THE EMPIRE AT WAR

"Even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, would carry on the struggle — until in God’s good time the New World with all its power and might steps forth to the rescue and liberation of the Old."

— Mr. Churchill, after the surrender of France in 1940.

Unlike the great empires which preceded it, the British Empire was the result of peaceful expansion and colonisation rather than of conquest; but the Imperial spirit—and by that we mean, not the spirit of conquest, but the consciousness that we Britons are people of one race, with one flag and one destiny—has been stimulated and strengthened by a series of wars. Between 1919 and 1939, it was fashionable for all sorts and conditions of men to talk of the futility of war, but the verdict of history is that, if wars have accomplished nothing else, these calamities and common dangers to which they have exposed the English-speaking world have gradually stirred those English-speaking components to a greater cohesion. It was that growing tendency towards cohesion which, at once alarmed and irritated those who hate our Empire for what it has, rather than for what it is.

For years, the envious so-called "Have-Not" Powers have persisted on picturing British Imperialism as the grasping enslaver of native races, and the occupier of territories which are needed by the gentle Teuton, the affable Jap and the docile Italian. Stripped of verbiage, that has been the essence of the Axis propaganda for nearly a quarter of a century. Such half-baked formulas have also been mouthed by the mentally anemic internationalists whose windy rhetoric bespeaks the very flag that shelters them. There is an element of unconscious humour in the sight of Germany, Japan and Italy shedding crocodile tears over the alleged woes of subject races, or there would be if it were not so patent that the Axis gangsters are merely trying to sow dissension and set one section of the Empire against another. Except in one or two isolated cases, such propaganda is unlikely to succeed, for the very reason that it is based on a complete misunderstanding of what the British Empire really means.

The concept of Empire, as we understand the term today, is something very different from the idea of conquest and the domination by a superior race, which underlay the Roman "Imperium" and which animate the so-called "New Order" which Hitler is trying to force upon Europe, and Japan upon Eastern Asia. British expansion has had more in common with Greek methods of colonisation, than with those of Imperial Rome. At the same time, those who have made our Empire a stronghold of democracy have profited from the lessons bequeathed by the world by the civilising and organising genius of Rome. The Greek concept of the State never transcended that of the City. As a result, the Greek colonies, though they always retained a deep affection for the mother city, became independent at birth. The British colonies, on the other hand, have passed, or are passing, through the various grades, from Crown Colony to self-governing Dominion, and then onward to Dominion status, without ever a thought of ultimate separation. The Roman idea of cohesion has been maintained in this great partnership of kindred races which we now prefer to call the British Commonwealth of Nations, and the partnership is not weakened by the centralisation which was the bane of Imperial Rome.

War has been responsible for much of this. It was the successful revolt and separation of the North American colonies which sounded the death-knell of the seventeenth-century theory that colonies were founded to be exploited by the mother country. The embattled farmers who stood to their guns at Bunker Hill struck a blow, not only for their own freedom, but for the more liberal treatment of colonies yet to be born. The Declaration of Independence not only brought into being the great United States; it was the basis of the policy that guided the destinies of British colonies ever since. South African colonials fought side by side with British Red-coats in the native wars of the last century without greatly surprising the Colonial Office, but the rest of the Empire was indeed surprised when a force of Australian soldiers was sent to the Sudan in 1883, and Canadian boatmen served with Wolseley's troops on the Nile in the unsuccessful attempt to save Gordon. It was Rudyard Kipling, the poet of the Empire, who first really awakened homesick Britons to the magnitude of the Empire the pioneers and adventurers of the race had founded. It was the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria which drew contingents of the Empire's fighting men to London, while the outbreak of the South African War two years later was responsible for one of the most extraordinary manifestations of Imperial patriotism in history. Britons from all parts of the Empire served in that war, which, apart from its political consequences, had two main results. It hastened the federation of the Australian Colonies, and it led to the dedication of May 24, Queen Victoria's birthday, as Empire Day, the day on which Britons, the whole world over, are reminded of their common origin, and their community of speech, of political institutions and democratic ideals.

It was a better organised assistance which Australia, in common with the Sister Dominions, gave to the common cause in the last war. Out of that war came the advance to Dominion status, which was accorded not so much as a reward as a recognition of a natural process of political evolution. Between the wars, the continuance of Imperial conferences on matters concerned with trade and defence continued. While the spirit
of local independence grew stronger, that growth was accompanied by the growth of the spirit of collaboration in affairs that concerned the Empire as a whole. Already in this war, it has been recognised that all partners of the British Commonwealth of Nations are entitled to have some say as to how the war will be conducted. Again the tendency is towards cohesion without undue centralisation, and the extension of the war to the Pacific has completed the experiment of the two great branches of the English-speaking race. The Americans were valued Allies in the last war. This time they are something more. They are bloodkin rallying to the call of the race against the hordes of barbarism. In the last war, there was a community of interest. This time there is the consciousness that the ideals of democracy and international decency, for which we are fighting, are also the ideals on which the United States were founded, and have since reared, not on shifting sands, but on a durable amalgam of nations. That Commonwealth, in partnership with the United States, will provide an edifice reared, not on shifting sands, but on a durable amalgam of realism and idealism, which will shelter all the smaller weaker nations, and which others may enter when they are sufficiently chastened and civilised.

THE ARROGANT ENEMY ALIEN

Not only in this State, but in the Eastern States as well, there has long been a feeling that our treatment of enemy aliens has been far too lenient. Compared with the position of British subjects in enemy countries, the enemy alien within our gates is enjoying a very rosy time. The widespread knowledge of the fact has caused many misgivings, to say nothing of murmurs of dissatisfaction, that have found expression from time to time in motions passed by branches and sub-branches of the League all over Australia. At the meeting of the State Executive on April 29 the view was expressed that all enemy aliens in this State should be interned. Reference was made at the meeting to the growing menace of aliens, naturalised and unnaturalised, who were still at large in country districts. Particular mention was made of the position at Waroona, where, according to reports, 40 or 50 unnaturalised aliens have secured contracts for supplying the Army with vegetables. Some of these, it was stated, were on parole from interment camps. What aggravated the position was the fact that some British settlers in the district had not been approached for the supply of vegetables, and some of those who had contracts were finding it difficult to secure the necessary labour. Certain aliens were reported to have adopted an independent, and sometimes arrogant, attitude, and delegates to the meeting were in accord with the view expressed in other States that all enemy aliens should be interned. The State Executive referred the matter to the management committee, as it was anticipated that the alien question would be discussed by the Federal Executive at its meeting on May 7.

Since then the question of aliens and vegetable contracts for the Army was the subject of bitter discussion at a meeting of the Waroona sub-branch. It was alleged that unnaturalised aliens were not only securing such contracts, but they were demanding exorbitant wages from British settlers for digging potatoes. The Waroona Sub-branch carried a motion urging the Federal Government to conscript unnaturalised aliens, and put them into labour gangs, and compel them to carry out land work, digging potatoes at soldiers' rates of pay.

One speaker at the Waroona meeting said that a Government official had actually offered contracts to Italians in the district. When he (the speaker) had approached the official and said that he was handicapped through shortage of labour in marketing what he had already grown, he was told that that was his baby. To us it seems that it is sufficiently galling for a Government official to pamper enemy aliens without speaking in such an over-bearing manner to white men. The secretary of the Waroona Sub-branch, in correspondence which indicated that local ex-servicemen had the support of the road boards and other bodies in the south-west in their protests against what looks like discrimination against British settlers in favour of Italians. Recently the Drakesbrook Road Board brought to the notice of the Prime Minister the acute shortage of rural labour, and protested against the exploitation of the position by Italians. The road board suggested that the Federal Government might do something to rectify the position, but the official reply had not been satisfactory. Mr. Ross McLarty, M.L.A., and other speakers did not see that there had been discrimination. Mr. McLarty promised to look into the points raised at the meeting in reference both...
to labour shortage and contracts. The meeting closed with the carrying of a resolution urging the Federal Government to conscript all aliens into labour corps.

CODDLING THE CONCHIES

The accounts of recent appeal court proceedings are sufficient to make many exasperated people ask how long is the Government going to continue coddling the conchies? At present, and in the light of the recent statement by the Attorney-General of the Federal Government's policy towards the conchies, it would seem that it is being made absurdly easy for these beautiful specimens to evade even non-combatant duties. Most of the recent appellants have described themselves as Jehovah's Witnesses. In other words, they have admitted their adherence to what has rightly been declared an illegal association. Of course they pose as martyrs and members of a persecuted sect, but all sane people know that the Jehovah Witness crowd are not persecuted for their religion, but prosecuted for their subversive activities. The other appellants belonged to an older but less-known sect, the Christadelphians.

Apart from their constructive disloyalty, what makes the Jehovah's Witnesses so particularly obnoxious in a democratic country is their class insensitivity. One witness testified that all holding different views from those of his own crowd were not Christians; and for long enough before the war, the gospel according to Jehovah was considered a racket, teemed with vituperation against all the real churches and anti-British and American propaganda disguised as religion. Even in normal times, the circulation of this printed matter among people of every time to cause grave breaches of the peace.

It is indeed hard to understand the mental and moral make-up of people who could stand in the witness-box and declare they would make no attempt to defend their own folk and see them being butchered by an invader. One beautiful specimen, described as a poultry farmer, thought it would be wicked to bandage up wounded soldiers, but he saw no sin in selling his eggs to Germany. Another, a wharf worker, spoke of the cheap publicity by declaring that he was not yellow and offering to go unarmed against the enemy. An offer like that means nothing, for the simple reason that the fellow who made it knew as well as we do that no harm would send unarmed men into the front line.

However, this brings us to a point at which citizens as individuals can do something in the matter. The New Zealand Government, which seems to be so far ahead of our own, Government in so many ways, has decided that no conchie should earn more than a soldier. Why should a conchie earn anything at all? If people are too holy to perform even non-combatant duties, they ought not to live under the protection of the real men of the community. Most of those who figured in the court proceedings are milkmen or small shop-keepers, or of the class hazily described as non-combatants. It is significant that the whose folk are serving their country to buy from these people, or to employ them? Those are questions which might well be considered by the patriotic members of the community. It is such holy beings which live on this wicked earth, let them live by taking in another's washing. It is blatant frontery on their part when they expect fathers of soldiers to employ them, or mothers and wives of soldiers to buy in their shops. In the meantime, there is an aspect of the case into which the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research might inquire. Is it possible that in the long biological story of the human race we have evolved a third sex?

THE LEAGUE AND THE MILITIA

The Minister for Repatriation announced that four out of every five soldiers returned from the present war had been placed in suitable jobs by the Repatriation Department. That is, indeed, cheering news. It means that the Repatriation Department, which was created to look after the interests of the men returning from the former war, is still carrying on its good work with that sympathetic efficiency for which it has always been noted.

Four out of five is a splendid proportion, and it may be assumed that the returned men not yet placed in employment by the Department have either gone back to the jobs they held before they enlisted, or are not yet fit enough to resume work. The Minister also drew attention to the liberal scale of sustenance allowed to returned men who are awaiting employment; and, of course, there are the arrangements the Department has made, and is still making, for the vocational training of those whose education was interrupted by the war, and others who, through some war-caused disability, cannot go back to their old jobs. The Minister intimated that such repatriation benefits will probably be extended to members of the Militia units who have been called up for the duration of the war and for one year thereafter.

The Minister's intimation regarding the Militia is quite in accord with the League's desires. In fact, a motion urging the Commonwealth Government to extend the benefits of the Repatriation Act to the Militiamen who are serving for the duration was carried at the meeting of the State Executive on April 29. A Militiaman who is on the Register is not entitled to the same benefits and pension rights as members of the Militia who have been called up for the full-time duty when the war spread to the Pacific, are not entitled to the same benefits and pension rights as those men who had joined the A.I.F. During the discussion on the motion, it was stated that many men called up recently for the A.M.F. had been afforded an opportunity at the time to join the A.I.F., and had done so. These men thus became eligible for benefits under the Repatriation Act. Many Militiamen had not been permitted to transfer to the A.I.F. If a Militiaman has a fatal accident, while on duty, and has a dependent mother, she would not be entitled to pension benefits equivalent to those who might receive her son's benefits. It was met by the Minister that the position would become even more complicated as time goes on.

The State Executive's action in passing this resolution is yet another instance of the way the League is influencing by being exercised for the benefit of all soldiers, whether these are members of the League or not. This influence has already been availed of by men of the Militia forces and their dependents, particularly in the adjustment of periods of leave and allotments. As the State Secretary said recently: "The League regards all personnel of the fighting forces as coming within the scope of its influence and organisation."

That, of course, is something quite apart from the question of eligibility for membership of the League. To qualify for membership a man must have enlisted, been attested,
SPYING IN HAWAII

Long years before the present war broke out, every time a Japanese ship came to Australia it discharged a crew of inquisitive little camera-carriers, who went about our cities without let or hindrance, gathering information that no foreign tourist would have been allowed to glean in Japan. Of course these suave little yellow men were potential, if not actual, spies, and they did their work well, as Australia might find out to her sorrow some day. One need not be an alarmist to assume that the Japanese knew far more about Australia than most Australians, and we were indeed fortunate that nothing like the Pearl Harbour incident has occurred here. According to Mr. Joseph Harsch, the distinguished American newspaper correspondent, who was in Honolulu recently, and who visited Australia this year, the selective shrewdness of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour proved conclusively that the enemy knew almost everything there was to know about the Hawaiian islands in advance. Apparently the Nipponese even knew which aerodrome hangar contained planes, and which were empty. At any rate, according to Mr. Harsch, empty hangars were not bombed, while full hangars were.

This, he says, points to almost perfect espionage. It is certain that much of this information was obtained to Tokyo, chiefly because Japanese agents were able to operate freely within the large Japanese population of Hawaii. Moreover, they could, in some cases, verify and pass on their information by means of the Japanese fishing fleet. On the other hand, Mr. Harsch does not consider that there was any real fifth column in connection with the attack on Pearl Harbour.

