The Price of Freedom

It was a Roman governor who, astounded at St. Paul's claim to Roman citizenship, exclaimed: "This freedom have I purchased at a great price." He was speaking in terms of cost rather than price, for the price—that is, the value of freedom—is far beyond the cost, or its measure in terms of hard cash or service. Today we are engaged in a desperate struggle for freedom, not only for ourselves, but for decent men and women in all countries. We are fighting for the right to work out our individual destiny within the framework of an organised society. We are fighting for the principles of international justice, religious toleration, liberty of thought and expression, and the democratic institutions which enable these ideals to be carried into practice. It is a truism to state that all these aspects of freedom, which constitutes the priceless heritage of men who were born free, are threatened by Gangster Powers who would bring about a so-called New Order which is the very negation of liberty. We have been told that, again and again; but it sometimes appears that a fact can be so patent that it may be overlooked. Even now, on the eve of the third anniversary of the outbreak of the war, much of the spirit of teamwork which alone can bring victory seems to be sadly lacking. The teamwork is there in theory; but it seems to be incomplete in practice. In the last war we called ourselves the Entente Powers and our enemies the Central Powers. This time we are the United Nations against the Axis Powers, which still have Berlin as their political centre. When the United Nations really become an alliance of united peoples, then will the death-knell of the dictators be sounded. For the freedom we are striving to preserve and improve, we must indeed pay a great price. We must pay in blood and tears, in treasure and in personal service, with life itself if necessary, for the right to retain our heritage and develop it in our own way. Until the triumphant goal is reached, we must even surrender many of the smaller liberties in order that the framework of freedom may be saved. We must realise, as never before in our history have we had to realise, that right involve duties, and privileges obligations. In ancient Roman times, when the State was in danger of extinction, the free citizens of a free republic surrendered all their liberties for the time being, and yielded the sole control of the State to a dictator. Democracies do not go to that extreme, nor would it be either safe or practicable in such a highly complex society as our own. Nevertheless, we must resign much to the central Government and trust much to those who are most competent to direct the war effort in the battle areas and on the home front. Unless we are prepared to do so, we are going to hamper the war effort by continuing to shoulder the unnecessary burden of excessive individualism, which has always been a handicap to democracies at the beginning of a war.

Unfortunately, one cannot open his morning paper these days without reading much to disquiet him. This, for instance, is the critical time which Gandhi and his followers have chosen as the moment for trying to destroy freedom in the name of freedom. The whole sorry Congress business is so sadly absurd when one realises that Britain stands by her promise to grant India full self-government after the war. Indeed, this unnecessary absurdity invites the belief that Gandhi has been putting in a nice little bit of fifth column work, especially in view of the fact that the Congress Wallahs and their capers are so warmly applauded by Germany and Japan. It is a piece of colossal effrontery when a noisy and fanatical minority demands absolute control of a sub-continent as the price of its continuing with the war effort. Fortunately, the Government of India acted with promptness and decision. That Government did not coquet with subversive elements out of fear that other subversive elements might call them tyrannical. By its firmness, the Government of India set an example that might well be followed by our own.

It is not for the moment suggested that the Commonwealth and State Governments are not doing a very good job in connection with the war effort; neither is it suggested that Governments in this country have always acted as promptly and as firmly as they might. There are far too many tin-pot Mahatmas in Australia, and these turbulent wind-bags enjoy too great a measure of toleration from Governments. Even now the strike menace has been scotched rather than eliminated. Only a few days ago, according to a Press report, the Prime Minister was told that the Miners' Federation still retains the right to allow miners to strike on the safety issue in spite of National Security Regulations.
AUGUST

ANNIVERSARIES

This month contains two important anniversaries whose regular recurrence awakens dormant memories for the struggle of the former war against German aggression. It was on August 4, 1914, just 28 years ago, that Britain reluctantly took up the gage of battle so recklessly thrown down by Kaiser Wilhelm, and commenced to fight, as she is doing now, in defense of international justice and the rights of small nations. It was on August 8, four years later, that the 4th Army, which included the Australian Corps, inflicted such a crushing defeat on the Germans at Villers-Bretonneux. Much has been said and written about the origins of the last war; but throughout the long history of the events that led up to it there are two things which stand out as plain as the wake of a speed-boat. One was the aged German aggressiveness and belief that Might is Right which would submit everything to the arbitrament of battle. The other was the equally old unpardonableness with which Britain is always forced to begin her wars. Looking back over the years, one feels safe in saying that had Britain been as strong on land as she was on sea in 1914, and had she not been beset by political troubles in Ireland and India, the Kaiser would never have dared to blast his way to his "place in the sun" with high explosives and poison gas. The Empire paid dearly in blood and prolonged suffering for that initial unpreparedness, just as we are paying today for the unpreparedness which tempted Hitler to follow in the Kaiser's footsteps.

One recalls August 4, 1914, with a certain amount of irritation, but August 8, 1918, is remembered with feelings of pride and grim reflection. That was the day which Ludendorff described as "the blackest day of the German Army in the war." It was the day of the Fourth Army's successful counter-offensive in the Somme area. On that day, too, for the first time in the history of the war, five divisions of the Australian Army Corps went into action together. The Australians attacked with the Canadian Corps on their right and two British divisions on their left. They were supported by exceptionally powerful artillery and tanks and aeroplanes on a scale that had never been used before. Penetrating deeply into the enemy lines, the A.I.F. captured 8,000 prisoners, 173 guns capable of being hauled away, and immense quantities of trench mortars and machine guns. The big guns captured included the 9in. and 11.2-in. guns, the latter of which had been used to shell Amiens. The booty included a large and varied assortment of many other kinds of warlike stores. The huge dumps of engineering material taken that day were sufficient to serve the needs of the Australian Corps for the remainder of the war. And this tally of spoils of war has not taken into account what was captured by the formations on either flank.

On August 8, 1918, the Fourth Army dealt the Hun a knock-down blow from which he could not recover, and two months later the German leaders sought an armistice. In these critical times it is comforting to remember that only four months before the August offensive, that same enemy was victoriously smashing his way towards the Channel ports, and that only a few disorganized troops stood between him and the sea. Remember that, and never be cast down or faint-hearted when we or our Allies suffer reverses. The breaking-point will be reached by the Axis Powers sooner or later in this war, as it was in the last. Then the tide to victory will set in, and set in perhaps far sooner than most people think.

DIGGER LEGISLATORS

The State Parliament commenced the present session with an addition to the ranks of the returned men. This is Mr. C. R. "Dick" Cornish, the successful candidate in the recent by-election for the North Province of the Legislative Council. He served with the 44th Battalion A.I.F. in the last war, and won the Distinguished Service Order while still a lieutenant. There are now 23 veterans of the last war in both Houses of Parliament—7 in the Legislative Council, and 16 in the Legislative Assembly. The returned men in the Legislative Council, in addition to Mr. Cornish, are Messrs. the Hon. James Cornell, Leslie Craig, Eric Michael Heenan, Thomas Moore, Hubert S. W. Parker and H. L. Roche. Those in the Legislative Assembly are Messrs. Val. Abbot, H. T. Berry, A. M. Gower, C. Ross, Vic Doney, C. G. Latham, James I. Mann, Ross McDonald, Charles F. J. North, A. H. Pant on, H. S. Seward, L. Thornton. F. L. Warner, W. H. F. Willmott and A. A. Wilson. Not only are returned men in both Houses of Parliament, but Digger legislators hold key positions in those Houses. The Hon. James Cornell is Chairman of Committees in the Legislative Council, Messrs. Pant on and Gower are Cabinet Ministers, while the Hon. C. G. Latham is Leader of the Opposition and
Leader of the Country Party, and Mr. Ross McDonald is Leader of the National Party. Five members of the State Parliament, Messrs. Cornell, Panton, Warner, Thorn and Abbott are members of the State Executive of the League. Mr. H. J. Roch, better known in League circles as “Par” Roch, has long been prominent in Soldier Settler affairs, and is a regular attendant at the annual State Congress. Messrs. Hubert Parker M.L.C. and J. I. Mann M.L.A. were formerly on the State Executive. The oldest of the Digger Legislators is Collie’s grand old man, Arthur Alan Wilson. The oldest veterans in point of war service are the Legislative Assembly members, Messrs. A. Panton and Vic Doney, who both served in the South African War, as well as the War of 1914-18. So far, only one member of the State Parliament is a returned soldier of the present war. He is Mr. Ted Holman, M.L.A. for Forrest, who returned from the Middle East recently, and is still in the A.I.F. Three other members are enjoying leave of absence while serving with the fighting forces. They are Messrs. Fraser, M.L.C., and Val Abbott, M.L.A., who are doing full-time duty with the R.A.A.F., and Mr. H. H. Smyth M.L.A. who is in the Army.

With such efficient representation from members of all political parties in both Houses of our State Parliament, old and new, may rest assured that their interests will be well safeguarded, as far as our own Parliament is concerned. The fighting forces of the last war are also well represented in the Federal Parliament. Here is the list:

Senate: Senators Amour (A.I.P.); Ashley (Sth. Af.); Brand (Sth. Af. and A.I.F.); Cameron (Sth. Af.); Collett (A.I.F.); Cooper (A.I.F.); Poll (A.I.F.); Lamp (A.I.F.); MacDonald (A.I.F.); Sampson (Sth. Af. and A.I.F.); and Wilson (2nd A.I.F.).

House of Representatives: Hon. J. P. Abbott (A.I.F.); Hon. H. L. Anthony (A.I.F.); Mr. A. J. Beck (A.I.F.); Hon. Sir George Bell (Sth. Af. and A.I.F.); Mr. A. Blain (A.I.F. and 2nd A.I.F.); Hon. A. Cameron (A.I.F.); Mr. A. W. Coles (A.I.F.); Hon. T. Collins (Sth. Af.); Hon. J. Dedman (B.E.P.); Mr. J. Duncan-Hughes (A.I.F.); Hon. J. Francis (A.I.F.); Hon. R. H. Harrison (A.I.F.); Hon. G. Lawson (Sth. Af.); Sir Charles Marr (A.I.F.); Hon. A. McDonald (A.I.F.); Mr. D. McLeod (A.I.F.); Hon. Sir Earle Page (A.I.F.); Hon. R. Pollard (A.I.F.); Major-General Rankin (A.I.F.); Colonel Ryan (A.I.F.); Hon. T. W. White (A.I.F. and R.A.A.F.); Mr. D. Watkins (A.I.F.).

