AUGUST: The Month of Memories

COMMENTATORS in London newspapers were not slow to draw parallels between the position on August 8 this year and that on August 8, 1918. They agreed that months, perhaps a year or two of hard fighting, may lie ahead; but they also agreed that August 8, 1943, was another black day for Germany. With the Red Armies pressing forward on the Eastern Front, and the Germans fighting desperately to save themselves from complete annihilation in Sicily, there was every reason why the future should look black for the enemy. It was a distinct blow to Axis prestige when Hitler's jackal, Mussolini, was knocked from his pedestal. While it is difficult to see how Italy can surrender in the face of German restraint, it is equally difficult to see how the change in Government in Italy can do anything more than postpone the day of complete collapse, although the collapse of Italy does not mean the defeat of Germany and Japan.

Commentaries should always be flavoured with caution, but it is now evident even to the most casual observer that the tide of battle has turned in favour of the United Nations. No one, among the Axis countries or the few neutral neighbours they have left, believes for one moment that Germany can win the war. All that Germany can hope for now is some division among the Allies that will secure for her a negotiated peace, which would be equivalent to a partial victory. Germany could survive the collapse of Italy. All other things being equal, it would be possible for the battered German forces to withdraw from Russia for the defence of their own country, but no country can withstand a continuous battering in front and rear. The Allies are now more than coping with the U-boat menace, which most people now believe was Hitler's secret weapon. Allied aircraft production has long overtaken and passed that of the enemy.

The Axis is still strong, even dangerous, in the air; but the enemy air forces are strained to the breaking point, and they are being conserved to the utmost for the decisive struggle that will come when the Allies attack Germany from the west. In the meantime, our aircraft have been hammering away at enemy production and communications night and day. The tremendous destruction inflicted in the Ruhr and at Hamburg have not only seriously hampered the German war effort, but all this has had a disastrous effect on the morale of civilian Germany.

The German propaganda machine may creak and croak as noisily as it can, but it cannot prevent the German people from seeing the effects of Allied bombardments, and feeling the effects of the shortages those bombardments inflict.

There is another thing the German civilian cannot help noticing: Three-quarters of the workers in Germany today are foreigners, and the relations between them and the Germans are very dubious. Indeed, in many parts of Germany these relations seem to be rather like a war of nerves—a war in which the foreigners are holding more and more of the advantage. One expression of this advantage is the rule now in force, in some parts of southern Germany, that Poles, Russians and Serbs must no longer be hanged for minor offences, such as striking a German. The foreigners working with the Germans in the Reich's war plants seem to get a deeper insight into German defeatism than the Germans themselves; for the Germans will talk to foreigners about such things, where they dare not talk to their own countrymen. What is more, the Germans are beginning to fear the foreigners they have conscripted into the service of the Reich. An American correspondent says that, as the tables begin to turn, it looks more and more as if the Germans have the guns and physical force, but the foreigners have the ability to instil fear. He says there is a certain solidarity among the foreigners, and even some primitive organisation among them, within Germany, which the watchful eyes of the Gestapo are not able to detect.

In many small factory towns, the ratio of able-bodied men capable of bearing
arms is now twenty foreigners to one Ger­
mans; although in the larger cities, there are­
three Germans for every one foreigner. The
position is helping to disturb civilian morale,
as German civilians are beginning to recog­
nize that in compulsorily drafting labor
from the occupied countries to Germany,
their rulers have created a Frankenstein mon­
ster which will help to bring about their own
destruction. It is the cumulative effect of
circumstances at home and abroad which is
now working for the destruction of the Axis;
and the increasing evidence that all these
circumstances are active makes it abund­
antly clear that the outlook for the enemy
is indeed very black. It will be blacker
still, when we know the outcome of the
talks that are now going on between Mr.
Churchill and President Roosevelt.

Origin and Traditions of
Gunnner's Day

We have to thank Brig.-General A. J.
Bessell-Browne, CB, CMG, DSO, VC, for
the following information about the origin
and traditions of "Gunnner's Day," which was
celebrated again at Guildford on Sunday,
August 8, with all the customary rever­
ence and ceremony.

About September, 1914, the late Mr. James
Fredericks presented Headquarters, 9th Mil­
itary District, with a silk Australian Ensign.
He requested that it should be handed to
one of the commanding officers proceeding
overseas. The District Commandant at that
time was Col. Kyngdon. He presented the
banner to the Commanding Officer of the
8th Battery, AIF (Major A. J. Bessell-
Browne, DSO). It was gratefully accepted
and became the Battery Banner. The Ban­
er was first flown at Blackboy Camp during
preliminary training, then at Mena Camp,
during intensive training, and in the field at
Anzac Cove, Gallipoli. It was taken to
France and flown on the Somme in 1916,
and in the Ypres Salient early in 1917. It
was then put away until the end of the war.
After demobilisation, it was decided that the
Banner should be deposited in St. Matthew's
Church, Guildford, for safe-keeping.

The tradition was similar in sentiment and
practice to the custom of famous regiments
placing their Colours in garrison churches in
England. St. Matthew's, Guildford, was
selected because Artillery Headquarters, both
before and after the Great War of 1914-18,
were at Guildford. The Banner was un­
veiled on Sunday September 21, 1919, by
the 8th Battery's first Commanding Officer,
Brig.-General A. J. Bessell-Browne.

In 1926 the Artillery Comrades' Asso­
ciation decided, with the co-operation of the
Church and the Municipality of Guildford,
to hold the first ceremony of Gunnner's Day.
After discussion, it was decided that the cere­
mony should take place on the Sunday near­
to August 8. This date was fixed be­
cause it was considered that the artillerists in
France had reached the zenith of their training
when the Australian forces broke the
German line at Villers-Bretonneaux on
August 8, 1918. On the day of the first cere­
momy about 60 former gunners marched from
the railway station, headed by the RSL
Memorial Band, to the church, where a
short service was held. After the service,
they formed up round the Guildford War
Memorial. Wreaths were laid, the custom­
cy calls were sounded, and the column marched
back to the Guildford railway station and
dismissed. This procedure has been followed
every year since.

In 1932 the Municipality of Guildford
erected gates on the western boundary of the
Church Square in memory of the men who
trained in the district in 1914. In addition to
the Gunners, men of the 10th Light Horse
trained in the district in 1914. Accordingly,
they were invited to join in the annual cere­
momy of Gunnner's Day, and they have
attended ever since. On Gunnner's Day, 1932;
the gates were named "The Memory Gates." They
were officially opened, and the tablet
was unveiled by Brig.-General A. J. Bessell-
Browne.