The belief is growing that if a real invasion of Hawaii were attempted, all the Nipponese would fight on the side of the invaders. In official circles the belief is growing that most of the dangerous aliens have already been rounded up. Even highly trusted American citizens of Japanese origin have been excluded from work in Pearl Harbour, in line with the policy of taking no chances.

The plight of the Japanese residents of Hawaii is far from pleasant. Mr. Harsch points out that the majority of those in public with evidences of uneasiness and deep fear. They know they are distrusted. They also know that if Japan ever conquered Hawaii the American-born Japanese would be equally suspect by the Mikado's men. Many of these Hawaiian residents of Japanese origin are American subjects of the second and third generation. They are Japanese on both sides. Consequently, they are afraid they would be treated as traitors by the Japanese invaders. Certainly, their position would become desperate if Japan won the war. They unquestionably have more to gain by an American victory. American Army officials, therefore, have to be careful in the second- and third-generation Japanese, who are heavily represented in the Hawaiian National Guard Division. The United States Army officials know that these men were true to the United States and that they served capably during the attack of December 7. In fact, one senior officer of the United States Army declares that these men of Japanese extraction are among the best men in his command.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL ROYSTON PASSES

One grand old Boy of the Old Brigade answered the Last Call before the end of April—Brigadier-General John Royston—the South African cavalry leader who won the Victoria Cross during the Light Horse campaigns of the Boer War. His death was reported from Natal on April 28. It is said that when Prince Eugene, the colleague and comrade in arms of the great Royston, met him within the reach of his arm, he said: “Wherever I go, I am sure I will find some old dragoons to welcome me,” and the same might be said of Brigadier-General Royston. The late Brigadier-General Royston first came among men in the Boer War. He took over the command of the 12th Light Horse. This, however, was not his first experience of the “Australian soldier.” During the South African War of 1899-1902 he was at one
time, in command of the 5th and 6th West Australian Contingents. He had already won fame as the leader of Royston’s Horse. During the South African War, Brigadier-General Brett-Brown, the Adjutant General, was killed, and Royston was appointed adjutant. Other officers from this State who served with him were Major F. H. Darling and the late Captain John Campbell.

Royston was a seasoned veteran of many campaigns against South African natives and Boers at the time he became Commanding Officer of the 5th and 6th West Australian Contingents. His knowledge of the country, and of the language and customs of the natives, had made him a particularly valuable officer during his South African service; but it was his impetuous courage and his lovable personality which won the hearts of the Australian troopers. He was then nearly sixty years old, tall and massively built; but despite his years and weight he appeared as insensible to fatigue as he was utterly careless of danger. It was at Romani that the Australians awarded him the honour of a complimentary nickname. From the moment his men entered that action he had ridden fearlessly up and down the exposed firing line. Parties of men, crouching low in the sand, came charging ahead and after the “Galloping Jacks” they called him come racing up to them, with yards of blood-stained bandage from a flesh wound trailing after him. The late Sir H. Guillett, who wrote the volume on Smut and Palestine in the Australian official history, had this to say of him: “As Chauvel was the brain of Romani, so this South African veteran soldier was the fighting spirit.” “Keep moving, gentlemen,” was his constant advice. In his ranks he would call: “Keep your heads down, lad. Stick to it, stick to it! You are making history today.” When a troop on the flank was being hard pressed, Royston cried: “We are winning now. They are retreating in hundreds.” One light horsemanship said afterwards: “I poked by head over the top and there were the blisters coming on in thousands.” During a fight, Royston was careless of units and sectors. On that day at Romani, where he was serving as the 1st Brigade as among his own men. Within a few hours he had galloped fourteen horses to a standstill. On his own initiative he dashed over to meet the New Zealander, Brigadier-General O’Hara, who had won the New Zealander a grasp of the situation.

That was his way. Always careless of danger, impetuous in attack, and thorough in his soldiering, he was ever in the saddle galloping from sector to sector, from position to position, to screen his fellow fighting men from death. His outstanding qualities of leadership won him the affection of all ranks, a degree of affection, in fact, that is rarely gained, except by born leaders of men. He took over the command of the 3rd and 5th battalions of his 1st Brigade in August 1916. When he was given leave in 1917 to return to South Africa on urgent personal business, his departure was deeply regretted by all ranks. Brigadier-General Royston came to Australia in 1917 after the Battle of the Somme. Centenary celebrations. During that visit he was able to foregather once more with old comrades, not only in our own city, but in other parts of Australia. Even then, although 74 years of age, he was still physically vigorous and melodious.

There is an element of simplicity in the make-up of most great men, and this simplicity was not absent from the qualities that were combined in the character of John Royston. In 1937 he went to the Coronation read it. He showed how much of this suffering and death could be avoided by an organisation to protect and care for the wounded in war, "without distinction of nationality." His plea finally resulted in an international conference at Geneva in 1864. At this conference fourteen nations signed an agreement, known as the Red Cross Treaty. It was revised in 1906 and is still in force. That agreement provides for the protection in time of war of relief societies to be organised in the various nations. As a compliment to Switzerland, the native land of Henri Dunant, the Swiss flag, with its colours reversed, that is, a red cross on a white ground, was adopted as the emblem of neutrality and humanity. Now, under the Red Cross, the hearts of all nations are united in the service of humanity, when suffering comes from war. In every war that has since been waged this banner of mercy has floated amidst the strife, a symbol of healing and comfort, usually respected by friend and foe alike.

The most urgent call the Red Cross Society had ever received before the present war was during the War of 1914-18. True to its principle of preparing for the needs of war afloat, the Red Cross Societies in the warring and neutral countries were ready to send corps of nurses, ambulances and hospital equipment into the battle zones. Never before had the world seen such a conflict; but never before had such a determined effort been made to bring whatever comfort was possible to the fighting and suffering men.

The British Red Cross Society was founded in 1870, and was incorporated in 1908. Although the British fighting forces had medical services of their own, in time of war it became necessary to call in further assistance. This is provided by the Red Cross, which furnishes voluntary aid detachments of workers (known as V.A.D.), and other helpers, as well as hospitals and hospital equipment. For the last war, considerably more than three thousand of these detachments were registered under the War Office scheme, and the public subscribed approximately 22 million pounds for their upkeep.

The Red Cross is not, as many suppose, an international society, although it works internationally. Each of the 54 national organisations is independent; but there is an International Committee at Geneva, through which communications are made through the various societies, and, in normal times, representatives of the national societies meet in conference every five years. Men who fought at Gallipoli and in Flanders during the last war were reminded that the emblem used by Turkey, instead of the Red Cross, is the Red Crescent. The emblem used by Persia is the Red Sun.
Russia and the Coming Offensive

By OUR SPECIAL COMMENTATOR

Although it is generally believed that Hitler is preparing for a spring offensive, reports received early this month suggested that the Red Army was not ready for action. The general view taken by British and American commentators is that Hitler must do something this summer to take the bitter taste of victory out of the mouths of his people. Then, early in July, he ordered that all remaining German forces, including the R.A.F., must be entirely sacri­ficed in order to give the Soviet Union an irresistible temptation to attack. Gradually he yielded to the temptation. Gradually more and more German troops were drawn away to stop the Red Army’s victorious advance. How much the German tank reserve has been depleted is, of course, not known. The results will not be visible until the Nazis launch their spring offensive, or alternatively are forced to stand up to a Red offensive.

In the meantime, the Russian authorities are leaving nothing to chance. Russian tank production has given Soviet officials great concern ever since the beginning of the war. One of the greatest difficulties of increasing tank output has been the fact that the Soviet Union has been too busy saving its tank factories to concentrate on production. As the invaders advanced last year, Russian workers laboured day and night to remove tank factories from the path of the enemy. Consequently tank production lagged. By the middle of February, however, most of the Russian plants were back in production. Moscow ordered the mobilisation of available men from factories to fifty-five, and women from sixteen to forty-five. Thus tank production increased. Emphasis was also placed on the production of the new anti-tank aircraft, which Russia had only begun to turn out, when the Nazi invasion commenced. These machines are of very high value to the Red Army, and they were destroying from 150 to 200 German tanks daily towards the end of the drive against Moscow.

In addition to machines, the Russians are concentrating on the training of specially-selected infantrymen. These picked men are armed with large-calibre machine-guns, hand grenades, bombs, and heavy muskets which fire incendiary bullets. This musket was designed by a veteran gunsmith of Tula, and it played a considerable part in the defence of his native town last November and December. Another factor the enemy will have to contend with, if Hitler uses his tanks as the spear-head of a new offensive, is the Russian artillery. The Russian gunners have had the longest and best experience in the whole war of dealing with tank attacks.

Although planes and tanks have been prominently featured in the war news, artillery still plays a vital role in modern battles. In 1940 one of the great surprises of the German attack on France was the new Nazi standard artillery piece, the 105 millimetre gun. Against this gun the French standard piece, still the 75, was hopelessly outclassed. However, in Russia, the German artillery superiority seems to have been exceeded. The Red Army’s success in its counter-offensive has been due, very largely, to the fact that the Red Army has all the types of artillery, and apparently in great quantity. Thus, when Hitler ordered the invasion of Russia were often answered by Russian 122’s, while the Russians matched the invaders with even larger field guns. But the coming of heavy snows increased the artillery problems for both sides. The heavy German 105’s became practically useless for the simple reason that they could not manoeuvre. It was at this point that the Russian superiority in artillery was
really demonstrated. The Germans, with their wonderful flair for mass production and standardisation, had built their 105's to outmatch the French 75's; but they had not provided their forces with a smaller field piece. The Russians, on the other hand, had several lighter field guns, which proved most effective in operations over snow-covered ground. These smaller Russian pieces, mostly 46's and 76's, can be pulled by horse teams, or, in emergency, they can be man-handled. By working these guns right up with their infantry, the Russians had, and will have, a definite advantage over the Germans, whose mighty 105's are too big to co-operate with infantry in winter or muddy weather.

Judges, during trials, not infrequently ask witness or counsel to explain the precise meaning of some slang term which is quite intelligible to the man in the street. This does not mean that our judges are pedantic nor remarkably innocent. It is essential the bench and jury should know precisely what is meant by a term, in the circumstances in which it is used. The same sort of thing applies in official, and particularly in diplomatic circles. Ambiguous wordings of treaties have more than once been the causes of wars. However, Russia's new Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Maxim Litvinoff, is no stickler for precision. He gave evidence of a very intimate knowledge of American slang in his first statement on Russia's position in the war. "If Hitler's promises had held," Mr. Litvinoff told American newspapermen, "the Soviet Army would have been washed out six weeks ago." (The interview took place last December.) Then he predicted that the Red Army would "polish off" the Nazis. When he finished his statement, the Press Gang fired a barrage of questions at him, and he asked them not to "get sore" because he hadn't time to answer them all.

Attention is invited to the provisions of Rule 14 of the Constitution of the West Australian Branch of the League. The 26th Annual State Congress will open at Perth on Wednesday, September 30, at 10 a.m. The place of holding the Congress has yet to be decided. Items for inclusion in the Congress Agenda should reach the State Secretary's Office on or before July 31. Sub-branches are allowed one delegate for every hundred members of part of a hundred. Nominations for the office of State President will close on July 31. As in former years, concession rail warrants will be available for delegates attending Congress and representing sub-branches outside the twenty-five mile radius from the city. The Soldier Settlers' section of the Congress will take place in the Board Room at Anzac House on Tuesday, September 29, commencing at 11 a.m. An announcement regarding the Newdegate, Collett and Cornell trophies will be made later.

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At a recent meeting of the State Executive a letter from Mr. A. R. Cutler, V.C., the newly-appointed State Secretary of New South Wales, was read, in which he thanked the W.A. Branch for their congratulations. He stated that he had happy recollections of meeting League representatives at a Western Australian port.

Mr. C. B. Burgess, who for many years has been honorary secretary of the Dongarra Sub-Branch and an active member of the League, has now returned to Australia from England, after representing the League on important duties with the Volunteer Defence Corps, recently wrote expressing appreciation of a letter he had received from Head Office, which read: "He hoped that the time was not far distant when the Members of the W.A. Branch for their congratulations. Members have their respect for members of the National Executive and committeemen. Many have remembered his services to the League and the confidence that he would efficiently carry on the important work which lies ahead in the Volunteer Defence Corps.

Members of the Yealering Sub-Branch have recorded their respect and admiration for the late Sister Chipper, and their sympathy with Arthur Chipper in his recent great loss. Sister Chipper was a member of the Yealering Sub-Branch during the whole period of her residence in the district. She was always ready to give a helping hand whenever and wherever necessary, in spite of war disabilities. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. During the Great War Sister Chipper served with distinction and devotion, and was decorated with the Royal Red Cross and the Military Medal. At the outbreak of the present war, in spite of ill-health, she volunteered immediately for service and was appointed Matron of the Old Woman's Home. Here the last days of her life were spent in tending her sick and aged patients. And so a life of untiring devotion and self-sacrifice is completed.

Newspapers reported recently that members of the Federal Parliament who saw service in the last war and other wars have formed an informal committee to look after the welfare of men returning from this war, from the Parliamentary angle. The prime mover in the formation of this committee was Major-General Brand, who is now a member of the Senate. As G.O.C. 4th Brigade, General Brand was one of the best known battle leaders of the Australian Imperial Force on the Western Front; but it is not generally known that General Brand was the first member of the Australian Imperial Forces to be awarded the Distinguished Service Order in the last war.

He qualified for this during the first half hour on Gallipoli, on April 25, 1915. He was then Major Brand, and Brigade-Major of the 3rd Brigade, which was the spear-head of the Landing.

