as far as possible in advance, he would be a bold man who would prophesy at the present moment what the position will be next Anzac Day, even if that day is only six weeks off. With the imminence of attack, warnings have been given against the congregation of large crowds on ANZAC Day.

Last month certain proposals as to the observance of Anzac Day were submitted to the Federal Government for consideration. The contents of the telegram sent to the Prime Minister by the Federal Executive were read at a meeting of the State Executive.

It suggested that, in the interests of a total war effort, the Prime Minister should communicate with the Premiers of the several States with the object of ensuring the Anzac Day this year shall not be observed as a public holiday, provided that the other provisions of the State Acts respecting Anzac Day ‘are adhered to. While the subject was under discussion, several members of the State Executive expressed their desire that the general public should clearly understand that the lead in this matter was being given by the League. The ideals which the League has upheld for so many years will not be infringed in any way, provided the State Act is enforced in all other particulars.

A.I.F. AND CIVILIAN RATES OF PAY

One of the resolutions passed by the 26th Annual Congress urged the Federal Government to increase the pay of members of the A.I.F. to rates comparable with those now being paid to civilians employed in war industries. Representations to the Federal Government resulted, and the following reply has been received from the Prime Minister’s Department:

With further reference to your letter of January 10, 1942, regarding Resolution No. 151 of the 26th Annual Congress, urging that the pay of members of the A.I.F. be increased to rates comparable with those now being paid to civilians employed in war industries, I am directed to point out that the general structure of civilian pay rates is entirely different from that of members of the A.I.F. The former are paid at a flat rate regardless of family responsibilities, and from the wage are required to meet full living costs.

A member of the A.I.F., receives, in addition to his pay, free rations and uniform, and is provided with accommodation. The married man also receives allowances for his wife and his dependant children.

The adequacy of the pay of members of the Forces was given full consideration by the Government last November in connection with the Budget proposals. The increases approved at the time consisted of an additional 7/- per week in the rates of Active Pay of all members. Increased Dependants Allowances were also granted, which established a scale of allowances as follows—

- Per week
- Wife or First Dependant ... 24/6
- First Child or Second Dependant 17/6
- Second Child or Third Dependant 14/-

In cases where the dependants include children, the family income is further supplemented by the payment of Children’s Allowances referred to Commonwealth Child Endowment Scheme.

In addition to the Active Pay and Dependents Allowances referred to above, a member of the A.I.F. is credited with Deferred Pay in respect of his Overseas Service.

Members of the A.I.F. serving overseas are also exempt from Federal Income and War Taxes.
MACARTHUR OF BATAAN
By “REMINISCOR”

On a Wednesday morning, this month, Australia and all the other civilised countries of the world were electrified by the news that General Douglas MacArthur, with his wife and son, his Chief of Staff, and other staff officers, had arrived in Australia by plane from the Philippines. The uncivilised peoples of the world were fighting, and MacArthur must have felt a sense of defeat when he heard the news, for that journey by air through skies which are supposed to be commanded by the enemy was a feat no less thrilling than his stubborn but brilliant defence of the Bataan Peninsula.

An eminent English economist of nearly half a century ago, Walter Bagehot, in his philosophical treatise on the English Constitution, expressed the opinion that a republican government was at a disadvantage compared with a monarchical government in the matter regarding public services. He explained that the monarchical government could reward distinguished service in war, or in civilian life, with a peerage or a knighthood, while a republic has no such gifts in its treasure house of rewards. If one may argue from analogy, and had General MacArthur been in the public service of the United States instead of the Philippines, it is likely that the performance of Bataan would probably be recognised by the award of a peerage, which the appropriate title would be Baron MacArthur of Bataan, just as in British history we have had Lord Nelson of Trafalgar, Earl Kitchener of Shaibarum, Baron Birdwood of Anzac, and so on.

However, General MacArthur has gained a distinction which far outweighs any peerage. He has the confidence of the great democracies, not only on the American side of the Pacific, but on the Australian side as well. What is more, he is the first American General to include the Australian Army in his command. His appointment to the supreme command of the Allied forces in the Anzac Zone, made at the request of the Australian Government, has had a most stimulating influence on public morale, just at a time when such a stimulus was most needed.

Another important point, and an old one as war itself, is the influence of General MacArthur on Australia. He is a great man, with characteristic good humour, saying he was at no time aware of having been so "heavily engaged by the enemy." Still, it is a great compliment to a man to make him the hero of such a story.

As a Colonel, he saw active service under General Pershing in the Mexican border campaign, and as Field Marshal of the United States into the first war against Germany. This service, though brief and not so very exciting, gained him the favour of his superiors. He was selected to form and lead in action the famous "Rainbow" Division, which derived its name from the fact that it was composed of men drawn from every State of the Union. The war in France brought further laurels to MacArthur. He proved himself a skilful and daring commander. He was wounded twice, and awarded no fewer than thirteen decorations. After the war he was appointed superintendent of West Point, and was the youngest man over to hold that position. Then, in 1929, he became the youngest Major-General on the active list of the United States Army. He went out to the Philippines as General Officer Commanding the Philippine Division, but was recalled in 1930 by President Hoover, who appointed him Chief of Staff. This was another record, for MacArthur was the youngest Chief of Staff the United States Army had ever had, and he was the only one to be reappointed to his position when it had expired. It was in 1936 that he undertook the organisation and enlarging of the native forces. How well he did this work may be judged from the determination and courage displayed by these forces during the defence of the Bataan Peninsula. Last July President Roosevelt made him Commanding General of all the United States forces in the Far East.

In person, General MacArthur is a white-skinned, lean man with narrow, sloping shoulders. According to an American newspaper, his nervous hands are small. His hair, once black and thick, is still black, but somewhat thinner, and his face is of the student and thinker. Like Mr. Churchill and the small minority of British and Australians who would not allow themselves to be drugged into insensibility by the anodyne of militarism, which was Hitler's greatest ally in the years that preceded this war, General MacArthur had sufficient foresight to realise that the present war was inevitable once Germany was allowed to arm, and once Japan was able to carry on aggression in China with impunity. Long before appeasement became the corollary of Anglo-American disarmament, MacArthur warned his countrymen against the combination of sloppy sentimentality and spurious economy that were whirling away the country's defences.

As far back as 1931 he warned Congress that the next great war would be a mobile one, in which aircraft and tanks would be the main fighting forces. Again and again he urged that War Department create a giant air force, and to equip the land forces with tanks, trucks and motorised divisions.

Notwithstanding the alleged romantic side of his life at West Point, General MacArthur did not marry until late in life. His wife, who is in Australia with him, was formerly Miss Jean Faircloth, of Tennessee. He met her in Manila in 1935. She is a dainty and attractive little lady, and many years his junior. She, and their four-year-old son, were with the General throughout the fighting at Bataan. The lad is named Arthur, after his grandfather, and like all the men of his family he is destined for the army.
The Volunteer Defence Corps

If the grave news from Java has done nothing else it has awakened many Australians to a sense of their own individual responsibilities, and made them realise how false is that popular idea that the Commissioner of the V.D.C. has been the subject of much discussion in League circles. Complaints were made to the Prime Minister's Department that the Commissioner of Railways had refused to permit certain employees to join the

The Volunteer Defence Corps. The Minister for Railways and the Commissioner both had something to say in the matter in a statement issued to the Press. It was explained that men who had been wanted to run the trains in an emergency would not be available for other service. This applied particularly to drivers, firemen and guards. It was also intimated that a special railway unit was to be formed.

The matter was further discussed by the Premier at his meeting on March 4. The sub-branch was unanimous in adopting the following resolution: "In view of the declaration of the Commissioner of Railways that certain railway employees cannot be released for the Home Guard, the State Executive is requested through the Federal Executive whether this is lawful or not, taking into account the statement of the Minister for the Army (Mr. Forde) that men in responsible positions, including those in reserved occupations, who enlist in it, without incurring full-time service obligations." Supporting the motion, the President of the sub-branch (Mr. B. James), who is also commander of the local unit of the V.D.C., said that if the Commissioner of Railways would arrange for the recruit to enlist in the V.D.C. and for the recruitment of railway employees, the V.D.C. would be willing to accept such railwaymen as members of the V.D.C.

Many youths still appear to have a wrong impression about their service with the Volunteer Defence Corps. Boys under eighteen are not actually enlisted in the Corps, but they are accepted as cadets, and only as cadets. They receive the full training as Military cadets used to, but they are not full members of the Corps, and they cannot be enlisted until they turn eighteen. Earlier in the month an important official statement was issued in regard to workers in protected industries, and service in the Corps. At the request of the Department of the Army, permission has now been given for persons in protected undertakings to enlist in the Volunteer Defence Corps. The Minister for Man-power has stated that membership of the Volunteer Defence Corps is restricted to men who are not included in the age groups called up for service, and men within those groups who have been granted exemption. Men who for various reasons would not be permitted by the man-power authorities to enlist in the A.I.F. or the Australian Military Forces, may enlist in the Volunteer Defence Corps under certain conditions accepted by the Army Headquarters, and may not be asked to serve outside the localities in which they usually live and work. Production, therefore, will not be interfered with by their service. Women enlisted in the Volunteer Defence Corps, who in a protected industry, will, except in the gravest local emergency, be called upon for full-time duty, without the consent of the relevant man-power authority.

The Railway Department and the V.D.C.

The position of employees of the Railway Department who are not members of the V.D.C. has been the subject of much discussion in League circles. Complaints were made to the Prime Minister's Department that the Commissioner of Railways had refused to permit certain employees to join the

arrange for the medical examination and medical acceptance by the local medical officer; and that recruiting officers should have the authority to attest recruits at local centres, and to issue rail warrants to attested men, and arrange the date of their transfer to the city, or other training depot.

The following is the text of the reply received from the Prime Minister's Department:

So far as the Royal Australian Navy is concerned, the Department of the Navy is of the opinion that it would be quite impracticable to give effect to the proposal. The Department of the Army has advised that due consideration has been given to the suggestion, but that the difficulties far outweigh the advantages of such a procedure, for the following reason: The medical examination at any local depot, metropolitan or country, is merely intended to be a preliminary one, carried out by one medical officer. If no gross defects are discovered, the recruit is at a later date thoroughly examined at a central depot by a medical board of two doctors. In addition a special officer is responsible for the investigation of his hearing and vision. He then has his chest X-rayed. If found fit, he is then attested.

It has been found by past experience that any departure from this routine leads to the attestation and drafting into camp of men who are a short time later found medically unfit, and must be discharged without having rendered any adequate service.

The means of carrying out this intensive medical examination and X-ray investigation do not exist in primary metropolitan or country recruiting depots. Moreover, the supplies of microphotographic X-ray units are very limited. Hence it is not deemed advisable to alter the present arrangements.

The Department of Air has pointed out that the special nature of the medical examination of recruits for the R.A.A.F. renders it impracticable for it to be effected other than at properly equipped recruiting centres where the complete process of recruiting is carried out. Applicants for the R.A.A.F. are pre-selected as far as possible by voluntary committees in country districts, and those considered suitable for final interview and medical examination are provided with rail warrants to travel to the nearest recruiting centre. This system is working very satisfactorily, and is considered by the Air authorities to be the most efficient method of dealing with country applicants.

ATTESTATION AT LOCAL CENTRES

In reply to representations made as the result of a resolution passed at the 36th Annual Congress, the Prime Minister's Department has advised that no change will be made in the system of medical examination and attestation at country centres. The Congress resolution requested the Commonwealth Government to empower recruiting officers of country centres to be empowered to

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ESTIMATES INVITED
SUBMARINE WARFARE

Just as the Kaiser did in the former war, Hitler has banked on the success of a submarine blockade of Britain. However, his faith in the undersea boats is not shared by all his admirals. There is at least one high-ranking German who believes that submarine warfare is a failure. He is Vice-Admiral Karl Dönitz, director of submarines for the German Navy. American papers reported, in January last, that Vice-Admiral Dönitz had had a serious dispute with Admiral Raeder on the subject of "the miscarriage of submarine warfare."