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The Soldier and His Pay
By A SUPERFLUOUS VETERAN

At its meeting on July 27 the State Executive carried a resolution that the time is opportune for a general review of the rates of pay for all members of the fighting forces, so that their wives and dependants can live in reasonable comfort. During the week that followed, most members of this League received a comforting assurance that the desired review had already been made. At its meeting on August 3 the Full Federal Cabinet decided to raise the rates of pay for seagoing members of the Navy, and for members of the Army and the Air Force. Under the new rates service men will get 6d. a day extra. Their wives will receive another 1/4 a day in allowance, and an additional 6d. a day will be added to the allowance for the first child. In addition, income tax exemptions on service pay will be raised to £250, and the allowance of all dependents will be tax free. When the announcement was made it was explained that the daily increase of 6d. in the service man’s pay would apply from the basic pay of the private, upwards through the service, on the same basis as that used in making the increases granted in the last Budget. The new rates of pay, excluding deferred pay, for the private of the A.I.P. will, therefore, be 6/6 a day, of which 6/- will be the drawing rate and 3/6 the compulsory allotment to wife. Dependants’ allowances are 6/6 a week, 2/6 for the first child, 2/- for the second child, and 1/6 for each subsequent child.

League members will be gratified at the increase in the rates, but opinions may differ as to whether the service men’s pay, even with the increase, is yet adequate in comparison with that showered on corresponding classes of civilians. The fact that the increase was announced a few days after, and independently of the State Executive’s resolution, by no means nullifies that resolution. We still think the time is opportune for the review requested. As one speaker at the Executive meeting said: ”The League cannot afford to defer consideration of the fighting men’s pay any longer.” The question they had to ask themselves, he added, concerned the men doing the actual fighting. ”Is the man who carries on the fight in the front line and risks his life not worth pay equal to that received by the man who makes the weapons that the soldier uses?..” Travesties and others drafted to technical work, in the services receive pay and allowances on a scale equivalent to their earnings in civilian life, but the fighting man, despite the fact that he risks his life, is paid on an entirely different basis.”

That, to our mind, is the crux of the whole matter. In recent years the pay and wages of civilians have made very substantial advances. In proportion, the soldiers’ pay has hardly made any advance at all. Actually, they have advanced little beyond the rates paid in the South African War at the beginning of the century. During the South African War Australian soldiers were paid at the rate of 5/- a day, and so on upward. In the last war the lowest ranks received 5/- a day, with the addition of a shilling a day deferred pay. That was the advance in 12 years. On the other hand, the Militiaman who volunteered for active service in South Africa actually experienced a drop in pay, for the Militia private used to be paid 8/- a day in those days. The rates of the South African War formed a basis for guidance in 1914, just as the rates paid the first A.I.P. formed the basis of those paid to the men of the present forces. Thus, the present effective rate of 6/6 a day represents an advance of only 1/6 on the 5/- a day that was paid 42 years ago during the South African War. Compare this with the advance represented by the present basic wage on the minimum wage of 7/- a day, instituted by the New South Wales Government at the end of the South African War,
and the new increase to the fighting man’s pay will seem decadently meagre.

It may be argued that the soldier, in addition to being paid, is also clothed, fed and provided with living quarters; but even if the cost of these accommodations were added to his total pay the married private without children is not as well paid as the wage earner who is a bachelor. What more, the trained soldier of today is a highly skilled man, but his remuneration lags behind that of the skilled craftsman who works under an award. What true value of the training paid for is also true of the commissioned rank. Never in the whole course of the British Army has the commissioned officer been adequately paid. Before 1871, even had he to buy his commission; at the end of the last war, and perhaps to the beginning of the present war, it was impossible for an officer to live on his pay. Even in Australia it was not possible for a junior officer to live on his pay before the Commonwealth took over the military forces in 1908.

The whole trouble seems to be rooted in the conservatism of civilian Army Ministers who still base the soldier’s pay on the rates of previous wars instead of in comparison with current civilian wages. Even if the soldiers were paid at the same rates, he would still not receive his full war loading and the extra pay for war risks so vehemently demanded by certain classes of civilian heroes.

I should therefore like to congratulate the State Executive on the interest delegates have shown in this question and the attitude of the Executive that understands the position better than the Old Diggers, and no one is more competent than they to speak with authority on these matters. That being so, it is devoutly to be wished that the State Executive, following the example of the League, were to press for the review urged in its resolution of July 27.

**TRANSFERS TO AREAS**

The Federal Attorney-General’s Department has recently reported that the discharge of Militia personnel when the Assistant Minister for the Army was in this State recently, representatives of the League drew his attention to an anomaly, whereby members of the Militia, who were found to be unable to receive the remuneration due to them, were not issued with a Discharge Certificate. Instead, they were given a certificate of exemption from training, and they were transferred back to their areas. This meant that they were not entitled to the remuneration benefits. The Assistant Minister said that new regulations would have to be gazetted to remove this anomaly. Until they were issued, the following procedure has been approved by the Department of the Treasury:

A member will continue to receive full pay and allowances for one calendar month after the date of notification by the Medical Board that he is to be discharged as medically unfit. He will continue to draw his pay, subject to the needs of war and the exigencies of the terrain.

The regulations will be referred immediately to the Repatriation Commission, with a request that the case be considered on the presumption that the legal bar now existing will be removed, so that the case can be dealt with by the Commission, as soon as the amending regulations are issued.

Probably before these lines are printed, the United Nations will have established the much-discussed second front; or perhaps it would be more correct to say a ‘new European front’ because, apart from the Russian Front, and not counting the Atlantic Front and the Air Front, Britain and her Allies are fighting on four fronts already—the Balkans, Egypt, China and Northern Australia. What is more, a new front in Western Europe may possibly be opened without much careful preparation and special training for those who are to fight it.

It is evident, even from the necessarily meagre amount of news that reaches us, that these preparatory steps are in progress. If the preparations are too hurried, and if the blow at the western flank of the Axis is struck, prematurely, the result can only be another Dunkirk or Crete. It may therefore be safely assumed that those responsible for the job of conceiving Allied strategy and carrying it into operation know what they are doing, and do not need to be taught their job by all sorts of civilian know-alls who have never seen a shot fired and who remained at home when they might have acquired some first-hand military knowledge in France or Palestine during the last war. The persistent shrieking in Australia for a second front becomes particularly irritating when one reads the names of those who are loudest in their clamour.

For the most part, they are cold-foots who dodged the last war; pacific cranks who helped to make the present war inevitable, and raucous Reds whose passion for Russian has never permitted them to see or do anything to help our own war effort, although the jay is hammering at our northern gates. The past activities of some of them have even been traitorous, and it was a lucky break for many of them when Russia came into the war on our side.

Everybody knows that another European front must be opened before we can finally smash Hitler; everyone also knows that the new front must be well and truly dug down in Russia, would be a most favourable time, all other things being equal, to strike at the enemy’s rear from the west, but the brazen effrontery of the second-fronters becomes all the more glaring when it is recalled that the delay in opening a new European Front has been forced on Britain by the very pacifists and disarrayment clamour these same people carried on for years before the war. They did Hitler’s work then, and they are doing it now. Hitler will gloat over this noisy second front propaganda, if he is not already doing so, and welcome it as a means of sowing division between the Allies.

Mr. Churchill and his colleagues are more to be relied on than any of their noisy little critics. A new European Front has been promised, and it will be opened just when and where the Allied High Command thinks best. We may be sure, however, that noisy civilian propaganda will not stung our leaders into letting the world and Hitler know where the new Front is to be opened.

In the meantime, the political tipsters have been busy reading the signs and issuing their forecasts. The enemy has been making frantic preparations to resist Allied landings in France. The recent news from Germany, and reports of German nervousness, of which the orders issued to subject peoples are direct evidence, indicate that an invading Allied force would receive both a welcome and practical assistance. Just recently the French are thinking in terms of a landing in France. The enemy threats to subject peoples of what they might expect should they assist an invader were made to the French people. The vicious Vichy Government announced a few days ago that it would not oppose any invasion. These reports suggest that an Allied invasion into France is expected. Moreover, smouldering resentment is being fanned into blazing hatred by the stupid oppressive tactics of the Germans themselves. Wherever the French are able to rise, the French people will take a terrible revenge on their oppressors.

However, there is another side to the picture. Reference has already been made to the fact that a premature attack in the west might have consequences that are worse than disastrous. These consequences, as the commando raid on St. Nazaire earlier in the year, might be even more terrible for the French people. Again, France is not the only occupied country in which Allied armies might land. There are others which present greater strategic advantages, although General de Gaulle said some weeks ago that the decisive battle of the war must be fought in France.

It is even possible that the new front may not be opened in Western Europe at all, or at least for the time being. Providing the forces can be got there, the Balkans presents a tempting alternative to Western Europe. General Mihailovich’s Army is still in arms and, according to news published in local papers on August 7, Australians and other members of Allied forces are fighting with them. Reports from American sources suggest that Mihailovich’s Army has steadily increased in both men and equipment during the past European winter. These men have been trained into a strong mobile striking force, and the story of their operations will
MOUNT LAWLEY'S MARCH OF TIME

Mount Lawley is one of the oldest sub-branches in the State, having been formed when the League, then an infant organisation, was greatly in need of pioneering work. It was formed in April 1919 by Stan Watts, who was one of the first men of the Mount Lawley-North Perth area. This meeting was presided over by Lieut-Colonel Arthur Sweetapple, and for a few years meetings were held alternatively in Mount Lawley and North Perth. Later it was decided to split into two sub-branches.

As a sub-branch it has a record of splendid and varied service, besides which it has contributed a State president, several State Executive members, both the State Secretary and Assistant State Secretary, and a host of other prominent workers to the League. Two of its earlier members, Colonel Collett and Alan McDonald, who was twice president of the sub-branch, are now in the Federal Senate. Here is the list of presidents since the sub-branch was formed:


Although Mount Lawley has a record of solid, consistent work, the sub-branch has always had flair for the spectacular and the dramatic. In this particular form of activity it is rivalled by only two other metropolitan sub-branches—North Perth and South Perth. The war has curtailed activities of this kind, but the memory of past events is so fresh and pleasurable that one hopes for their early resumption, especially those delightful plays and sketches that were written, produced and acted by members. The main and most spectacular shows put on by the sub-branch were the All Nations Fair in 1933; the tableau ("Life of a Digger") 1934; a "night in an Estaminet" (1938); that inimitable sketch, "Bibil" (1936); "A Night in Cairo" (1937); "A Night in Paris" (1938); "A Night in a Dug-Out" (1939); and "Back to Cairo" (1940).

All who have had the good fortune to enjoy the hospitality of Mount Lawley have come away with pleasant recollections of crowded tables, happy faces, and spirited good-fellowship.

Perhaps the outstanding social events were the three Armistice Day dinners, which were always memorable. The last was in Anzac House, where 450 guests attended. Amongst the activities of the sub-branch in connection with the W.A.C.A. Carnival in the same year, other organisations assisted include the Red Cross (Inglewood), the Mt. Lawley Sea Scouting, and the Mt. Lawley Golf Club, in connection with the Diggers' Cup.

One of the sub-branch's proudest achievements was the publication of a splendid sub-branch organ, "The Sniper." It was a bright and entertaining monthly, in which humour, A.E.P., history, and records of sub-branch doings were judiciously blended; and the usually well-written parts and articles were always worth reading. Unfortunately, "The Sniper" has had to duck his head under the counter battery work of war-time restrictions. The paper voluntarily went into recess after an unbroken run of 10 years.