Councillor W. P. Griffiths, J.P., president of the Totally and Permanently Disabled Soldiers' Association, is one of the many who in spite of his severe war injuries carries on with enthusiasm in all he undertakes. He has that quality of enthusiasm with which he surrounded himself with many other keen workers in the sub-branch, and is also treasurer of the Fremantle sub-branch.

It is interesting to learn that among the T. P. Disabled Soldiers' Association there are many who have held important positions in the R.A.F. and its sub-branches and union associations. Two have served on the State Executive; three have been presidents of sub-branches; three have been secretaries, besides vice-presidents and committeemen. Many have represented the League at various congresses. In civil life there are two councillors and one J.P. Others are serving in the various activities of war work. Unfortunately time is taking its toll, and the continuous ill-health of the W.A. Branch's former president does not permit much activity by members outside their own organisation.

Brigadier T. E. Weavers, who has just been placed in charge of the administrative side of the V.D.C., is a hefty, fair-complexioned Tasmanian, over six feet high, and built in proportion. He is a Sub-Branch man who commenced his soldiering as an officer of Senior Cadets under the Universal Training Scheme in Hobart, shortly before 1914. When war broke out he was one of the first officers gazetted to the 12th Bn., and after six months in camp he completed his examination for first commission on what was then the Ad- ministrative and Instructional Staff. In the pre-Duntroon area, first commissions on the A.S.T. Cadets were open only to people who could pass in the open competitive examination, and the one passed by T. E. Weavers was actually the last held under that system. He served with the 12th on Gallipoli, where he was wounded, and was afterwards gazetted to the Western Front. After the war he has held various Staff appointments in the Eastern States.

As the result of the resignations of Lieut.-Colonel T. C. Fairley and Mr. H. Khan from the Executive, members will take their seats on the directing body of the League in this State. They are Messrs. F. Bateson and E. H. O. Davies. Mr. Bateson needs little introduction to readers of this paper. He is a former member of the Yealering Sub-Branch, and is the enemy of the Wealden. As he volunteered with the 12th Bn., he was given an opportunity to carry on, and thus became an officer in the A.I.F. artillery in the Middle East. Mrs. Edmonds was a nurse during the last war, and her services gained the award of the Red Cross. Mr. Edmonds is a former member of the Yealering Sub-Branch, and is the enemy of the Wealden. He is now a member of the Western Front. After the war he has held various Staff appointments in the Eastern States.

The April meeting of the North Perth sub-branch, C. Simpson tendered his resignation of the general committee, and his place was accepted with regret. It was placed on record that the sub-branch deeply appreciated his work as a member, and as a committeeman. Mr. Simpson is now with the 29th Battalion. He is the congratulatory one of the commissioning rank, and his many friends wish him all the best for the future.

An impromptu performance of a very unusual kind was given in the Anzac Club recently by one of the young Diggers back from the Middle East, Gunner Herbert Arthur of the 2/11th Army Field Regiment. This lad is a wizard at imitating military bands, and rivalled the best-known army classics as "Colonel Bogey" and "Waltzing Matilda" were very realistic. At the April meeting of the State Executive on May 18 Olly Williams introduced his son to individual members. The lad is Corporal John Williams, of the 10th Armoured Regiment, a splendid-looking boy, and it was a sight for the gods to see O. J. trying not to look too proud of his "over Pistol"

On May 18 the Premier (Mr. J. Willcock) gave literally a grandstand finish, to a most strenuous week by officially opening the new Amusement Palace, which the W.A. Sports-
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men's Organising Council have just thrown open for the men of the forces on leave
in Perth. The Premier was in happy vein, and the presence of the need for entertainment on
these nights of black-out and dryness. Two veterans of the last war, the Leader of the
Opposition (Mr. C. G. Latham) and the Leader of the Government (Mr. R. M. Findlay)
were respectively the proposer and the seconder of the vote of thanks to the
Premier. Both speakers paid tribute to Mr. Willcock's regard for the boys, which
he showed in coming along at the end of an unusually busy week to perform this opening
ceremony. The League's old friend, Mr. J. F. Stratton, who is chairman of the Organising
Council, spoke in reply to all the nice things that were said about that very active and
enterprising organisation.

When this war broke out there were no fewer than seventeen veterans of the last
war in the State Parliament. This war has provided a new Digger in the person of E. J.
Holman, who represents Forrest in the Legislative Assembly. That seat was formerly
held by his sister, the late Miss May Holman, and their father, the late J. Holman. Ted Holman was used in the printing industry before he went in for politics. He has lately
returned from the Middle East.

One of the candidates for the North Pri-
vence seat of the Legislative Council in the
election on June 3 is a very well-known
Digger, C. R. ("Dick") Cornish. He should
make a good representative, because he has
a wide experience of the district. During
the last war he held a commission in the
44th (the State President's Own), and
earned the D.S.O. as a lieutenant. When you
saw a subaltern with the D.S.O. in the last
war it meant that he just narrowly missed
the V.C. His campaign organiser is another
Digger who has had much electioneering ex-
perience, Cropper Milligan. The "Listening
Post" wishes the candidate the best of luck
and a sure return.

Colonel (Temporary Brigadier) C. E.
Prior, D.A.A.G. (Organisation) on H.Q.,
is to represent the Adjutant-General on the
newly-formed Central Medical Coordina-
tion Committees. He is a Staff Corps man
who went to Duntruun from the famous Forrest
School in Sydney, and had his first ex-
perience of soldiering in the school Cadet
Corps. Brigadier Prior passed through Perth
with the Coronation Contingent in 1937.

Dr. H. L. Fowler, head of the Department
of Psychology in the University of Western
Australia, who has acted as Warden of Con-
vocation for the past two years, has left for
Melbourne in connection with the despatch
of a psychological service in relation to
the military forces. During the past
two years he has been on full-time duty as
a Major of the 11th Battalion (A.M. Forces).
He is succeeded, both as Warden of Con-
vocation and head of the Department of Psy-
chology, by Percy J. Barlett, a good Dig-
gers. A word of advice: only buy none of these packages has yet been sent
to Australia, though some have been pre-
pared for despatch. The Adjutant stated
that the examining and cataloguing of each
article is a long job, and priority is given
to the effects of those who have been invalided
home. It was not considered desirable
to give any estimate of when the articles will
reach the next-of-kin.

APPEAL TRIBUNAL

As the term of the appointment of mem-
ers of the War Pensions Entitlement Appeal
Tribunal will expire on May 31, the Gov-
ernment has considered the future person-
el. Accordingly, the Prime Minister has
announced that a new Appeal Tribunal will be
given to the appointment of Captain Gerald O'Sulli-
van as chairman, Lieut.-Colonel E. J. Dibden
as Soldiers' nominee, and Mr. George H.
James as member. These appointments will
be for five years from June 1. The present
members are Lieut.-Colonel A. W. Ralston
(chaflain), Lieut.-Coloncl Dibdin (Soldiers'
nominee), and Lieut.-Colonel C. C. Mason
(member).

Mr. George James is well known in this
State. He is a former Member for Repatriation
at Repatriation Office until about 8 years
ago. He has been Deputy Commissioner of
Repatriation in Tasmania and South Aus-
tralia, and at the time of his new appointment
was Chief Pensions Officer at Repatriation
Headquarters. He served abroad with the
10th Light Horse.

DECEASED SOLDIERS' EFFECTS

Many next-of-kin of soldiers who have died
on active service, or who are missing, may
be wondering why they have not yet re-
cived the personal effects of the soldiers.
Letters received by a soldiers' welfare organi-
sation in Perth from the Adjutant of a Bat-
talion, and several other persons, have advised that
many of these packages have yet been sent
to Australia, though some have been pre-
pared for despatch. The Adjutant stated
that the examining and cataloguing of each
article is a long job, and priority is given
to the effects of those who have been invalided
home. It was not considered desirable
to give any estimate of when the articles will
reach the next-of-kin.
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provinces, the French liberating troops were greeted with wild enthusiasm in 1918. For several years before the present war, German agents had been stirring up an agitation among the small Pro-German minority, and those who fondly believed that Germany would prove a better master than France. So, after the debacle of 1940, the majority of the population resigned themselves to their fate, and prepared to become German once more. The Nazis immediately began to Germanise the two provinces. All communication with the rest of France was cut off. Although no peace treaty has been signed with the old men of Vichy, Alsace and Lorraine were incorporated into Hitler's realm. All French officials were dismissed. The French language was prohibited, and the people were given the Hobson's choice of German or French citizenship. Those who chose French were subject to immediate expulsion. Under the Nazi regime, even those who were antagonistic to French rule were soon disillusioned. The two provinces are not even regarded as independent units. They are linked administratively to the Nazi province of Baden.

The cutting of the Burma Road had turned the attention of the Allies to alternative routes along which supplies might be sent to China. Recently American newspapers have had much to say about what they call the old Marco Polo road into China's back door. The Marco Polo road is considered as one of the possible substitutes for the Burma Road. It runs from Russia, through Turkestan, and on between the deserts of Mongolia and the snows of Tibet into China's northwestern provinces, by way of Lanchow. When Marco Polo, the famous Venetian traveller of the 13th century, explored this route, the one-way journey is reputed to have taken him about five years. Another route which could be served by the Persian Gulf ports would follow the ancient caravan tracks, across the Pamir Plateau and through Tibet. Since 1939 a great deal of work has been done on still another route, a new one. As planned, it runs north of the Burma Road, through extremely mountainous country, into Assam, where it is intended to connect with river steamers, running 800 miles down the Brahmaputra River. However, the recent vicissitudes of the campaign in northern Burma would suggest that this road is also threatened by the enemy, if not actually cut at the northern end.

While we, in Australia, are extraordinarily scrupulous about the type of work interned persons may do, or if they are to work at all, one of the prominent Nazi leaders, General Ritter von Leeb, has openly boasted that prisoners of war, taken by the Germans, are furthering Germany's "productive efforts by 45 per cent." This is another German violation of the Geneva convention, since the putting of prisoners of war to work on tasks directly contributing to military effectiveness is forbidden. At the beginning of March the number of prisoners under Hitler's hand was estimated at about 3 million. They are chiefly Polish and Frenchmen, and include only about 75,000 British. The Germans have not only used their French prisoners for productive work inside the Reich: They have used a life and death control over these Frenchmen to exert pressure on the pothouses at Vichy. After all, there is scarcely a family in France that has not some relative a prisoner of war in Germany.

The State Executive broke new ground by holding the first of its Saturday meetings on May 18. The two new members, Messrs. Fred Bateson and E. Davies, were formally welcomed, and took their seats. The Executive passed a resolution strongly advocating the extension of the pension and compensation rights open to the Militia to members of the Volunteer Defence Corps. Another resolution approved of the installation of a snack bar in the Anzac Club. The Executive hopes to secure the services of a suitable war widow to take control of this new activity, which will be in operation in the near future.

New Zealand is making good use of one of the country's great natural assets in the war effort. The famous thermal region, which was such an attraction for tourists in the peaceful years, are now helping to improve the physique of recruits who are physically sub-normal. New Zealand's first Army remedial training camp was recently established at a thermal centre, for the benefit of C:2 men. Already hundreds have passed through this camp. Apart from those with defective eyesight, about 30 per cent. proved fit for Class 1 at the end of a two months' course. Part of each working day is taken up with infantry training.

The actual remedial training consists of P.T. twice a week, but the Enzed detailed for this course do their "jerks" under unusual circumstances. The men are taken to the mineral baths for 35 minutes' exercise in the water. The M.O. is also Camp Commandant, and he personally classes each man at the end of the training period, and allocates him to the type of unit for which he, physically speaking, best suited. The beauty of the system is that even if a man is unfit for front-line service after the special course he returns to civil life very much better in health than he would have been had he not been through the course.

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The French Conquest of Madagascar

By C. R. COLLINS

The naval victory in the Coral Sea has been an event of such importance to Australia that it has almost muted the sigh of relief that went up when the British forces made their time. The French were taking Madagascar. Newspapers and radio commentators have stressed the importance of forestalling the enemy in occupying the naval base at Diego Suárez. A glance at the map is sufficient to show the strategic importance of Madagascar, and how its possession would threaten our sea-lane round the Cape, and mask the harbour of Delagaa Bay, which is the outlet not only for Portuguese East Africa, but for the Transvaal and the two Rhodesias as well. Few, if any, were the circumstances under which Madagascar became a French possession, though many are not so very old today were boys at school when it occurred.

In the 19th century the French have claimed vague sovereign rights over Madagascar. In the era of those great trading companies, which pushed into Asia and North America to trade and remain to govern, Louis XIV, or Louis XV, of France signed a treaty with the French company which was to explore and colonise Madagascar. That was in 1642, the year of the outbreak of the English Civil War, and it was claimed by the French that the “right” was exercised by the trading company recognised by local chiefs. At various times the French occupied outlying islands, and established short-lived trading settlements, but nothing was done towards establishing any permanent settlement in the island until the last century.

At the time, Madagascar was occupied by a number of tribes, over whom the Hovas, a race supposed to be of Malayan origin, exercised a rather precarious sovereignty. Contrary to the usual story of conquest and subjugation, the Hovas had their capital, Antananarivo, and their main strength in the central plateau, while the tribes of the coast lands often defied their authority. Among these seafaring tribes, which were always ready, especially at French instigation, to assert their independence of the Hova Government. Eventually, the French made treaties with the Sakalava chiefs in which they promised protection on condition that Madagascar was recognised. In 1822 war broke out between France and the Hovas. The French blocked the island and landed small forces at various points. The Hovas tried to secure the intervention of Britain, but in 1821 the year of the Arab Pasha’s rebellion, Britain was too pre-occupied with Egypt to pay much attention to what was happening in the south-western Indian Ocean. The war came to an end in 1865, when the French captured the fine harbour of Diego Suárez to France. A permanent French resident was installed at Antananarivo, and it was agreed that the foreign policy of Madagascar was to be controlled by France. Five years later Britain formally recognised the French protectorate over Madagascar.