From the American point of view, Nazi U-boats have given considerable indication of their ability to operate off the coast of North America. Their appearance in those waters was evidently timed to impress the conference of American Foreign Ministers in Brazil, or else it took that long for the German submarines to take up their positions. At any rate, the Nazi submarines operating in the Atlantic now are, like the Japanese submarines in the Pacific, more of a potential threat than an actual menace. At least that is the view expressed by American commentators. However, if even the Nazi in charge of U-boat operations is dissatisfied with results, what must be the attitude of the men who risk their lives in these vessels? According to Naval Intelligence in the last war, the German U-boat crews were, for a long time, volunteers from the German fleet. At a later stage men were drafted from the fleet for submarine duty. But, taken as a whole, the U-boat personnel can be regarded as having been the pick of the German Navy. This fact was responsible for their morale holding up after the crews of surface vessels became involved in the mutiny which immediately preceded Germany's surrender.

Today, on the other hand, the men who operate Hitler's undersea raiders are an entirely different lot. In this war there was no large naval personnel from which U-boat crews could be drawn. Moreover, the position was aggravated by the fact that practically all of the Reich's best man-power was absorbed by the Army or the Air Force. The Press account of the reported differences in German Naval Command states that the Gestapo is unjustly arresting or otherwise impugning submarine personnel, whose physical condition at the end of a tour of duty sometimes leads them into utterances which can be construed as anti-Nazi. It is not hard to imagine the remarks of U-boat men after several weeks at sea, under almost unbearable conditions. Convoys to Britain are going over waters in high latitudes, where the temperature is frigid. In such waters the thin hull of the submarine readily transmits the temperature of the water.

There are only two ways of heating a submarine: One is by utilising the heat in the engine exhaust—this requires a hot water radiator system that is too complicated and heavy for any but the larger submarines; the other way is by electric heating—but this entails a drain on the batteries. So it can be surmised that the interiors of German submarines operating in northern waters are bitterly cold most of the time.

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March 15, 1942 Page 7
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"AI" in the A.I.F.
... and sends them on to victory
The State President (Mr. A. Yeates) suffered from a severe chill on his return from a recent trip to Melbourne, where he attended a meeting of the Federal Executive of the League. As a result, he was obliged to take a complete rest for a few days.

At a recent meeting of the West Leederville-Wembley sub-branch, members paid their respects to George A. Denman, who has been a silent but solid member of the sub-branch for many years. He has resided in the Leederville district for as long as we can remember, and is still looking very hale, despite the fact that he recently celebrated his 80th birthday. George must have forgotten his age when he enlisted last time. Another determined and enthusiastic member of the West Leederville-Wembley sub-branch is William Shackleton. Petrol restrictions do not worry William. Despite his advancing years, he is adept on a bicycle, and he can step on it when riding home after meetings.

The first A.I.F. nurse to lose her life as the result of enemy action in the war was Sister Margaret de Mestre, a member of a family well-known in professional circles in New South Wales. Her death occurred when Japanese bombers attacked the hospital ship Manunda in the Dardanelles. The Manunda was clearly marked as a hospital ship. Ever since her schooldays Maragaret de Mestre wanted to be a nurse. Her aunt, Sister Sarah de Mestre, was awarded the Royal Red Cross for her nursing services during the last war. She was senior Sister at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney. When she was nineteen, Margaret entered the same hospital as a probationer, graduating as a sister four years later. When war broke out, she was one of the first nurses to enlist, and she has made many voyages on the hospital ship Manunda.

Diggers who have met him at Federal Conferences, or on other occasions, will regret the resignation of Mr. J. Black, the State Secretary of the New South Wales Branch of the League. After long and valuable service, Mr. Black has been compelled by ill health to resign. His successor is Lieut. A. R. Cutler, V.C., of Manly, New South Wales. The appointment establishes a new record in the history of the League. Mr. Cutler is the first returned soldier from the present war to become a State secretary. Our own State, however, also holds a record in this respect. Mr. D. Paton, of East Fremantle, has the honour of being the first returned soldier of the present war to be elected to the State Executive; but this was more like a return to home duty, because Mr. Paton had resigned from the Executive to go on active service again. Mr. Cutler's appointment was evidently the result of careful selection. There were 42 applicants for the position, and these included two Lieut-Colonels. It should go a long way towards showing men in the A.I.F. today that the League is their League; that it is in the inheritance awaiting them on their return from active service; and that its ideals and traditions are something for them to carry on after the founders have retired from active duty. Outside the League, he has been closely associated with the trade union movement for many years, and it was as a Labour member that he represented Subiaco. At the time of his death he was supervisor for the Public Works Department. To his widow and relatives we tender our sincere sympathy.

Another battalion commander of the first A.I.F. has answered the Last Call—Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred George Salisbury, C.M.G., D.S.O., and Bar, Legion d'Honneur. A member of the original 9th Battalion, he was one of the first officers to land at Anzac, and after the severe fighting of the first week, he reorganised and took command of the 9th. His transfer to command the 90th Battalion was a sad parting for the old men from whom he was known affectionately as "Sally." However, he could also win and hold the esteem of men from another State. To the 30th he was known as "Pineapple Jack," an allusion to his Queensland origin. Colonel Salisbury in private life was a gentleman with a sheep property in the Goodwoodi district of Queensland. When the present war broke out, he donated khaki again and helped to pass on his experience of soldiering to the Militia. He practically owned a farm.

There was a meeting of the old and the new in Anzac Club on a recent afternoon when Arthur Hullett, who served with the 27th in the last war, foraged with three members of the 21st. The show went in reverse gear to the song about the ten little niggers. At first there was one, then there were two. The first was Sergeant Agars of B Coy, and the second was his pal and brother N.C.O., Corporal Harper. Sergeant W. J. Ward, M.M., came in, and then there were four. Sergeant Ward served with the South Australian end of the 32nd in the last war, and this had hardly been mentioned when Harper told him that the Queen's Birthday party was a cross-cut 27th and 32nd reunion took place. This paper's representative reports that he cannot remember much more, but before he left Corporal Harper told him that the boys coming from this war are all very keen on joining the League.

A Victorian soldier who passed through Perth recently—Lance-Corporal W. J. Jenner—was a member of the 4th Reserve Transport Company, a unit of the A.I.F. in Malaysia. He said that the night before the surrender the 90 West Australians who were among the 500 members of this company wereMac and well. Lieut. Les Riches, M.C., who was in charge of the West Australian section, told Lance-Corporal Jenner that night that all his men were unharmed. Les Riches was recently a prominent footballer who played for Subiaco. He served with the 51st in the last war, in which he attained commissioned rank and won the Military Cross. Lance-Corporal Jenner, who was invalided home, said that
after the fall of Singapore hundreds of Australians escaped in launches, sampans and rowing boats. He added: "I am sure there are hundreds of Australians in Sumatra who have not been captured by the Japanese."

Our New South Wales contemporary reports the accidental death of a veteran Sydney newspaperman and writer of military and international subjects, Ernest George Marks. The late Mr. Marks was descended from a soldier who had served under Napoleon. He himself was the greatest Australian authority on Napoleon and his era. For a civilian he had an extraordinarily profound knowledge of military history, and a sound appreciation of strategical factors. It is safe to say he had read everything ever written or translated into English on the Napoleonic era. His collection of books on Napoleonic and other subjects is the largest in New South Wales. He had turned his Sydney home into a regular Napoleonic museum for his extensive collection of pictures and souvenirs. Shortly after the last war he published a book on Bush, in which he wrote of the strategy of the Allied commander with that of Napoleon. He also wrote such works as "Watch the Pacific," published in 1924, and the "Pacific Peril," published in 1933. With an industry which is almost uncanny, he prophesied much that is happening today. In the former book, written eighteen years ago, these were some of the things he said: "When Japan strikes in the Pacific, she will strike like lightning at several vital strategic points simultaneously."

"The United States Pacific Fleet will find itself at a strategic disadvantage and may take many weeks to make its presence felt."

"Australia's security will be threatened by Japan's occupation of islands across her trade routes, and by swift blows at New Britain and New Guinea." It's a pity these statements were not heeded when they were first published. In person, E. G. Marks was a man of trim build and neat appearance. Serious in manner and thoroughly wrapped up in Napoleonic lore, he could still be an ideal host and a man of rare old-world courtesy. Nothing reveals his nature better than the manner of his passing. He rose to give his seat to a lady in a Sydney tram, and he was lurchcd to his death on the road.

There has certainly been preference to returned soldiers in the recent diplomatic appointments. As we go to Press we learn that the Australian Minister to Washington, Mr. R. G. Casey, has been appointed Minister of State, with membership of the British War Cabinet, in the Middle East. Mr. Casey served in the last war, rising to the rank of Major and winning the Distinguished Service Order and the Military Cross. At the same time, Australia's High Commissioner in London, Mr. Stanley Melbourne Bruce, has been appointed High Commissioner to the Netherland, though he will remain in London and still carry on as High Commissioner. Although he served on Gallipoli, Mr. Bruce is not actually a Digger. He was a Captain in a British Regiment, with whom he won the Military Cross. He is, however, the first ex-service man to become Prime Minister of Australia; in fact the only one, if we disregard the brief period after the death of Mr. Lyons when Sir Earle Page was Acting Prime Minister. Sir Earle Page, who was still in London at the time of writing, was associated with Mr. Bruce in what was called the Bruce-Page Ministry. Sir Earle was with the Australian Army Medical Corps in the last war. He resumed his old association with Mr. Bruce when he went to London as Special Australian Envoy last year.

Contrary to the belief of many, the patriotic song "Advance Australia Fair," which is the signature tune of the Canberra news statements, is not the Australian National Anthem. Neither is the "Song of Australia" which is often sung over the air as well. Australia's national anthem is a well-known song called "God-Save the King." "Advance Australia Fair," however, is a song generally reserved for official occasions. It was composed for the opening of the Commonwealth, and sung on that occasion for the first time in public by a massed choir of Sydney schoolchildren. Both words and music were the work of a gentle old gentleman named Peter MacCormack, a layman who used to give recitations in Sydney State schools. In his younger days, he had been a soldier and fought for the flag when scarlet and blue were the prevailing colours of the battle dress, and the Martini-Henry rifle and the musket were the latest things in lethal weapons. His song brought him in no money at first, but several years after it was first sung he received a grant of £100 from the Government.

THE OTHER WINSTON CHURCHILL

In a recent number of "The Listening Post" mention was made of an American namesake of the British Prime Minister. Since then an English paper has remarked on the shortness of public memory regarding men who were once celebrities. As an instance of this, "The Manchester Guardian" refers to Press announcements, as though it were a remarkable coincidence, that a man "giving the name of Winston Churchill" has registered for military service in the United States. It is extremely probable that there are more Winston Churchills in the United States than in Britain, and that without any reference to the British Prime Minister. Moreover, between thirty and forty years ago, it is probable that there was a majority of people in the United States, and to novel readers throughout the British Empire, the name of Winston Churchill did not suggest Winston Spencer Churchill, but the widely-read American novelist who, in a long series of novels, traced the history of his country through such books as "Richard Carvel," "The Crossing," and "The Crisis." That Winston Churchill was born three years before the British Prime Minister at St. Louis. He is the only son of Edwin Spencer Churchill, of Portland, Maine, and has more in common with the British Statesman than his name. Our Mr. Churchill graduated from the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. His American namesake graduated from the United States Military Academy, and was trained for the profession of soldiering. Each sheathed his sword and took up the pen. Our Mr. Churchill wrote only one novel, but accounts of his experiences in the Sudan and South Africa were published in the United States, and before he struck political form the American Winston Churchill edited various journals, and he, too, had a flutter in politics before he retired into private life.

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Pensions

In the Senate on March 5, Senator Gullett asked the Minister representing the Minister for Repatriation what, in view of the present war situation, were the proposals of the Government in respect of pensions and repatriation benefits for members of the fighting services stationed within the States and Territories of the Commonwealth. The Minister representing the Minister for Repatriation replied that the question of pensions and repatriation benefits for members of the fighting services stationed within the States and Territories of the Commonwealth is at present under consideration by the Government, and an announcement will be made as early as possible.

Manpower Exemptions

At a recent meeting of the Federal Executive it was resolved: To inform the Prime Minister of the League's deep concern, notwithstanding the recent National Security Regulations, at the present unsatisfactory position with regard to manpower exemptions, and therefore requests the establishment throughout Australia of voluntary local committees, of which the majority are returned soldiers, with full powers, and for the purpose of supporting such an establishment, each State branch submit cases to the Federal Office within a month from February 26.