Mount Lawley members are not the only ones that will look forward to the reappearance of a snappy little magazine that reflected great credit on publishers and contributors alike. Another achievement on the book side was the presentation by the sub-branch of a library of 200 volumes to the A.A.M.C. Association.

Like most sub-branches these days, Mount Lawley is carrying on in the teeth of difficulties. Many members are on permanent service with the V.D.C. or doing other forms of full-time war work. To make matters worse, the Air Force people took over the hall in which the sub-branch meetings used to be held. Mount Lawley, however, looks on difficulties as things to be overcome. A new meeting place was found in a nearby private garage, which was made available by the generosity of the owner. From the outside the "Dug-Out," as members now call it, has the ordinary appearance of a galvanised iron shed; but the inside is a record of excellent taste and solid work. The walls are hung with pictures and souvenirs of past and present wars. One could spend considerable time meandering round the room sight-seeing and reviving memories of the past.

The sub-branch has furnished the place, and the furnishings include the seating accommodation, which is surprisingly large. This latest example of enterprise, in finding and fixing up a new home, is quite in step with the sub-branch's march of time and record of achievement.
VARIA

Sweden, one of Europe's few remaining neutrals, is giving evidence of real democratic neighbourliness under great difficulties. Swedish families, it is reported, are offering homes to hungry and discouraged Finnish children whose own families, under present circumstances, which sometimes include the death of both parents, cannot support them. Already about 15,000 of these unfortunate children have been welcomed in Sweden, and by now the number has probably grown to 20,000. In this work of Christian charity a noble example was set by a small Swedish town with a population of only 260. On their own initiative the farmers of the community put up enough money to care for 10 Finnish children for one year. In this case, an empty school-house was converted into a hostel, and two Swedish-speaking Finns were installed to look after the group properly.

The Annual State Congress will commence in the McNess Hall on September 30. Apart from being a war-time congress, this year's assembly of the Diggers' Parliament will be unique in one respect. It will be the first Congress since the one that inaugurated the League that will be held on premises not owned or controlled by the League. That departure from precedent is because of the unusual conditions of the times which have demanded the use of the Ballroom at Anzac House for State Government Departments. At a time like this, when another Congress is about due, one may be excused for looking back as well as forward. One can look back over the vista of the years with a great deal of satisfaction at considering how the League survived its growing pains and became the power in the community it is today. One can look forward to the future, content in the knowledge that our organisation will be carried on by another and younger generation of Diggers, who are even now so gloriously upholding the traditions of the A.I.P. We may be satisfied, too, that we can hand over something tangible as well as traditional. There is this organisation we have built up, the rights for which we have so successfully fought, and Anzac House, the permanent home of the League. At least one who fought in both wars will be present at Congress—Mr. Davie Paton, of the State Executive—and it is possible that others may be among the delegates from the various sub-branches. Mr. Yestes, who will preside, has just completed his eighth year in the chair. His predecessor, Col. Collait, guided the destinies of our State Branch for a similar period of years. Incidentally, a State President's task is by no means an easy one, and like every other member of the State Executive, his job is purely honorary. He and they receive by way of remuneration the large sum of nothing a year. But the elections to the State Executive are keenly contested, which shows that election thereto is regarded as a great honour, and the reward lies in the knowledge that one is doing something for the League and for his fellow Diggers.

Some days ago the new secretary of a country sub-branch called in at the State Sec-

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PHONES: K305, K505
that induced the Commonwealth Bank to grant three quarters of a million pounds, so that the Agricultural Bank could lift this load of debt from him. The memories of individuals play strange tricks at times, but the League and those who serve it so loyally do not forget.

Since the war started, the League has presented gift pocket wallets to more than 16,000 R.A.A.F. men before they embarked for service overseas. This was mentioned at the beginning of the month by the Minister for Air, who said that the work of the League in this respect was a striking gesture of admiration from the old Diggers to the young men, who are carrying on the traditions that were established by Australians in the first World War. The Minister for Air reminded the general public that the League had sought some way of giving to each active service member of the R.A.A.F. overseas a useful memento. The Air Force Blue wallet the League had decided on was an ideal gift. The distribution was made through the Air Board, which has already conveyed its appreciation to the League.

The recent fighting in Egypt, and the casualties which have apparently been sustained by a battalion from our own State, have caused the Legacy Club to review its financial resources. It is the obligation of the Legacy movement, throughout Australia, to assist the social, moral and economic welfare of the children of deceased members of the fighting forces. These children are the legacy bequeathed to us by our departed comrades. As one means of augmenting its funds, the Legacy Club has decided to promote a novel auction by radio. The plan is to secure donations of goods and services, to have their values assessed and listed, to display the goods at selected points in the city, and for the auction to be conducted in October by a broadcasting station. It is hoped that a considerable sum will be raised.

One silver lining in the clouds that loom over us this year is provided by the vastly improved employment position. During the past 12 months the Legacy Club has had the experience, for the first time in its history, of not having sufficient Wards to place in all the positions offering. It was thought wise, therefore, to cancel the standing advertisement in “The West Australian.” That advertisement, by the way, was a donation from our own newspaper. It has been an invaluable assistance to the Legacy Club during the past 14 years. One hundred and five young people were placed in employment during the year. Of these 94 entered upon their first jobs. These included 20 prentices, and 57 positions were permanent. Seventeen of the jobs found were described as temporary, but they are likely to prove permanent. The remaining positions were transfers from temporary to permanent positions. World War conditions have caused the Legacy Club has been in the fortunate position of being able to select positions to offer its Wards, instead of having to take whatever was open.

Canadian and American papers have revived the theory that budding officers should be taught to play chess, because, for some reason or other, that ancient and honourable game is believed to provide a very valuable form of military training. Some time ago the theory was advanced in Australia, but it does not seem to have advanced very far. My own view of the matter, based on the experience of 25 years as a professional soldier, is that the best form of military training is soldiering, and then, if there is any spare time left, more soldiering. Certainly, general athletics and other things that develop the soldier’s body and brain, have their place in a scheme of training, but the method of teaching a man a sit-down game to make him an efficient general reminds me of the tactics of the horse that swam across a river to get a drink. I would hesitate long before decrying the virtues of any game, but there is one historical fact that the devotees of chess will find hard to overcome. Napoleon, in addition to being one of the world’s greatest generals, was the world’s worst chess player. The Master of his Household was always in a frenzy when the Emperor wanted a game. His was the extremely difficult task of finding someone bad enough for the Emperor to beat.

Australian soldiers who require legal advice on legal problems may obtain it free of charge by visiting the centres established in all capital cities. The centre in our own State is the Law Society, whose office is in Warwick House, St. George’s Terrace.

An Austrian journalist, who escaped from his native land before Hitler annexed it, has told at second-hand the following story to illustrate how the Hun propaganda is failing in Vienna. In one of Vienna’s largest picture theatres, a German propaganda newsreel was being shown. The caption read: “German Air Raid on British City.” Suddenly a German soldier in the audience leaped up and shouted: “But that’s Hamburg—that’s my home town, Hamburg!” The good people in the audience broke into roars of laughter, and salvos of applause; but the few scattered Nazis yelled for the lights to be turned on, and the performance had to be held up while they called the police. But by the time the Gestapo arrived the soldier from Hamburg had withdrawn, according to plan.

Everyone who saw the newscast of Mr. Churchill addressing the Canadian House of Commons will remember the tumult of applause and laughter he aroused when he described how the Vichy turncoats described the British Empire after Dunkirk as a chicken waiting for its neck to be wrung. Those
who saw the film will remember how the Prime Minister scored with his comment, "Some chicken," and when the applause had died down, how he revived it with the further comment, "Some neck." Mr. Churchill makes very skilful use, in his oratory, of these repetitions, or near repeats, as our airmen might call them. On one occasion, soon after he became Prime Minister, he called at the War Office. A high-ranking officer, anxious to impress Mr. Churchill with his bustling activity, arranged to have a huge pile of correspondence brought in as soon as the Prime Minister entered his office. Soon after the arrangements were made, Mr. Churchill appeared. He noticed the spread of ribbons on the officer's chest. "Ah, I see you're an old soldier, sir," he said. The officer bowed modestly. At this moment an orderly came into the room, staggering under a load of correspondence that almost hid him from view. Mr. Churchill having been in the Army himself, was thoroughly familiar with this particular trick of the trade. He took one look at this mountain of mail, and turned to his host. "A very old soldier," he murmured.

Recently Australian newspapers published illustrations of the badges of rank of the United States Army, Navy and other fighting services. The present insignia of the American fighting men dates back to 1780, when the system of stars to indicate rank was introduced, and to 1782, when the system of stripes was added for further differentiations. There were changes in the badges of rank, up to the American Civil War. Since then they have remained practically as they are now, except for additions to distinguish new services.

Captain Douglas Brownell, a Tasmanian who held a commission in the British Regular Army, will be remembered by many Diggers as the Chief Instructor at the School of Bombing and Trench Warfare at Dunroon. He went to France with his regiment when the balloon went up in 1914, and he had many good stories to tell of that phase of trench warfare when the opposing lines were so close that machine guns were used to put up insulating placards, and call out resulting remarks across No Man's Land. That sort of thing was done with loud speakers in the Spanish War, and has been done again on the French and Russian Fronts in this war. At one time in 1918, the Germans opposite Brownell's regiment shoved up a notice which read: "You are Anglo-Saxons we are Saxons. Tonight the Prussians will relieve us. Give them all you've got." I mention this to show how unpopular the Huns are, even in Germany. There is evidence that they are by no means loved by their Allies in the war. Wing Commander Louden, a British Air Force officer who was through the fighting in Libya, tells the following story on this point. "Some of our boys," he said, "heard there were crack Italian anti-aircraft guns in a batch of prisoners we had taken. They asked the Digs if they would like to try their skill at popping Jerry planes. The Italians jumped at the opportunity," Wing Commander Louden continued, "and were put on guns guarding our rear-line aerodromes—under close observation, of course. They were good, too. I don't know their official account, but they were all right.

We are only a little over a month from the Annual State Congress. This event of the year in League routine work is really the annual meeting of the Diggers' Parliament, when League problems are solved—more or less—and all manner of suggestions are ventilated. Since the outbreak of the present war, there has been a general desire to make the proceedings as brief as possible, and confine items to the agenda paper to subjects of urgent importance, especially in connection with the war effort, and the part our League is playing in that effort. Some little time ago, a suggestion to that effect was made to the sub-branches. The sub-branches have responded nobly, and this year there are about 100 items, or about two-thirds of the average number in normal years. The Agenda Committee is now busy classifying the items, and arranging them conveniently for discussion by Congress. This year, as it has been stated before, the Congress will be held in the Mc Ness Hall. It will be the first Congress to meet in a building not owned or controlled by the League. However, the Hall is only a step or two from League Headquarters, so that the social amenities, and the facilities for those impromptu meetings and overflow conferences that sometimes happen, will still be handy. In spite of the anxious times, there is every reason to believe that this year's Congress will be an exceptionally good one, and city delegates are already looking forward to meeting their country cobsber one more.