On April 21, 1938, our beloved chief,
Lieut.-General Sir J. T. Talbot Hobbs, KCB,
KCMG, VC, died. It was decided by the
Artillery Comrades' Association with the
co-operation of the Rector of the Parish to
erect a memorial plaque in St. Matthew's
Church. When the suggestion was made,
that the 10th Light Horse would be pre­
pared to participate, but the Gunners were
adamant that the late General was their chief.
By way of compromise, it was suggested that
the Light Horse Association should join in erect­
ing a memorial plaque to their own beloved
leader Col. J. T. Todd, CMG, DSO. This
agreed to, and the two plaques were duly
erected. It is interesting to note that the
background is in chromium. The plaque to
the memory Lieut.-General Sir J. T. Talbot
Hobbs the filling is in navy blue and red
and in that of Col. Todd's the filling is
in black and yellow wax, thereby represent­
ing the regimental colours of the two units.

On Gunnner's Day, 1938, the plaques were
unveiled by his excellency the Lieut.-Gov­
er, Sir James Mitchell, who has always
taken a keen interest in this annual ceremony.
For many years Sir James has attended and
taken the salute.

Brig.-General Bessell-Browne has explained
that the object of writing this story is to
show the traditions will be carried on by St.
Matthew's Church, Guildford, the
Municipality of Guildford the Artillery Com­
rades' Association, and the 10th Light Horse
Association.

Old Age and Military
Pensions

In our issue of June 13, 1943, we com­
mented on the incidence of the Amending
Repatriation Act on the pensions of depend­
ants of soldiers who are in receipt of both
war and old age pensions, and quoted from
a statement of the Minister for Social Ser­
vices that "by the combined operation of the
two Acts the widowed mother of a deceased
soldier might receive £1 2/6 a week more
than the old age pension."

The mothers referred to are those who
became widows later than three years after
the death of the soldier son, and who are in
receipt of war pension under the adequate
means of support provisions of the Act.

Widowed mothers of deceased unmarried
soldiers who become widows prior to or with­
in three years after the death of the soldier
now attain such war pension benefits as will
render them ineligible for old age pension.

At the request of the Deputy Commissioner
of Repatriation we are pleased to make this
correction in order to obviate the creation
of a wrong impression by the wording of our
previous article.

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Prisoner of War Fund

The highlight of the League's appeal on behalf of the Prisoner of War Fund shone brightly at the Plaza Theatre on the night of Sunday, August 8, when Lady Mitchell, as president of the W.A. Division of the R. G. Cross Society, accepted the League's cheque for £3,694. The cheque was handed over by Mr. J. M. Anderson, chairman of the League's appeal committee. He explained that the total amount raised by the League was £10,197. A sum of £4712 had been forwarded direct from sub-branches to the Society, and the head office of the League has, for some months, contributed £250 a month. It is not proposed to close the League's appeal.

Accepting the cheque, Lady Mitchell described the League's work as "a magnificent effort." The money, she said, will swell the fund, from which weekly parcels are provided for our soldiers who are prisoners of war. Mr. C. Taylor, chairman of the Red Cross Executive Committee, supported Lady Mitchell's remarks.

The highest contribution came from the Geraldton Sub-Branch. It amounted to £772. Fremantle came next with £344, and North East-Fremantle was third with £292.

DONATIONS

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Aliens and the Butter Ration

In reply to a protest lodged by the League in connection with aliens securing more butter than civilians, the Commonwealth Government has advised the League that the Army authorities carry out the catering for aliens employed by the Allied Works Council.

Army personnel are entitled to 12½ ozs. of butter per week, and it was felt that men employed by the AWC should be granted the same amount. The authorities point out that the majority of the people serving under the Allied Works Council, like Army personnel, would be located at remote centres, and would experience difficulty in acquiring foods which can be used as substitutes for butter and which would be more readily available to ordinary civilians.

In all the circumstances it is considered that the ordinary ration scales should not be altered.

The League as Guardian

We are often asked: What is the League doing for the men of the present war? To answer that question in full would take up enough time for a whole series of articles, but here is merely one instance, which shows the keen personal interest the League is taking in members of the present AIF. A letter, addressed to the State Secretary and read at a recent meeting of the State Executive, expresses the gratitude of one man, who had been advised to seek the League’s assistance when, as he states, he was in a dilemma, and many miles from home. This letter tells the whole story: ‘On taking over the control of my son,’ the father writes, ‘I wish to record my appreciation and gratitude to you, as Secretary of the League, for the care and attention given to my son, during my absence on service overseas. I would like it to be recorded also, the personal attention and interest that you took in his welfare, which far exceeded my expectations, in that you had him—at your own home, and made sure that his holidays were enjoyed to his satisfaction with relations. As you are aware, his temporary guardian, my mother, died whilst I was away on active service in Libya, and I was in a dilemma. A member of my unit suggested that the League might agree to act as the boy’s guardian. This was a responsibility, which you had no hesitation in accepting promptly. Your action in accepting this responsibility took a worry off my mind and allowed me to concentrate on my Army duties. Your further willingness to continue this guardianship, on my return to Australia, and subsequent posting to a unit in another State, is another instance of the manner in which the League is willing to assist the AIF."

The father concluded with the statement that he had been posted where it would be possible to give his boy his personal comradeship, and expressed very great wishes for the future of the League. Incidentally, the boy was in every way worthy of anything that was done for him. The State Secretary informed the Executive that he had been placed as a boarder at a leading secondary school. His father had made an allotment to cover any expense of this nature. The balance of the allotments, a substantial sum, had been handed back to the father when he again assumed his responsibility to the son.

The Pain in the Neck

Is it not a strange perversity of human nature that no matter how much we feel our own hurts yet infinite is our capacity to enjoy, often to that point of hiliarity, the misfortunes and bumps experienced by others? Think back into childhood and recall the little bits of kicking, hair-pulling, tripping up, etc., you enjoyed, always providing it was someone else’s hair or pants that were outraged. Observe what form of entertainment draws the loudest laughter. Be the audience young, why of course the misfortunes of the clown and the eye-fülls of slung pie. For the more mature the taste is perhaps a little more refined and ascetic, but basically the
of the year there was a substantial increase to 9,060. Membership has increased by 4,639 in the 12 months that ended on June 30.

There were many individual fluctuations during the period under review. In many cases, the figures for individual sub-branches were lower on December 31 than they had been on the previous June 30. This can be explained by the intervention of holidays, and the lateness of many members in renewing subscriptions. Also, and this sad fact is becoming more and more apparent as time marches on, many of our older members are failing in health and have been recorded during the 12 months is certainly due to acquisitions of strength from the men returning from this war. In the metropolitan area sub-branches like Claremont, Mosman Park, East Perth and Fremantle have made appreciable gains. A notable increase has been scored by Gloucester Park, which has advanced from 176 to 289. Fremantle jumped from 172 to 392. Mr. Hawthorn has gone from 136 to 200 and Mr. Lewley from 210 to 291. Midland Junction advanced from 82 to 113, and North Perth from 103 to 149. Among the notable country increases were Geraldton 69 to 118 and Manjimup 105 to 176.