The treaty of 1885, however, proved only a makeshift arrangement. The Hova Government had decided on the systematic invasion and conquest of Madagascar. It was not until April 1895 that the French advanced inland began.

In the meantime, the French had been busy making preparations for the expedition, getting together the troops, building light-draught steamers for the rivers, sending out stores, and forming a base at Majunga, on the north-west of the island. Various other ports, such as Antsiranana, and Tamatave, on the east coast, were occupied. Majunga was occupied on January 16, 1897. The campaign that followed was one of the most mis-managed, on both sides, in the whole history of war. General Duchesne, who was selected to command the French forces, was a competent and enterprising commander, but he was severely handicapped by the instructions of an inept Home Government. Altogether, the French forces numbered over 12,000 men, but the enemy were well armed with modern weapons; but in spite of this, on October 1, 1895, Duchesne entered the Hova capital. A treaty was signed recognising the French protectorate under conditions that amounted to virtual annexation. Duchesne declared in the Chamber on January 24, 1896, when he handed over to M. Laroché, the newly-appointed French Resident.

While Duchesne remained in Madagascar, the situation remained quiet. The tribes, including the Hovas, accepted the new state of affairs. In some districts brigands appeared, but these were hunted down by French flying columns. After Duchesne’s departure, there was a period of unrest and insurrection. In the summer of 1896 a plot instigated by some of the Hova nobles resulted in open rebellion. Outlying French settlements were machine-gunned, while bands of rebels cut off the capital from Tamatave. It was suspected that the Queen was a party to the conspiracy. Certain persons of her relatives and her ministers were imprisoned and executed. On August 8, 1896, the French Government abandoned the protectorate and declared Madagascar a French colony. General Gallieni, the man who saved Paris in 1914, was appointed first Governor.

Gallieni had commenced his service as a Lieutenant of Marine, and had fought against the Germans in the War of 1870. Subsequently he had won a well-deserved reputation in the expeditions and wars of West Africa. Besides being a brave and skilful soldier, he was an able administrator who believed in developing the country as well as conquering it. He said once to his officers in Africa: “My idea of our duty is that, if we storm a village one day, we ought to begin building a school house the next.” Following this advice, he was able to quell the insurrection in Madagascar, and then approached the task of developing the new colony. Flying columns broke up the rebel bands in the neighbourhood of the capital. Two Hova nobles were arrested for being concerned in the rebellion. They were tortured and shot in one of the city squares. One was uncle of the Queen. The other was her Minister of the Interior. On Gallieni’s recommendation the Queen herself was removed to the capital, where she was living as a prisoner of the French Government, on an allowance of about £1,000 a year. It was not, however, until the beginning of 1898 that the last of the rebel bands surrendered, and French rule was finally established in Madagascar.
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Militia now Eligible for Repatriation Benefits

On April 29 Senator Collett asked the Minister representing the Minister for the Army if it was a fact that the Government proposes to approve of equal rates of pay to members of the Australian Imperial Force, the Permanent Military Forces, the Citizen Forces and the Mobilised Reserves?

1. Is it a fact that the Government proposes to approve of equal rates of pay to members of the Australian Imperial Force, the Permanent Military Forces, the Citizen Forces and the Mobilised Reserves?

2. If so, will this concession include pensions and other benefits authorised by the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act?

3. Under these considerations will the same description of service be required from each of these several branches of the Army?

The answers given were:

1. Equal rates of pay to members of the A.I.F. serving in Australia, the Permanent Military Forces, the Mobilised Reserve (Garrison Battalions), and to members of the Citizen Forces called up for full-time duty, have been approved.

2. Members mentioned in 1 are eligible for pensions and other benefits provided under the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act for service in Australia.

3. Yes, except that members of the A.I.F. having on enlistment agreed to serve beyond the limits of the Commonwealth and those of any territory under the authority of the Commonwealth, can be required to so serve, whilst other members of the Military Forces can not be so required to serve unless they voluntarily agree to do so. It is important to note that members of the A.I.F. who are so required to serve beyond the limits of the Commonwealth become eligible for benefits such as freedom from Income Tax on their military earnings, and for pensions entitling them to separate provisions of the Repatriation Act.

On May 14 Senator Brand asked the Minister to make a statement indicating clearly the treatment and sustenance allowances to members of the fighting service who served abroad and those who did not, or may not, leave Australian Territories. The following answer was received:

For all practical purposes, members of Home Service personnel called up for the duration, may be said to be on the same footing as regards war pension and medical treatment and sustenance as members of the A.I.F. who do not work from Australia.

The principal effect of the regulation referred to was to remove differences that existed between various classes of members of the Forces in regard to eligibility for war pension and medical treatment.

Members of the Permanent Forces who did not serve on active service outside Australia or the Territories were not previously eligible for pension under the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act. The new provision which applies in respect of members of these classes discharged on or after December 7, 1941, will now permit of the granting of war pension and medical treatment for war-caused disabilities. Previously these members were eligible for compensation under Defence Finance Regulations.

Until the passing of the new regulations, pensions could be granted in cases where a disability existed prior to enlistment and was aggravated by service, only where the soldier had enlisted for service abroad. Likewise payment of pension in respect of an accident occurring to a member of the Forces whilst travelling on leave or from his place of employment, was restricted to A.I.F. personnel. These privileges are now available to members of the Home Forces who are enlisted or appointed for full-time service for the duration of the war. Members of the recently established Royal Australian Navy Nursing Service and Royal Australian Air Force Nursing Service were given equal rights under the Act to theAustralian Army Nursing Service.

The question of extension to Home Forces of general repatriation benefits such as sustenance pending employment, vocational training, and assistance under the Soldiers' Children Education Scheme has not yet been determined by the Government.

[The necessary regulations were gazetted on May 7, 1942, and are now being administered by the Repatriation Commission. This is very pleasing to the League, which has consistently advocated this action.—Editor, "Listening Post"]

Scabbards Off

By Pip-Tok

A few months ago the body of the chief aide to the Vichy Minister for the Interior was found on a railway track. The German Press immediately spread the story that he had been killed by an American. This was, of course, another German lie, but the explanation is rather amusing all the same. The French police reported that this minor official had been killed by what they called a "poing American." The Paris correspondent of the German Newsagency thought that this meant what it said literally, namely, an "American fist," and went on to explain that an American must have committed the crime. Actually, what the French police call a "poing American" does not mean "American fist," but what the underworld in English-speaking countries would call a "knuckle-duster."*

The somewhat superficial Department of Information received a very bad advertisement out of the search for the descendants of the composer of "Advance Australia Fair." Senator Ashley was able to state that he was responsible for the use of the tune as the introduction to the Australian Broadcasting Commission's Australian News sessions, and that Mr. T. Lang, former Premier of New South Wales, had done much to popularise the song. However, Senator Ashley's responsibility in the matter is likely to cost the Australian Broadcasting Commission hundreds of pounds for the performing rights, and he forgot to mention that Mr. Lang's supporters, or some of them, sang "Advance Australia Fair" in preference to "God Save the King." The authorship of the song was mentioned in the March "Listening Post," but this was the subject of a very interesting contribution by Mr. J. W. Firth, of Ballingup, in the April issue. Then relatives of the composer were found in Sydney, and the information was elicited that the Government had paid the late Peter Dodds McCormick £1000 for the right to perform the song at official functions. But Senator Ashley and his expensive Department could not be expected to know something about which there is an official record.

Following the Press reference to "Advance Australia Fair," a Mr. Harry L. Folley wrote to the Editor of "The Sunday Times," pointing out that he had written a composition which he called "Australia's National Anthem," and which he copyrighted on February 28, 1933. I must confess I have never heard Mr. Folley's composition, but I do know this: by whatever name he called his effort, it is very definitely not Australia's national anthem. Officially, Australia's national anthem is a very old, and very well known song called "God Save the King."
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Much of this prattle about a second front is irritating or merely boring according to the outlook of the person who has to endure it. Others it merely amusing. However, one thinks the authorities should keep an eye on individuals who are running round pestering others to sign a petition for a second front. Perhaps these people are considered as the only ones this side of fifth column work. The British Empire is already fighting on three fronts; but what is meant by these furious folks who are more loyal to Russia than they are to their own country is a second European front. It is obvious that an Allied invasion of Western Europe must take place sooner or later if Hitler is to receive the death knoll, but it is equally obvious to all people with a grain of commonsense that those directing Britain's war are far better judges of when and where this front will be established than all sorts of chattering little nonentities in Perth. However, these chattering are right in one respect: Hitler does not want to fight on three fronts. That is the difference between him and our local second frontiers. They don't want to fight on any front.

* * * *

In a recent national broadcast, Mr. Curtin declared: "We want to strike, we know how to strike, and we will strike." He was, of course, referring to our transit from the defensive to the offensive, but some of the New South Wales coal miners appear to have taken the Prime Minister up the wrong way.

* * * *

One of the most idiotic aspects of the New South Wales strikes is the way the Minister for Labour has tried to throw a considerable portion of the blame onto the newspapers. According to Wordy Ward, the strikes are merely figments of editorial imagination. Why not go a step farther and declare that the Archduke Franz Ferdinand was not assassinated at Sarajevo, and there was no war at all in 1914?

* * * *

For sheer nonsense based on lack of first-hand knowledge commend me to the statement of the Army Minister (Mr. Forde) that the younger soldiers of eighteen or thereabouts have stood up to the rigours of the war better than older men. That has certainly not been the experience of previous wars, in which men were considered at their toughest and best from twenty-five to thirty-five. The Minister's statement makes strange reading in view of an earlier assurance that the younger boys were called up for the duration when Japan entered the war would not be sent into the firing line. A more striking contradiction of the Minister's statement is to be found in the age restrictions which would not accept boys of eighteen for active service with the A.I.F.

* * * *

This paper is not greatly concerned with the political aspects of the premature broadcast on clothes rationing, which started the frenzied rush on shops in most Australian capital cities. The Ministerial blunder was not such a very terrible thing in itself, and might not even have been considered a blunder at all had it not been for the disgraceful exhibitions of herd hysteria which followed. What we are concerned about is this strain of hysterical selfishness in our civilian population. If the forecast of clothes rationing can send civilians off their heads like this, what on earth will happen if the ice is raised? The Press reports of these idiotically disgraceful episodes will make very pleasant reading for our boys on service.
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An Historic Sub-Branch

Osborne Park
(By W.A.)

The Osborne Park sub-branch will probably be the first to celebrate its silver jubilee. It was formed as the result of a banquet and musical evening on April 13, 1919, given by the residents of the Park to the returned soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, A.A.M.C., as a gesture of appreciation and the sub-branch quickly came into existence. A room was secured in Main Street, and Mr. W. M. Anderson, who is still a member, was elected president. Other prominent members were T. A. Cooper (subsequently president), Herbert Brown, Joe Black, Jimmy Godfrey (secretary), R. Corlett, R. Harrison and Harry Cook. Socials, busy bees, Paddy's markets were organised, and the sub-branch became financially and numerically one of the leading sub-branches of the League. The question of a Memorial Hall was considered, and the then president intimated that he had met the chairman of directors of the Town and Properties of Osborne, and in charge of Main Street, and subsequently met him while on leave in London. At that time there was no mention of the sub-branch, but Mr. Anderson secured a promise from the director to give facilities for improvements, in the Park, which was owned by that company. The result was that on returning from active service the local agents of the company immediately gave the president a free block of land for a hall. There was no hall, and the Methodist Church in Federation Street, but the members considered it was too near the hotel, so a change was made to the present site at the corner of Main and Lake Streets. The president was also successful in gaining two further grants of land, one on the corner of the Plaza, Main Street, from the Osborne Park Health Board, and another from the Njookenbooro Drainage Board. On the former allotment the local ratepayers erected a hall and municipal offices for the Health Board, and on successfully until the then Government decided to abolish a number of local governing bodies, and the Health Boards of Osborne Park and Maylands were replaced, and the halls, together with the valuable furnishings provided by the ratepayers, were transferred to the Perth Road Board. The Drainage Board land was never utilised, and was ultimately sold.

The work of establishing the hall was an arduous task, but was indeed a labour of love. Soon a substantial and ornamental edifice was erected, principally by volunteer labour and offerings from ex-soldiers and residents. It was subsequently increased by the addition of an attractive frontage, and it is now one of the most attractive buildings in the area, and is largely used by residents for social purposes. In the early stages of the termination of the war the Federal Government made a grant to local governing bodies for the employment of returned soldiers, and the Osborne Park Sub-Branch Council acted as a link between the Council and the Osborne Park. The local sub-branch was requested to engage men and a start was made in the clearing of trees and scrub on the principal roads. So rapid was the progress of the work that removing a number of huge trees that they became known as the "Flying Gang." Their energy required frequent sharpening of axes, and the gang had to journey daily to Main Street to effect repairs. It might be mentioned that the village blacksmith where the tools were reowned was opposite the local hostelry, and the result always returned with more than the implements of labour.

No doubt many readers may dispute the claim of our veteran contributor that Osborne Park Sub-Branch be the first to celebrate its silver jubilee. If so, let us hear from you. The time seems ripe for the "L.P." to publish a spot or two of League history from the sub-branch angles. — Ed., L.P.

PERTH SETS THE PACE

Monash House, the home of the metropolitan sub-branch, is a hive of energy and well-doing these days. In past years the sub-branch took over and furnished the new home, which was very appropriately called Monash House, and this work was done faithfully and well, often in the teeth of great difficulty and disappointment. Now, Monash House is a valuable strong-point for those who work so earnestly to provide members of the forces with rational and welcome entertainment at the week-ends. No words from us are needed to stress the need for such entertainment in these nights of black-outs, when other means of entertainment are curtailed.