Nominations received for State President of the League in this State are Messrs. All Yeates, Tom Edmondson, Jim Anderson and Stan Watt.
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Since the outbreak of the present strife, when most ex-service men knew it was inevitable, old soldiers have been itching to get on the move again. Our Yealering correspondent hints to us that, on the quiet, quite a few of the Old Boys have been smiled on by the M.O. Yealering sub-branch, like many others, has a constituency. Two members, Ted Nelson and Jack Strapp, have decided to move on. Both have been good solid workers in the League and staunch supporters of the V.D.C. Ted Nelson, as O.C. Signallers, has held very high rank in the A.I.F. and is now serving in all arms of the forces. Jack Strapp has been the chief factor in the success of the lamp signalling, and his skill in transforming old lamps into new has been greatly appreciated by all old Sig cobbers. Good luck and good hunting to both of them.

For the fourth year in succession Mr. Jack Lanigan has again been elected without opposition as president of the Yokine sub-branch. This sub-branch has certainly gone ahead since he took over the reins. During the Great War he served with the 16th Bn., and was a foundation member of the Yokine sub-branch. He is present a member of the Osborne Park Red Cross Society and the Agricultural Society. He is employed in working days as Health Inspector with the Perth Road Board.

Mr. George Hamer has again been elected as hon. secretary of the Yokine sub-branch. At the annual meeting a vote of thanks was passed to both Jack Lanigan and George Hamer for their great jobs, and it was partly through their efforts that the sub-branch has its own home. George served in the last war with the R.A.M.C. and 1st Bn. Cheshire Regiment from 1914 to 1918. He works in the day time as manager for Robertson & Rossiter, storekeepers, Victoria Park.

Cr. W. L. Menkens, past president North Perth sub-branch, is again organising a series of "Pleasant Sunday Afternoon" entertainments at the North Perth Town Hall. From the few functions held so far an amount of £110 has been raised for patriotic funds. Bill is far from well, and seldom leaves his home these wintry days.

The annual report of the Kalgoorlie sub-branch contains a statement of the sub-branch auditor, Mr. G. H. Dalby. At all times he has given the utmost assistance and advice that has been far-reaching.

We extend deep sympathy to Mr. Eric Davies, of the State Executive and North Perth sub-branch, on the recent loss of a daughter. She was only 14 years of age.

The many friends of Major J. W. Colpitts will regret to learn that this grand old veteran collapsed in his office and was taken to St. Omer Hospital for treatment. The latest bulletin said he was progressing as favourably as could be expected. Major Colpitts, besides being President of the Coastal Branch of the South African and Imperial Veterans' Association, is Adjutant of the Corps of Commissionaires.

It is with deep regret that Victoria Park auxiliary reports the passing of Mrs. Jack Matthews, one of the earliest members of the auxiliary. She was an untiring worker, and had been on the committee for years. We join with the auxiliary in offering deep and sincere condolence to the bereaved husband.

We were pleased to hear from our Cottesloe correspondent that Mr. Jack Garrett is home again. All wish him an excellent time in his leave.

Mr. W. H. Melvin, J.P., of Cottesloe, a patron of the Totally and Permanently Disabled Soldiers' Association, has presented that organisation with a handsome cup, as a trophy for the darts contest that will take place shortly. Mr. Melvin has shown himself most considerate to the soldiers, especially in their room. Mr. Melvin is well known in R.S.L. circles, and has been presented with the League's Certificate of Merit for valuable services rendered. It is pleasing to learn that Mr. Melvin continues to receive good news of his daughter and sons who are on active service.

Mr. F. E. Gibson, M.L.C., who recently won the vacancy in the representation of the Metropolitan Suburban province, has added Parliamentary duties to his already busy life, as a local representative of the town. Mr. Gibson has presented a number of new buildings which will be available for Parliamentary purposes.

A welcome addition to Osborne Park sub-branch circles is the arrival of Mr. Joe Datchers, who has become bonafide of the Osborne Park Hotel. Joe, who is a specimen of the jolly, good-tempered innkeeper of the Victorian Era, was a member of the 48th Bn. But he served four years on active service. Previously he was manager of the Victoria Hotel, Subiaco, and a hotel at Newdegate. He has transferred to the local sub-branch, and his experience will be of value. Mrs. Joe will also become an active participant in the social functions of the district. It might be mentioned that Joe was, for a few months, a guest of the Kaiser.

An epidemic of marriages has broken out in Osborne Park, the army, as usual, being responsible. Among the most popular was that of Richard Guelfi, third son of Mr. F. Guelfi, vice-president of the Agricultural Society, trustee of the hall, and one of the most ardent workers for the local sub-branch. Two other sons, Phil and Fred, are in the A.I.F. The bride was Miss Dolores Pagotto. It might be mentioned that this lady, the late Mrs. R. Guelfi, was responsible for releasing two men for the fighting forces. One was the barber, and all efforts to get a successor were unavailing, until the lady mentioned a former one took over the tonsorial work (shaving excepted). The lady is very popular with juvenile patrons, and also with the elders who require hair trimming or hirsute adornment.

Mr. E. A. Wass, of the North Perth Hotel, is another who has done yeoman service for the Yokine sub-branch. He has given financial aid to the building of their new home, and is always doing humane acts for Diggers who may want a lifting hand. During the last war he served with the 1st Bn. in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. He is doing a big job at present for the R.S.L. in general.
DEFERRED PAY

Members of the A.I.F. who have returned from active service and are discharged, will have their deferred pay continued if they immediately join the Australian Military Forces. It is officially stated that continuous deferred pay for continuous service is the Army policy. On transferring immediately to the A.M.F., a discharged member of the A.I.F. is credited with deferred pay, starting from his first day of service in that branch of the Army. Members of the A.I.F. who, on discharge, allow some time to elapse before joining the A.M.F., are not entitled to credit for deferred pay immediately. They are eligible for it after six months' service.

GUNNERS' DAY

The annual celebration of Gunners' Day took place at Guildford on Sunday, August 9. As usual, the proceedings attracted a large crowd. The ceremony included a parade at the railway station, a march to St. Matthew's Church, where a memorial service was conducted by the Rev. J. D. Davies, and the impressive wreath-laying ceremony in Stirling Square.

Light Horsemen and Gunners assembled under the command of Brigadier-General A. Bessell-Brown, and local members of the V.D.C. supplied a substantial reinforcement. Light Horsemen and Gunners assembled under the command of Brigadier-General A. Bessell-Brown, and local members of the V.D.C. supplied a substantial reinforcement. The salute was taken by the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir James Mitchell, near the entrance of Stirling Square. He was accompanied by Lady Mitchell and attended by Col. C. H. E. Mannum. With the official party were the Lord Mayor of Perth (Dr. T. W. Meagher), the Speaker of the House of Representatives (Mr. W. M. Nairn), the Minister for Health and Civil Defence (Mr. A. H. Pantton), Lieut.-General H. Gordon Bennett, Major-General G. W. Barber, Brigadier B. E. Klein, Colonel O. V. Hoard, the Mayor of Guildford (Mr. H. E. Devenish) and the State President of the League (Mr. A. Yeates). Mr. Thorn, M.L.A., attended the Lieutenant-Governor and others of the official party on behalf of the Old Artillery Comrades' Association. Subsequently, Mr. Thorn placed a wreath on the memorial on behalf of the Legacy Club. The congregation at the church service overflowed into the porches and beyond. Mr. Davies delivered an address on the text “Lest We Forget.” After the service a large crowd assembled round the War Memorial, where wreaths were laid on behalf of the Old Artillery Comrades Association, the 10th Light Horse Association, the South African and Imperial Veterans' Association, the 2/2nd and 2/3rd Field Regiments, A.I.F., the Legacy Club, and the State Executive of the League. The music for the march was played by the R.S.L. Memorial Band. The celebration was organized by the Old Artillerymen's Association under its president (Mr. W. H. Beadle). The Old Artillerymen's Association held the annual reunion on Saturday, August 16, but unfortunately space does not permit us to include a report in this issue.

SHOULDER BADGES

"SERREFILE" writes: The question of the metal "Australias" on the shoulder straps of the 2nd A.I.F. seems to be worrying Mr. Forde. The whole thing seems to me to be caused by the clerks or office boys in the Defence Department who decrees these things. This bloke seems to have an abysmal ignorance of military tradition and custom.

After the last war with the Kaiser, the A.I.F. unit numbers were taken over by the Militia units. Evidently it was never expected to form another A.I.F.

When the 2nd A.I.F. was formed the Umpteenth Battalion was the Militia unit, and the 2nd Umpteenth was the A.I.F. unit, thus making the Militia unit senior to or taking precedence to the service A.I.F. unit, "which — as our dear old friend Euclid would say — "is absurd." If they had been numbered Umpteenth (A.I.F.) and Umpteenth (Militia) everything would have been in order.

You will remember that in the Gallipoli days we were ordered to wear no metal badges on account of the mess a bullet would make of a man if it were to hit one and carry it through the flesh.

This should have sounded the knell of all metal badges. This chap in the Defence Department has learnt nothing from the last war.

Personally, if I had the luck to be in the A.I.F. again I would not worry about shoulder badges, so long as I had by spurs and kangaroo feathers.

TOTAELY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION

The darts competition for the President's Trophy was won by Syd Newman, whilst the runner-up was Vic Carrington's deputy. There is a noticeable improvement in the players, and as new nominations are being taken for another competition, the Melvin Cup, presented by Mr. W. H. Melvin, J.P. (a patron), some good games are expected. Later on Councillor W. L. Menkens has undertaken to present a further trophy. It was pleasing to receive a visit from Frank Blythe a while back. Although he can't get about much these days his smile is just the same. Since our last report in June there have been 44 visitors to the room. Hospital reports show that although there have not been many members in hospital, quite a few have had to stop indoors. But with the advent of better weather we should see more of them.

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AUGUST 15, 1942

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Scabbards Off
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At the beginning of the month the Australian Munition Workers' Union sent a cablegram to Mr. Churchill demanding the immediate opening of a second front in Europe. If Mr. Churchill were to retort with a demand for the immediate cessation of strikes in Australia, the gallant unionists would most probably talk about the advisability of people minding their own business.

An American contemporary has heaped more ridicule on the Nordic notions of the blonder beasts from Germany. The Nazis entered the war in a search for "lebensraum" (living room) for Nordics; but now they are running out of Nordics to control the areas they have already conquered. In Poland, the Huns have been hard put to it to find enough Nordics to fill administrative jobs in the so-called new order for Poland. For one thing, they have told the people of the Polish Tatra Mountains that they are not Poles at all, but the descendants of a quite distinct tribe of German origin. Therefore, they are entitled to German privileges. The sturdy mountainiers, however, have rejected the idea and the privileges that went with it. Reports have also been received from the former great textile city of Lodz that another scheme for increasing the supply of Nordics has been worked out. German physicians have been examining young Polish girls employed in public offices. The most attractive and healthy are certified to be what are called "Nordic Types," and are given the opportunity to move to the Reich and marry young Germans there. Larger food rations are held out as an inducement to submission to the Nazis.