Notwithstanding the position of the "gold" industry at present, both Kalgoorlie and Boulder have shown increases; but there have been reductions of membership and even disappearances of sub-branches in some of the smaller mining centres that have been hardest hit by the mining restriction. Many other country sub-branches have experienced reduced memberships through men getting back into the forces, or into other avenues of war work. Nevertheless, the position generally is a healthy one, and the most interesting feature of the changes is the alacrity with which the young soldiers are joining the League as soon as they become eligible.

Gunnars' Day at Guildford

The annual commemoration of Gunnars' Day by members of the Artillery Comrades' Association and the 10th Light Horse Association had a new feature this year. This was the inclusion of a large number of returned men from the present war in uniform. The ceremonial took the form of a march, headed by Brig.-General A. J. Bessell-Browne, through the picturesque town of Guildford to Stirling Square. The column was headed by the RSL Memorial Band. There was a memorial service in St. Matthew's Church, and a wreath-laying ceremony at the local War Memorial. The Lieut.-Governor (Sir James Mitchell)—attended by Col. Manning, and Mr. L. Thorn, MLA, took the salute.

Actually, the representatives of the many sub-branches that have been increased in strength since last year included the Minister for Health (Mr. A. H. Panton), the Mayor of Guildford (Mr. J. A. Devenish), the Town Clerk (Mr. L. Gibbons), the State President (Mr. T. S. Edmondson), several members of the Federal and State Parliaments, and a number of Army officers. The service in St. Matthew's Church included a fine address by the Rev. J. D. Davis. At the War Memorial wreaths were laid on behalf of the Artillery Comrades' Association, 10th Light Horse Association, the Perth Legacy Club, and the Junior Legacy Club. The Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Bandmaster George Mellor. The commemoration was organised by the Artillery Comrades' Association.
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Personalities

Mrs. Ada Honorah Seton, one of the best-known Salvation Army officers in this State, died on August 14, after a long illness. She had been a Salvation Army officer for 43 years, over 30 of which were spent in this State. The late Mrs. Seton was the wife of Major Frank Seton, of the Salvation Army, who was on active service abroad as a chaplain with the AIF in the last war. Major and Mrs. Seton pioneered the Red Triangle work at Darwin during the present war. Mrs. Seton’s social welfare work for the Salvation Army brought her into contact with people in every walk of life, and in every stratum of society. In a wider sphere, she might have ranked with women like Florence Nightingale and Elizabeth Fry. As it was, she was loved and respected by people of all types. She was one of those sweet-natured ladies, whose great understanding of, and deep sympathy for human weakness, made this world a better place for her service in it. About 18 months ago she retired from active duty. Our condolence is extended to her bereaved husband.

Another Osborne Park member, Fred Emery, passed away recently. At the last meeting of the sub-branch members expressed deep sympathy with the bereaved family.

Mrs. Tom Wynne, the official sick visitor of the Maylands Sub-Branch, has been in bad health herself. She was unable to carry on for some time, but is now back on the job once more.

The sympathy of the Maylands Sub-Branch goes out to a member, George Coutas, who has been having a bad time notwithstanding the sub-branch’s efforts on his behalf.

THE LISTENING POST

As stated in our July issue, a National Security Paper Order recently issued has made it necessary for us to reduce our journal to its present size. This has caused us to exclude much valuable copy, and naturally we are not pleased with our present position. We have decided to allocate many of our advertisements month by month, including the Sub-Branch and Unit Directory.

At the August meeting of the Subiaco Sub-Branch members paid the silent tribute to an old and esteemed member, Gordon McKay. His recent and sudden passing in the prime of life cast a gloom over his fellow members. We join with them in extending condolence to the bereaved relatives.

Mr. A. Paterson, who was a member of the Wiluna Sub-Branch for many years, during which he was president for several terms, has now become a member of the Subiaco Sub-Branch. He was duly welcomed at the August meeting of the sub-branch. To mark the occasion he “adopted a Digger.”

In this section we have published Jack Ryder’s story of a member of his regiment who contested the recent Federal elections. It must have been just about the last story poor old Jack ever wrote, because the very day it was sent to the printing-room his death notice appeared in “The West Australian.” The late Jack Ryder was a good writer and a fine soldier. He served with the British Army in South Africa, and with the 10th Light Horse throughout the Gallipoli and Palestine Campaigns. During the early days of the VDC he threw his weight into the movement and was very keen on the formation and training of a mounted detachment. A soldier to his heart’s deep core, he was a great stickler for discipline and training; but those who served with him testify that he was just as good a man in the line of battle as he was on the training ground. Few men were better grounded on matters pertaining to regulations, and service customs and etiquette. His long service and retentive memory proved a veritable gold-mine of reminiscence and anecdote. It was responsible for his regular contributions, mostly under the pen-name of “Serre-file,” to the “Listening Post” and “The Western Mail.” For some weeks before he died he had been under medical treatment, but his erect figure, firm walk and soldierly appearance betrayed no trace of the painful illness which carried him off. He will be greatly missed and mourned by a host of friends.

Miss Nora Heysen, daughter of the noted South Australian painter, Hans Heysen, has
Another ex-member of the 2nd AIF to be elected to office is Major H. Ward, a new committeeman of the Mr. Lawley-Inglewood Sub-Branch. Major Ward saw service overseas as a RAMC of one of our formations in the Middle East and will be of special service in helping with the problems of the young Digger.

Perth Sub-Branch lost a very valuable member when J. W. Murphy, of Jingemarr Station, died recently. "Jingemarr," as he affectionately called by his intimates, did a real man's job with the 3rd Tunnellers during the last war. Ever ready to aid other Diggers in distress, both with solid help and with words of encouragement, he will be sadly missed by a wide circle of admiring friends. His eyesight caused him much trouble during the past few years, but that did not interfere with his cheerful outlook on life or his desire to pull his weight in whatever was doing for his fellow men. The League is the poorer for his loss.

Our old friend and valued contributor-C. J. Ryder-tells a tale out of the trenches, about a political candidate. "So Bill McGhie is putting up for the Federal Parliament," he wrote. "Good luck to him. I first met Bill on Gallipoli during the cold weather before the Evacuation. He was a cheery little beggar, and as good a hand at cracking hardy, when things were tough, as I have ever met. At the time we were both in B Squadron, of which I was Acting Sergeant-Major. The blizzard was on, and we had an alarm and a stand-to at three o'clock in the morning. It was cold enough to freeze the tail off a brass monkey—rain and sleet in torrents, and then blowing a gale. Along came the Squadron Leader. 'Called the roll yet, SM?' Calling the roll was an impossibility and, if I had had a torch, it would have been asked for casualties to flash it. Then I had a brain-wave. McGhie was in the farthest dug-out and was a pretty sound sleeper. If he had turned out it was 10 to 1 the rest were there; so I called out 'McGhie!' The answer was 'Here'; and I reported 'Squadron present and correct, sir.' That seemed to tickle McGhie, and, for three years after, if I happened to pass within cooee of him on the desert he would rise in his stirrups and sing out 'McGhie! Here, Jack!' If he achieves his ambition and gets into Parliament, the man who calls the roll there will have to do well to be as short as 'McGhie!' 'Here! Federal Parliament, present and correct.'