Monash House is open on Sunday evenings for men of all the forces. Saturday night dances are also popular. Large crowds fill the hall every week, and Jack Stirling, who is in charge of this activity, is to be congratulated on the success of the weekly hops. The Sunday night entertainment of the forces is an even bigger activity. It comprises dancing games and other forms of recreation, and light refreshments in the form of tea, cakes, salads and so on are provided. The Sunday night entertainments are staffed by the Citizens’ Reception Council, and the good supervision is well repaid by the excellent conduct and gratitude of those who use the place. In twelve months, there has never been any act of misconduct by any member of any force. That, indeed, is a record of which the sub-branch may be justly proud.

Among the earnest and consistent workers who keep the wheels moving smoothly are the two Bills — President Bill Hood and Sec. Bill Reid — Fred Batson, Frank Carleton, Frank G. Bennett, who had arrived in this State only the day before. One of the Combattor’s first acts was to make a tour of inspection of the various buffets and hostels conducted for the men of the forces by the Citizens’ Reception Council. The General was attended by his Chief of Staff (Brigadier General Willard), the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayor, and the Chairmen of the Citizens’ Reception Council (Mr. M. E. Zeffert). The General was greatly interested in all he saw, and the sight of our lads fraternising with men of the Allied forces, and particularly with Oriental leaders in Australia, was a frequent and gratifying sight. Lieut.-General Bennett swapped yams with a group of old Diggers. He raised a laugh by remarking that the young Diggers are no different from the old — they are just as shrewd and tricky, but just as grain and determined fighters.

On Sunday, April 26, Monash House was visited by the United States Consul and the United States Staff Officers, who were introduced by the patron of the sub-branch, the Lord Mayor. They were delighted at all they saw, and they said so in no uncertain manner. At the time of their visit, the hall was crowded with Australians and men of the Allied forces. For dancing partners, the boys had members of the Working Girls Association, and on this occasion members of the Claremont auxiliary provided ample and varied refreshments.

And while Perth sub-branch has been doing such a wonderful job for the men on leave, the affairs of the sub-branch are not neglected. We have already mentioned the Saturday night dances. Bouche parties are held on Monday nights, and bridge-players may always get a game on Thursday afternoons. The Sons of Soldiers’ League is again under the fatherly care of Fred Bate son. The boys have resolved to carry on through the winter months. They will meet on alternate Tuesday nights as from May 12. The sub-branch asks parents living within reasonable distance to bring the boys along on those nights. The sub-branch is very proud of the fact that all the senior boys have joined up as soon as possible.
It has been said that an ambassador is a man who goes abroad to lie for his country. That may have been true in the days of the old so-called diplomacy, but not of the new, one might say. Diplomats are now expected to speak the truth, while politicians of the old proverb "Honesty is the best policy," and, since the war at least, a frankness in the interchange of views has marked the meetings between statesmen on the Allied side. No British ambassador in the past few years has been known for his frank speaking and square dealing than Sir Stafford Cripps, the former British Ambassador to Russia, who has returned to London from a brilliant success in Russia, and brought back very valuable information, as accredited representative he was, can be blamed.

However, his Indian mission cannot be said to have failed altogether. He brought back very valuable information, as he did from Russia.

Strangely enough, his revealing observations on Russia have been given greater prominence in Australian newspapers than in British papers. The information he has disclosed has been reassuring to many people who have been worrying about what Russia intends to do after Germany is finally defeated. Sir Stafford Cripps has impressed all his listeners with his frankness that it is "not the policy of the Russian Government to spread Communism over Europe." The Russians, he declared, "do not care what kind of Government European countries have, as long as it is not Nazi." Shortly after his return from Moscow, Sir Stafford Cripps replied to a barrage of questions at a London Press conference. He made a clear statement on the attitude of the Stalin Government towards religion and education. The Russian Church and State, Sir Stafford Cripps said, has been receiving some of the most knotty problems in other countries, where they have been disturbing but conforting reports on the subject.

The Russian Government, Sir Stafford Cripps reported, "still believes that religion is not good for the people, and is still being discouraged, but not suppressed."

His observations on the Red Army, and on the morale of the Russian people, are both interesting and illuminating. Much of the success of the Soviet forces appears to be due to the fact that young generals have been given a chance to show their mettle, while older men have been placed in positions of less responsibility. The greatest single factor in the Soviet success, the former Ambassador declared, has been the indomitable spirit of the Russian people, which has enabled them to carry on in the face of tremendous difficulties and great suffering. Transport and supply problems are among some of the most knotty problems. Some districts, for instance, were very short of food at the beginning of the winter, because transport facilities had to be used to capacity to meet direct German attacks. The Russians, much suffering from the intense cold of the Russian winter, because of windows broken by shell blasts. In temperatures as much as 40 degrees below zero, Sir Stafford explained, it is practically impossible to heat homes once the windows have been broken. The average Russian, he stated, is friendly towards the British, and full of admiration for the mechanical genius of the United States; but, in general, he is poorly informed on foreign affairs. The fact is, as many observers have pointed out, the Soviet Union has had to do so much to develop in its own vast human and material resources, that it has been little concerned with the outside world, except as outside developments concerned the security, which was essential to Russia's internal stability.

Another interesting point made by Sir Stafford Cripps is the belief of the General Staff of the Red Army that the best assistance Britain can give towards winning the war is the preparation for a British invasion of Western Europe. In the meantime, Sir Stafford Cripps has been turned into historic events. The Red Armies have rolled back the Nazi invaders with such success, that, before the end of January, the whereabouts of Hitler's so-called "winter defence line" had grown more nebulous. The heavy fighting in the Mojaik area last month showed that, in theatre at least, the enemy has been put on the defensive, and that he had not intended to evacuate "according to plan." For more than four weeks in the Mojaik area approximately seven Nazi divisions tried unsuccessfully to hold out against determined Russian offensives. The Germans should have been, was the base for the powerful pincer movement which all but succeeded in encircling Moscow last November. The Germans have been too much preoccupied with their own difficulties to allow Britain to prepare for a spring campaign, when milder weather and reinforcements might have enabled them to renew their drive against Moscow.

Elsewhere, too. In the northern and southern sectors of the Russian front, the German lines had been bent into shapes that ill accorded with any strategic defence plan, and this had happened before the winter was half way through. With the Germans surrounded, the German forces were unable to halt the Red Army's advance anywhere east of Smolensk. The frozen ground prevented digging in, and the Russians had already shown themselves superior to the Nazis in light mobile warfare, when snows and temperatures below zero rendered heavy equipment useless. Just as Smolensk are what an American correspondent has called the "softhearted Stalingrad," the Germans pierced this defensive zone last July. At that time successful Nazi enveloping movements forced the Russians to abandon large segments of the Line, including parts where no direct fighting had occurred. Moreover, the restrictions are deliberately built to withstand destruction, it is highly unlikely that the retreating Russians succeeded, at that time, in utterly demolishing the results of fifteen years military engineering before they retreated.

Thus, even though the Stalin Line was originally designed to resist attack from the west, its reconditioned remnants may yet provide the enemy with a formidable bastion. It is far better to attack from that hard. Still, it is by no means certain that the over-considered Nazis took the precaution of making the necessary repairs and alterations to the Stalin Line last autumn, when this was practicable. If they did not, they may have the inapprao a l under present weather conditions. It may be remarked in passing that the parallel between Hitler's invasion of Russia and Napoleon's Russian campaign has been used in much too many cases. Hitler's forces, though badly battered, are still intact. Even the British press do not put the German losses in men and material as high as the Russian losses, when the Red Army was retreating. Again, every time the enemy have been threatened with encirclement, they have managed to extricate themselves in the nick of time. Thus, although the Hun's are not retreating according to plan, they are going back in orderly fashion and avoiding military disaster.

"More Especially the A.F.A."

(Early in 1917 a church parade in the camp at Liverpool, N.S.W., was taken by a very serious chaplain, most of whose service had been with the Australian Field Artillery. He offered up the following prayer: "O God, guide and protect all our chaps—more especially the A.F.A." The church parade was composed mainly of infantry units, hence the chaplain joined effusion from one of the P.B.I.(Ed.)

Not for the Infantry, O Lord, those blighters With packs and puttees, shorts and hairy knees; Those small and unconscionable fighters— We do not crave Thy grace for such as these, Who pass their sordid days thigh-deep in water, Walled and emboged in avenues of mud: Their garments foetid with the breath of daughter, Ribboned by wire and smeared with German blood.

Not these, O Lord, we do not requisition Thy special Providence for such as they; But rather shouldst Thou make it Thine ambition To guard the Gunners of the A.F.A.— They are a corps more worthy Thine attentions; Selected from a higher social plane; Distinguished for their physical dimensions, Or perhaps—for their size.

Their uniforms are wrought by private vendors And startling silver gleams upon their boots; Their greaves are mirrored in Vandyke splendours— Their souls too proud to grovel in salutes: For such the stars stand idle in their courses, And that is why, O Lord, I humbly pray Assist, if possible, our other forces But make a Feature of the A.F.A!— H.T.P.

The Department of the Army has announced the many categories in which a man may be discharged from the Military forces. Referring to the League's misgivings about Discharge Certificates being endorsed "S.N.L.R." particularly when men may be considered on Compassionate grounds, the Army has advised that whereas discharges take place for reasons not due to misconduct or breach of military discipline, consideration is being given to the question of extending the scope of the present Regulations to provide for an alternative statement of reasons for discharge in such cases.

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Salvation Army Mobile Service Unit

At the meeting of the State Executive on April 29 a letter was received from the Divisional Commander of the Salvation Army for the League's assistance in providing a Mobile Service Unit. The Salvation Army hopes to have five Mobile Service Units in operation very shortly. Assistance urgently needed to pay for these units. Already a sum of nearly £12 has been subscribed by sub-branches. The donations ranging from £10 to £6 are being thankfully received. Progressive totals of donations will be published in this paper. Sub-branches are invited to give matter their urgent attention. At least £500 is required. We all know what a wonderful job the Salvation Army did in the last war, and that splendid organisation is the best way for the fighting men of the present war.

The following donations have been received at Head Office up to May 16, 1942:

Albany, £1/6/0; Armadale, £2/2/0; Bassendean, £2/2/0; Bullsbrook, £5; Boulder, £2/2/0; Carine, £1/6/0; Dalwallinu, £1/1/0; Harvey, £1/1/0; Mundupah, £2/2/0; Maddington, £5/5/0; Melville, £10/6; Merredin, £3/3/1; Midland Junction, £10/6; Mosman Park, £5; Mt. Lawley, £13; Mundaring, £1; Mundaring, £5; Narembeen, £2/2/0; Northam, £1/1/0; Pemberton, £5/5/0; Quairading, £5; Shenton Park, £2/2/0; Spearwood, £1; South Perth, £2/2/0; West Leederville, £4/9/0; Westoma, £9/9/0; Williams, £10; Wiluna, £3/8/6; Wyalkatche, £2/5/6; Wyalong, £10; E. S.Want, £1/0/0; Staff of Imperial Printing Co. Ltd., £1/1/0; Total, £111/8/6.

At a recent meeting of the State Executive the Federal Secretary (Mr. E. V. Rain- mant) advised that as some misunderstanding existed with regard to eligibility for membership of the present serving forces, the Federal President (Sir Gilbert Dyett) had given the following rulings in respect to eligibility:

1. All members of the A.I.F. returned from the Middle East, Malaya and Singapore are eligible for membership.
2. The question of eligibility of members of the A.I.F. who have served at battle stations within the Commonwealth or its territories, and in the countries adjacent thereto, will be determined in terms of Resolution No. 20 of the last Federal Executive meeting, provided State Branches approve of the recommendation contained in the said Resolution.
3. The Constitution does not provide for the admission of members of the A.M.F. nor has any proposal in that regard been considered.
4. All applications from members of the Navy and R.A.A.F. should be submitted to Federal Office for ruling in accordance with the procedure hitherto observed.

One of the best yarns the boys have brought back from the Middle East concerned an Italian tank which was captured during the battle of Wavell's advance. It was found to have three reverse speeds and one forward. The British captor thought he would have some fun with the Italian in charge. "Why," he inquired, "do you have that forward speed on the rear?" The Italian replied, "We might be attacked from the rear!"

Totally and Permanently Disabled Soldiers' Association

The darts competition for the McPhee Cup, which has caused considerable interest, has been won by "Friday" Williams, the runner-up being Bert Bickle. The competitions were inaugurated by Mr. G. W. McPhee, a past vice-president, and one of our keenest members. He also donated the cup. Recently our players went into action against the T.B. Association, and won by a narrow margin. Quite a number of members were present to meet the guests. During the afternoon tea, the president (Mr. W. Griffiths) expressed his gratitude to those who arranged the match, and trusted in the future that further social games of this nature will take place, not only with the T.B., but other kindred bodies. Mr. Hatchett, president of the T.B. Association, reciprocated, and challenged us to a return match, which will be held shortly. A change of officers has again taken place, owing to an increase of ill-health. Messrs. H. H. Rigg hon. secretary, S. Newman hon. assistant secretary, and G. W. McPhee treasurer. The general meeting held on May 7 was well attended. During the afternoon Mr. Doug Dingwall, of the Y.A.L., gave an interesting talk on the Y.A.L. and its association with the military during overseas tours. After the business Mr. Dingwall was asked by Mr. McPhee, the donor of the Dart Cup, to make a presentation on his behalf to Mr. Williams, and this was done amid the acclamation of members. This has proved a popular competition. Another is being arranged.

Armada, in support of the Red Cross and the Salvation Army, are doing considerable work here. A donation of £2/2/0 was made to the Salvation Army mobile service, and £1 was given to the Red Cross. A donation of £1/6/0 was made to the Salvation Army for the monthly dance.

Total donations at this meeting were £123/11/9. The result of the monthly dance was £10/6.