Complaints have been frequent of exemptions from military service of men who are physically fit and of an age within the categories called up. Particulars would be appreciated, therefore, of individual cases which, in the opinion of sub-branches, are unfair and definitely against Australia's war effort, as well as cases of men, particularly of those with large families, who have been included for military training. The name of the Manpower Officer issuing the exemption certificate should also be stated. Particulars should give the names of those excluded from military service, their age, whether married or not, the number of children and civil occupation. Sub-branches are asked to let the State Secretary have these particulars without delay.

State Government Employees and Military Service

At the meeting of the State Executive on February 18 advice was received from the Public Service Commissioner (Mr. G. W. Simpson) that the League's recommendations that the Public Service Commissioner should be the one authority for recommending the exemption of employees of the State Government from military service had been approved, and the scheme would be in working order by the beginning of March. Executive members had pointed out that requests had come from several Departmental heads, and the actual decision was passed from one to the other.

Under the new arrangement, only the Public Service Commissioner will say whether a man who had been called up for military training should be released or not.
VARIETY

Western Command Headquarters desires information about any captured German dial sights, as it is possible to convert these into Army use. Anyone in possession of such dial sights should advise League headquarters, and state if they are prepared to give these, or sell them to the Army. In the latter case, the sale will be subject to valuation. The information is urgently required.

Sub-branch officials must inspect the discharge certificates of new members applying for membership of the League. If such certificates are marked “S.N.I.R.” the application must be referred to the State Secretary’s office.

The attention of sub-branch officials is drawn to the provision of Rule 20, which sets out that all money shall be lodged in an approved bank, and payments made by cheque. Instances have occurred where cash has been received at the League’s office, and any loss of funds is possible and impossible to trace. Payment by cheque is, therefore, advisable.

The West Perth sub-branch had for sale a table tennis set, for which they were offered £2 10/- by the Inglewood company of the Red Cross Emergency Service, who desired it to donate to the Lady Mitchell Convalescent Home. The sub-branch, on learning the reason for the purchase, decided not to sell, but to give it to the good ladies. Well done!

At a recent meeting of the State Executive Colonel Margolin, the League’s representative to the Red Cross Society, reported that former difficulties experienced in seeing that comforts for hospital patients were available when required, and ensuring that the patients received them, had been overcome. Visits are paid twice weekly to the Hollywood Hospital by Red Cross workers in uniform. Contact is made with ward nurses, and comforts are distributed. When desired to do so, the Red Cross representatives write letters, send telegrams, and make purchases for the patients. The Department of the Army is setting aside a room in the hospital for the disposal of the exclusive Society.

Sub-branch officials must insist on seeing the Discharge Certificate when new members apply for admission to the League.

The new badges are now available for issue. As the new badges should have reached the sub-branches by this, sub-branch secretaries should insist on the return of the old badges.

Where subscriptions fall due at the end of December, and are now renewed, to preserve continuity sub-branch secretaries are asked to make the terminating date of subscription the end of the present year.

Sub-branches are urged to issue reminders to men who have been called up for full-time military duty when their subscriptions fall due. Copies of a pro forma letter can be secured from the head office.

News cabled from New York earlier in the month mentioned that Enzo Pinza, the noted Italian bass singer, had been detained in connection with the Federal round-up of aliens suspected of subversive activities. Pinza is not unknown in Perth. Shortly before the war he toured Australia under engagement by the Australian Broadcasting Commission. While in this State he was one of the guests of the League at a reception given by George Ross, M.P., at the G.H. House. In appearance, Pinza is tall, dark and handsome, in a virile, aristocratic way. Those who met him in Perth found him modest and self-contained, but no less an authority than the Red Cross Emergency Service. One of his first acts was that his arrest was provoked by his braggart assertions of his friendship with Mussolini. He served as an artilleryman on the Italian front in the last war.

The French Army, often referred to as “the finest in the world,” is being re-organised. Under the armistice conditions imposed by Germany, the establishment of the French Army was reduced to 100,000 of all ranks and arms; but, for so small a group, the organisation set up to handle an arm of several million men has proved unwieldy. That is why the Vichy Government is now tearing down the old army administration, preparatory to re-building on a new basis. Vichy’s new army, according to reports from American sources, is still in its infancy. In the eight months that followed the surrender of Petain, France has built up an effective, though limited, air force. Aviation, it will be remembered, was one of the weak points of the French fighting machine. German influence may be seen in the manner of building up the new force. When, after 1919, Germany was allowed only 100,000 soldiers, the Huns turned their forces into the air. In two years’ time they had become highly trained specialists and around them, as a nucleus, the Nazi Army of this war was constructed. Vichy is setting out to make its new army professional. One official has been acting as Minister for Defence and made a complete sweep of the Army Command. He has retired twenty-two generals, replacing them with his own nominees. Furthermore, it is reported that Dailan is cutting the red tape and making buying easier for the confusion experienced by the French Army in 1940.

Local Pressman has passed on as an interesting piece of news the opinion of an American visitor that General MacArthur might be the next President of the United States, if he is alive at the time of the next Presidential election, and agrees to present himself as a candidate. If ever that happens, it will not be the first time a distinguished soldier has been elected President of the United States; in the case of Grant, the happy idea of an immediate action as to make it almost a practice. There is no need to remind readers that the first President was General George Washington, the hero of the War of Independence. Simultaneously General Andrew Jackson, who defeated the British at New Orleans in 1814, was elected President three years later. Jackson virtually filled the President’s chair. After the American Civil War, the Americans virtually adopted the principle of preference to returned soldiers when electing their Presidents. General Grant was allowed to call all his own men when the United States was at war, and the President had the power to call all his men when the United States was at war, and the President had the power to call all his men when the United States was at war, and the President had the power to call all his men when the United States was at war, and the President had the power to call all his men when the United States was at war, and the President had the power to call all his men when the United States was at war. In the last war, the United States lost only one destroyer, the Jacob Jones. Before Japan attempted to deliver her assassin’s blow the United States had lost the destroyers Reuben Jones, while another destroyer, the Kearney, had been damaged by a Boche torpedo. This time, the first arm’s shipment went to the Allies within two months after the United States entered the war. In the last war it was five months before the first such ships crossed the Atlantic.

This time, the first American Government loans, made through the Lease and Lend Act, were granted to the Allies more than eighteen months before the United States entered the war. Nearly thirty-two months before the first United States Government loans were made. In the case of conscription, the last war had been going on for more than two years and nine months before the United States took this step. This time, the United States adopted the draft again, after barely a year of fighting in Europe. Taking one consideration with another, the United States is doing far more for a militarised cause today, and doing it considerably sooner than was the case in the earlier war against the gangster powers.

An Irishman once said: “The beauty of a civil war is that you know whom you are shooting.” That was certainly the case in the American Civil War of eighty years ago. Many of the leaders on either side in that war were not only old comrades in previous wars, but had gone through college together. When the war broke out, the North and the South broke out, General U. S. Grant lost many of his closest friends to the Southern cause. Among these was General George E. Pickett, whom Grant had known ever since they were together in the Mexican War. Grant’s affection for Pickett, as well as his enemy never wavered. When Pickett’s first son was born, his army was encamped across a river from that of Grant, and Grant saw fires lighted along the Southern line in celebration of the baptism of the army’s old general’s baby’s silver service. It was engraved: “To George E. Pickett, Junior, from his father’s old friend, U. S. Grant, Rufus Ingalls, George Suckley.” The other two were officers of the Army, who had also known Pickett before the Civil War. In those days were gentlemen’s wars.

The League recently protested against the Federal Government’s refusal to accept voluntary enlistments for part-time service, on the ground that this was not conducive to a full war effort. The League requested an immediate modification of the regulation on the basis that, if the Government considered the financial burden too
heavy, a limit be placed on the number of dependant children to be provided for. A reply from the Prime Minister's Department was read at the meeting of the State Executive on March 18. The letter stated that it had been decided that not more than three children--more than four dependents in all, should not be accepted for enlistment at present. This decision was considered to be in the best interests of the service and of the country.

At the meeting of the State Executive on March 18 the following resolution was adopted: "That this Branch of the League heartily congratulates General MacArthur on his appointment as Supreme Commander of the Allied Pacific Forces, and requests the Federal President to accord the distinguished American General of the good will and cooperation of all ex-servicemen, soldiers and airmen of Australia."

War-time curbs on the production of non-essential goods, that is on commodities which cannot be classified as war materials, are leading us all towards a simpler life. Moves to conserve rubber and petrol have already caused a return to more simple and frugy days in many homes, and a similar return is beginning in the United States. Already in the United States many tramway companies are reconditioning old rolling stock, and bus companies are being given powers for the construction of more buses. Millions of Americans may return to their older habits of shopping mainly in local communities. This, in its turn, says an American commentator, is likely to bring about a great revival of neighbourly intercourse in the towns, libraries, homes, and on board public vehicles. It is expected that in both Britain and the United States there will be a greater demand for books, home games, and hobby materials.

On the eve of setting out on a diplomatic mission to Washington, General David Toror, former President of Bolivia, declared: "Bolivian tin is entirely at the service of Democracy." His statement is believed to express the sentiment of the Bolivian people, and access to Bolivian tin may prove a boon to Britain and the United States, and to industries cut off. Last year, 170,000 tons of tin, mined in Bolivia, and an increase of about twenty-five per cent. is expected this year. The promotion of tungsten, another very important metal, is being stepped up also. In exchange for this exported tin, Bolivia stipulates that buyers are not asking dollars or sterling. She prefers supplies of foodstuffs and other raw materials, which she must import for her own industries, and certain equipment and supplies, which are to be kept in the United States. All shipments of tin are made in Bolivia, and it is not melted there, so that a shortage of tin-sheeting developed recently. The difficulty was overcome when the United States quickly arranged a quota of tin-sheeting for Bolivia.

The decision to allow supplies of food to go to Greece was the result of authenticated reports of desperate food conditions in that country. Reports from neutral countries say that at the beginning of the year all vegetables in Greece were commandeered by the Italians, to be sent to Libya. If one has money, it is said, one can find meat at a "Black Market"; but for the poor people there is no meat available. There is still a little fish to be had, but one must go down to the harbour at dawn and buy it before the occupation authorities commandeered it. One of the greatest difficulties the Greeks are experiencing is finding food for the British and Imperial troops who are still hiding in the hills. These soldiers were left behind when Greece was evacuated. They are living with peasants who risk death by harbouring them. Their food is provided by certain society women in Athens who go short themselves in order that, twice a week, food can be hidden in secret dumps. The only Greek flag flying in Athens today is hoisted over a building occupied by the Greek Quesling Government. At first it used to be lowered at sunset every night. At that moment, all movement in the streets was stopped. Taxis hired by German and Italian officials stopped where they were. On the sidewalk the people stood still, bareheaded, in honour of the man that was. So now the flag is no longer lowered at sunset. The Huns have forbidden it.

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION

Probably none of the war-time Federal Departments has come in for so much criticism as the Department of Information. That was especially true when the present Government was in opposition, but the recent statements of the Department by the present Minister for Information (Senator Ashley) are hardly likely to stem the tide of criticism. In reply to questions asked by Senator Collett in the Senate on March 6, the Minister for Information said:

1. The Department of Information is the Public Relations link between the Commonwealth Government and the various public media of the Commonwealth. It expresses the Press, broadcasting stations, the film industry, and almost every other avenue of publicity. The Department employs a staff of trained journalists and broadcasting experts who convey to the publicity and the war media factual information upon which they are able to base an interpretation of war news in a way to give the public of Australia a reliable day-by-day picture of the war, as it affects Australia. Similarly the Department maintains close contact with overseas correspondents in Australia, and through its own representatives overseas, in oversea's centres maintains contact with the public media in those centres to ensure that the Australian point of view is made available for the consideration of all public media in interpreting war news to their own people.