Mr. A. Hazel, who served in the Middle East with the 48th Battalion, called at our office during the month on a mission which shows the opinion Digger is of special service wounded at Alamein, has been discharged, and is living at Ewings Street, Welshpool. Before returning he took dozens of photos of the graves or the men of his unit who lie at Alamein, and desires to send prints to relatives, and would welcome letters from wives or parents whose loved one is buried at this battlefield. Amongst the names noticed on the crosses of shaps shown to us were:

WXX10426 Pte P. E. Greaves; V/C WXX9802 Pte A. Hill; WXX9803 Pte W. T. Birch-
evy; WXX9890 Pte B. D. Parry; WXX9891 Pte W. W. L. Purse; WXX10146 Pte A. C. Randall;
WXX1094 Pte J. H. Archey; WXX1094 Pte T. B. Burton; WXX10426 Pte R. W. Sullivan;
WXX9807 Pte G. W. B. Lee; WXX10423 Pte C. T. Hamilton; WXX9913 Pte W. E. Ridley;
WXX10426 A. W. Warner.

During the month the death was announced of Lady Hobbs, widow of the late Lieut-General Sir Talbot Hobbs. Lady Hobbs had lived a very retired life in recent years, especially, during her widowhood. Nevertheless, the widow of our famous General will be greatly missed, and her passing regretted by a wide circle of friends. She was a kindly lady, and was a great help to her husband in his numerous and important activities. The sympathy of all Diggers is extended to her two soldier sons—Lieut-Col. Athol Hobbs and Lieut-Col. Mervyn Hobbs—and two daughter on their great loss.

Mr. W. A. Sabine, a prominent member of the West Leederville-Wembley Sub-Branch, passed away on August 13 after only two days' illness. This dear old Imperial ex-soldier came to Australia just after the last war, and was a well-known stationer of Perth. He was No. 1 draughts-player for his team in the ARMS competitions, and had won the League championship for this game. To his son Alf (who is overseas with the RAAF) and his two daughters we join with the sub-branch in extending sympathy.

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be an appointed official war artist. Though she may have the honour of being the first Australian woman to paint war scenes on the spot, she is not the Empire's first woman painter of battle. Lady Eleanor Butler, whose first Academy picture, "The Roll Call After Inkermann," was exhibited in 1874, specialised in battle pictures in the latter half of the last century. Her "Quatre Bras," which is in the Melbourne Art Gallery, was painted in 1873 and won from Ruskin the commendation that she was the finest pre-Raphaelite painter of battle scenes. Another of Lady Butler's less known pictures was "Rorke's Drift." Its fame was eclipsed by the better-known painting of De Neuville, which hangs in the National Gallery in Sydney; but Lady Butler's picture is said to be more accurate in detail. Her husband, Sir William Butler, was Commander-in-Chief in South Africa just before the outbreak of the Boer War of 1899-1902. He "came unstuck" because he had the blunt Irish honesty to tell the British Government that Kruger meant business, and that it would take more than a few thousand men to beat the Boers.

Mosman Park's president, George Ashworth, was prevented by lumbago from attending the July meeting of that sub-branch. However, George is too tough to let an indisposition of that sort keep him out of action for long, so members expect to see him back on the active list before long.

Staff-Sergeant R. E. (Bob) Tyler, a former member of the State Executive, and a past president of the West Perth Sub-Branch, and member of the existing committee of that sub-branch, has been listed as "dangerously ill" in the Hollywood Hospital for some time. His many friends will be glad to learn that his name was recently removed from the "seriously ill" list, and our old friend has improved wonderfully in health. He hopes to be able to attend the annual general meeting of the sub-branch on August 17. If he can be present his cheery countenance and wise counsel will be greatly appreciated by his fellow committee members.

R. E. Potts, a former member of the State Executive, is the incoming president of the Nedlands Sub-Branch. In public life outside the League, he is head teacher of the Perth Boys' School, an ardent golfer, and general good scout. Both in Nedlands and in country centres in which he has been stationed during the course of his service in the Education Department, he has always been an active supporter of the League and its ideals. During the last war he saw front-line service with the famous 48th Battalion, attained commissioned rank, and gained the Military Cross with a Bar. If you want to know what he did in the Great War, read Major Mitchell's "Backs to the Wall," which is one of the outstanding, if not the outstanding, Australian war books. He was Mitchell's company commander when the Hun made his great effort to smash through at Dernancourt. Throughout the book "Mitch" invariably and somewhat inaccurately refers to him as "Potto."
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VARIA

An example of what the League, through its sub-branches, is doing for the Digger of today was afforded at the July meeting of the Fremantle Sub-Branch. The meeting discussed the case of a gunner of the AIF, who was granted compassionate leave from New Guinea, on account of the serious illness of his young son. Three days after the leave started, the soldier's pay and all allowances were stopped. He was faced with a substantial hospital bill, and was at his wits' end to know what to do. Members expressed surprise that a fighting man should have to face up to worry of this kind, which would detract from his efficiency in the field. The sub-branch decided to take steps at once to provide the child with crutches, and proper medical advice will be guaranteed by the sub-branch. By the good offices of a member, the soldier was tidied over the worst of his financial difficulties, and now he has returned to his unit, cheered by the knowledge that he may entrust the welfare of his dependants to the sub-branch.

Sub-branches are again reminded that the Head Office cannot forward badges ahead of membership, but, for each member enrolled, there is a new badge. If sub-branch secretaries will please indicate, on the duplicate receipt, that this was issued to a new member, the badge will be forwarded.

At a recent meeting of the Federal Executive a war-time and post-war-time policy was approved. Copies are being printed and dispatched to sub-branches for each member of the League.

The Federal Office has advised the League that the Repatriation Commission has decided that duplicate pair of spectacles may be supplied by the Department on application, provided that the Deputy Commissioner is of the opinion that the applicant's occupation and degree of defective vision warrants the provision of a duplicate pair.

Approval has been given for the issue, on Armistice Day, 1944, of a book for the Volunteer Defence Corps, on the lines of "Soldiering On." Arrangements for the printing and distribution have been made with the Australian War Memorial Board. The editorial work will be undertaken in an honorary capacity by Captains E. A. Doyle and K. G. Attwill, Assistant Staff Captain and Director of the VDC respectively. Profits from the sales will be paid into the War Memorial Funds. It is hoped that, as far as possible, all contributions shall be made by members or ex-members of the VDC. Substantial monetary prizes are being offered for competition. Copies of the conditions of competitions will be distributed to all sub-branches throughout Australia.