Swan View-Greenmount

On April 18 the sub-branch entertained a number of soldiers from the nearby hospital. The evening was spent in dancing, games and singing. Supper was served by the ladies, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. The Anzac service was conducted by the R.S.I. Chaplain, Rev. J. H. H. Rigg. Mr. W. A. Smith, of Midland Junction, who was assisted by the Rev. Quinlan and the Rev. G. E. Jones. The service was most impressive. Through the death of comrade Bert Bickle the sub-branch and the auxiliary have lost a wonderful worker. Our sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

Owing to the lack of a quorum no meeting was held during April, and it has now been decided to hold the monthly meeting on the first Sunday of the month at 10 a.m. This is because so many members work long hours and are unable to attend at other times.

The first Sunday meeting was held on May 3. There was a good attendance. A donation of over £6 was made to the Citizen's Recreation Council as the result of one of the monthly dances. A request was received from the Salvation Army for funds to equip their mobile service units owing to losses in various theatres of war. It was resolved that the whole of the proceeds from the next monthly dance be donated to the Salvation Army for this purpose. Dances are held on the second Sunday in each month at the Swan View Hall at 8 p.m. An urgent appeal for funds was received from the Salvation Army to assist in the establishment of mobile canteens for service in the field. The sum of £2/2/0 was voted towards this worthy object. Membership was reported to be 61. It has been decided to make the financial year finish on December 31.

Shenton Park

The April meeting was held on the second Monday on account of the first being Easter Monday. This affected the number attending, and generally there are not the good musters at any meetings, as war conditions have caused for more strenuous efforts by the members in other directions. At the meeting on May 4 three new members were attached: L. J. Hislop (late 2/28th Bn.), C. R. Caruth, and former of the Royal Australian and Machine Gun Corps, and J. Cochrane (Royal Navy). Mr. Cochrane has been transferred from the Kununoppin sub-branch. These new members were warmly welcomed by the president (R. W. Ogg). An urgent appeal for funds was received from the Salvation Army to assist in the establishment of mobile canteens for service in the field. The sum of £2/2/0 was voted towards this worthy object. Membership was reported to be 61. It has been decided to make the financial year finish on December 31.

Armada

The monthly meeting was held in the club rooms on April 8, with the vice-president (Mr. A. Egan) in the chair. Subject to his military duties, Mr. S. Gwynne sent word that he would be able to attend the monthly meetings in future. The hon. secretary was instructed to send a letter of thanks to Mr. E. Gale for a donation of £3 which he sent towards the cost of the Christmas tree party. It was decided to increase the donations from the R.S.I. property against war risk damage. A donation of £2/2/0 was made to the Salvation Army.
Mobile Canteen, and the same amount to the Wooroloo Sanatorium. The former secretary (Mr. J. MacLennan) was present, and received a toast with musical honours. Mr. J. Mitchell was appointed to repair duties in rooms to date.

MT. LAWLEY-INGLEWOOD

In spite of losing the tenancy of W'allish's Hall, the sub-branch met as usual on May 7, and had a most enjoyable meeting in the new quarters. There are no close to the Hall, and some hard work by a few members, with President Olly Williams at their head, converted 'a shed into a very snug dug-out. Meetings will be held as usual on the first Thursday night in the "Dug-out," so members should rollick and enjoy themselves as of yore. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 2. More and more members are getting into uniform, and this has some effect on the attendance at meetings, but we can still have a good auster. Members who have joined up are urged to try and arrange or swap their leave, so that they can attend. Under present conditions it is obvious that social activities must cease down some time, but the members of this sub-branch wish to keep in touch with members.

MERRIDIN

At the Easter gathering, members dispensed with some "red tape," and some plain speaking was indulged in to thrash out some unsatisfactory situations. Evasive replies to correspondences were brought to a head with a request for straight answers to direct questions. Stronger local support for the V.D.C. is essential to success. The First Aid unit is developing. It is attached to the V.D.C., and will be taking field activities shortly. A crisis was passed when secretary Wilkes decided to continue in office till the end of the year, for which he was applauded considerably. The sad loss of Mr. H. Rowe, after a long illness, was referred to, and sympathy was expressed and shown by respect of all present and the resolution to do all in his affairs.

The April meeting was well attended, showing its resolution and enthusiasm of the members in endeavouring to keep the standard set fully efficient, and the common principles of man intact. Correspondence dealt with included action taken to support the Salvation Army appeal. The dawn Anzac service was solemnised as usual, and the cemetery was visited in respect to the deceased members, whose graves are kept in order by the sub-branch. Other members with their families are being visited, and their wishes are attended to. The hope was expressed that they would soon be back in the fold again. General business being of a minor nature, the meeting came to an end early. Coffee was then served, and there was a general exchange of good humour. The next meeting will be held on June 1.

MT. HAWTHORN-NORTH - LEEDERVILLE

The April meetings were very well attended, and the members had a lot to interest them. The usual ritual ceremony, laying the wreaths on the Memorial stone at the Hall in Oxford Street was carried out on Anzac Day. The sub-branch wreath was laid by the president (G. Blaib), and Mrs. Stockman did likewise for the Ladies' Sub-Branch and Geo. Travers for the S.S.L. Geo. Gilmore sounded the Last Post and Reveille. After the ceremony those present went to the Kutz picture theatre for an Anzac memorial service, which was conducted by our R.A.E.M. member, the Rev. Smout. The president also addressed the congregation, and Geo. Travers again sounded the Last Post and Reveille. The sub-branch thanks the Rev. Smout, the pianiste, the bugler (who, by the way, has just returned from this war), and the Kutz Theatre management for lending the theatre, and others who helped in making the wreath.

Two new members have joined up: W. Smith of the 1/28th and Mr. H. H. on the 4/20. Both received a good welcome, especially from the 28th Bn. members. A lecture was given on the Thompson sub-machine gun during the month by our old and esteemed members Fred Charles and Geo. Williams, and a lot of valuable information was given. Both were thanked for the trouble they went to.

The various competitions are now under way. Great enthusiasm is being shown. A great table tennis match was played between Bill Rowles and Bill O'Neill. It was won by the former. "Tiger" Overton showed good form with darts. Members are reminded that the annual smoke is on June 4—put it down your diary. Next meetings are on May 21, June 4 and June 18. Games against the Police Sports Club will be held on May 28. The S.S.L. dances are held every Friday.

WEST LEEDERVILLE-WEMBLEY

At the monthly meeting on April 13 it was revealed that the membership of the Home Guard is now over 160. It is considered that this is very satisfactory, and members are still coming in. This unit meets every Sunday morning at 9.30 a.m. at Henderson Park for full-day parades. New members are always welcome. No local afternoon services were held in the district on Anzac Day. The president laid a wreath on the local Memorial. It was also arranged for the gates of the Memorial to be open all day for the purpose of the laying of wreaths. On Sunday, April 26, members attended a special service at the local Methodist Church at 11.30 a.m., and again at 7 p.m. at the Salvation Army Church. Another new member (Mr. K. W. Ashton) of the 2/2 Field Park Company was welcomed this month. We are pleased to state that very few members have been reported sick. We have a very large Sick Committee which can only do its job if information is made available from time to time. Considerable discussion took place in regard to the closing of the Memorial in the evenings. Members are of the opinion that the Club facilities apart from the liquor bar, should be available. It is one of the few places where our members can foregather. Why not have a buffet with light refreshments? This would indeed be a boon. The financial position of the sub-branch remains satisfactory, but could be considerably improved if members were to renew their subscriptions. The sub-branch extends heartfelt condolences to Mr. and Mrs. Hopperton in their recent bereavement.

Members again gathered in force at the monthly meeting on May 11, under the chairmanship of Bill McCullogh. Two more new members were initiated: Mr. J. V. Holmes of the 2/16th and Mr. H. Perks of Headquarters Guard Battalion. It is very pleasing to see quite a number of new Diggers coming into the R.S.L. these days. Our old friend and Executive representative, Bill James, from North Perth, paid his usual visit. Bill causes consternation on occasion by being too ready to pick members by their voices. The president again drew attention to bridge even-
MUKINBUDIN

Anzac Day services were held as usual here. Local returned men, members of the V.D.C., and school children assembled in front of the railway station at 3 p.m. and marched to the Agricultural Hall, where the service was conducted by the Rev. P. Hodge. An excellent address was given by Arch-Deacon Storr of Northam. The meaning of Anzac Day was again keenly appreciated by residents of the district, the service being largely attended.

MOSMAN PARK

The April meeting was well attended, and a very heartening enrolment of new members was recorded. The most important matter discussed during the evening was the question of "to be, or not to be" on the matter of Sunday morning gatherings at the Hall, plus certain pleasanties attached thereto. The question was discussed fully, and there were good arguments for and against. The vigorous defence put up by our secretary decided the issue in favour of a continuance of the time-honoured custom. Certain obligations in connection with the Hall, he said, and the fulfilling of these, made it necessary for as many members as possible—who would, for a variety of reasons unable to be members of the Home Guard—to be in attendance. Certain repairs had to be effected, and these, plus the general maintenance, could not be allowed to accumulate. Sub-branch members of the Home Guard were strong in their support of a continuance. Apart from any immediate contribution we may make in the general effort, they were of the opinion that in the interest of the League generally, and for the benefit of the lads who were really doing the scrapping, nothing should be abandoned that contributed to that end. A report was made to the meeting by members who had attended the monthly meeting of the League of Service. All were enthusiastic, and more are likely to attend the next monthly meeting of that organisation. An effort is to be made at our next meeting to organise a mid-monthly sports gathering on the lines of the A.R.M.S. competition. Consideration will be given to inviting some of the Allied and Eastern States soldiers now in the State. A new sub-branch will exist in the Home Guard which could be filled by members of the sub-branch, particularly in the Signalling section.

GLoucester Park

As was expected, the monthly meeting held at Evans' Hall, Hay Street (east), on May 7, was well attended. The installation of the newly-elected officers was capably carried out by the retiring president, "Vic" Fowler. The office-bearers of the sub-branch are now: President G. Ishber, Vice-President, Messrs. G. Owen and H. Wright; Hon. Secretary, W. J. Reed; Assistant Hon. Secretary, A. Downing. It is pleasing to note that in addition to the increasing number of new members, many of the old hands, whose business activities and indifferent health have prevented their attendance during recent months, are again rolling up to the meetings.

CLAREMONT

The monthly meeting was held at the Claremont Oval on Thursday, May 7. There was a large attendance of members, and the chair was occupied by the president (Mr. W. Ford). Two new members of the 2nd A.I.F. were welcomed by the president. In the course of general business, the opening of a subscription list for the Red Shield mobile service unit was decided on, and Mr. Cairns undertook the soliciting of donations. The hospital committee made their monthly report. The remainder of the general routine business was then disposed of, and the meeting adjourned for games and refreshments. Anzac Day was observed by the sub-branch by the president placing a wreath on the Claremont Memorial. There was a church parade on Sunday, April 26 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Claremont. The service was conducted by the Rev. E. New, who gave a most interesting address to a large congregation.

STATE EXECUTIVE

Although meetings are being held fortnightly now, the work does not grow less, and each meeting proves a full afternoon's job. Members were surprised to learn that the Diggers at Lemnos were affected by the tobacco shortage. This is a sad affair, as the Diggers need their smokes, probably most of all. We thank the auxiliary who on learning the state of affairs, promptly organised a social afternoon, admission being by a packet of cigarettes or tobacco. The response was very gratifying, and thus the shortage was relieved for a while. Motor is useless here. It is the smokes that are needed. Twine and rope are available once more, and this has given a new lease of life to net making. All groups are again hard at work. It is regrettable that country auxiliaries cannot help, but distance and transit of material and nets are the problems. The social committee is still busy assisting the Street Appeals by serving the refreshments provided. At an early date we hope to make use of our catering plant, which with the generosity of many auxiliaries, has now become a something to be justly proud of. We do thank all who helped to make it so.

Women's Auxiliaries

This trusty friend of the "Old Diggers" is now being supplied to the Commonwealth Military Forces.

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NORTH FREMANTLE

Commercial Union Assurance Co. Ltd.

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Capital
Total Funds exceed
Total Annual Income exceeds
£2,950,000
£60,000,000
£20,000,000

FIRE MARINE ACCIDENT
SABIACO
At the last meeting members stood in silence as a mark of respect to Mrs. Buggins' mother and Miss Hopperton. A letter of sympathy was sent to Mrs. Selton, whose husband is very ill. Delegates reported the result of a meeting with the sub-branch. It was decided to conduct card evenings each week. A wreath was placed on the Sabiaco Memorial on Anzac Day. The nomination book was passed around for the forthcoming annual meeting. Soldier wives and mothers were entertained in the R.S.L. Hall on April 30. A letter was received from Mr. Burgess, thanking Mrs. Congdon for a parcel received by him from Sabiaco Camp Comforts. A concert recently conducted by the Auxiliary Concert Party resulted in £5 being handed to the Hollywood Hospital for emergency dressings. A social evening conducted by the Auxiliary to provide cigarettes for Lemnos Hospital on April 23 resulted in a nice parcel of cigarettes.

VICTORIA PARK
Mrs. Barnett presided over a well-attended meeting on April 24. The secretary (Mrs. Prue) reported two bereavements and one case of amelioration. Mrs. Barnett reported having visited a sick member, Mrs. Caldwell. A message of sympathy, wishing Mrs. Caldwell a speedy recovery, was sent. Mrs. Caldwell has been a great worker, and Sabiaco is greatly missed at meetings. On Anzac Day a few members attended the laying of wreaths. Wreaths were provided by Mrs. Taylor. One was laid on behalf of the sub-branch by the president (Mr. Fred Matthews) and one by Mrs. Barnett, as president of the auxiliary. Other wreaths were laid by Mrs. Pike (Girl Guides), Mesdames Williamson and Goddard (Housewives), and by several private individuals. The calls were sounded by Mr. A. E. Stewart, Jnr. A letter was received from former Edward Millen patients, thanking the auxiliary for the happy times provided. It was agreed that a donation be made to provide materials for the various pastimes of the patients. Officers for the ensuing year will be nominated at the May meeting. This will take place in the R.S.L. Hall on May 22 at 8 p.m. Members are advised that the netting classes have been resumed on Wednesday afternoons in the Hall at 2 p.m.