2. The numerical strength of the Department is 118 employees.

3. The approximate annual cost of the Department is £187,400.

It must be borne in mind that Senator Ashley was giving a detailed reply to specific questions; but there is such a host of other

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DALLYING WITH DRINK

This paper has nothing in common with intertemporar temperance cranks, nor with any of those other estimable people who do good with malice aforethought and form societies for minding other people's business. Therefore, we wish to emphasise to readers that the following remarks are not inspired by any source outside the League. In common with very many members of our organisation we have been perturbed by the recent alarming evidences of excessive drinking by men in uniform and civilians, and we are thoroughly in accord with the motion passed recently by the Nethelsub-branch, calling attention to a very deplorable state of affairs, and urging the State Government to take some appropriate action to end it.

One need not enlarge on what has been happening. Even the Department of Information knows all about it by now. It may be stated in passing, however, that the offenders have not all been men in the ranks. Some have carried stars on their shoulders. To put it briefly, excessive drinking has been going on all over Australia—or at least one would infer so, not from the wailing of the Dry Element, but from the reasoned statements of Federal Ministers. It is time something was done to mend matters; but what was done was tantamount to locking the stable after the horse had been stolen.

The State Government has sought a belated remedy in the six o'clock closing of all licensed premises, including club bars, in the metropolitan area. In this action, the Premier exercised powers conferred upon him by regulations under the National Security Act. In announcing the Government's decision, Mr. Willcock intimated that six o'clock closing was an experiment. It is early to judge yet, but the experiment has so far effected a great improvement. However, it remains to be seen if the experiment has gone far enough. From what we have seen in Perth, one finds it hard to believe that the men one sees roaming the Terrace in a drunken daze, or sleeping amidst the debris of broken bottles in doorways and porches, got drunk before nine o'clock. To anyone who knows the facts of life, it is pretty obvious that these luckless lads have been drinking very long after hours, either in slgy grog-shops or from bottles in the parks.

The experience of the Eastern States has shown that six o'clock closing is not the remedy, because the reports from those States have revealed happenings even more disgusting than those we have seen in Perth. If the licensing laws had been drastically enforced, and the New South Wales police are trying to enforce them now in their clean-up of sly grog shops (called night clubs by all pukka sahibs and the B.B.C.), it would hardly be necessary to alter the hours of trading. From what we know of Perth publicans, especially those of them who are returned soldiers themselves, we imagine they would welcome law enforcement, just as they recently expressed themselves in favour of earlier trading. No efficient publican wants the class of trade that is responsible for Saturday night saturnalia and brawling. He wants his bars to attract the class of custom that can drink with good humour and dignity. The loud-mouthed fighting drunk is just as much out of place in a decently-conducted bar as he would be at a Sunday school picnic. Moreover, a drunken man is a nuisance to other customers. The law says that no one visibly under the influence of drink shall be served in a bar, and the first step towards a clean-up should be the rigid enforcement of that law. In saying that, we are casting no aspersions on the civil police, who are doing a difficult war-time job with altogether inadequate numbers; but what are the military police doing, besides getting out of the road at the first sign of a brawl? And there are the picquets, naval and military, that we used to see in all about it by now. It may

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pressed their appreciation of this act in no mean terms.

Recent transfers from the Company include such well-known personalities as Sgt E. E. Edlington, Cpl. C. Game and Ptes. H. Walling and G. Sherlock, while we have extended a welcome to several new faces from other units.

A recent promotion which appears to have met with general approval, and which has evidently warranted many a "Here's luck," was that conferred upon Pte. Don Williams. He succeeded Cpl. Game in the Orderly Room, and the main question which this appeared on Orders has been the leave question.

Definite proof of military theory having gone astray was related recently by a Corporal of this Company, who spends his leisure hours in imparting knowledge to the local V.D.C. He was giving instructions on a certain type of machine gun, with particular attention to the correct procedure as to sighting, and when one recruit got down to follow the instructions he did not close his left eye. The corporal promptly told him that it was absolutely necessary to close the left eye to get correct aim; but the recruit replied that this was not necessary with him. After a lengthy demonstration and explanation by the corporal, the recruit said it still made no difference to him whether he closed his left eye or kept it open when taking aim, because his left eye was a glass one.

There's nothing very original about the spokesmen of the gangster Powers. In their recent utterances they have used all the stock phrases of their white opponents. Recently the Berlin radio applauded Japan on striking out against the Anglo-American aggression, and Britain and the United States were referred to as gangsters. Probably in his next diatribe against the white races, Hitler will be calling Mr. Churchill "a --- German."

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If the Army decides to let the commissioned civilians do a spot of fighting in this war, one can picture Education-Major Alexander engaged on demolition work—leading a party of gate-crushers.

Far too much is said these days, and far too much notice is being taken of what is said by war correspondents and others who have come here from various parts of the Far East. Most of their criticisms of the campaign in Malaya and the loss of Singapore are only samples of wisdom after the event. Even the fact that they have represented their papers in other wars does not make these gentlemen anything more than highly competent reporters; and a highly competent reporter is not a strategist or a tactician. The war correspondents can report only what they have seen, which is little, or what they have been told, which may or may not be very much. By way of analogy, it may be stated that an artist, while competent to paint a fire, is not competent to tell firemen how it should be put out, or to instruct incidences of how to start one.

Many of the visiting writers are international figures who can write interestingly on their experiences; but when they commence to talk about the alleged errors of leaders they shake public confidence and create the mental chaos that Hitler and Co. would like to see prevail in Australia. Even more dangerous are passing references to alleged bitterness in Australia, and a tendency in Australia to turn more to the United States. Where is this bitterness? and where is this alleged tendency? I think we can claim to know our own country at least as well as any trained observer who has been here for fully five minutes; but I must confess that we have not noticed these things ourselves. Naturally, as good Australians, we welcome the help of the United States in this struggle against aggression. We value the friendship and help of the American people; but to suggest that this connotes any bitterness against Britain or any weakening of the ties that bind Australia to the rest of the Empire is evidence of superficial observation and defective reasoning powers, which make me doubt the validity of the other conclusions reached by these eminent civilian authorities on the running of wars.

Both in Queensland and in our own State there have been many scathing criticisms of posters issued by the Department of Information. The two most offensive showed respectively a Japanese hand clutching at Australia, and a Japanese boot being planted on the northwest of Australia. As pictorial efforts they were as gruesome as anything Rasmussen produced in the last war, but they did not possess one per cent. of the Rasmussen propaganda value. The average civilian is jittery enough these days, without an expensive Government Department adding to his or her fears. The offending posters were evidence of a very defective appreciation of psychological values. They irritated the courageous and intimidated the timorous still further. If that is the best an expensive Department can do in the way of stimulating public morale, the sooner it is scrapped the better.

For a pleasing contrast to the posters issued by the Department of Information one has only to see a reproduction issued by the United States authorities in support of the campaign for the sale of Liberty Bonds. The main feature of the poster is a picture of Daniel Chester French's statue of the Minuteman. The statue stands in Concord, Massachusetts, the scene of the first encounter between the Americans and George III's Redcoats in the War of Independence. The figure is executed with emotion, and charged with conviction. With his sleeves rolled up to the elbows, ready for action, the Minuteman stands, grasping a long flint-lock rifle, while his left hand is still on the handle of the plough across which his coat is flung. On the face is the look of alert determination that one might expect to see on the face of a sturdy Democrat ready to fight to the death for his few paternal acres. It is a figure symbolic of courage and resolution, and one calculated to inspire similar qualities in the beholder. The Minuteman was so called because he had pledged himself to be ready to take the field at a minute's notice. He was more akin to the Home Guard of these days than to professional, or even territorial soldiers.

A recently-published news item said that the Federal Government would consider the position of conscientious objects. The position we would recommend is the upright position—preferably in front of a firing squad.

Isn't it time politicians and others dropped all this yap about something they call "the old school tie"? That article of neckwear has now been worn threadbare by people who parade their ignorance every time they open their mouths. The tie is course as a symbol for favouritism, worked out on a class basis, but it is being carried to dangerous lengths when the public are led to believe that officers of the fighting forces are selected this way. Apart from disturbing compensation for leaders to the regrettable tendency to decide, education and set ignorance above efficiency. If the poll-parrot cry of "the old school tie" refers to unfair advantages given by class distinction, such advantages are exploited by no one particular class. Wrangling and political wheedling are not a class monopoly, nor are they confined to any one political party. They are common to all. It is noticed that most politicians will bore one to tears by their unending repetition of the phrase "Those whose lack of personal service in the last war prevented them from knowing how the first A.I.F. was really constituted. At a very conservative estimate, approximately 80 per cent. of the old A.I.F. officers rose from the ranks during the war, while a fair sprinkling of the remainder had had service in the ranks before the war. Similarly, in the selection of cadets for the Royal Military College, it does not make any difference who a candidate's father was, or what he did for a crust, so long as the cadet himself was a suitable candidate with a decent standard of education. In fact, I have known instances of Sergeants-Major's son being accepted, when sons of commissioned officers were rejected.

The war in the Pacific seems to be resolving itself into a duel to the death between the Rising Sun of Australia and the Rising Scum of Nippon.

When I opened my "West Australian" on February 23, my heart bled for the woe of Mr. T. J. B. Wearne, who returned to his native land, Australia, after 48 years in Malaya. In telling his harrowing tale, Mr.
Weare admits that he fully intended to flee from the wrath to come. "For months," he said, "I had had most of my belongings and valuables packed in cases; but we were led to believe that the danger was not real, and that there was no need for evacuating anything." As Mr. Weare had to get out of Singapore, leaving behind his wife's jewellery, and the house that he had built last year at a cost of £12,000. Truly, this tale of horror made my heart bleed; but the cardiac haemorrhage was effectively arrested when it was discovered that thousands of Australian mothers and wives had learned of their sons and husbands being left behind in Malaya and Singapore. In comparison with their loss, the losses of Mr. Weare seem very small indeed. He did, at least, preserve both life and freedom.

The phrase that used to be a standing news item in the United States papers, "The Marines have landed and the situation is well in hand," was, a few years ago, in as great a vogue as "All Quiet on the Western Front," during the last war. Did you ever stop to think why the furry-monger is so often interrupted and advised to "tell it to the Marines"? In its original application the advice did not mean that the house-keeper could rely on other fighting men. The phrase dates from the days when sailors worked the King's ships, while the Marines did the fighting. Between the two cracks the Marines hadn't much to do except hang around waiting for a yarn with anyone who would talk to them. Of course, being in a strange environment, they were often told strange yarns; but when Nelson's sailors told someone to tell it to the Marines it was often said, "Get to blazes out of it. I'm too busy to listen to you. The Marines are not so busy."

Recently a local newspaper which is rarely guilty, of a breach of literary style, mentioned that a race-course near Perth had been occupied "by the military." The paper omitted to mention what had been occupied by the naval.

If General MacArthur's arrival in Australia has done nothing else it has ended all this drivel criticism of Major-General Gordon Bennett. The man who was one of the most courageous and competent of Brigadiers in the last war, and who added to his laurels in Malaya, was criticized because he did not stay in captivity with his men. The critics may be classified in two groups: Jittery civilians, including many who could have served in the last war but did not; and others who are showing a very human sympathy towards those from service in this war, and omniscient yahoos in uniform who should be well and truly court-martialled. Consciously or subconsciously this whispering campaign against a distinguished battle-horse has been the pet peccadillo of Hitler and his Japanese accomplices. It is the best example of fifth column work that has occurred for a long time, and if readers care to give us names, places and dates, we are prepared to see that the windy whisperers get well due to them.

One does not doubt Mr. Curtin's desire for an all-in war effort; but why does he allow such an effort to conflict with his sensational coal strikes in New South Wales? Is the Federal Government afraid to discipline these people? Anyone who goes on strike in this grave hour is nothing more than a traitorous rat; and should be dealt with as such. In the meantime, hats off to the Collie Miners' Union for deciding to work on pay Saturdays. The pay-day Holiday on coal-fields is a time-honoured institution, and when men voluntarily decide to forego it in aid of the war effort, they are doing something far more than the mere making of a gesture.