Some time ago the W.A. Branch made representations on behalf of NCO's who were likely to lose rank on returning from active service, and a reply has been received through the Federal Office that these representations are receiving the necessary attention by the appropriate branch of the Army Department.

The League has been advised by the Army Department, in reply to representations made, that a revised form of Certificate of Discharge has been approved and will be brought into use in the near future. Provision is being made on the new form to show separately the periods of active service on the mainland of Australia, and outside of Australia.

We used to curse the mud of Flanders and the Somme, but the mud of those regions was not a circumstance to the mud of the Kuban area of South Russia, where the Huns are defending their last foothold in the Caucasus. This corner of South Russia is one of the most fertile parts of the world, but when the winter thaw sets in, it becomes one of the world's biggest mud bowls. In the inhabited parts, the mud is often three or more feet deep. The Cossacks set up long lines of wooden trestles to form sidewalks for pedestrians. Between the sidewalks is deep ooze. A war correspondent tells the story of a two-mile drive in a local vehicle, drawn by six powerful horses, abreast. The journey took nearly an hour. Another time, the same correspondent sat at a window in a Cossack's home, and a horse carthorse, or a horse cart, turned up the street, up its belly in mud. Perched on the horse was an army nurse, with her feet drawn up to the saddle to protect her dress. The horse suddenly stumbled. The nurse was upset, and the horse went staggering on without a rider. The correspondent and his Cossack host rushed out to the street. A dripping mound was rising slowly from the smooth surface of the mud. The figure raised two shapeless arms, vainly trying to clear its eyes and mouth. The two men could only stand beside the mud trough and shout. The girl, with the mud falling in heavy dollops, followed the sound of their voices till they were able to haul her on to the planks. One man may imagine the number of guns and tanks and corpses that must be lying under that flat, endless plain.

The Italians have raised a terrible howl about the bombing of their cities and, accusing the British of barbarity, Italian spokesmen have reviled the German-bred barbarities about British atrocities during the South African War. In the latter stages of that war, rather than leave the Boer women to starve on their farms, the British authorities placed
them and their children in concentration camps. The German Press, which was suffering from a violent attack of anglophobia, published harrowing stories of the ill-treatment of these people.

Scabbards Off
By Pip-Tok

London observers see something significant in the recent appointment of Shigemitsu, Japan's comparatively new Foreign Minister, although it aroused little interest when it was announced. There is a growing conviction in British circles that the appointment means that Japan is now convinced that Germany cannot win the war. The indication seems to be that Japan is preparing to jump clear of the sinking German-Italian ship—if an early jump will allow her to hang on to her ill-gotten gains. Of all the widely-known Japanese diplomats, Shigemitsu is probably the one who was most strongly opposed to Japan linking up with the European Axis. American Pressmen feel sure that Shigemitsu has long held strong anti-German views. There are many indications, too, that he is not only anti-German but pro-Russian, and even a little pro-British. However, there is nothing to show that he is opposed to Japan's present war for territorial expansion. His appointment to the Foreign Office will merely pave the way for negotiations, should the Allies ever prove soft enough to grant Japan a negotiated peace.

This war has great opportunities for Dominion and American men to see the English towns their own home towns were named after; or named for, as our American Allies would say. Last April 21 American soldiers, from seven different Bristol's in the United States, were entertained in the original Bristol. Their welcome was a mark of appreciation for the help sent by the American Bristol's to their British namesake, when it was so severely blitzed by Hun raiders. Citizens of the English Bristol helped to finance the sailing of the Pilgrim Fathers in the Mayflower, and the Great Western, one of the first two trans-Atlantic steamships, was launched at Bristol in 1838. At the luncheon given to the American soldiers, the Lord Mayor of Bristol raised a laugh when he stated that the Quakers of Bristol have documents showing that William Penn once mortgaged the whole of Pennsylvania to meet a debt.

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Executive, was present. The festive part of the evening was gladdened by the hot meat pies provided by Mrs. Doug Foreman, one of the district's most ardent workers for the welfare of the troops.

WEST LEEDERVILLE—WEMBLEY

A record attendance was registered at the monthly meeting on Monday, August 9, when we were favoured with a visit from the Subiaco Sub-Branch, who tried conclusions with us in a series of indoor games. The result, as we hinted to Subiaco some weeks ago, was a win to our side of 4 to 1. We were very pleased to welcome our friends from across the hill, who won in force and included old stalwarts in Willie Condon and others, and it was considered that an interchange of visits between sub-branches is most desirable. We are indebted to Cr. Caddy for his recent effort in conducting a community concert in the city. The result was we have just received a cheque for £125, and the Mt. Hawthorn Sub-Branch received a similar amount. Certainly a very handy contribution to the POW Fund. The president welcomed four new members at this meeting in Miss B. G. Pyke of the 1st AOW, A. M. Sewood of the RAAF, H. Hugo of 6th AFA, and a Mr. J. Lenton. An old stalwart in Daniel (Tiny) Moran reappeared after a very lengthy absence. "Tiny" has been having a bad time of it recently, but now appears to be well on the mend, and is now looking very well despite a loss of about 4 stone in weight. He now weighs a mere 17 stone. It was reported that Mr. E. Stephens, our sports director, had recently received word that his son was missing from operations over Italy. All members sincerely hope that the lad will turn up safe and sound. Chin up, Fred! The bridge evenings continue to be held every Friday in the local Town Hall, the whole of the proceeds being devoted to the POW Fund.

MT. LAWLEY—INGLEWOOD

At the August monthly meeting the sub-branch decided to fill the vacant office of president by the election of Mr. A. G. McKenna to the office. This created other vacancies, which were filled by the election of Ken Crowe as vice-president and Mr. H. H. Ward (2nd AIF) as a committee member. As was mentioned previously, it has been decided to open the committee room every Tuesday, and to that end the sub-committees will meet at 7.30 as follows, and operations will be scheduled to make a note of the dates: Membership (Messrs. Williams, Wall, Whitworth and Maloney), 2nd Tuesday in each month; Social (Messrs. Craz, Payne, Daniels, Backhouse and Sloan), 3rd Tuesday, Games (Mrs. Newick, Rose, Bonham and Lawrence), 4th Tuesday, when there are five Tuesdays in the month. Meeting dates for the next month are: Games, August 24 (no further meetings till November 23); Membership, September 14; Social, September 21; and "tips" committee usually a day or two before the last Tuesday in each month. This arrangement will mean that every Tuesday night sub-branch officers will be there to collect subscriptions and answer questions from members old and new. Next monthly meeting, Tuesday, September 7.