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In connection with the recent discussions as to the value or disadvantages of hate propaganda over the air, it is interesting to recall something that was published in a recent number of an American daily. During a discussion on the subject, several speakers insisted that anger and hatred were necessary elements for developing a fighting morale. Then someone noticed the presence in the room of Mr. Stephen Fry, of the British Broadcasting Corporation. "Now, Mr. Fry was asked, did the British manage to stir up hatred in the United States? Quietly he answered that the B.B.C. had no wish to stir up hatred, that the British public refused to hate. And he indicated that the war was being fought to end a wave of hatred which had been loosed by the aggressor nations, and that the fighter who wins is the one whose cool judgment is not inflamed by passion. I am inclined to agree with Mr. Fry. When our opponents give daily such beastly exhibitions of their frightfulness, no hate propaganda of ours is necessary.

At the beginning of the month, the strike evil seemed a little nearer elimination point; but there is still too much tolerance in high places for the sturdy democrats who insist on their right to scab on Australia. During one of the interminable wrangles between Mr. Fadden and the Prime Minister the secretary of the Miners' Federation retorted to something said by Mr. Fadden, with the naive question: "was it merely a stupid statement that the miners would produce more coal under a Labour Government than they would under one headed by Mr. Fadden? Apparently, under such a cock-eyed view of democracy, our war effort to become the shuttlecock of party politics.

Most people, including counsellors for the defence, often forget that Courts of Criminal Appeal have the right to increase sentences as well as reduce them. Indeed, one judge of the Full Court of the Supreme Court who heard the recent application for the right to appeal against the sentence passed on Bullock and Williams at the end of the recent conspiracy trial said he would be in favour of increasing the sentence passed upon Williams. The appellants claimed that their sentences were too severe. Most people consider that the convicted men got off absurdly lightly.
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YEALERING AND MALTA

AN EXCHANGE OF GREETINGS

Admiration for the gallant defence of Malta was expressed at the October meeting of the Yealering sub-branch last year. It was decided to send a letter conveying congratulations to the G.O.C. Malta. The reply to this letter was amongst the correspondence read at a recent meeting of the sub-branch. The G.O.C. Malta wrote: "I have just received your letter of October 15, 1941. It is extremely kind of you to think of us, as well as the people of Malta. All are most touched by your message. We are in good heart, and await events with confidence. Since receiving your letter the war has moved nearer the Commonwealth, and we in Malta are happy in the knowledge that the enemy in the East is faced by the Australian soldier who has already fought so magnificently for the Empire in other parts of the world. All good fortune to you.

Our Yealering correspondent adds: "The Returned Soldier organisations of the Empire have nothing to fear from the future when the gallant defenders of Malta, in spite of the daily Fritz Blitz, have still time to take a great interest in, and to appreciate the fighting quality of their Sister Dominions."

A NOR`WESTER TRAVELS

Just after the South African War crowds would collect in Australian cities to gape at a stationary motor car. Nowadays, the sight of a horse in this country of horse-lovers will almost collect a crowd. However, it is good, in these days of mechanisation, to find out that the old tough breed of Australian bushmen is far from extinct. During the daily ramblings of a representative of this paper it was his pleasure to meet W. ("Bill") Stanfield, a tall, hefty Nor`Wester, over 6ft. high, in his mid-forties, but younger than many city-bred fellows in their middle forties. Few men know the back country in the Nor`West better than Bill Stanfield. He has done road work, cooked for shearing sheds, walked and carried away through the outback, and learned the bush inside and out. He is a survivor of the days and the good old Australian ways that Lawson and Banjo Paterson wrote about. He is still living in the thick of a vité present that mechanisation threatens to transform into a scorned past. Bill Stanfield, however, is no conservative in his choice of what our American friends call transportation. He has "walked Matilda," but he has also travelled in motor cars, and in 1922 he was the first man of the land to travel from Carnarvon to Geraldton by aeroplane. The only other passenger on that flight was Major Breaten, and the pilot was Kingsford Smith. For ten years he worked as foreman on the rabbit-proof fence. Incidentally, he has a profound knowledge of the aborigines of the North-West. The natives call him "Bubinyu," which is their word for "friend"—and could make a one hundred per cent. man even win a better title! After years of hard work, W. Stanfield is setting out on a trip to the Eastern States, during which he hopes to take in the mainland State capitals and the evergreen Blue Mountains. On one finger he wears a ring which was a present from a Queensland named Ford. It contains the design of a horse-shoe and a horse's head, and that ring was worn under fire in Greece and Crete.

MOST DESERVING A.W.L. CASE

The Sydney "Daily Telegraph" recently wrote that the author of the world's best A.W.L. explanation was Pte. W. Caron, U.S. Army, now somewhere in Australia. A.W.L. at his brother's farm at Cobblerock, Arkansas, he wired his commanding officer: "Two days A.W.L.—Q.E.D."

When he got back to his unit, which was just about to embark for Australia, he wrote the following explanation:

"My brother's farm burned down all except the brick silo. This was damaged at the top by the bolt of lightning which started the fire, three days after I started leave. Next day my brother decided to repair the silo right away, because he had to get his corn in it. I was going to help him. "I rigged a barrel to the top of the silo so that the necessary bricks could be hoisted to the silo top where the repair was going on."

Then we hauled up several hundred bricks. This later turned out to be too many bricks. Two-way Traffic

"After my brother got all the brickwork prepared there was still a lot of bricks on top of the silo on the working platform we had built. "I said I would take them all down below, so I climbed down the ladder and hauled the barrel all the way up.

"Then I secured the line with a sort of slingshot so I could undo it easier later. Then I climbed back up the ladder and piled bricks into the barrel until it was full. "I climbed back down the ladder. Then I untied the line to let the bricks down. "However, I found the barrel of bricks heavier than I was, and when the barrel started down, I started up.

"I thought of letting go, but by that time I was so far up I thought it would be safer to hang on. "Half-way up the barrel hit me on the shoulder pretty hard, but I still hung on. "I was going pretty fast at the top, and bumped my head. "Barrel Won "My fingers also got pinched in the pulley block. "However, at the same time, the barrel hit the ground and the bottom fell out of it, letting all the bricks out.

"I was then heavier than the barrel and started down again. "I got burned on the leg by the other rope as I went down, until I met the barrel again, which went faster than before and took the skin off my shins.

"I guess I landed pretty hard on the pile of bricks, because at that time I lost my presence of mind and let go of the line, and the barrel came down and hit me squarely on the head.

"The doctor wouldn't let me start back to base until five days later, which made me two days overdue, which I don't think too much under the circumstances. "Yours truly, W. Caron."

It worked.

A matter which has been puzzling many for some time has been the question of the eligibility of men, who have returned from active service abroad, for membership of the League. A man who has returned from active service does not have to wait for discharge from the forces before he can join our organisation. Once he has returned from active service in a theatre of war overseas he is a returned sailor, soldier or airman within the meaning of the League's constitution, whether he has been discharged or is still serving. In other words, he does not have to wait to be an ex-service man before he can be badged as a returned man. Incidentally, it is gratifying to all League members to be able to welcome younger comrades of this war into their sub-branches. We understand there are about 200 of them already in this State. No doubt many more will come, and will yearning to join if the matter is only put to them in the right way.

An American writer reveals that several years ago Hitler took riding lessons, but soon gave them up. After all, he must be trying to keep the right hand in the air in the control of the horse with the left, and keep standing up in the stirrups at the gallop. —London Punch.

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**AUXILIARY SERVICES**

**SUB-Branch Activities**

**NEDLANDS**

The following were elected as office-bearers for 1942-43 at the meeting held on July 14:


**CALINGIRI**

Mr. D. K. Fordham presided over the meeting on June 24. It was decided to alter the time of meetings to when called on the Sunday before the V.D.C. parade. This decision was necessary because of petrol and lighting restrictions. It was also decided to send a donation to the Salvation Army Mobile Unit. The first meeting under the new arrangement was held on July 12. It was well-attended. It was decided to nominate Mr. Yeates for a further term as State secretary.

**Pemberton**

A welcome attendant of the monthly meeting on August 4 was Merv Plummer, who is just back from the Middle East. He dropped in to see the boys and described his trip, which was not so good. He mentioned that the canteen orders the sub-branch had sent arrived when he was just “fat broke.” Merv thinks the Digger of today is just as good, if not better, than their fathers. He said he had found out how the Digger got his name. He had been digging ever since he left last year. It was decided that a further issue of canteen orders should be made this month. This is the 10th issue. A start was made with 12 in August 1940. This month’s issue will be about 120 five shilling orders. Pemberton has not been recording its doings in print, but the sub-branch is doing good work, and this paper is always glad to hear from country members.

**Merredin**

The good attendance at the meeting on August 3 included a number of visitors from the present A.I.F. The Young Diggers were welcomed, and invited to air their views as honorary members. There was much discussion of brown-out conditions which, it was said, demand more intelligent operation if

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they are to be effective. For instance, live wires all over the place during a raid would be a menace to everyone, unless the electric supply is cut off at the source and an emergency light provided. Post-war problems will be discussed at the next meeting on September 7, when outside opinions will be invited. Other matters of sub-branch routine, including finance and social activities, were finalised, and a pleasant evening followed.

VICTORIA PARK

The July meeting was held in the R.S.L. Hall, Salford St. The attendance was fair, and the "business" was completed in good time. Joe Barnett, the social secretary, got through the Declaration of War and refreshments, and the boys settled down to a good evening. We would remind old Diggers when they meet men discharged from this war to invite them along to meetings. The committee is always on the lookout for new members. So "do your stuff, old Diggers!" Fred Matthews, the old Vic Park stalwart and retiring president who has done much work for the sub-branch, was called upon to receive a presentation of a smoker's cachet, with suitable engraving thereon. "So don't drop your butts on the floor, Fred." The president and secretary attended the monthly meeting of the auxiliary, which, by the way, has done splendid work for the sub-branch. The purpose of this visit was to point out a few of our problems. After a patient hearing they came away convinced of the auxiliary's wholehearted support. It is with regret we announce the passing of Jack McCarthy. Jack, by the way, returned from this war and was elected junior vice-president at the last annual meeting. Charlie McIntosh and Bill Colley have the concert arrangements well in hand. They think we will be the talk of the town.