In our extremity, and with the Japanese hammering at the gates of our out-paddocks, Australians may be forgiven for wishing that our Russian Allies could make a diversion, somewhere in the North, which would overbalance Japan's sea and air power. In view of the smashing successes of the Red Army, and of our own urgent needs, it seems passing strange that men like Sir Stafford Cripps should be advocating more help for Russia; but, as I see the matter, and I certainly do not look at things with red, rose-tinted spectacles, there is another and very important side to Russian strategy as it affects the Pacific situation. In their relentless hammering at the Germans, the Russians are faithfully adhering to one of Stonewall Jackson's maxims—a relentless pursuit of a retreating enemy. After enduring a terrible battering themselves, the Russians surprised the Huns, and the rest of the world, by beating the bell and hitting back so vigorously that the Germans' foundations are now on the defensive. If Russia were to give up the pursuit and divert forces to fight Japan, our Allies would be doing just what Hitler wants them to do, and the main purpose of their war, from the German point of view, would be accomplished.

A very competent American commentator, Mr. Edmund Stevens, wrote last December that the question of how Russia is affected by the extension of the war to the Pacific is best clarified by asking what will be America's new attitude towards war in the European scene. Russia would lose as much by a Japanese victory, or even a temporary success, in the Pacific, as the United States would by a Nazi victory in Europe or Northern Africa. Therefore, just as Japan is utterly committed to a victory of the Axis, America's future is tied up with the Allied cause. It is all one war, Mr. Stevens says, and the Russians themselves have long insisted on the indivisibility of the war. They have shown considerable realism in their strategy, and, therefore, they may be trusted to appreciate where their interests lie in the Pacific. For the present, both Russia and Japan find it convenient to maintain the fiction of a non-aggression pact, which was concluded after Mr. Matsumoto's visit to Europe last year. Recently Britain, in response to Russian representations, declared war on Japan, Hungary and Rumania, because these countries were fighting Britain's Ally. On a reciprocal basis, the Soviet Union is therefore committed to back its friends as well as Japan, just as soon as Britain asks Moscow to do so.

The Mr. Stevens, to whom I have referred, knows Russia as intimately as any of his contemporaries on the European or American Press. He says that the Russians remember that the Japanese know more about the Japanese Army than anybody else, with the possible exception of the Chinese. For nearly three years, from 1936 to 1939, Japanese and Russian forces were engaged in intermittent, if unofficial, warfare along the Siberian border. In most of this fighting the Japanese appear to have had the worst of it. Until the Germans invaded Russia last year, Japanese forces were estimated at a strength of seventy divisions. In December, at the time of Japan's entry into the war, the whole Japanese Army did not contain seventy divisions. It is impossible for us to estimate Japanese strength at the present time, but it has been diverted to Europe. In the past few months it is believed that large contingents of the Russian Far Eastern forces have been recalled westward to fight the Germans. But even if the Japanese have won back half or a third of their pre-war strength, winter conditions should allow the Soviet forces to cope with any Japanese attack at most points. On the other hand, in the Vladivostok region, mile-high weather and favouring geography might give an advantage to Japanese encircling operations.

The Russians are said to have realised the vulnerability of Vladivostok. It is believed that they have already transferred their main Far Eastern naval base eight hundred miles north to Nikolaevsk. The sea approaches to Nikolaevsk are guarded by narrow and well-defended straits, and it would be extremely difficult for any Japanese force to reach the place by an overland route. From here, the submarines and small destroyers of the Soviet Far Eastern Navy could slip out into the Sea of Japan, and play considerable havoc with Japanese shipping.

Of course there is always the danger of under-estimating Japan. The greatest favour which any nation involved in war can bestow on its opponent is to under-estimate him. Russia under-estimated Finland. Italy under-estimated Greece. When that time arrives—and I am confident it is going to happen—then only, people expect the Germans will have lost their "time-honoured restrictions", and have failed to do so. From the British in North Africa. Hitler and Goering under-estimated the R.A.F. and the stamina of the British people under bombing. We have had some tragic under-estimations ourselves, and our present enemies, the Germans, under-estimated Russia's powers of resistance. In all these cases, those who under-estimated their opponents received either a serious setback or experienced a much harder struggle than was anticipated. The reminder is, perhaps, a useful one. There are many who "couldn't tell a chassepot rifle from a javelin" are telling the heads of the fighting forces how and where to fight the war. For the time being, it is evident, as Mr. Churchill well said, that we must be prepared to take punishment and hang on like grim death until the general situation permits a greater concentration of Allied strength in the Pacific. When that time arrives—and I am confident it is going to happen—then only will we have made ourill-fortune. It seems to the author, who wrote this article, that the war is going to be carried well and truly into Japan's home waters. For the present, Russia is too busy fighting the bully in the ring to devote any time to the challenger outside the ropes.

When that time does come, the Japanese leaders will be made to realize their folly in not foreseeing the military capital of Japan. Japanese military leaders, despite their strong desire not to be led by anyone outside, have, finally yielded to German argument. They have long resisted those who had argued that a war was going to be carried on only half-heartedly, because it suited the Nazi
purpose to keep large British and American naval and military formations immobilised in the Pacific. It was the series of serious disasters in Russia that made the Japanese intervention so welcome to Germany when it did come. Again, people speaking and writing with the wisdom which comes after the event, have blamed our political and military leaders for not foreseeing Japanese intervention. They did foresee it. They even anticipated it; but where they erred was in not expecting it so soon. Hitherto, forecasts of Japanese political and military action have been made on the basis of Japanese thinking and Japanese interests. This basis is no longer a valid yardstick, and now Japanese moves must also be judged in the light of inspiration and instruction from Berlin. Up to the present, it has not been a Japanese characteristic to plan things on a grand scale. Although in Manchuria, the Japanese militarists were the pioneers of the blitzkrieg plan of hitting below the belt without warning, such strokes have been the action of relatively small groups. In fact, both in Manchuria and in China, the Japanese have shown themselves to be good enough to strike unexpected blows, but extremely deficient in the staff work necessary for grand enterprises. Here again one must offer the warning that what has happened in the past is not necessarily a guide to future Japanese action or future performance.

What one may be sure of is that up to Japan's treacherous attack on the Allied bases in the Pacific, the Japanese military leaders were very peevish in insisting that, although they might take hints from the Germans, they were quite competent to devise and execute their own strategic plans. However, in their first surprise attacks on the far-flung American outposts, it is quite evident that they are now taking much more than hints from the Germans. It seems completely apparent that an launching widespread attacks without warning against such a variety of targets as Hawaii, the Philippines, Malaya and the East Indies, German political and military persuasiveness has completely dominated the prevailing Japanese policies and technique. That, at least, is the view of the most prominent American Press and Radio commentators, but it must also be remembered that Japan's needs for rubber, metals and oil have also been fingerposts to the points of attack.

From the German point of view, it is fairly clear that the best immediate Japanese object-ive would be to shock and provoke the combination of Allied Powers into diverting as much of their strength as possible into the Pacific arena. Should the final result be Japan's defeat, that would be no particular blow to the Nazis, especially if, in the meantime, they themselves could move farther along the road to conquest.

RUSSIAN GUERRILLAS

All the facts about the role played by Russian guerrilla fighters in this war are not yet known. Nevertheless, from the occasional references to them in the news, one may gather how important these fighters have been in holding the Huns at bay. The tradition of swift, hard-hitting irregular troops, designed to strike far into the enemy's rear, is strong in Russia. The vast distances there preclude a continuous front, or even the effective policing of captured territory. This, then, is an ideal setting for guerrillas.

The Russians probably first learned the technique from the Mongolian and Tartar horseman, who were a constant threat to Russia in the 11th and 12th centuries, and who continued to exact tribute from several large Russian cities until well into the 13th century. In this connection, also, it may be mentioned that what we now call the scorched earth policy was used by the Russians in the 11th century. The Russian country folk would drive off their cattle and other livestock, burn everything they could not carry into their walled towns. Then the Tartar raiders, unable to live on the desolated country, would have to retire. The initial success of the Russian mobile tactics, as applied against the Germans, was achieved as long ago as 1942, just a few months after the Russians, under Prince N. M. Yusupov, attacked the compact wedge formations of the steel-clad Teutonic knights, which were the panzer divisions of those days, by harrying tactics on the flanks and rear. The Teutonic knights found themselves facing another century, and the first winter snows confined the retreating German columns to the roads, while guerrillas on skis and horseback can deploy around them across country.

Fortunately for Russia, that country's supply of guerrilla fighters is by no means unlimited. Almost more Russians own rifles, and they know how to use them, than know how to read and write. This applies not only to the younger generation, which has been subject to universal military training, but also to the older generation. Much of that training came in the first Great War, and in the subsequent Bolshevik revolution. The campaigns that followed the Revolution were particularly good training for Russian guerrilla fighters. The fighting of that time was almost entirely irregular. Red, white, green, and black battle lines fluctuated with kaleidoscopic swiftness. The men who fought in those campaigns learned a trick, which they have passed on to the younger generation, which have proved most effective against the Hun invaders.

Still, the regular troops, the Russian guerrillas doubtless have paid a heavy price. Those captured have faced German firing squads; but they have returned the score with interest, swooping out of the forest on isolated Nazi detachments, destroying German convoys, laying mines, or simply picking off sentries. Moreover, let anyone who bittilest the effectiveness of their crude arms and methods, against the splendidly equipped Huns, be told that in the Spanish Civil War, bottles filled with petrol proved one of the most effective ways of destroying tanks.

SIR ALAN FRANCIS BROOKE

The New Chief of the Imperial General Staff

From the days of Viscount Wolseley to those of Viscount Gort and Sir John Dill, Northern Ireland has contributed many distinguished soldiers to the British Army. The latest to come into the news is General Sir Alan Francis Brooke, who was appointed Chief of the Imperial General Staff towards the end of last year. An American correspondent has described him as one who looks like "a businessman in uniform." That description was intended as a compliment, because the correspondent hastened to explain that although he is a professional, he had made soldiering a business. It is stated that his knowledge of technical warfare is unequalled in the British service. That knowledge is the result of intensive studies of German panzer divisions in action, to say nothing of wide experience in different commands.

In fact, General Brooke is regarded by many as Britain's greatest expert on mechanised warfare. It is his ambition to make the British Army as heavily equipped as any enemy. Moreover, he is a master of the technique of surprise. Added to this, he has made himself a contact with every section of the service, and possesses an unrivalled knowledge of Army personalities.

Sir Alan Francis Brooke was actually born in France (at Bagneres-de-Bigorre) on July 23, 1883. He was the youngest son of a family of nine. The Brooke family, known in Northern Ireland as "The Fighting Brookes, have had their home at Colebrooke, the Brookeborough, since the days of Charles I. Sir Alan entered the Royal Military College at Woolwich, and was commissioned in the Royal Artillery in 1902. After regimental service in Ireland and India he was knighted, and in 1914 with the first Indian force to reach the Western Front. Later in the war he was appointed General Staff Officer to the Canadian Corps, and with the Canadians at Vimy Ridge in 1917. Later he became a General in the British Army. His decorations include the D.S.O. and the Belgian Croix de Guerre, and he was mentioned six times in despatches. In the present war, he again went to France, this time as a corps commander under Viscount Gort. In that position he impressed on his staff that this was a war of new methods.

When the Belgian Army yielded to the invaders, General Brooke rapidly and energetically effected a defensive flank, which was vitally important in enabling the British Army to escape encirclement. He spent several days on the beaches at Dunkirk, and was among the last to leave in a trawler from St. Nazaire. After reporting the details of the British Expeditionary Force's rear-guard action to the King in Buckingham Palace, he was knighted, and in July, 1940, he resumed the Southern Command.

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MARCH 13, 1942 PAGE 21

U.S. ARMY PENSIONS

Army pensions have always proved a problem when American statesmen have been trying to cut down expenses. Pensions paid in respect of older wars seem to have been carried on to the descendants of the men who earned them. For instance, up to a few years ago, American civilians were still being paid pensions granted to their ancestors in respect of the war of 1812. After the Great War, Uncle Sam's pension bill went up like a rocket. Now, with a million and a half men in the United States' Army today, the Senate is facing a difficult choice. A new pension drive for the veterans of the last war was brought before Congress towards the end of last year, and passed the Lower House. That put it squarely up to the Senate to decide whether or not additional pension grants were merited by those called up to the colours when the United States entered the war against Germany in 1917. To complicate matters still further, the Senate was asked to make its choice, not on the basis of disabilities suffered in the war, but in connection with what the American papers call non-service disabilities.