SWAN VIEW—GREENMOUNT

In place of the June meeting the ladies organised a social evening, which proved an unqualified success, and we congratulate them on their efforts. The July 5 meeting was well attended, Mr. Marsh presiding. The question of the League's Constitution and Eligibility for Membership created a lot of discussion, and it was unanimously agreed that the Constitution be altered to; in place of the appointment of members of the Allied forces who have served in a prescribed theatre of war, members of the Red Cross, VAD, or women's auxiliaries and members of the Allied Merchant Marine who have served on the high seas be eligible for League membership. The August meeting was also well attended, Mr. Roy Marsh presiding. Routine and social business provided plenty of discussion until 10 p.m.

NEDLANDS

The following office-bearers were elected by the Nedlands Sub-Branch at the annual meeting in July: President, R. E. Potts (unopposed); Vice-President, R. B. Anderson and T. S. Edmondson; Treasurer, W. A. Hamilton (unopposed); Secretary, J. K. Jeffery (unopposed); Trustee, A. L. Dent, E. H. Oldham and R. A. Wood (unopposed); Membership Secretary, M. R. Frith (unopposed); Auditors, L. N. Halliday and W. J. Dreggorn (unopposed); Editors "Splinters," R. E. Potts and E. S. Whiteley; stewards, D. Dohnt and H. Ullock; general committee, C. W. Brick, W. Ellington, J. F. L. Flannigan, R. G. Gardiner, R. A. Pope, R. M. Piggott, A. J. Randall, E. W. J. Rawlings, J. Stewart and R. Witford.

At the annual meeting on August 10 Mr. Williams who represents the State Executive, installed the incoming office-bearers and presented certificates of appreciation to Messrs. G. Moore and R. H. BENZIE, who have rendered yeoman service during a period of years. The thanks of the sub-branch are extended to Messrs. R. Donaldson, K. Fuller, J. Canning, J. P. Synery, J. J. Jefferson and W. A. Hawthorn, who contributed to the enter-
tainment of the guests. The women's auxiliary was also thanked for the excellent catering arrangements. The following were recipients of presentations: Roy Perry (the retiring president), the treasurer (W. A. Hamilton), the secretary (J. K. Jefferson), and the sub-branch runner, Miss Fay Jefferson.

WEST SWAN

All retiring officers were re-elected at the annual meeting on July 13. Mr. R. Knappman is again president, with Mr. F. K. Adams secretary. The sub-branch's quota of the street collection for the POW Fund was £76. The sub-branch relief fund now stands at £72. New members are being enrolled from the ranks of men returned from the present war. Copies of the “Listening Post” are forwarded to the local lads on active service, and, from the letters received, it would appear that the paper is well appreciated.

Motions for Congress were discussed. This year's Poppy Day arrangements will be in the capable hands of Charlie Roney, as the secretary will be on special duty with the VDC.

BUNBURY

At the annual meeting the retiring president (Mr. S. T. Lowth) reported that the sub-branch had had a hard struggle during the past 12 months. The average attendance at meetings fell to 20, out of a total membership of 117. In spite of handicaps, the sub-branch, during the year, invested £50 in the Austerity Loan, and raised £100 for the POW Fund, by enlisting the sympathy of the Bunbury War Patriotic Committee. The women's auxiliary presented £35 for amelioration services.

The following officers were elected: President, Mr. J. Welsh; vice-presidents, Messrs. T. G. Downes and J. Moore; treasurer, Mr. H. Morris; secretary, Mr. S. T. Lowth; committee, Messrs. Davies-Moore, Senior, Shaw, Ryall and Inman; amelioration committee, Messrs. Slee, Downes, Wood and Pickworth; hospital committee, Messrs. Gregson and Downes.

WOOROLOO

On August 6 a very enjoyable evening was spent, when members of the sub-branch were entertained at a social evening by League members who have been at the Wooroolo Sanatorium and are now returning to the Edward Millen Home. It is with regret we have to report the death of our member, Duncan William John McPhee. Many members of the sub-branch attended the funeral at Wooroolo on July 30.

MOSMANS PARK

The State President was the guest of honour at the July meeting. The report presented by secretary Dick Thomas revealed a healthy financial position. Progress in membership is a marked feature. Dick Thomas stands a good chance of attaining his objective—the Newdegate Cup. The State President's talk was impressive and interesting. It is hoped that, after next meeting, a start will be made with the darts championship competitions. Many new members are coming in. In the near future it is proposed that the older members challenge the younger ones to a series of games on the lines of the ARMS competition. Books are still coming along for the library, and membership is increasing. There is still room for more books. The POW Fund is also receiving attention. The most important contributor is the Sunday morning dart club, conducted by Wilf Bariest. Over £14 has been raised from this source.

GLOUCESTER PARK

The monthly general meeting was held on August 6. There was a roll up of 45, and enthusiastic committee men were responsible for the addition of 17 new members, bringing the total financial member up to 283. There seems no doubt about the sub-branch being entitled to send three delegates to this year's Congress; and there seems no dearth of items for the agenda.

WAROONA—HAMEL

President B. C. Chambers presided over a good attendance at the meeting on August 6. A cable was read from Squadron Leader J. Bartle in reply to one sent to him from the sub-branch congratulating him on his recent promotion. A despatched ticket for Anzac Ball realised £28 for the Amelioration Fund, and this amount, together with a donation of £17 from the Waroona VDC, is a good start in building up the fund for the relief of necessitous cases in the district. Discussion concerning the recent admittance to the Old Men's Home of a local returned man in reduced circumstances prompted an instruction to the secretary to obtain all information concerning the administration of the Aged Soldiers' Fund for future guidance. The president submitted another motion for Congress dealing with farm produce. The motion as carried read: "That as the maximum price for farm produce was fixed, the minimum price should also be stabilised during the war." He pointed out that the grower was urged to produce all he could, but if the market was at any time over-supplied he was compelled to let his produce go at a loss.

MT. HAWTHORNE—NORTH BLEDERVILLE

Much business was transacted at the July meetings. In membership, the sub-branch has attained the double century and is, therefore, entitled to three delegates to Congress. These selected for this year's Congress are Len Vivian, Garney Blaik and Whiz Sinclair. Their emergencies are H. James, Geo. Williams, and Bob Stack. The annual smoko was a huge success. It attracted one of the largest attendances yet. Among the guests were (Mr. President) C. Edmondson, Lieut. Rhodes (USN), C. Caddy and Col. Paton. The sports championships are going along for the semi-finals, and many interesting contests have taken place in all events. The sub-branch congratulates the ladies of the auxiliary on their successful year, and the able way they work in with the sub-branch whenever the occasion arises.

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FIRE MARINE ACCIDENT
September meetings will be held on the 9th and 23rd of that month. Large attendances at the meetings and the games nights are requested.