WEST LEEDERVILLE - WEMBLEY

Members were again in good form at the monthly meeting held on August 10 in the Town Hall, Cambridge Street. A report on Home Guard activities indicated that interest is well sustained, and week-end operations are carried out regularly. The venue is 9.30 a.m. Henderson Park every Sunday, and the time may be varied - please watch the daily week-end Press. This sub-branch considers that the State Executive should be submitted as to why ANZAC Club facilities, apart from the liquor bar, cannot be made available to members after 6 p.m. are not convincing. It is definitely thought that arrangements could be made whereby the bar portion of the premises can be opened up if necessary. No-one thinks for a moment of breaking the Licensing Board laws; but it does seem unreasonable that the other facilities of the Club cannot be made available. Other clubs in the city are open to members after 6 p.m. Further consideration is deferred until the next meeting, while our members decided to make certain investigations. An enjoyable evening was spent on July 23, when members visited the Mr. Hawthorn sub-branch for a friendly sports night, and much pleasure was expressed at the wonderful manner in which this sub-branch treated us. We hope to return the compliment next year when our old friends Capt. W. (Bill) Kruger and Capt. J. H. (Modeller) Rose have been ill. Likewise our enthusiastic Bill (50) Curtin. We wish them the best. Two more new members were initiated in Messrs. O. V. Worrier, one time of the Merredin sub-branch, and F. Perkins. They should both prove an acquisition. Mr. Worrier, by the way, is the father of Geoff, who has enjoyed much success on the athletic running track at Aquinas College, and later in amateur athletics, and holds several championships. He is now training in the Army Transport. Another veteran present, athlete is Mr. T. A. C. G. (A.P.F.), the son of our vice-president, who was also the S.S.L. open champion athlete recently, and won the Army 100 yards championship last December. Such initial training and spirit should stand them well in the serious work ahead. Our finances are in good order, and we are proud of our figures concerning our contributions to the war effort in the way of money loaned and Certificates purchased, etc. Weekly bridge is still conducted in the Town Hall on Friday nights (prizes). Members are particularly asked to support this by their own attendance - and please invite your friends.

GLOUCESTER PARK

A special meeting was held at Evans' Hall on July 16, for the purpose of framing items for the Congress agenda. The large attendance and the keenness with which the various motions were discussed gave ample proof, if such were necessary, of the great interest shown in the proposals made by members in affairs pertaining to the League in general. A number of resolutions passed by the meeting were forwarded for inclusion in the agenda. The ordinary monthly meeting was held on August 6. On this occasion the seating accommodation was barely adequate for the large attendance.

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Seven more new members were welcomed by the president (C. Isbister). Business for the evening was much heavier than usual, and the Executive members and delegates were appointed to attend the next meeting of the Ex-service Men's Group of the West Australian League of Service. Members of the sub-branch are now taking greater interest in, and are assisting, the work of this movement. It was reported that one of our members, Mr. J. Prout, had recently passed away at Geraldton, while the father of another member had been buried on the R.S.L. grounds. Two minutes' silence were observed in honour of the deceased. Eight members were reported to be on the sick list, but all are doing well. Jack Williams, a young ex-Digger returned from this war, and H. Muir were elected to fill two vacancies in the committee. George Owen and Alex Cunningham were appointed delegates to the annual conference. Although the hour was fairly late when business was concluded, a darts competition was held to keep players up to form. Trophy-winners were Bill Wright, Joe Rydings and A. N. Other. "This was the best meeting the sub-branch has ever had," was the opinion expressed by the founder member, delivered by the interest shown by all present in the business dealt with.

FREMANTLE CITY

The annual reunion and installation of officers were held on August 18. Among the numerous visitors were the Mayor of Fremantle (Mr. F. E. Gibson, M.L.C.), Mr. J. T. Tonkin, M.L.A., the Hon. J. B. Sleeman, M.L.A., Councillors Hines, Mr. J. H. F. McCullum, Mr. H. E. Wright, Capt. (W.R.A. & S.S.L. and Soldiers' Memorial), Lieut-Commander Hatton, R.A.N., officers and other ranks of the Garrison, details of the Royal Artillery, and last, but by no means least, the representatives of the United States Navy in the person of a breezy lady. The Mayor installed the incoming president, Mr. H. G. Wilson. The toast list was not long, Mr. M. Anderson gave the toast of the R.A.F. Forces, and was responded to by Lieut-Commander Hatton. Mr. Alex Bracks gave an interesting address in submitting the toast of Parliament. It was responded to by Mr. J. T. Tonkin, M.L.A., and Mr. J. F. Sleeman, M.L.A. The prescribed ritual in honour of Fallen and Absent Comrades followed, the appropriate words for which were recited by the president. The immediate past president (Mr. H. E. Hobbs) proposed the toast of the State Executive in an able manner that must have recompensed the State Executive members present for the inconvenience they had experienced in coming through the black-out to be present. Mr. Williams recited the welcome to the sub-branch for the cordial reception, complimented the new president, and then gave an instructive account of the work of the League. He was supported by Mr. Edmondson. The annual general meeting of the Executive was attended, and present were Messrs. Dave Paton and Eric Davies. Mr. Freecorn's handling of the toast of the visitors was one of his best efforts. Councillor Bruce Lee responded, and his remarks were supported by Lieut-Commander Hatton (R.A.) and Seaman Hulse (U.S.N.). The ladies of the Auxiliary, mothers, sweethearts and wives were proposed by Mr. Theo Brennan in his usual breezy manner. He embraced the occasion with his full capacity of course. The City of Fremantle was submitted by Mr. W. Langdon, and the Mayor, in responding, indicated the way the citizens and the League could work together for the welfare of the fighting forces. The sub-branch is grateful to Captain Edwards for sending down Ser.
The monthly meeting was held on August 6, when Mr. W. Ford presided over a good attendance. It was decided to increase the sub-branch's donation to the Salvation Army mobile unit to 10 guineas. The sum of 47/1/- has already been raised. The president reported that arrangements have been made with the Red Cross for the supply of a driver to transport an incapacitated member to hospital for treatment on two days each week. A working bee was formed to do hedge cutting and lawn mowing for the dependant of a member of the A.I.F., who is now on active service abroad. Routine business was followed by games and refreshments.

At the meeting on August 3 vice-president P. J. Clegg took the chair in place of Mr. R. Ogg, who was absent through illness. Business was completed by 9 p.m., and a social evening followed. One of the matters discussed by the meeting related to the appeal for books to aid the studies of members of the forces stationed where time hangs heavily on their hands. Funds are also required for the Salvation Army mobile unit. Members were of the opinion that a radio appeal might assist both causes, and the suggestion has been passed on to the State Executive.

In spite of the inclemency of the weather the July meeting was very well attended. As the annual elections were to take place, this was to be expected. But the main attraction was the visit from the State Executive members, whom we were pleased to welcome in the persons of Mr. Anderson (vice-president), Mr. Dave Benson (State Secretary), and Mr. C. L. Harvey, who was accompanied by our old friend Harry Bayliss, the general president of Cottesloe. The election resulted in the principal officers being re-elected unopposed. Geo. Ashworth commences his seventh consecutive term. The vice-presidents are Messrs. George Brown and W. M. Mead. Dick Thomas, the energetic one, is again general secretary, and Chris James, another old-timer, is Hall secretary. There is some new blood on the various committees, and members can look forward to further progress. The boys were pleased to hear such an able and instructive address from Messrs. Anderson and Benson. Highlight of the evening was the handing over to the State Secretary by the president of a cheque for 28/ as a donation to the Salvation Army mobile unit fund. This amount was raised by the general secretary, Dick Thomas, in a novel and somewhat surprising way. Reports showed that the numerical increase was being maintained. Finances also are sound. The social secretary, Bob Kerr, is working hard to make the smoker to be held on Saturday, August 22 a success. All members are asked to support him by being present at that function. A few short hours relaxation in these times is essential to our well-being. So don't forget the date—Saturday, August 22. Members will be pleased to learn that Harold Shrigley has had a wonderful recovery from his recent serious illness. The V.D.C. is now playing a more important role, and the men who give their time and energy to prepare themselves for the dangers that threaten us deserve every ounce of our support. That could best be shown by helping fill their ranks. Congratulations to Leader Bill Mead.

The monthly meeting was held on August 6. Bill Thomas, vice-president presided. It was pleasing to note the improvement in the attendance, more especially so when some members brought along five new members. We were pleased to find one of the new members a W.A. man. Unfortunately the president (Ben J. Williamson) was absent through illness; but we are pleased to know that he is on the way to a complete recovery. Had he been present we feel sure it would have speeded up his release from medical expenses to see the roll up. Bill Thomas's "revenue machine" is working overtime on the Saturday night dances, and the sub-branch will soon be put to the expense of an extension to the dance hall if he does not slow it down. The next monthly meeting is the most important of the year. It will take place on Thursday, September 3, when the election of officers for the coming year will take place. We look forward to "house full" attendance.

As from Friday, August 7, dances which have in the past been held by the sub-branch in the Centenary Hall are in future to be conducted every Friday in the Maylands Town Hall. The change-over to a larger hall was found necessary, since the dance has become so popular as to lead to overcrowding in the smaller hall. These popular dances not only provide a form of entertainment for the fighting forces, but also help to swell the funds for patriotic purposes. The proceeds of the dance held on August 7 will be utilised by the local V.D.C. (Home Guard), as they are urgently in need of the ways and means with which to carry on their self-imposed tasks. Here it might be mentioned that it was only through the good services of Messrs. Horton, Cook and Hul-
meeting. The report commenced with the announcement that the president, Mr. W. C. Freeman, in the chair. The following officers were elected: President, Mr. W. C. Freeman; vice-president, Messrs. E. Hancock and A. Milford; secretary and treasurer, Mr. C. A. Gummery; auditors, Messrs. J. J. Chapman and F. Miller; Warden, the Rev. K. Halle; pension officer, Mr. G. G. Lamb; Councillors: Messrs. J. Walsh, A. Buttsfield, J. Miller, P. Briers, Griffiths, W. Edwards, S. Dawson and Basdon. Before presenting the annual report, Mr. W. C. Freeman extended a welcome to District Officers of the Australian Comforts Fund, the Scrap Metals Branch, Kalgoorlie and Boulder District Combined War Patriotic Fund, Kalgoorlie and Boulder District Repatriation Local Committee, and the Municipal Council.

GERALDTON

The annual meeting was held on July 18 with the president, Mr. G. C. Freeman, in the chair. The following officers were elected: President, Mr. G. C. Freeman; vice-president, Messrs. E. Hancock and A. Milford; secretary and treasurer, Mr. C. A. Gummery; auditors, Messrs. J. J. Chapman and F. Miller; Warden, the Rev. K. Halle; pension officer, Mr. G. G. Lamb; Councillors: Messrs. J. Walsh, A. Buttsfield, J. Miller, P. Briers, Griffiths, W. Edwards, S. Dawson and Basdon. Before presenting the annual report, Mr. G. C. Freeman extended a welcome to District Officers of the Australian Comforts Fund, the Scrap Metals Branch, Kalgoorlie and Boulder District Combined War Patriotic Fund, Kalgoorlie and Boulder District Repatriation Local Committee, and the Municipal Council.

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and A. Groats, Mr. T. Damon, of Mount Hawthorn sub-branch, was returning officer. Votes of thanks were accorded the retiring officer, and the remainder of the evening was devoted to harmony.