BOULDER
This auxiliary is continuing its weekly dances. Euchre and rummy afternoons each Wednesday are proving very popular. Pies and pasties made by Mesdames Ranson, Hayes and Fisher are sold through the afternoons, and help to swell the funds to provide comforts for the fighting forces. The auxiliary has now taken up camouflage net making. Mrs. Foxton very kindly offered to teach members, and the first three, made by Mesdames Donovan (snr.), Baker and Radosen, were given to the local Home Guard, who, like Oliver Twist, asked for more. Members therefore are working hard to provide at least twenty more. Mrs. Boonstow presides over the meeting held each second Wednesday. Each meeting sees a few more members join up. Deepest sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Hopperton in the sad loss of their daughter.

MT. HAWTHORN
Since the meetings have been held in the afternoon there have been very good attendances. Members recently had a very busy day at the buffet when they helped in every capacity to serve the boys—washing-up and cutting sandwiches, etc. However, all were happy to be of service to such a good cause. A Paddy's Market was held at the R.S.L. Hall, where a great variety of goods were for sale. Flowers, pot plants, fancy goods, produce and cakes made very attractive stalls. Over £12 was raised from the afternoon, which was a good effort. Several little girls from Holyoake sent in a parcel of knitted squares of wool toward our bed covers. Mrs. Fewson still has her handbagging class, and was able to hand in £1 to the sub-branch in return for small favours granted to her.

A very enjoyable afternoon was spent at Lemnos. Owing to the petrol shortage we were unable to give the Lemnos boys their usual outing; therefore a number of members went by train and took them a very nice tea, including trifles, cakes, cold meats, salads, etc. The amusement room was prepared for us, and the boys enjoyed a dance and musical items. The time passed very quickly, and we were sorry to have to leave early on account of the try out of a mock air-raid. However, the men appreciated the visit, and eagerly request another.

F.U.S.W.
The monthly social was held at the Burt Memorial Hall. Mrs. T. C. Wilson presided over a large gathering in the unavoidable absence of Mrs. H. Dean, M.B.E., who is still in hospital. Mr. C. A. Cornish was the speaker, and his address on the foundation of the Blind School was much appreciated. Mrs. R. H. Moore thanked Mr. Cornish for his interesting lecture. The music programme was arranged by Mrs. E. Lynch, and the artists were Mrs. A. Hegen, Miss Neil Shortland-Jones and Miss Peggy Brennan. Mrs. Cooper proposed a vote of thanks to the artists, expressing the Union's appreciation for such a delightful afternoon's entertainment. The new Hostel has been called the Phyllis Dean Service Club and Hostel. It is a tribute to the work done by the women of this State. The Younger Set have undertaken to furnish one room of the Hostel to the value of £100, in honour of our president, Mrs. H. Dean. The parent body has donated £20 for pillow slips. The Union will hold a street appeal on June 19 for patriotic funds. All are expected to help on this day.

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Williams,
new.

It was advised against such action. It as advised by the
was elected to represent the Executive while carrying out such
duty. In view of the foregoing, Mr. Kahn's resignation
was again deferred.

Federal Executive.—Mr. T. S. Edmondson was elected to represent the Executive at a meeting of the Federal Executive in Melbourne on May 7.

Entertain the Strand.—Advice was received from the Federal Office that the following panel had been submitted to the Government in order of preference for the selection of soldiers' representatives on the Pensions Enrolment Board for the ensuing term: Col. Dibden, Col. Hyman, and Mr. Darcy.

Sub-branches.—The appointment of official as advised by the Yarloop sub-branch was approved.

The State Secretary was instructed to reply to resolutions received from the Meredith sub-branch.

A suggestion from the Pemberton sub-branch that a flat rate should be charged for tea and petrol throughout the Commonwealth was referred to the Federal Executive.

With reference to a resolution carried at the previous meeting, authorising the Trustees to accept the transfer of the Bullbrook Hall on behalf of the Bullbrook sub-branch, it was stated that the matter had been referred to the League's Solicitor, who had advised against such action. It was agreed to send a copy of the solicitor's letter to the sub-branch, and another copy to Mr. L. T. Morn, M.L.A.

Paton, Denton, Nicholas, Paton, Warner, Whitten, Hylton, Simpson and Johnston.

Anzac House.—Arising out of the report of the House Committee, it was agreed that the necessary accommodation should be secured for this year's State Congress.

Visits.—Mr. H. E. Smith reported on his visit to the Kalgoorlie sub-branch.

Anzac Day.—The State President reported having broadcast from the National Station, and that he had laid a wreath on the State War Memorial on Anzac Day. It was also reported that the League had been represented at the North Perth Methodist Church (Mr. E. W. S.), St. Andrew's Church (Colonel E. Margolin), St. George's Cathedral (Mr. Anderson and the State Secretary). It was agreed that the League's thanks be extended to Mr. R. O. Law (Warden of the State War Memorial) and to the Boy Scouts and others who gave outstanding assistance.

National Savings Bond Campaign. It was agreed that the State Secretary should make reference to the National Savings Bond Campaign in his next circular to sub-branches, urging that all possible assistance be given.

Executive Meetings.—It was resolved that full-time duty of the Executive be held on Saturday afternoons. The next meeting of the Executive will take place on Saturday, May 16, at 1.15 p.m.

Resignations.—Colonel T. C. Fairley and Mr. R. A. C. Fairley had tendered their resignations as members of the State Executive, because of their inability to attend to committee work on account of full-time duty in the forces. It was agreed that the resignations be accepted, and that the Executive's appreciation of the excellent services rendered by these two officers be placed on record. The next two, as elected by last year's State Congress, have been asked to fill the vacancies so caused.

Sub-branch Officials.—The election of officers, as advised by the Wongan Hills sub-branch, was approved.

Geraldton Sub-branch.—An encouraging response was received from the Geraldton Sub-branch concerning the establishment of the Geraldton Sub-branch.

Mobile Canteen.—A letter of appreciation was received from the Divisional Commander, Salvation Army, for the League's assistance in providing a Mobile Canteen. Delegates were advised that a total of £25 had so far been received, and it was agreed that a reminder should be sent to sub-branches, urging a better response.

Ministerial Cases.—Delegates were advised of details in connection with several cases reported to the League as having misrepresented their circumstances to the Manpower Officer. It was agreed that Messrs. Trevor and the State Secretary should interview the Divisional Commander, Officer (Brig. Gen. E. F. Martin) on this matter.

Post-War Reconstruction.—A letter from the Victoria Park sub-branch on this matter was received, and the reply left in the hands of the Secretary.

League Membership.—The South Perth sub-branch sought clarification of the position in regard to the Australian Military Forces, and their eligibility for League membership. It was agreed that another copy of a letter received from the Federal Office be supplied to the South Perth sub-branch. An ex-member of the R.A.A.F. also sought information concerning his eligibility, and it was agreed to refer his circumstances to the Federal Office for a ruling.

Pensions.—A resolution from the Calingiri sub-branch dealing with increased pensions was referred to the Committee. Correspondence from the Kalgoorlie and Northam sub-branches in relation to the same matter was referred to the Committee.

Pensions and Militia.—After discussion it was agreed that as members of the Militia units have been utilised for full-time duty during the duration of the recent emergency, contractors after as from December 7, 1941, this League strongly urges that all benefits of the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act immediately become available to them as from December 7, 1941.

Fruit Van, Country Districts.—A suggestion that a fruit van should operate on branch railway lines in the country was received from the Calingiri sub-branch, and it was agreed to bring the matter to the Apple and Pear Marketing Board.

Aliens, Waroona District.—The Waroona sub-branch had reported by telephone that contracts for the growing of vegetables were being let to unnaturalised aliens, mostly Italians, in the Waroona district, when most of the British settlers in that district were approached in regard to the matter. An Army officer was in the district letting these contracts.

The sub-branch considered that these aliens should be supplied as workers to the British settlers in order to supply vegetables as required.

A meeting was being held on May 1 at Waroona in regard to the matter. It was agreed that we wait for confirmation of this information, and also for the result of the Waroona meeting. The matter was left in the hands of the Management Committee.

Yealering Sub-branch.—Resolutions from the Yealering sub-branch dealing with interest charges and the V.D.C. were received, and the replies left to the Secretary.

A further resolution from this sub-branch concerning the supply of benzine to the V.D.C. was referred to the Corps Commander.

R.A.A.F. and Medical Supplies.—Correspondence to and from the Albany sub-branch in regard to this matter was received.

10th Garrison Battalion Welfare Fund.—The meeting was advised that the Legislative Council, pointing out that no operations had occurred on this fund for over twelve months. He sought the distribution of the fund in direction other than the original object of the fund. It was agreed that the balance be paid over immediately to the Commander.'Office of the 10th Garrison Battalion.

Aliens: Use of Explosives.—A communication was received from the Manjimup sub-branch urging that the excessive use of gelignite by alien settlers be curtailed. The matter was referred to the Minister for Mines and a reply was awaited.

Parliamentary Salaries.—A communication was received from the Kalgoorlie sub-branch suggesting that members of Federal and State Parliaments agree to a voluntary reduction in wages. It was agreed that no action be taken.

Army Authorities and Public Halls.—The Neldans sub-branch protested at the action by the Army authorities in taking public halls in the country as temporary war offices, and that soldiers on leave to seek less healthy entertainment which was not in the best interests of the men concerned. A motion that the protest be supported and sent on to the proper authorities was lost.

Anzac Club.—The North Perth sub-branch urged that nothing be done to jeopardise the future of the Anzac Club License. The letter was received and a reply left to the Secretary.
## ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICE MEN

**RATES: £1/1/- PER ANNUM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Place of Meeting</th>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARTILLERY COMRADES' ASSOCIATION</strong></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><strong>BLIND SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION</strong></td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>When necessary</td>
<td>D. M. Benson, Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>Mrs. W. James, 19 Marion Street, Leederville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11th BATTALION ASSOCIATION</strong></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. Blair, 79 William Street, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EX-MACHINE GUNNERS' ASSOCIATION</strong></td>
<td>Greigson's, 32 King Street, Perth</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>I. Douglas, 13 Karoo Street, South Perth</td>
<td>E. S. Everett, Swan Barracks, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>44th ASSOCIATION</strong></td>
<td>As Advertised</td>
<td>Annual reunion, Monday of Show Week</td>
<td>M. Lewis, 530 Fitzgerald St., North Perth</td>
<td>E. C. Rogers, 65 Fairfield Street, Mt. Hawthorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>16th BATTALION ASSOCIATION</strong></td>
<td>Committee, as arranged</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>Col. E. L. Marqulin, 62 Tryrell Street, Nedlands</td>
<td>E. J. Massey, 41 Harvey St, Victoria Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>28th BATTALION ASSOCIATION</strong></td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>2nd Monday</td>
<td>H. L. Edwards, 37 Hamilton Street, Bayswater</td>
<td>W. C. Armstrong, 20 Rutlip Street, West Leederville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>32nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION</strong></td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>Nearest Saturday, July 19</td>
<td>L. D. Lobscher, 57 2nd Floor, Economic Chambers, Perth</td>
<td>J. Bult, 5 Elizabeth Street, North Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10th LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION</strong></td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>Syd. Johnston, Inglewood Hotel</td>
<td>Roy Perry, 22 Cooper Street, Nedlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12th and 52nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION</strong></td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>W. P. Griffin, J.P., 87 South Street, Bassendean</td>
<td>A. Cook, 168 Railway Terrace, Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAFLY and PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION</strong></td>
<td>At Office, Room 33, 2nd Floor Bon Marche Building, Barrack Street</td>
<td>1st Pension day of the month at 10.30 p.m.</td>
<td>H. Hopperton, 141 Auala Hotel, Sydney, N.S.W.</td>
<td>H. W. Rigg Association Office, Phone BS457, private BS354</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**RATES: £1/1/- PER ANNUM**