Two Bills were involved. One would provide pensions for the dependants of deceased veterans who suffered no disability whatever, in consequence of their war service. A second sought to give a pension of 40 dollars a month to every former soldier of the former war, who has reached the age of 65, and who can fulfill certain requirements. Of course there are not so many veterans of the former war who have yet reached the age of 65, but, within the next decade, their numbers will be greatly increased. Thus, it is estimated that this Bill would eventually cost United States taxpayers no less than five thousand million dollars.

The two Bills have been approved by most of the big veterans' organisations. However, one, the American Veterans' Association, attacked the Bills. Its spokesman, Robert B. Luchars, of Montclair, New Jersey, declared that the measures would involve expenditure for "training camp heroes who never smelt gunpowder."

Brigadier-General Frank T. Hines, head of the Veterans' Administration in Washington, which pays Uncle Sam's pension bills, has urged caution and a restriction on the Bills. Congress is dealing, he warns, with a "very ticklish public opinion" and faces the need of economy and belt-tightening on all possible Federal outlays, because of huge defence expenditures. Moreover, Brigadier-General Hines told Congressmen in a sub-committee hearing that the pension Bills involve what he termed a "new principle and a costly one," by providing payments to dependent parents of war veterans. Under the present Bills, twenty-five dollars a month would go to a dependent father or mother, or thirty dollars if both survived. Spokesmen for the National Economy League have already criticised the Bills vigorously. They point out that soldiers who...
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IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMMEDIATE NATIONAL IMPORTANCE THAT EVERY CITIZEN SHOULD SAVE
The Fuehrer In Command
By Our Own Special Commentator

When Hitler shewed General von Brauchitsch towards the end of last year, this caused more speculation than any Nazi act since the mysterious flight of Rudolf Hess. It was generally accepted, however, that General von Brauchitsch had been removed from his command because of the costly failure of the three main German offensives in Russia. Only this could have been done in time to cause the removal of the man who, for over two years, has been head of the German General Staff.

How much Von Brauchitsch has actually led the German armies in the past has always been too little to question. One school of opinion holds that the Fuehrer, Chief of Staff (General Keitel) laid out most of the campaigns, and that Von Brauchitsch merely carried out their plans. Another school asserts that Hitler and his personal staff were quite busy about overall operations, whereas Von Brauchitsch was the chief strategist. Whichever scheme eventually went into the wastebasket, while Von Brauchitsch carried out the regular Army plans. No doubt German generals must have felt some personal relief when Hitler’s assumption of the supreme command was announced about two weeks ago, for they must have had some misgivings as to the inevitable consequences of continued disasters on the Eastern Front. Whatever the reasons may have been for Hitler taking over the supreme command, the plain fact remains that the change of leadership has not been a change of defeat. Many competent observers incline to the opinion that Hitler himself has had a good deal to say in all past operations. They contend that it was his grand strategy—others call it the strategic blunder—which called for the invasion of Russia. No lesser man could have ordered that. But it may be, as was rumoured, that Von Brauchitsch opposed the attack on the Soviet, and thereby saved the Fuehrer’s disfavour, because events have proved his policy sounder than his master’s.

Be that as it may, Von Brauchitsch has had company in misfortune. Six out of the eleven German Field Marshals created by Hitler after the fall of France have been relieved of their commands before the end of last year, and a seventh died suddenly. British and American observers regard this as more than mere coincidence; but they are rather astonished at the upsurge of this apparent split between Hitler and his generals. A reasonable inference is that all is not well in Germany; but it is dangerous to assume that the German people will in

AN ANZAC REMEMBERS
By H. Battye

(March 15, 1942, Page 23)

This article was posted to us before the end of last year, for it is our Christmas number. It reached us only this month; hence the delay in publication. The writer, Mr. H. Battye, is a constant reader of “The Listening Post,” and an occasional contributor to the magazine, having served at Cape Helles, during the Gallipoli campaign of the Australian Imperial 29th Division. He now resides at Wakefield in Yorkshire.

In common with our readers, we are glad to hear once more from our valued contributor, who is still doing his bit for King and Empire.—Ed., L.P.)

I thing it’s the first time I’ve missed a parade on Armistice Day. There was no military display this year, and I was on duty as a full-time warden in the Civil Defence Service. I listened to a British Legion service, and the preacher’s sermon was great. Ah, yes! Many a man has been helped out of troubled waters, and out of the hand of despair, by our organisation. It has worked, and has kept intact, that spirit of comradeship found in any part of the world during the Great War. We shall need it after this one; but the power that the Office (the Government) will have to do these things will return from this war. They must not be kept waiting, or almost starving, before help is given. Four years of service to one’s country, followed by years of ill-health and misery, deserves the better reward than that meted out in the years that followed the last war. We who have lived to see and take part in this terrible struggle can never forget the horrors of the last war. We cannot, for the life of us, see why nations are allowed to make war when the majority of their people are against it. More and more of us, or shall we say haters, cause it. Spring their military armed forces to attention and march! That is what is wrong, and no nation should be allowed to take up arms unless the people grant permission to do so. What a world we live in today! How the people suffer! Our children, our aged, our infirm! What a civilisation! Men, women, girls, old and young, even grandfathers working through the day from Sunday to Sunday making things to destroy human beings! Blood, sweat and tears we have endured; we are warned against more to follow. God grant us the courage to endure to the end.

Your Australians have done great deeds. They have shown the true British spirit, and shown to us who live in the Homeland that once again we shall have men who will face no foe along with us. They were great pals at Anzac, Cape Helles, Mudras, Mustapha, Alexandria and France. Once they played “Hamish store” at Mustapha. Yes, they were liberal, too. A match! Oh, take the box! Chum! Gigs! Take the packet!

I feel sure your thoughts are for us in these dreary days and nights of November. This black-out is an awful experience for those who have to travel or do duty in it. Lorries drivers especially have my sympathy.

WHY NOT? The Returned

Soldier Printers—IMPERIAL PRINTING CO. LIMITED
Towards the end of last year most American newspapers, except those of the isolationist group, were inclined to be harsh in their judgment of Turkey’s policy of neutrality. At the time, Turkish diplomacy did seem to have ignored the fact that Germany, for a relatively small Power that was between the upper and the nether millstone, so to speak, and anxious only to avoid being crushed between them. What American public opinion could not understand was why Turkey should accord President Hitler’s request at the same time, allow Germany to talk her into trade agreements. They called this sort of thing the “Cash and Tarry” policy. British statesmen, on the other hand, quite understood Turkey’s position, and were satisfied with Turkey’s actions, or said they were, which one supposes, amounts to the same thing. One should always accept news emanating from Vichy with a considerable amount of reserve; but it would seem that the Vichy the teethe, Turkey’s desire to retain her neutrality and the determination of the Turks to defend themselves are not so very wide of the mark. Vichy's policy reports the President of Turkey (General Ionu) with saying: “It is not easy to follow a friendly and impartial policy towards those at war; but the Government, with the support of the National Assembly, is following that policy.”

That statement has a ring of truth which is supported by recent developments. Shortly before the end of January, Germany began to employ the old strategy with regard to Turkey. Berlin knew that nothing is more calculated to excite and dismay the Turks than a threat to the Dardanelles. The Nazis, therefore, worked overtime to foster the notion that Russia was casting greedy eyes in the direction of the Dardanelles. Turkish leaders were quick to see this German bait. However, the Turkish leaders were not long in realising that this was just another German trick.

The fact that Berlin has been reduced to subtle form of evidence of Hitler’s worry over the growth of pro-Alled sentiment in Turkey. That, at least, is how the situation appears to American radio commentators; but the fact that they view the matter in the light of a growth of pro-Alled sentiment indicates that Turkey may not have been so much for us as our own publicists would have us believe. It will be recalled that, just before Japan came into the war, British observers were convinced that Turkey had experienced a revulsion of feeling against Japan, and that the Siamese would fight agressively. When the blow did fall, Siam’s resistance was of the most perfunctory character, and Siamese troops are now fighting the Japanese against our forces in Burma. But that is by the way. After all, it is plain to the veriest dunce that Russia could not launch an attack on the Dardanelles while the Red Armies were at death-grasps with the Germans in further north. Berlin made no effort to explain just how Russia could move against the Dardanelles, without first pushing the Boche out of the Ukraine, and out of the Balkans as well. Thus, if the Nazi propaganda were true, it would predict a dismal future for Hitler’s own forces.

Fortunately, the majority of the Turks are now convinced that the Allies will win the war. What is more, all the recent desperate efforts of the German propaganda machine are doing little to mitigate the unfavourable impression the German reverses in Russia and Libya have had on Turkish public opinion. But, although the average Turk now feels that Germany is losing the war, he continues to be somewhat apprehensive about the possible future intentions of the Soviet Government. Like the elephant, the Turk never forgets, and one of the things he will remember is that Russian foreign policy has always been directed towards finding a free outlet to the outer seas. Turks have the consolation of believing that Britain and the United States will see to it that Turkey is protected from any possible grab at the Dardanelles.

Thus, among other things, is probably why American correspondents have recently been impressed by many manifestations of pro-Alleied sentiment among the Turkish people. For example, Turkish soldiers have recently been issued with British Army Boots from “China.” The Turkish paper “Hicije” has pronounced and gleefully told each other that they are a present from the “great British Prime Minister.” This growth of pro-Alleied sentiment has been accompanied by a growing dislike of Germans. The Germans in Turkey, obseous and all as the average German is, are beginning to realise this. They talk French in public now, because they know the sound of the German language enranges the average Turk.

A.R.M.S. COMPETITIONS

It looks as if the A.R.M.S. games will have to go into recess until after the war. Difficulties of transport and the ever-increasing call on the time of players in the V.D.C. make it impossible to carry on the organised competitions. Nevertheless it is hoped that a few sub-books will be arranged among one another, and it may be possible to conduct the individual championships during the year.

Shorts from B.B.C.‘s Talks

A Thruster from the Start

“Winston Churchill... was not even willing to abide by the usual rules which govern the arrival of babies on this earth. Winston was born two months before anyone expected him. He was so anxious to get started.”

—Frank Owen.

After Eighteen Hours “Under”

“Submarines are usually cold and damp in the winter, and hot in the summer. To give you an idea of the conditions, I may say that after eighteen hours below water, a petrol light will not light, and a match when struck will not burn. Think that on over.”

—Charles Graves.
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SOUVENIRING

The Department of the Air has issued a bulletin telling civilians what to do in the event of enemy air raids. That bulletin has also told the public what not to do, and one practice against which the public are warned is the old popular practice of souveniring. That bulletin has been commonly among Diggers in the last war. Most fellows grew out of the habit along with their repugnance to mud and dirt and the other minor horrors of war.

The collection of souvenirs is an old popular practice of souveniring. It is the practice against which the public are warned.

The collection of souvenirs is the old popular practice of souveniring.

The fellows grew out of the habit along with their repugnance to mud and dirt and the other minor horrors of war.

SOUVENIRS

February 18, 1942

At the meeting of the State Executive on February 1, there were present Messrs. Yeates, Philip, Cornell, Watt, Kahan, James, Zeffert, Margolin, Thorn, Williams, Logic, Wood, Paton, Edmondson, Smith, Warner and Abbott. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Olden, Anderson, Stewart, Collett, Panton, Denton, Nicholas, Whiteman, Hylton, Simpson, Johnston and Newton.

Mr. C. Taylor.—It was agreed that a welcome home should be given to Mr. Charles Taylor, Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation, at the next meeting of the State Executive.

Membership.—The report of the Membership Committee meeting held on February 16 was received and adopted. A comparative list of membership showed that membership had fallen to 7,426 during the year. This represented a decrease of 990.

Aged Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Relief Fund.—The report of the trustees of the Aged Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Relief Fund stated that £18,665 had so far been collected. Of this amount £17,800 has been invested in Commonwealth security. The trustees reported a meeting of the Executive last year to consider amendments to the Aged Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Relief Fund Act.

R.S.L. Welcome Committee.—The R.S.L. Welcome Committee reported having met on February 11 and considered the support of hospitals. The President of the Licensed Victuallers’ Association (Mr. Syd Johnston) is a member of the League, attended the meeting. He pointed out that difficulties were experienced by hotel-keepers, who had done everything possible to keep the soldiers supplied with much-needed hospital treatment. It was considered that the co-operation of the Red Cross Society be sought in this matter, and that it be referred to in the next circular to branches.