YOKINE

At the annual meeting the following office-bearers were elected for the year 1942-1943: Patron, Mr. Reg Cooper; president, Mr. J. Lanigan (4th year); vice-presidents, Messrs. T. Hare and M. Fisher; hon. secretary, Mr. George Hamer; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. Pratt; hon. auditors, Messrs. J. Bale and H. Jowett; hon. publicity officer, Mr. W. L. Menkens; sick visitor, Mr. W. Fitch. It was stated at the meeting that the sub-branch was in a sound financial position, and the membership was on the increase. It was very pleasing to know that seven new members from this war had recently joined the sub-branch. It was stated that the sub-branch’s new home was now completed. The work has been done by the busy bees, headed by the president, Mr. J. Lanigan, and the hon. secretary, Mr. Geo Hamer. Quite recently a piano fund was opened, and at present, through financial help given by Messrs. G. H. Millet (of the Perth Road Board), James Bros. and Cr. W. L. Menkens, the piano is in the Hall again. Mr. P. Wass has been of excellent help in this event. A pleasant Sunday afternoon is also being arranged for the piano fund by publicity officer Bill Menkens in the North Perth Town Hall. It will take place in September. Further donations are expected. The annual smoke will also take place in September. At a recent meeting Bill Menkens was welcomed by president Jack Lanigan, and was congratulated on his recent election to civic honours. In reply, Bill said as long as he remained in the Council, returned soldiers would always be his first interest.

Women’s Auxiliaries

FROM THE STATE SECRETARY

Mrs. Hopperton writes:

At last you are to get the promised letter; there is so much to do and so little time to do it in that letter-writing so often gets shelved.

Members in the country branches all seem to be as busy as we are in Perth. Southern Cross does marvels in raising money, having been the main contributors to the fund for entertaining the fighting forces, and I only wish they and other country members who assure this valuable work could attend the lunches given to the men returned from the present war, who are inmates of the various hospitals. The men are conveyed by cars to the hall, where the Executive members have prepared a lunch, after which a musical programme and afternoon tea is provided; then back to hospital again. We had Mr. Leslie, of Wyalatchem, as a guest patient at the last lunch, and we were able to tell him of a donation sent by the Wyalatchem auxiliary.

I regretted not being able to send twine to the many country branches who desired to make camouflage nets; but it is not practicable to mail it to distances and back when so many hundreds of women are available in the metropolitan area.
There are 30 R.S.L. auxiliary groups (some of these are small private groups working for us). I was appointed by the Defence Department as a section leader last January. The first thing was to learn to do the work, then to organise groups under a group leader and teach them to make the nets, and afterwards rope them. Over 2,000 nets have been made so far, and I hope country delegates to Conference will have an opportunity of seeing this work being done while they are in Perth.

Conference commences this year on Monday, September 28, at the Burt Memorial Hall, St. George's Terrace. The change of hall is due to the Government having taken over part of Anzac House. Delegates will assemble at 9.30 a.m. at the Hall, where a bus will take them to the State War Memorial for the usual placing of a wreath. Arrangements are much the same as other years. Let me know if you would like information on any branch of the work done by the Executive, and I will be pleased to pass it on.

Now congratulations on all the good work the branches are doing, and the way members are keeping their "chins up" while our boys are doing their bit.

MUNDARING
The annual meeting was held on July 16.

The following officials were elected: President, Mrs. W. Kinsman; vice-presidents, M.sdamas Rutherford and Patson; secretary, Mrs. Stribbling; auditors, M.sdamas Reeves and Moore. General business was followed by afternoon tea.

BULLSBROOK
Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month, after which there is a public dance in aid of patriotic funds. The sub-branch and the auxiliary run weekly dances for the entertainment of men and women in the forces. Socks knitted by auxiliary members have been sent to many service men, and many knit articles have been worked for the Navy. Mrs. Pearce has resigned her office as junior vice-president, as her husband has been transferred to another centre. A farewell surprise evening was given to this devoted couple who, during the past three years, have done valuable work for both sub-branch and auxiliary. They will be greatly missed by all their fellow members.

CARLETON
At the general meeting the president (Mrs. Gilsenan) thanked members for their loyal support during the past year, and the working committee for the fine effort in raising over £30 in the recent jumble sale. The following office-bearers were elected: President, Mrs. Gilsenan; vice-presidents, M.sdamas Suckling and Hutcherson; secretary, Mrs. Crofts; treasurer, Mrs. Harrower; committee, M.sdamas McKinley, Lang and Percy; trustees, M.sdamas Bolin, Appleton and Kerr; hospital visitors, M.sdamas Bolin and Percy. On July 12 M.sdamas Bolin, Gilsenan and Hutcherson paid a visit to the Edward Millen boys at Wooroloo. Mrs. Bolin provided a beautiful hamper of cakes for afternoon tea. Plans have been made for the start of the afternoon bridge party in the city. Watch for the opening date.

WEST LINDENVILE-WEMBLEY
Reports of the good work done by members during the past year were read at the annual meeting last month. Amongst other activities, 381 camouflage nets have been completed. In appreciation of her 11 years of service, Mrs. K. Haines was re-elected president. Other officers elected were: Vice-presidents, M.sdamas Barrett and Kinsman; secretary, Mrs. M. Thomson; treasurer, Mrs. W. McCallock; trustees, M.sdamas Waits, Haines and J. A. Smith; publicity officer, Mrs. Kinman.

BLANKET FUND APPEAL for Dunlevy House
Auxiliaries are asked please to note that donations to this fund are still urgently required—this is our R.S.L. auxiliaries' way of helping this worthy cause. As the auxiliaries are directly represented on the House committee, we feel it our duty to do our share in the matter. Donations may be sent to Mrs. V. Stockman, 12 London Street, Mount Hawthorn. Previously acknowledged through this paper, £19/11/-.

Further donations: West Leederville auxiliary, £12/7/-; Mrs. Higgins, Nannup, £10/-; South Perth auxiliary, £7; Cheera Club, Baywater (further), £3; Cottesloe Bridge, per Mrs. Scott (further), £1; Guildford Junction auxiliary, £3/11/-; Carlisle Auxiliary, £1/7/-; Pinnel auxiliary, £1/1/-; Total to date, £37/17/-.

SUBLIACO
The monthly meeting was held on July 15. Letters of thanks for comforts were read from Messrs. Turpin, Howell, Gibb and Lieut.-Col. Vickers on behalf of 110 Hospital. There were also letters of thanks for assistance in street appeals from the Sportsmen's Council, St. John Ambulance Association, Mrs. Hawkes on behalf of the canteen appeal for fruit juices, and the sub-branches for donations of 3½/- and 40/- respectively. The value of the dresses sent to Hollywood Hospital amounted to £21/12/7. M.sdamas Strue and Brown will represent the auxiliary at the coming State Women's Auxiliary Conference, which was held on July 20 was quite a success. Mrs. Harvey and Miss Duddridge rendered items enjoyed by all. An afternoon was arranged by Mrs. W. Thomas and held at the R.S.L. Hall, Thompson Rd, on July 24, for the entertainment of sick and wounded soldiers from Hollywood. Among the guests present were the Mayor and Mayoress of Subiaco (Mr. and Mrs. W. Richardson), M.sdamas Cardell-Oliver, M.L.A., Bennett-Wilkinson, and the president (Mrs. E. Pope). Madame Bennett-Wilkinson was congratulated when it was made known that she would celebrate her 80th birthday on August 6 next. Greetings and welcome speeches were accorded the...
VICTORIA PARK

Business was expeditiously dealt with at the July meeting, which was presided over by Mrs. Barnett. An interesting letter was read from Mr. Blackmore, late of the Edward Millen, and now at Wooroloo, thanking us for our donation to their Colony scheme, and explaining its objects; and also thanking us for our continued interest in the former patients of the Edward Millen. Our country member, Mrs. Edwards of Mukinbudin, sent us a donation of 10/-.

Donations were also received from Messrs. Thornbury and Mrs. E. Everett, Mrs. Beswell-Browne thanked the artists for their delightful programme.

FIRE MARINE ACCIDENT

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

(All Westralian Leather)

FOR MERIT...

Monarch Laundry Limited

DYERS AND DRY CLEANERS
The Fremantle Auxiliary had donated £35 to the Aged Sailors' and Soldiers' Fund. Suitable acknowledgment was made.

Anzac Day.—The Gnowangerup sub-branch sent a communication regarding the observance of Anzac Day. The reply was left to the State Secretary, and the matter was referred to the Anzac Day Committee.

Honour Avenue.—Correspondence between West Leederville sub-branch, West Perth sub-branch and the King's Park Board was referred to the Management Committee.

July 25
At the meeting on July 25 there were present Messrs. Yeates, Anderson, Pantin, Cornell, Watt, James, Zeffert, Margolin, Harvey, Thorn, Williams, Logie, Wood, Paton, Edmondson, Smith, Warner, Baker, Newton, Bateson and Davies.

Leave.—Colonel Collett was granted leave of absence from all meetings taking place during his absence from the State.

Colonel Olden.—Delegates were advised that the Senior Vice-President, Colonel A. C. N. Olden, was ill in Hollywood Military Hospital. The Secretary was instructed to convey the sympathy of delegates, with their best wishes for his early recovery.

Trophies.—It was decided that competitions for the Newdegate Cup, the Collett Cup, and the Cornell Cup should be held this year.

Freedom of Press.—A communication was received from the Newspaper Publishers' Committee, Sydney, suggesting matter for publication in two Perth newspapers. A reply had been sent stating that there was no need for such agitation in this State, as freedom of the Press was not denied in any reasonable and legitimate cause.

Pensions.—The report of the Pensions Committee, which dealt with suggested alterations and amendments to the Repatriation Act was received and adopted. The report had been sent to the Federal Executive and had also been handed to Colonel Collett.

Transfer to Area.—Advice was received that regulations were being gazetted under the National Security Act which would remove anomalies in connection with transfers to areas.

Aged Sailors' and Soldiers' Fund.—The report of the Committee of the Aged Sailors' and Soldiers' Fund recommended that, subject to the approval of the Annual State Congress, the Trustees of the fund be advised that the time had arrived when disbursements from the accumulated moneys in their care may be made. After considerable discussion a motion for the adoption of the report was lost.

Preference.—Mr. Watt reported in connection with allegations that soldiers had not been given preference in the Gun Ammunition Section at the Railway Workshops. A deputation had waited on Mr. Rason that morning. It was hoped that, as a result of this deputation, all cause for discontent would be removed.

Soldiers' Dependents.—Mr. Zeffert reported in connection with the activities of the Soldiers' Dependents' Appeal for the year ended June 30, 1942.

Visits.—Visits to sub-branches and other organisations were reported by Mr. Bateson (Ward XI), Messrs. Williams, Edmondson, Zeffert, Pantin, James and Baker (North Perth sub-branch), Mr. Edmondson (Army Education Service), the State President (welcome to Chinese Consul, and the Air Training Corps).