SUBIACO

Members are reminded that the annual meeting will be held on Thursday, September 2, at 8 p.m. All concerned are asked to be present, as among the important items for the evening is the election of officers. All nominations must be submitted to the secretary in writing by 8 p.m. on September 2. A pleasant evening was spent at the West Leederville Town Hall on August 9. Subiaco members were the guests of their West Leederville coppers for a return games evening. The visitors, though defeated, had an excellent time. Membership has now arrived at the total of 209. To mark the passing of the second century, the sub-branch decided to adopt two diggers.

CALINGIRI

Mr. Truman presided over the meeting on July 28. Before proceeding to general business the president gave a brief description of motions at the recent PPA conference, which were of immediate interest to members. General business was concerned mainly with motions for the coming League Congress. The main interest centred in the question of eligibility. A motion embodying the sub-branch’s own views on the matter has been submitted for the Congress agenda. Mr. King was elected delegate to Congress.

ALBANY

Motions for Congress were discussed and approved at the monthly meeting on August 27. Donations to the POW Fund, amounting to £1/2/., were received. It was decided to draw the attention of the State Executive to the fact that the League and many original members of the VDC were not invited to attend the birthday parade of the VDC in Albany. This was considered a slight, which probably occurred in other centres as well. The State Executive is being asked to have this rectified on future similar occasions. It was also decided to advise the State Executive that members of the VDC do not receive the same travelling concessions on trains and trains in Perth, as are given to members of other services. Messrs. Coles and Craigie were appointed delegates to Congress. Approval was given for the laying of a wreath at the local Memorial on Mon, Sunday, at 11 a.m. Mr. Coles, as vice-president of the Old Contemptibles’ Association, is making the necessary arrangements with the local clergy for appropriate mentions to be made in the services of the day. Membership is still on the increase. New members include several more men from the present AIF.

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STATE EXECUTIVE

Mrs. McKinlay reports: The card party held at Boans showed a profit of £22. This included donations from several auxiliaries who were not able to be present. Donations for the Women’s Hospital Piano Fund have
already been received from Bayswater and Mt. Hawthorn Auxiliaries. Representing Dangin-Quairading Auxiliary, Mrs. G. W. Randall was hostess at the bi-monthly meeting of the Executive to Heathcote. Comforts were provided by the auxiliary, and Mesdames Prendergast and McMahon (Subiaco) were the musicians. Mesdames Hoppetron and Henderson visited Sawyer's Valley and instructed the Mundaring Districts Auxiliary in camouflage netting. Mesdames McNamara and Henderson were present at a tea given to Lemnos patients by the Subiaco Auxiliary in the Subiaco RSL Hall. They were also guests at an enjoyable social given by the auxiliary, as a gesture of appreciation for their continued assistance. Members are requested to give the Citizen's Reception Council's bridge party their full support. The Auxiliaries' Afternoon is Wednesday, September 9, commencing at 2 o'clock at the Phyllis Dean Hostel. Each auxiliary is requested to be responsible for at least two tables.

F.U.S.W.

Mrs. Dean presided over a large attendance at the monthly social, during which she gave a glowing account of the Union's many activities. Members were particularly urged to support the new Snack Bar, which has already proved a marked success. The profits go to the Citizens' Reception Council.

SUBIACO

Mrs. Pope presided over a well attended monthly meeting at which three new members were enrolled. There are now 99 financial members, of whom some are young soldiers' wives. Monthly visits were paid to the Home of Peace, Sunset, Lemnos, and St. John of God Hospital. On August 1 patients of Lemnos were entertained to a picture show and high tea. The sub-branch co-operated in the entertainment. The proprietors of the Shenton Park Theatre are thanked for presenting such an attractive programme for the patients. August 4 was the eighth anniversary of the auxiliary's first visit to Sunset Home. To mark the occasion, high tea was taken to the Home. Mrs. Jackson made and presented the men with an anniversary cake. During the afternoon a concert arranged by Mesdames McMahon and Thomas was presented. The auxiliary again thanks the Red Cross for looking after the transport arrangements. Members again took their place at the King Edward Hospital to serve and mend. A day was also given to Lemnos Hospital. The Wednesday euchre evenings continue to be very popular. Mrs. Gribb will welcome all who wish to come along.

VICTORIA PARK

Mrs. Barnett presided over a well attended meeting, the first of the auxiliary's year, and welcomed new members, and old ones who have rejoined. Rosters were arranged for various activities in answer to appeals made by various organisations for our assistance. On August 2 a card afternoon will be held in aid of the Blinded Welfare Committee, War Nurses' and Soldiers' Appeal Fund. A social afternoon was arranged for August 4 to assist Sister Kate in her work. A rally arranged by the sub-branch, with the assistance of the auxiliary, was held on July 31, when a concert was arranged by Mr. Fred Mathews. Members were advised that Conference would be held in the Burt Memorial Hall on September 27. Mesdames Tolmie and Mathews were appointed delegates.

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STATE EXECUTIVE

JULY 21

At the meeting of the State Executive on July 21 there were present Messrs. Edmondson, Yeates, Williams, Anderson, Margolin, Collett, Cornell, James, Olden, Mansbridge, Paton, Smith, Collins, Harvey, Bateson and Davies.

CONDOLENCE.—The State Secretary was instructed to convey sympathy to Sir John Kirwan and the Public Service Commissioner (Mr. Simpson), both of whom recently lost sons in the war.

RSL BROADCASTS.—The following roster was arranged for RSL Broadcasts: August 5, Mr. H. E. Smith; August 12, Col. Mansbridge; August 19, Mr. E. Davies; August 26 Mr. E. S. Watt.

AGED SAILORS' & SOLDIERS' FUND.—The committee of the Aged Sailors' and Soldiers' Fund reported on a meeting held on July 19. It dealt with recommendations to the trustees for assistance in certain cases. The report was received and adopted.

V.I.P.—The following visitors were reported: The State President (Mt. Hawthorn, 32nd Bn., Association, "Sunset," North Perth, Hollywood Hospital); Mr. Yeates (War Blinded Welfare Committee, War Nurses' Hostel Fund, Anniversary Parade of V.D.C.—accompanied by the State President and other members of the State Executive); Mr. Paton (Spaewood); Mr. Smith (Kalgoorlie and Boulder); Mr. Collins (Partially Blinded Soldiers' Association); Mr. James (Osborne Park) Col. Mansbridge (Perth); Mr. Bateson (West Perth and Perth Hospital).

Leave of Absence.—Mr. G. H. Philp was granted leave of absence for three consecutive meetings.
Mr. J. W. Barker.—Mr. J. W. Barker, a member of the present ALF, expressed thanks and appreciation for the League’s action in undertaking the care of his son, whilst he was overseas.

Batter Ration (Aliens).—In reply to complaints forwarded by the State Executive, the Commonwealth Government stated that, in view of all the circumstances, which were explained, the ordinary ration scales which now apply could not be altered. It was resolved to send a copy of the official reply to the Mundijong Sub-Branch and ask for their comments.