<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 Gwyne</td>
<td>I. Sturrock, Fremantle Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALBANY</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>1st Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>A. B. Robertson, Albany</td>
<td>E. W. Wheeler, Grey Street, (West) Albany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALLIDU DISTRICTS</td>
<td>R.S.L. Hall</td>
<td>When called, Sat., 8 p.m.</td>
<td>R. Pettigrew</td>
<td>F. Dransfield, Ballidu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASSIEDEAN</td>
<td>R.S.L. Hall</td>
<td>Alternate Thursday (pension days) 7.30 p.m.</td>
<td>H. K. Minchin, 5 Wilson St, Bassendean</td>
<td>H. Fry, 72 Railway Parade, Cannington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BROOKTON</td>
<td>R.S.L. Clubrooms</td>
<td>1st Saturday, 9 a.m.</td>
<td>G. Greaves, Brookton</td>
<td>I. L. Hogan, Brookton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BULLSBROOK</td>
<td>R.S.L. Hall</td>
<td>2nd Saturday, 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Gus Pickett</td>
<td>Bert Scobie, Spennington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUNBURY</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>3rd Saturday, 8 a.m.</td>
<td>H. W. Gibbon, Banksia St, Bunbury</td>
<td>W. B. Freeman, 111 Victoria Street, East Bunbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAYSWATER</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>2nd Monday</td>
<td>Sydney Hopper, 141 Auala Hotel, Sydney, N.S.W.</td>
<td>T. pillingham, 49 Stuart Street, Mandurah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUSELTON</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>4th Wednesday, 10 a.m.</td>
<td>D. K. Fordham</td>
<td>L. M. Powell, Busselton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CALINGIRI</td>
<td>Colingiri Hall</td>
<td>1st Saturday each month, commencing June, 1940</td>
<td>Gordon Day, Cannington</td>
<td>I. McGill, R. C. Collins, East Cannington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANNING DISTS</td>
<td>Agricultural Hall</td>
<td>1st Saturday each month, commencing June, 1940</td>
<td>W. T. White, Winchester</td>
<td>H. May, Collie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARNAMAH</td>
<td>Road Board Hall</td>
<td>1st Sunday, 10 a.m.</td>
<td>T. H. Sarr, Clifton Street, Collie</td>
<td>A. C. Bailey, Phone 14, H. T. Es, 17 Loma Street, Collie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLIE</td>
<td>Soldiers' Hall</td>
<td>1st Saturday in each quarter 1st Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. R. Russell, Bilbarr</td>
<td>Harvey G. Rae, 1 Thompson Road, Claremont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORRIGIN</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>1st Thursday in each month 3rd Saturday each month</td>
<td>W. J. Dunne, 10 Webb Street, Claremont</td>
<td>M. J. Johnston, Kalumunda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAREMON</td>
<td>Committee Room, Claremont Oval</td>
<td>3rd Thursday in month</td>
<td>E. Searle, T. H. G., Cranborne</td>
<td>Rev. J. C. Laid, Donnybrook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DARLING R</td>
<td>R.S.L. Clubrooms, Canning Road, Kalumunda</td>
<td>1st Saturday each month at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. S. Baker, 5128 Setley Street, East Fremantle</td>
<td>C. W. Nicol, Dumbleyung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENMARK</td>
<td>J. Shipleys Premises, Port Denison</td>
<td>Last Monday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>J. W. C. Morgan, P.O. Box 24, Dumbleyung</td>
<td>C. H. Joynt, Holroyd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DONGARRA</td>
<td>Memorial Hall, Dumbleyung Street</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>A. A. Hills, Hollycock</td>
<td>W. E. Smart, 21 Yeovil Crescent, Becton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DONNYBROOK</td>
<td>Dwellingup Hotel</td>
<td>2nd Saturday in month, Alternate Thursday (pension night), 7.30 p.m.</td>
<td>E. H. Hobbs, 57 Oakover Street, East Fremantle</td>
<td>P. J. Dunn, W. I. Reed, 55 Armagh St, Victoria Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUMBLEYUNG</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, South Terrace</td>
<td>1st Saturday each month at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>A. H. C. Baker, 5128 Setley Street, East Fremantle</td>
<td>S. W. Stedward, Gnowangerup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Branch</td>
<td>Place of Meeting</td>
<td>Date of Meeting</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUTHA</td>
<td>R.S.L. Hall</td>
<td>1st Sunday, 3 p.m.</td>
<td>F. Way, Gutha</td>
<td>E. A. Matthews, Gutha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HARVEY</td>
<td>R.S.L. Hall</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>T. W. D. Smith, Herbert Rd.</td>
<td>D. D. Johnstone, Box 28, Har-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KALGOORLIE</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>Every 2nd Tuesday in month at 10 a.m.</td>
<td>I. R. Hylton, Great Britain, Fumiston</td>
<td>D. F. Edwards, Kalgoorlie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIMBERLEY</td>
<td>Derby</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>Jock Sheppard</td>
<td>H. Ulrich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KATANNING</td>
<td>Clubrooms, Corey Street</td>
<td>3rd Sunday, after V.D.C. parade, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>J. O. Oldman, Katanning</td>
<td>W. Bailey, Katanning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KELLERBERIN</td>
<td>Tamamin, meet quarterly</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>T. G. Chambers, Kellerberin</td>
<td>T. G. Griffin, Kellerberin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOORDA</td>
<td>Koorda</td>
<td>Quarterly (committee 1st Friday)</td>
<td>Chas. H. Smith, Koorda</td>
<td>E. W. Robinson, Koorda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUKERIN</td>
<td>Kukerin Hotel</td>
<td>Last Sunday, quarterly</td>
<td>D. Hamilton, Kukerin</td>
<td>R. C. Davidson, Kukerin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KULIN</td>
<td>R.S.L. Institute</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>C. G. Gordon, Kuln</td>
<td>W. A. Tumber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAKE GRACE</td>
<td>Road Board Hall</td>
<td>2nd Sunday in month</td>
<td>R. H. Allen, Lake King</td>
<td>E. W. Weatherly, Lake Grace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAKE KING</td>
<td>Lake King Hall</td>
<td>2nd Thursday, each month</td>
<td>Lou Thompson</td>
<td>M. G. Johnston, Lake King, Geo. A. M. Morin, Manjimup.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANJIMUP</td>
<td>R.S.L. Hall, Manjimup</td>
<td>Alternate Thursday, 7:30 p.m. (pension week)</td>
<td>S. Horton, Alma Rd, Mt. Lawley</td>
<td>A. Cook, 168 Railway Terrace, Maylands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAYLANDS</td>
<td>Super-room, Town Hall, Maylands</td>
<td>1st Sunday in month</td>
<td>W. Jakobson, Menzies</td>
<td>H. J. Jacobson, Menzies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENZIES</td>
<td>Memba Board Hall</td>
<td>1st Monday in month</td>
<td>V. Cooper.</td>
<td>R. H. Wilkes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MERRIN</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
<td>I. H. Cole, 36 Harper Street Mildura Junction</td>
<td>J. W. Sampson, 44 Dudley Street, Mildura Junction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDLAND JUNCTION</td>
<td>R.S.L. Branch Rooms, Railway Parade</td>
<td>Last Thursday in each month</td>
<td>T. G. Ashwood, Bond Street, Mildura</td>
<td>R. G. Thomas, 7 Lillian St, Cottesloe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOSMAN PARK</td>
<td>R.S.L. Hall, Johnston Street, Railway Parade</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>Col. Nicholson, Moora</td>
<td>C. E. Moore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOORA</td>
<td>Road Board Room, Moora</td>
<td>4th Thursday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>H. V. Jenkins</td>
<td>J. Ford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT. MAGNET</td>
<td>Committee Room, Leander Hall, Mt. Magnet</td>
<td>Alternate Thursday (Pension Night), 8 p.m.</td>
<td>E. P. Atkins, Mt. Magnet, G. Blair, 14 London Street, Mt. Hawthorn</td>
<td>J. M. Morphet, Mt. Magnet, J. M. Morris, 34 Oxford Street, Leederldge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT. HAWTHORN-NORTH</td>
<td>Leader Hall, Mt. Hawthorn</td>
<td>1st Friday, 7:45 p.m.</td>
<td>T. Hole, Leanderlnd</td>
<td>J. E. Morgan, Leanderlnd, G. Blair, 14 London Street, Mt. Hawthorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT. MARSHALL</td>
<td>Railway Hotol, N'hampton.</td>
<td>1st Monday in month</td>
<td>O. J. Williams, 21 Grovener Road, Mt. Lawley</td>
<td>P. W. Langley, Dun Fullerton, Swan Baraks, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT. LAWLEY-INGLEWOOD</td>
<td>Rd. Board Hall, Leanderlnd</td>
<td>Quarterly, 1st Friday in the month</td>
<td>T. Connor</td>
<td>S. W. Legg, Swan Baraks, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUKINBUDIN</td>
<td>V.D.C. Headquarters</td>
<td>4th Friday of the month</td>
<td>Chas. Groves, No. 2 Pumping Station, O'Connor</td>
<td>R. H. Rutherford, Mundaring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUNDARING &amp; DISTRICTS</td>
<td>Alternately, Mundaring, Darlington, Parkerville.</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday in each month</td>
<td>J. Cranbrook, Narrogin</td>
<td>T. Hoag, R.S.L. Institute, Narrogin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NARROGIN</td>
<td>R.S.L. Institute, Narrogin</td>
<td>Quarterly, 3rd Friday, March 1st, September, December, 4th Monday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>T. S. Edmondsen, 38 Archdoscot Street, Nedlands, Phone WMI181</td>
<td>J. K. Jefferson, 8 Thomas Street, Nedlands, Phone WMI191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEDLANDS</td>
<td>Picture Theatre Building, Broadway, Nedlands</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday</td>
<td>G. Caldwell, Newdegate</td>
<td>J. H. Kane, Newdegate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEWDEGATE</td>
<td>Newdegate</td>
<td>3rd Saturday, 9 p.m. (half-day sessions at 2:30 p.m.)</td>
<td>E. J. Tomin, 35 Winser Rd, East Fremantle, Phone L1747</td>
<td>A. E. Dowd, 6 Harris Street, Fremantle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH-EAST FREMANTLE</td>
<td>East Fremantle Town Hall</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Monday at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>R. B. James, Fitzgerald St, Northam.</td>
<td>A. W. Ashley, Northampon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHAMPTON</td>
<td>Railway Hotel, N'hampton.</td>
<td>Every 4th Friday</td>
<td>H. T. Kingston, Grant's Patch</td>
<td>G. C. Carlyle, 164 Fitzgerald Street, Northam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHAM</td>
<td>R.S.L. Clubrooms, Gordon Street, Northam</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Monday at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>A. Dans, 149 Carr Street, Moordeville</td>
<td>Phone 3784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH PERTH</td>
<td>St. Hilda's Hall, Glebe Street, Northam</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday</td>
<td>W. G. God, 26 Thompson Road, Claremont</td>
<td>H. T. Kingston, Northam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBA BANDA-GARSTON</td>
<td>St. Hilda's Hall, Glebe Street (off View Street)</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday</td>
<td>M. Fleischer, Pastoral House, Perth</td>
<td>T. O. Barr, Perta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERTH</td>
<td>Main Street, Perta</td>
<td>1st Tuesday</td>
<td>E. T. Roberts, Perta</td>
<td>E. G. Johnston, Perta.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osborne Park</td>
<td>Memorial Hall, Monash House, 23 King Street, Perth</td>
<td>1st Monday in month</td>
<td>M. J. Say, Box 7, Southern Cross</td>
<td>E. E. Leane, Perta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PINGelly</td>
<td>R.S.L. Hall</td>
<td>1st Saturday in every 3rd month from June, 1st-10, at 8.15 p.m.</td>
<td>F. Archer, East Pingelly</td>
<td>A. V. B., Vicolo, Perta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PITHARA</td>
<td>Art League, Y.M.C.A., Murray Street, Perth</td>
<td>1st and 3rd Wednesday, 1 p.m.</td>
<td>I. R. Koppell, Pastoral House, Perth</td>
<td>A. V. B., Vicolo, Perta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PITTARA</td>
<td>Pithara</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday</td>
<td>E. T. Roberts, Perta</td>
<td>E. G. Johnston, Perta.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUARRIDING-DANGIN</td>
<td>Chalet, and Dangin Hotel, alternative</td>
<td>2nd Sunday each month at 10 a.m.</td>
<td>E. L. Leane, Perta</td>
<td>E. E. Leane, Perta.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REEDY</td>
<td>T. Fraser's Buildings</td>
<td>1st Sunday</td>
<td>M. J. Beckwith, Box 7, Southern Cross</td>
<td>J. F. Evans, Perta, Round.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTHERN CROSS</td>
<td>R.A.O.B. Clubrooms</td>
<td>1st Monday in month</td>
<td>R. C. C, 260 Nicholson Road, Subiaco</td>
<td>J. I. J., Beach School House, Southern Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHENTON PARK</td>
<td>Progress Hall, Onslow Road</td>
<td>Last Saturday in each month</td>
<td>A. B. Dinnie, Bunite</td>
<td>E. F. Bishop, 55 Abergado Road, Shenon Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHACKLETON-KWOLVIN</td>
<td>Kewlwan Hotel</td>
<td>2nd Saturday, 9 a.m.</td>
<td>G. H. Riches Tel, No. 41</td>
<td>J. I. J., Beach School House, Southern Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VICTORIA PARK</td>
<td>Town Hall, Cambridge St, Subiaco</td>
<td>2nd Saturday, 7:45 p.m.</td>
<td>F. Mathews, Manchester St, Subiaco</td>
<td>W. E. H. M. Brown, Traying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST LEEDERVILLE</td>
<td>Tarm Hall, Cambridge St, Leederlde</td>
<td>Last Saturday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>J. R. Williamson, 67 Salisbury Street, Subiaco</td>
<td>W. E. H. M. Brown, Traying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEMBLEY</td>
<td>Kewlwan Hotel</td>
<td>2nd Saturday, bi-monthly, April, June, August</td>
<td>F. J. D. Koppell, Pastoral House, Perth</td>
<td>J. R. Williamson, 67 Salisbury Street, Subiaco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WYALLACKHEM</td>
<td>Memorial Hall</td>
<td>2nd Friday in each month</td>
<td>N. B. Brome, c/o Registrar's Office, Perth</td>
<td>S. R. H. Hastie, Wacousta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST PERTH</td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>2nd Saturday-in-each month</td>
<td>C. G. Russell, Wacousta</td>
<td>W. L. R. Hazell, c/o Agricultural Bank, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WICKEPIN</td>
<td>Wickepin Hotel</td>
<td>2nd Thursday, each month</td>
<td>Geo. McFadyen, Red Hill</td>
<td>H. G. Reilly, Wacousta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEALERING</td>
<td>Commercial Hall, Yeeling</td>
<td>1st Saturday, each month</td>
<td>A. E. Kellett, Wacousta</td>
<td>W. W. T. Yealering, Yealering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YOUNAMI</td>
<td>Youanmi Hotel</td>
<td>1st Monday, 8 a.m.</td>
<td>G. M. Malley, c/o T.G.M. Ltd., Youanmi</td>
<td>W. D. W. Yealering, Yealering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Printed and published by Edwin Stanley Watt for the IMPERIAL PRINTING CO. LTD., 307 Hay Street (East), Perth.