Approval was given for the Head Office to circulate sub-branches for certain types of books for the Education Service.

Increase in Servicemen's Pay.—Copies of telegrams which passed between New South Wales and the Federal Government were received as well, as comparisons of rates of pay between the Australian, New Zealand and Canadian forces. After discussion it was resolved that this Executive is of the opinion that the time is opportune for a general re-
mises, excluding the bar, for the purpose of recreation for members outside the licensing hours. The Secretary had interviewed the Chairman, and a member of the Licensing Court, who had stated definitely that it could not be done without surrendering the Club license. It was agreed that West Leederville be advised.

Shenton Park Women's Auxiliary.—The Women's Auxiliary State Executive advised that no objection would be raised to the disbanding of the Shenton Park Women's Auxiliary. It was therefore resolved that this auxiliary be disbanded, and that the Shenton Park sub-branch be so advised.

Call-up, Returned Soldiers.—The Victoria Park sub-branch protested against the calling up of ex-servicemen who had returned overseas, and had been discharged "medically unfit." After due consideration it was resolved that the matter be referred to the Federal Executive to be taken up with the Federal Government.

Taxation: Subsistence Allowance, Volunteers Home Forces.—Delegates were informed that the Federal Government levied income tax on the value of board and lodging of volunteers for full-time duty in the Home Forces, but imposed no such tax on those men called up for full-time duty in the Home Forces. It was resolved that the Federal Executive request the Commonwealth Government to rectify the anomaly of men who volunteer for Home Service being levied a tax on the value of board and quarters which is assessed at £43 per annum when men called up for service are not so taxed.

AUGUST 8

At the meeting of the State Executive on August 8 there were present Messrs. Yeates, Anderson, Philip, Denton, Cornell, Watt, James, Zeffert, Margolin, Harvey, Thorn, Williams, Wood, Paton, Edmondson, Baker, Batson and Davies.

Agenda Committee.—Messrs. Cornell, Olden, Watt and Anderson were appointed to the Agenda Committee for Congress.

Visits.—Visits to sub-branches and organisation were reported by Mr. Batson (Ward XI, General Hospital), Mr. Anderson (Chamber of Commerce), Messrs. Anderson, Harvey and the State Secretary (Mosman Park sub-branch), Messrs. Williams, Edmondson and Paton (Freemantle sub-branch), Mr. Edmondson (Ex-Service Section, League of Service), Mr. Philip (South Perth sub-branch), Col. Margolin (Red Cross and National Fitness Council), Mr. Yeates (Midland Junction sub-branch), Mr. Watt (War Loan Committee).

A report of a meeting of the Lennox Board of Visitors, on August 6, was received.

Relief Fund Trustees.—It was resolved that the minute or order limiting the maximum amount to £10 that may be voted by the trustees as relief to any one individual, without reference to a meeting of the Executive, be so amended as to increase the amount to £20.

Civil Construction Corps.—It was resolved that the Secretary ascertain from the proper authority if any man called up for the Civil Construction Corps has the right to a medical examination to determine if he is fit for the work he is called upon to do.

Commonwealth Contracts.—A communication from the South Perth sub-branch concerning a contract for neon lighting for a local ammunition factory was received. The reply was left to the State Secretary.

Razor Blades.—Similar action was taken in connection with a letter from the South Perth sub-branch relating to issue razor blades.

Army Drivers.—Mr. Lawley sub-branch asked that the Army authorities be approached regarding the alleged reckless driving of Army vehicles, and that they be asked to take such action as will minimise the number of accidents occurring. It was decided to refer the matter to Corps Headquarters.

Bottled Liquor.—A communication from the Albany sub-branch on the subject of bottled liquor was received.

Sub-branch Officials.—The appointment of officials as advised by the South Perth sub-branch was approved.

Army Inspection Branch: Midland Junction Sub-branch.—A communication signed by a number of men in this branch was received. It stated that dissatisfaction still existed and asked that the Federal Executive be approached on the matter. After discussion it was resolved that the Midland Junction sub-branch be given the latest information, and that their comments be asked for.

Concession Rail Warrants.—The Secretary to the Premier's Department advised that no Concession Rail Warrants would be granted for Congress this year, because the Commonwealth War Railway Committee had eliminated all concession fares in view of the necessity of curtailing non-essential travelling. It was resolved that the Premier be approached by a deputation to press for the issue of Concession Warrants as heretofore.

Post-War Problems.—A communication from L. R. Pullen concerning post-war problems was laid on the table for the information of delegates.

Political Rights Committee.—A communication from this committee was received.

Transfers to Area.—A communication from Senator J. M. Fraser advising the action taken by the Government to effect the discharge of men becoming medically unfit in the Home Forces was received.

Volunteer Defence Corps.—Communications from J. S. Whitten, of Torbay, were received and referred to the State President.
## 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>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARTILLERY COMRADES' ASSOCIATION</strong></td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>Last Friday each month</td>
<td>W. Bondle</td>
<td>Jack Kenny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BLINDS, SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION</strong></td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>When necessary</td>
<td>D. M. Benson</td>
<td>130 Sixth Ave.,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>21st BATTALION ASSOCIATION</strong></td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>Monthly luncheon, 1 p.m. on</td>
<td>R. W. Kruger</td>
<td>Inglewood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EX-MACHINE GUNNERS' ASSOCIATION</strong></td>
<td>Gregson's, 32 King Street, Perth</td>
<td>11th of month</td>
<td>J. Doboules</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>24th ASSOCIATION</strong></td>
<td>As Advertised</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>J. Legg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>16th BATTALION ASSOCIATION</strong></td>
<td>Committee, as arranged</td>
<td>Annual reunion, Monday of</td>
<td>Col. E. L. Marget</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>28th BATTALION ASSOCIATION</strong></td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>Show Week</td>
<td>J. E. Mussey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>32nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION</strong></td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>W. G. Armstrong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10th LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION</strong></td>
<td>Anzac House, Perth</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>R. S. L., Newland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12th and 52nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION</strong></td>
<td>At Office, Room 33, 2nd Floor</td>
<td>1st Pension day of the month of</td>
<td>H. J. Pope</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALLY and PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION</strong></td>
<td>Bon Marche Building, Barrack Street</td>
<td>2.30 p.m.</td>
<td>W. H. Riggs</td>
<td></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>A. H. Richardson</td>
<td>I. Surrock, Fremantle Rd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALBANY</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>1st Tuesday, 8 a.m.</td>
<td>W. E. Wheeler</td>
<td>E. W. Wheeler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALLIDU DISTRICTS</td>
<td>R.S.L. Hall</td>
<td>When called, Sat. 8 a.m.</td>
<td>R. Pitchell</td>
<td>H. F. Fry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASSENEDEAN</td>
<td>Town Hall—Lesser Hall</td>
<td>Alternate Thursday (pension days) 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>H. K. Minchin, 5 Wilson St.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BROOKTON</td>
<td>R.S.L. Clubrooms</td>
<td>1st Saturday, 8 a.m.</td>
<td>G. Gresves, Brookton</td>
<td>L. B. Hogan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BULLERBROOK</td>
<td>Bullbrook Town Hall</td>
<td>2nd Sat., monthly, 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Gus Pickett</td>
<td>W. R. B. Burt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUNBURY</td>
<td>R.S.L. Hall</td>
<td>3rd Saturday, 8 a.m.</td>
<td>H. E. Gibson, Bancks, Street, Bunbury</td>
<td>W. F. Freeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAYSWATER</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>On 2nd Monday</td>
<td>Staff Sergeant, 33 Anzac Street, E wyswater</td>
<td>W. R. B. Burt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUSSELTON</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>2nd Monday, 10 a.m.</td>
<td>D. K. Fordham</td>
<td>F. Jones, Wattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CALINGIRI</td>
<td>Caltingir Hall</td>
<td>When called, 2nd Sunday, 10 a.m.</td>
<td>Gordon Day, Cannington</td>
<td>L. S. E. W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANNING DISTRICTS</td>
<td>Agricultural Hall</td>
<td>1st Thursday in each month</td>
<td>L. R. Gilsen, 48 Mays St.</td>
<td>T. H. Sarre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARLISLE</td>
<td>Backford Memorial Hall</td>
<td>1st Saturday in each month, commencing June, 1940</td>
<td>W. T. White, Winchester</td>
<td>C. W. Edwick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARNAMAH</td>
<td>Road Board Hall</td>
<td>At 1st Saturday in each quarter, Alternate Tuesday, 8 a.m.</td>
<td>L. R. Gilsen, 48 Mays St.</td>
<td>H. T. Sees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLIE</td>
<td>Soldiers' Hall</td>
<td>1st Saturday in each quarter, 1st Tuesday, 8 a.m.</td>
<td>W. T. White, Winchester</td>
<td>C. W. Edwick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORRIGIN</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>1st Thursday in each month</td>
<td>W. P. Overbury</td>
<td>J. T. E. Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COTTESLOE</td>
<td>Council Hall, Jarrad Street</td>
<td>3rd Saturday each month</td>
<td>W. F. Dunne, 10 Webb Street</td>
<td>H. T. Sees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAREMONT</td>
<td>Committee Room, Claremont</td>
<td>1st Wednesday, 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mrs. F. Watters, Kalamunda</td>
<td>J. T. E. Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DARLING RANGE</td>
<td>Ovyal</td>
<td>2nd and 4th Mondays</td>
<td>J. T. E. Scott</td>
<td>J. T. E. Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENMARK</td>
<td>R.S.L. Clubrooms</td>
<td>1st Monday, 8 a.m.</td>
<td>J. T. E. Scott</td>
<td>J. T. E. Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DONNYBROOK</td>
<td>Memorial Hall</td>
<td>When called, 2nd Monday, 10 a.m.</td>
<td>J. T. E. Scott</td>
<td>J. T. E. Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUNBEELINGUP &amp; DISTRICTS</td>
<td>Dwellingup Hotel</td>
<td>1st Thursday in each month</td>
<td>J. T. E. Scott</td>
<td>J. T. E. Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREMANTLE &amp; DISTRICTS</td>
<td>W. Hall, Frementle</td>
<td>1st Thursday in each month</td>
<td>J. T. E. Scott</td>
<td>J. T. E. Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GASCOYNE</td>
<td>Gaythorne Hotel</td>
<td>3rd Sunday each month</td>
<td>F. Storey</td>
<td>J. T. E. Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERALDTON</td>
<td>Evans Hall, Hay Street, East Perth</td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
<td>J. T. E. Scott</td>
<td>J. T. E. Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLOUCESTER PARK</td>
<td>Soldiers' Room</td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
<td>J. T. E. Scott</td>
<td>J. T. E. Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOWANGURUP</td>
<td>11th Harvest Road, North Fremantle</td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
<td>J. T. E. Scott</td>
<td>J. T. E. Scott</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Note:** The directory includes detailed information about various sub-branches, their meeting dates, and the names of their presidents and secretaries, along with their addresses.