Sub-Branches.—The appointment of officials, as advised by Nedlands, Brookton, Mt. Lawley and Kalgoorlie Sub-Branches, was confirmed. Approval was given for the formation of a new sub-branch at Safety Bay.

W.A. Aged Sailors’ & Soldiers’ Fund Trustees.—A resolution from the Gloucester Park Sub-Branch asking for a statement from the trustees was received. It was resolved to advise that the matter should be put to Congress.

Congress Agenda Committee.—A communication for the Swan View-Greenmount Sub-Branch concerning the agenda for Congress was received and the reply left to the State Secretary.

AAMWS..—The Returned Nurses’ Sub-Branch protested against the proposed scheme offering special privileges to the AAMWS. They sent a copy of a letter they had caused to be forwarded to Dr. Muecke at the Perth Hospital.

It was resolved that a copy of the correspondence be forwarded to Dr. Atkinson, Chairman of the Nurses’ Registration Board, and that he be asked for comments on the matter.

A communication from the Collie Sub-Branch was received and the reply left to the State President.

“B” Class Men.—A communication from the Geraldton Sub-Branch relating to the transfer of “B” Class men within the Army was referred to the State President for inquiry.

Case of Mrs. Rosenberg.—A communication was received from the Geraldton Sub-Branch relating to the transfer of “B” Class men within the Army was referred to the State President for inquiry.

Press Publicity.—On the question of publicity between Executive meetings, the State President and State Secretary in collaboration were empowered to release matter for publicity.

Use of League Badge on Business Premises.—Information in regard to a case where the League Badge had been recently used was submitted and received. The badge had been removed.

Nedlands War Patriotic Fund Committee.—A request that the League be represented at a meeting to be held on August 17 for the purpose of organising the third annual “All Nations Fair” was received and referred to the Nedlands Sub-Branch.

Fund Committee stated that the proceeds of the concert at the Capitol Theatre on August 1 amounted to £23. The total of the fund, to the date of meeting, including donations made at the meeting, amounted to £9,818/19/3. It was resolved that expenses in connection with the concert should be met from the Emergency Fund.

Federal Executive Meeting.—Mr. Zeffert reported on the recent meeting of the Federal Executive, at which he represented the W.A. Branch. The report was adopted, and Mr. Zeffert was thanked for his services.

Visits.—Reports on visits were made by the State President (South Perth, Moora, Carnamah, Geraldton), Mr. William Mosman Park, and the Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Smith and State Secretary (Safety Bay); Mr. Smith (Mt. Lawley); Col. Margolin (Cottesloe); Mr. Thorn (Mundaring); Mr. Copper (Cliffords sub-branches); Mr. Bateson (Perth Hospital and Mr. Hawthorn); Mr. Williams (Woorooloo Sanatorium).

Provisional Agenda Committee.—Messes. Cornwell, Watt and Olden were appointed to the Provisional Agenda Committee for Congress.

Congratulations.—Mr. E. M. Zeffert was congratulated on his election as President of the Perth Legacy Club.

It was resolved that a letter of appreciation be sent to the Red Cross Society for their recent action in increasing the tobacco issue to patients in the Repatriation Ward.

Sub-Branches.—The appointment of officials, as advised by Cannington Districts, Press Osborne Park, South Perth, Bunbury and North Perth Sub-Branches, was confirmed.

Perth Sub-Branch advised that its annual smoke social would be held on Tuesday, September 28. This was noted.

The matter of entertainment of Congress delegates was referred to the House Committee.

Case of Mrs. Rosenberg.—A communication was received from the Town Clerk, Perth, stating that an ex gratia payment of £65 has been made to Mrs. Rosenberg, and that rent at the rate of £1 a week would be paid. The State President further reported on this case, and the action taken was endorsed.

V.D.C. and Repatriation Act.—The Capel Sub-Branch supported any action to bring members of the V.C. within the scope of the Repatriation Act. It was resolved to advise the sub-branch that the matter would be discussed at the forthcoming State Congress.

Fishing Industry.—Correspondence from the Commodore, R.A.N., Fremantle, regarding fishing boats was received.

Political Parties.—A communication was received from the South Perth Sub-Branch concerning controversies between political parties.

A and B Class Men.—Further communication was received from the North Perth Sub-Branch relative to the replacement of A Class men in industry with B Class men from the Army. It was resolved to inform Collie that unless new evidence of hardship could be produced, the case could not be re-opened.

Rail Concessions, Woorooloo Sanatorium.—The Collie Sub-Branch urged that rail concessions to enable relatives to visit patients in the Sanatorium should extend to country districts. It was resolved that the matter should be taken up with the Premier.

Case of J. Fraser.—The Collie Sub-Branch again wrote concerning an application to the Returned Sailors’ and Soldiers’ Fund. It was resolved to inform Collie that unless new evidence of hardship could be produced, the case could not be re-opened.

Citizens’ Repeal Council.—A communication from the Koorda Sub-Branch having reference to this subject was received and the reply left to the State Secretary.

Wheat and Wool Growers’ Union.—This organisation forwarded a copy of a resolution concerning Soldier Settlement. It was resolved to supply them with a copy of the recently prepared pamphlet on this subject.

Nomination Forms, League Membership.—Discussion ensued as to the advisability of adopting an Application Form for League Membership. After considerable discussion it was ultimately resolved that the principle should be adopted and that an application form should be used at the discretion of secretaries of sub-branches and the State Secretary.

Mr. W. R. Barker.—Mr. J. W. Barker, a member of the present ALF, expressed thanks and appreciation for the League’s action in undertaking the care of his son, whilst he was overseas.

Batter Ration (Aliens).—In reply to complaints forwarded by the State Executive, the Commonwealth Government stated that, in view of all the circumstances, which were explained, the ordinary ration scales which now apply could not be altered. It was resolved to send a copy of the official reply to the Mundijong Sub-Branch and ask for their comments.

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It was resolved that a copy of the correspondence be forwarded to Dr. Atkinson, Chairman of the Nurses’ Registration Board, and that he be asked for comments on the matter.

It was further resolved to send a copy of the letter to the State Executive.

League Headquarters.—A further communication from the Collie Sub-Branch was received and the reply left to the State President.

"B" Class Men.—A communication from the Geraldton Sub-Branch relating to the transfer of “B” Class men within the Army was referred to the State President for inquiry.

Case of Mrs. Rosenberg.—A copy of a communication forwarded by the Civil Defence Department to the Town Clerk was received. The Civil Defence authorities considered that any rental payable for the use of the premises concerned should be made by the Perth City Council. It was resolved to await a further reply from the Perth City Council.

AUGUST 4

At the meeting of the State Executive on August 4 there were present Messrs. Edmondson, Williams, Anderson, Panton, Margolin, Cornwell, Watt, James, Thorn, Zeffert, Olden, Marshbridge, Patton, Smith, Baker, Bateson, Cornish and Davies.

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