Anzac Day.—It was agreed that the matter of Anzac Day observance this year be left to the State President, who will bring it up at the forthcoming meeting of the Federal Executive with a view to Anzac Day, in order that the war effort will not be in any way impeded.

Sub-Branches.—The State Secretary reported having attended, with the Assistant State Secretary, a meeting of the Guildford sub-branch. Further correspondence was received from the Collie sub-branch on the subject of guarding wheat trucks. The reply was left to the State Secretary.

Further correspondence was also received from Collie on the subject of aliens. The appointment of sub-branch officials as advised by a strip of fabric, the Australian Insignia, was confirmed. A communication from the Shenton Park sub-branch regarding the employment of young men in mines was received. The reply was left to the State Secretary.

Protection Measures.—A reply was received from the authorities following representations concerning measures for the protection of the Midland junction Workshops. It was decided to suggest that camouflage could be used more extensively than it is at present.

Aluminium.—The Collie sub-branch urged that the Government should develop known deposits of bauxite and anite in order to establish an aluminium industry in Western Australia. The State Secretary was instructed to advise the sub-branch that this matter was already receiving the earnest consideration of the State Government.

The Manjimup sub-branch advised the despatch of twelve bags of aluminium scrap, approximately three hundredweight, which had been collected by the sub-branch.

A resolution from the Carlisle sub-branch in regard to the establishment of depot for the temporary storage of farm stock was received. Replies were left to the State Secretary.

Letters of Government Employees.—The Public Service Commissioners advised that the League’s suggestion that the exemption of Government employees should be controlled by him had now been adopted by the State Government.

Volunteer Defence Corps.—Mr. Watt informed delegates that complaints had been received that the Railway Department was trying to prevent its employees from training with the Volunteer Defence Corps. It was agreed that he and the State Secretary should interview the Comrade Commander in regard to this matter.

Special Meeting.—A special meeting of the State Executive was held on February 18 at 9.30 p.m. Those present were Messrs. Yeates, Philip, Cornell, Watt, Kahan, James, Zeffert, Margolin, Thorn, Williams, Logic, Wood, Edmondson, Smith, Warner and Abbott. Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Olden, Anderson, Stewart, Collett, Panton, Denton, Nicholas, Whiteman, Hylton, Simpson, Johnston and Newton.

The meeting was convened for the purpose of considering the following motion, notice of which had been given at the preceding meeting: “That the motion carried at the Executive meeting on February 19, 1941, dealing with honorary membership of the Anzac Club, be rescinded.” The motion was carried.

Executive Meetings.—It was moved and seconded that in view of the present war position, as it affects members of the Executive in relation to their family responsibilities, the time of meetings of the Executive be altered to 5.30 p.m. instead of 7.30 p.m., as at present. After some discussion consideration of the motion was adjourned until next meeting.

Anzac Day Observance.—The report of the recent meeting of the Federal Executive had requested the Prime Minister to communicate to the State Premier the despatch of ensuring that Anzac Day this year should not be observed as a statutory holiday, provided that the provisions of the State Acts respecting Anzac Day be observed. It was agreed that a deputation comprising the State President, the State Premier, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Watt meet upon the Premier in connection with this matter. It was also agreed that an early meeting of the Anzac Day Committee be called.

Mr. C. Taylor.—Mr. Charles Taylor, Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation, who had recently returned from the Middle East, paid a short address to the chairman. The Federal President had telegraphed his expression of welcome and appreciation of Mr. Taylor’s interest in League affairs, and the welfare of ex-service men and women during his important mission abroad.
The line of the activities of the Red Cross Enquiry Bureau so far as prisoners of war were concerned, and of the other work carried out while he was away.

Sub-Branch Officials.—The appointments of sub-branch officials as reported by Bruce Rock and Maylands sub-branches were confirmed.

Personnel, V.D.C.—With regard to the report submitted to the previous Executive meeting that the Railway Department was preventing its employees from training with the V.D.C., a copy of Statutory Rule No. 37 of the National Security Act had been obtained. This clearly stated that an employer shall not prevent an employee from performing any duty required of him as a member of the Corps. Appropriate action has been taken to advise those concerned.

Russian Relations.—The Australia - Russia Relations Committee requested the League to appoint representatives to attend a conference to be held in the Perth Town Hall on March 23. Financial support was also requested. It was agreed that the matter should be submitted to the Management Committee for a report at the next meeting.

Camouflage.—The Chairman of the Civil Defence Council advised that the question of camouflage had been placed in the hands of a Federal committee. Midland Workshops were among the first buildings referred to the committee. It was agreed that the sub-branches referred to be advised.

Interment Camp.—The North Perth Sub-Branch suggested that an interment camp for aliens was too near the coast. The reply was left to the State Secretary.

Problems.—It was suggested that the Problems Committee be called to a meeting at an early date.

MARCH 15, 1942

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wives and friends, concerning bridge evenings, which are held each Friday night in the Town Hall. Attendance has not been satisfactory for some time, and it is felt that renewed efforts must be made on the part of branch members to maintain this source of income. Reports have been received that the number of financial members of the League is on the wane. This, we think, is more or less due to the fact that a large number of our old members are now in some branch of the armed forces, and for some peculiar reason the majority of these Diggers seem to forget to renew their subscriptions. We earnestly get to renew their subscriptions. We earnestly appeal to them to remain financial in the League. It is a link that they must not break.

MAYLANDS

The Annual Smoke Social, following on the election of officers, which took place on February 19, proved to be a highly successful function. Between 60 and 70 members attended, among whom was one returned from the present conflict in the Middle East, in addition to 15 members of the Garrison Battalions. During the evening a presentation was made, in the form of a Certificate of Service, to the retiring secretary, Mr. Les King. He retires after five years of continuous service as secretary. His full-time military duties prevent him from carrying on for a further period. Mr. Harry Prince is now the Sick Visiting Officer, and the Liaison Officers are Messrs. Percy Davies and George Burtenshaw. At the fortnightly meeting on February 26 the balance sheet was read and passed around. It was gratifying and interesting to note that the sub-branch had contributed £200 to war loans, whilst funds for amelioration purposes, as well as funds for carrying on sub-branch activities for the ensuing year, were satisfactory. Mr. Ron Fleming brought to the members' notice the outstanding work done by Mr. Bill Hall during the past year, for he was to be accorded practically all the credit for the satisfactory position of the social activities fund. The one and only fault of the evening was that of our president, Mr. Sep Horton, on the occasion of his birthday. It was proposed by Mr. Ron Fleming, the latter's 21st (?) birthday having been celebrated at the Annual Smoke Social. The O.C. (Mr. Ron Fleming) "F" Coy., Swan Battalion V.D.C. (Home Guard), reporting on Maylands V.D.C. activities, said that 104 members attended the parade held on Sunday, February 15, and that instruction on the various manoeuvres, non-consistently at our disposal, had brightened up considerably. The next sub-branch meeting will be held in the Dug-out on pension night, Thursday, March 26, at which the new R.S.L. badges will be given to all financial members in exchange for their old badge.

GLOUCESTER PARK

Nominations for officers of the sub-branch close on March 10, and the election will take place on April 2. The new dances commence on March 18.

Nick Fowler proved a most competent chairman at the Annual Smoko on March 13, and in this he had the able assistance of secretary Bill Reid. Speeches were short and to the point. Arthur Hullett and Tom Campbell were in fine oratorical fettle. The contributing artists were Eric Allen, Tom Martin, A. Roydhouse, H. Hopperton and Bill Green.

Nick Reid made a job of the drums. The two musicians, Alf Reid, and Tich, with the spoons brought the house down. Bill Kirkton made the usual excuse that he was just able to be present. Oliver Strang was in full war-paint, and so was former secretary Warrant Officer Albert Wilkins. The stewards, Frank Rastor, the Harman brothers and Jim Whattaker, kept the vocal cords well lubricated.

CLAREMONT

The monthly meeting was held on March 5, when the president (Mr. W. Ford) presided over a large attendance. After business had been disposed of, the evening was passed in social activities and games.

MOUNT HAWTHORN-NORTH

LEEDERVILLE

The February meetings were well attended. New members include D. Deering (11th Bn.), R. Stace (11th Bn.), V. Howie (11th Bn.), A. J. Lawrence (5th Pioneers), A. and Clark and E. Hinchcliffe (12th Brigade), and L. Goddard (11th Bn.). Members stood in silence in memory of a fellow member, Mr. Moriarty, who passed away during the month. Condolence and sympathy to the bereaved family were expressed. The sub-branch was visited by members of the Police Boys' Club, and the evening was spent in games. The committee worked hard to make a social success of the affair, and credit is due to Sports Director Spofforth for the very efficient way he looked after everybody in the various games. Some great games of table tennis were witnessed. The visitors won, but the sub-branch hopes to turn the tables on March 19, when members will be guests of the Club. At the conclusion of the evening Spofforth announced for a trophy is being arranged. The sub-branch is sorry to report that Bill Skates is still on the sick list, and hopes that he will soon improve. The next meeting nights are March 26, April 9, and April 23.

MELBOURNE

There was a good roll-up at the March meeting. A communication expressing hopes of more serious and better war efforts was sent to a high authority. Matters of general interest were discussed, among which were the powers of the industrialists in control of the Peace Movement, and the situation of the Home Guard.

NORTH-EAST FREMANTLE

Members are asked to note that future monthly meetings will be held in the East Fremantle Town Hall on the fourth Monday of each month. One meeting was held on February 25, "A" Coy. of the Home Guard journeyed to Kelmsect to take part in a set of manoeuvres in conjunction with "B," "C" and "D" Cosys. of the Battalion. The exercise was in the main an orderly retirement on a nine-mile front. This was well received, and the drill of the unit was excellent. The stunt was finished "A" Coy. marched to the Kelmsect Hall for lunch, which was provided by the Social Committee, from our own social funds. The exercise was under the direction of Mr. Burt, the official assistant at the camp. The sub-branch took part in the presentation of the medals to the Moncur and the Headquarters Staff. Two-hundred-and-one members were on parade.

MOSMAN PARK

The February meeting was moderately well attended, and George Ashworth occupied the chair. The principal business of the evening was the report of the Home Guard leader and the discussion thereof. An improvement in the standards of our auxiliaries is evident. Much credit is due to the training area, and a good deal of preliminary musketry is on the menu regularly. Messrs. Mead, Forbes, Giles and Love are rapidly moulding the boys into shape, and before long should be sufficiently for the right to do their regular shooting at Swanbourne. It is hoped now that a definite move has been made in the right direction, members of the sub-branch will all throw their whole weight into the unit and make it thoroughly representative of the district. It was with regret that we learned of the passing away of our late esteemed secretary, Arthur Sillis, during the month. A motion of condolence was passed, and the sympathy of all members conveyed to his wife and family. The ladies of our auxiliary are doing a good job with the disposal of War Bonds. Nearly £250 has been raised so far, and new subscribers are coming along all the time. Their efforts with camouflage nets are also very commendable, and when they get under way will be a welcome addition to the form of the committee's tasks. Many new members are joining the sub-branch. It is hoped that in the near future some of the younger ones will be feeling their feet sufficiently well enough to take part in the administration of affairs.
CALINGIRI

The president (Mr. D. K. Fordham) presided over a large meeting at Bolgart on February 25. It was decided to support the Primary Producers' Association in an effort to have excursion railway fares to agricultural districts renewed, as well as to Goldfields and suburban areas. A resolution was passed urging the immediate internment of all unnaturalised enemy aliens. On March 5 the sub-branch gave an evening to Miss F. Haines, of the women's auxiliary, on the eve of her departure from the district to join the W.A.A.F. as a telephone operator. Miss Haines is the first from the district to join this force. The sub-branch wished her good luck and a safe return.

STATE EXECUTIVE

As the petrol license has been relinquished motor outings will be discontinued until further orders. Teas and entertainments, however, may be arranged at the various institutions through the State Secretary. Camouflage net making is in full swing in all areas. Approximately five hundred nets have been made, and three hundred fully completed nets have been sent to the Army Ordnance Department. There are now eight new groups in the metropolitan area awaiting twine. The State Executive is purchasing equipment so as to be able to entertain returning troops. A donation from the Sportsmen's Council enabled the Executive to obtain sufficient cutlery and glassware. Crockery is still needed, and as the requirements are for about 200 men, the call on the cheque book will be great. Small donations would, therefore, be greatly appreciated. Bayswater Cheerio Club continues to assist auxiliaries in all branches of their work. Both civilian and repatriation wards of the Perth General Hospital are visited weekly, and comforts are supplied to patients.

VICTORIA PARK

Mrs. Barnett presided over a good attendance at the February meeting. Madames Prateley and Haigh reported on their visit to the Edward Millen Hospital. There were only 20 patients, and cigarettes and reading matter were distributed. Members manned the stand at the corner of Glidden Building to sell badges in aid of the Parkerville Children's Home on Friday, March 6. Instead of the monthly meeting at 8 p.m. on March 28, there will be a membership drive. This will take the form of a social, to which wives of men of the younger forces have been invited. Each member is requested to bring a plate. Members and friends are asked to come to the R.S.L. Hall on Wednesday afternoon and help with camouflage net making. The work, besides being very interesting, will be of great importance to our fighting men. Mrs. Prue reported two bereavements.

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February 18. Mrs. Murphy presided. It was this year. The proceeds beingforwarded to the Nurses’ Hostel and “Dunleavy” House. A sum of £5 was donated to the local A.R.P. for First Aid equipment. Next month will see the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. It is hoped that all members will attend. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m., when new-comers will be welcomed.

BOULDER

The Friday night dances are still going strong. These dances have been well attended during the last couple of weeks, as the weather has been cooler. A euchre and rum-may afternoon is held each Wednesday in the R.S.L. Hall. The proceeds are used for sending parcels of comforts to overseas men. Letters of appreciation have been received from the men and nurses. All are very grateful for the comforts, and more especially for the thought that a band of women from the home town devote their time to this work. Mrs. Grompton and her orchestra, and Mrs. Boyes and Mrs. Dunning still do their good work at the dances in providing the music. We are still sending parcels overseas. We have 27 prisoners of war on our list, and we are placing a War Savings Certificate in the bank for each of these men. We can’t send parcels to them, but they still share in the fund. There was a good attendance at our last meeting, at which Mrs. Bosustow presided.

SUBIACO

At the monthly meeting on February 18 the president (Mrs. Turpin) presided over a gathering of about 40. Old members who have rejoined (Mesdames Ritchie and Harvey) and new members (Mesdames Amberley and Clarke) were welcomed. Regret was expressed at the loss of Mr. Newman, the secretary, who has had to relinquish that post to engage in full-time military duty. Appreciation of his assistance to the auxiliary was expressed. It was with regret that the resignation of Mrs. James from the Visiting Committee was accepted. Mrs. James has taken up work of national importance. The Camp Comforts Committee reported having sent six parcels abroad during the month. The auxiliary has given an electric jug to the Lemnos Hospital. The Economic Stores were accorded a vote of thanks for a donation of 17 yards of calico for surgical dressings for emergency stocks at the Hollywood Hospital. On Friday, February 27, members gave the president a surprise birthday party. Among those who spoke on this occasion were Mesdames Cardell-Oliver, M.L.A., Richardson (Mayoress of Subiaco) and Pope (vice-president). Mrs. Pope made a presentation on behalf of the auxiliary, and Mrs. Turpin made a suitable response. The following artists contributed to the success of the occasion: Mesdames Bennett-Wilkinson, Taylor, Strue and McMahon. During the proceedings a telegram conveying birthday greetings to Mrs. Turpin was received from the Subiaco Junior Auxiliary.

F.U.S.W.

The monthly meeting of the F.U.S.W. was held at Anzac House. Mrs. T. C. Wilson (senior vice-president) presided in the unavoidable absence of Mrs. H. Dean, M.B.E., over a large gathering. Mrs. E. Lynch, musical director, arranged the programme, which was given by Mr. B. Edwards. Mrs. C. Taylor was the speaker. His interesting address was greatly appreciated by all. Mrs. Wilson, supported by Mrs. Bessell-Browne, thanked Mr. Taylor for his splendid work overseas. Mr. Edwards was thanked, and members unanimously agreed that the programme was a delightful one. As all Buffets were open for men in uniform, the meeting decided to forgo afternoon tea. All provisions were sent to the various Buffets. The younger set are continuing their fortnightly dances for the mobile canteen.

MT. HAWTHORN

On February 11 a card afternoon was organised by Mrs. Morton at the R.S.L. Hall. A nice afternoon was spent, and a sum of £3 was raised. Sunset Home was visited, and tea taken, which was appreciated by the old Diggers. A picture night at the local theatre was arranged, and £2 12/- was raised from the effort. Mrs. Fewson is holding a First Aid and Bandaging class at the R.S.L. Hall. Many members are attending, and 10/- was handed in for general funds. Net-making is still being carried on each Thursday morning at the Hall, and much good work is being done. War Savings Groups are still growing. Knitting is still going on, and many more parcels have been despatched. The fortnightly meetings are now being held on Thursday afternoons on account of war conditions.

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## ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICE MEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Place of Meeting</th>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTILLERY COMRADES' ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>Last Friday each month</td>
<td>W. Beadle, 450 Newcastle Street, Perth</td>
<td>Jack Kenny, 138 Sixth Avenue, Inglewood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLIND SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>When necessary</td>
<td>H. B. Benson, Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>Mrs. W. James, 19 Marion Street, Leederville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th BATTALION ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>Monthly luncheon, 1 p.m. on 11th of month</td>
<td>W. Kruger, 79 St. Leonard's Avenue, Leederville</td>
<td>R. W. Blain, 79 William Street, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EX-MACHINE GUNNERS' ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Grayson's, 32 King Street, Perth</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>J. Douglas, 13 Karoo Street, South Perth</td>
<td>E. S. Everett, Swan Baracks, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44th ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>As Advertised</td>
<td>Annual reunion, Monday of Show Week</td>
<td>M. Lewis, 350 Fitzgerald St, North Perth</td>
<td>E. L. Rogers, 65 Fairfield Street, Mt. Hawthorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th BATTALION ASSOCIATION</td>
<td></td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>Col. E. L. Marqvin, 62 Tyrell Street, Nedlands</td>
<td>E. J. Massey, 41 Harvey St, Victoria Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th BATTALION ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Committee, as arranged</td>
<td>2nd Monday</td>
<td>H. J. Edwards, 37 Hamilton Street, Bayswater</td>
<td>W. C. Armstrong, 29 Bulandi Street, West Leederville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>Nearest Saturday, July 19</td>
<td>Lt. D. Lobscher, 27 2nd Floor, Economic Chambers, Perth</td>
<td>J. Rutherford, 5 Elizabeth Street, North Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>2nd Wednesday, November</td>
<td>Mr. S. M. Johnston, Inglewood Hotel</td>
<td>Roy Perry, 22 Cooper Street, Nedlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th and 22nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>February, May, August</td>
<td>H. H., 134 Adelaide Terrace, Perth</td>
<td>A. E. Cook, 168 Railway Terrace, Mosman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALLY and PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>60 Ben Marcehe Chambers, Perth</td>
<td>1st Pension day of the month at 3 p.m.</td>
<td>W. P. Griffiths, J.P., 87 South Street, Beaconsfield</td>
<td>W. H. Carr-Boyd, 52 Nelson Crescent, East Perth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH DIRECTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Branch</th>
<th>Place of Meeting</th>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARMADALE</td>
<td>R.S.L. Clubrooms</td>
<td>2nd Wednesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Spencer Gwznw</td>
<td>Jack Kennedy, 138 Sixth Avenue, Inglewood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALBANY</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>1st Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>A. H. Richardson, Albany</td>
<td>Mrs. W. James, 19 Marion Street, Leederville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALLIDU DISTRICTS</td>
<td>R.S.L. Hall</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>R. Petchell</td>
<td>R. W. Blain, 79 William Street, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASEDEAN</td>
<td>Town Hall—Lesser Hall</td>
<td>Alternate Thursday (penion days)</td>
<td>H. K. Minchin, 5 Wilson St, Bassendean</td>
<td>E. S. Everett, Swan Baracks, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BROOKTON</td>
<td>R.S.L. Clubrooms</td>
<td>1st Saturday, 9 a.m.</td>
<td>R. T. Paridg, Brookton</td>
<td>E. J. Massey, 41 Harvey St, Victoria Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRUNBY</td>
<td>Bullbrook Town Hall</td>
<td>2nd Saturday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>G. Graves, Brookton</td>
<td>W. C. Armstrong, 29 Bulandi Street, West Leederville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAYSWATER</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Mr. S. M. Johnston, Inglewood Hotel</td>
<td>J. Rutherford, 5 Elizabeth Street, North Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUSSELTON</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>2nd Monday</td>
<td>H. H., 134 Adelaide Terrace, Perth</td>
<td>Roy Perry, 22 Cooper Street, Nedlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CALINGI</td>
<td>Calingi Hall</td>
<td>4th Wednesday</td>
<td>D. K. Fordham, Gordon Day, Cannington</td>
<td>A. E. Cook, 168 Railway Terrace, Mosman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANNING DISTS</td>
<td>Agricultural Hall</td>
<td>2nd Sunday, 10 a.m.</td>
<td>W. T. White, Winchester</td>
<td>John Lang, Cannamah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARNAH</td>
<td>Road Board Hall</td>
<td>1st Saturday each month, commencing June, 1940</td>
<td>T. H. Serre, Clifton Street, Collie</td>
<td>H. May, Collie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COILLIE</td>
<td>Solders' Hall</td>
<td>Alternate Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. J. Russell, Bilbarin</td>
<td>A. C. Bailey, Phone 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORRIGIN</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>1st Saturday each quarter, 1st Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. D. Dunne, 10 Webb Street, Cottesloe</td>
<td>H. T. See, 17 Lorna Street, Cottesloe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COTTESLOE</td>
<td>Council Hall, Jarrod Street</td>
<td>1st Thursday in each month</td>
<td>W. Ford, 13 Shenton Road, Claremont, F1999</td>
<td>Harvey G. Rae, 1 Thompson Road, Claremont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAREMONT</td>
<td>Committee Room, Claremont Oval</td>
<td>3rd Saturday each month</td>
<td>A. F. Wollmers, Kalamunda</td>
<td>M. J. Johnstone, Kalamunda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DARLING RANGE</td>
<td>R.S.L. Clubrooms, Cannng Road, Kalamunda</td>
<td>2nd Thursday in month</td>
<td>E. Storrie, Thos. H. Clarkson, Dongarra</td>
<td>H. J. North, Streetes, Irwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENMARK</td>
<td>R.S.L. Literary Institute, J. Sloper's Premises, Port Denison</td>
<td>1st Saturday each month at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>M. G. Baker, Donnybrook</td>
<td>Rev. J. C. Lund, Donnybrook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DONGARRA</td>
<td>Memorial Hall</td>
<td>3rd Saturday in month</td>
<td>C. D. Morgan, P.O. Box 29, Dumburg</td>
<td>C. W. Nicoloson, Dumburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUNNYBROOK</td>
<td>Dumbenburg Hall</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>A. A. Hills, Holyoke</td>
<td>C. H. Joyeana, Holyoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUMBLEYUNG</td>
<td>Dwellingup Hotel</td>
<td>Alternate Thursday (penion nights)</td>
<td>H. E. Hobbs, 57 Oakover Street, East Fremantle</td>
<td>W. Earnshaw, 21 Yeo Crescent, Bicton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DWEILINGUP &amp; DISTRICTS</td>
<td>Dwellingup Hotel</td>
<td>3rd Saturday in month</td>
<td>Dr. J. W. Piccles, Carnarvon</td>
<td>F. P. Dunn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREMANTLE &amp; DISTRICTS</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, South Terrace</td>
<td>3rd Saturday in month</td>
<td>T. C. Freedman, 15 Pennant St, North Perth</td>
<td>G. J. Lambie, 40 Elon Street, North Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GASCOWNE</td>
<td>Gascoyne Hotel</td>
<td>1st Monday</td>
<td>J. V. Fowler, 12 Pennant St, North Perth</td>
<td>S. W. Stewart, Gascoyneup</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>