The Christmas Spirit

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Greetings from the President, Christmas, 1948

The purpose of this message is to convey Seasonal Greetings for this Festive occasion. To this I apply myself with enthusiasm and a considerable degree of warmth and sincerity. In thinking of those whom it will reach, those who will read and accept the greetings and good wishes, we are reminded of the ex-service men and women who form our ranks, including many who served in South Africa nearly fifty years ago.

Of men and women who have served in the Navy, the Army and the Air Force in different parts of the world in one or other of the two great World Wars.

Of men and women who now, in a civilian capacity, are to be found in every walk of life in every part of the State.

Former service conditions which we have shared have been made to form a common ground where we meet, and have formed associations so valuable that we cannot fail but recognise in our organisations something for the common good.

No association of people can boast of a background more impressive or more inspiring than that which we have accepted.

Surely at this Festive Season we should remember, not only the standing of our League and what we have achieved over the years since the commencement of our association together, but the true spirit of friendship and comradeship which we have cultivated amongst ourselves—one of the greatest assets which ex-service men and women can enjoy.

So I trust this message will be accepted by all whom it reaches as an earnest expression of our good wishes, and to remember that at no time in our history has it been more necessary to appreciate the deep significance of “On earth peace, goodwill toward men.”

Let us practise it with all our might, and determine that to ourselves shall be a full realisation of the import of this Festive Season. A kind thought and a mede of sympathy to those to whom Christmas cannot be so enjoyable, by reason of health or circumstances, is our duty. Let us resolve to continue that common task which we have accepted and remember those who have suffered because they served and paid a severe penalty for their part in those times to which we look back.

A Happy Christmas to you all.

W. J. HUNT,
State President.
Because Christ's birthday is unknown, Christmas has been celebrated on more than 100 different dates throughout the year. Not until the middle of the fourth century was December 25 generally adopted.

A Christmas banquet presided over by Henry VIII started at 3 p.m. and ended 12 hours later.

Turkey became traditional Christmas fare at the beginning of the 18th century. Prior to this, boar-heads, peacock pie, roast swan or heron were served.

A record Christmas punch was once made by the Rt. Hon. Edward Russell. It contained 210 gallons of brandy, 105 gallons of Malaga wine, 25,000 lemons, 20 gallons of lime juice, 13 cwt. of sugar and 5 lb. nutmeg.

Hallo! A great deal of steam! The pudding was out of the copper. A smell like a washing day! That was the cloth. A smell like an eating house, and a pastry-cook's next door to each other, with a laundress's next door to that! That was the pudding. In half a minute Mrs. Cratchitt entered, flushed, but smiling proudly, with the pudding, like a speckled cannon ball, so hard and firm, blazing in half a quart of ignited brandy, and bedight with Christmas holly stuck in the top.

Oh, a wonderful pudding! Bob Cratchitt said, and calmly, too, that he regarded it as the greatest success achieved by Mrs. Cratchitt since their marriage. Mrs. Cratchitt said that now the weight was off her mind, she would confess she had had her doubts about the quantity of flour. Everybody had something to say about it, but nobody said or thought it was at all a small pudding for a large family. It would have been flat heresy to do so. Any Cratchitt would have blushed to hint at such a thing.—A Christmas Carol (Charles Dickens).

The world's only monument to Santa Claus—22 feet high and weighing over 40 tons—was erected in 1935 in the Santa Claus Park, in Indiana (U.S.A.).

Because Anne Clay, daughter of the U.S. Land Commissioner on Samoan, was born on Christmas Day and complained of never receiving birthday presents, Robert Louis Stevenson formally decreed his birthday to her. This fell on November 13, on which day the child thereafter celebrated her birthday. She died recently of pneumonia at the age of 68.

A WISH

If you're wishing for joy, if you're wishing for health,
If you're wishing for luck, for success, or for wealth,
Whatever you wish, I would wish it for you,
And wish that my wish for your wishes comes true.

America's Santa Claus lived for years in a small village in Indiana. He was James Martin, village postmaster and storekeeper, and over 500,000 children who had never seen him believed that he was Santa Claus because he answered their Christmas letters. Before he was born the name of hew backwoods hamlet was changed from Santa Fe to Santa Claus. When children asked their parents if there really was a Santa Claus, their parents would write to Mr. Martin asking him to send a letter back with the magic words Santa Claus stamped on it. Year by year the number of letters increased. Only 75 people lived in the village, but at Christmas time letters arrived by tens of thousands, with addresses in all parts of the United States and sometimes elsewhere, asking Mr. Martin to send a letter back with Santa Claus stamped on it. He went further than that; by appeals to kindly people and institutions he was often able to send gifts in reply to appeals from poor children. In depression days, when economy was the fashion, the Government proposed to shut up the Santa Claus post office, but Mr. Martin, supported by hundreds of people, fought against the measure and won. Mr. Martin spent £50 a year out of his own pocket in maintaining his honorary post.

In Hollywood, California, the palm trees lining the boulevards are disguised as Christmas trees at Christmas time. These are lit with fairy lights, and the neighbourhood holds massed carol singing, processions (in which the film stars take a prominent part) and a general round of jollification.

Christmas Island, discovered by Captain Cook in 1777, was included in the British Colony of Gilbert and Ellice Islands in 1919. It is the largest atoll in the Pacific, 100 miles in circumference. But there is another Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean about 200 miles south of Java. From here comes some of Australia's phosphate rock. The island is small—about 62 square miles—and the population is just over 1,000.

The Christmas Carol is of great antiquity, and the performance by waits on Christmas eve is traditional. The Christmas tree was imported into England from Germany, and the mistletoe was first used at Christmas festivities because of its supposed magical properties.

The giving of presents at Christmas can be traced to the custom in pagan Rome of making gifts on the first of January. Other social ceremonies of pre-Christmas origin were adopted by early Christians for their Christmas ceremonies. The earliest Christmas hymn, Of The Father's Love Begotten, was by Prudentius (born in 348). This is still sung in the Church of England.
This is Official

Items of Interest from the State Executive

A meeting of the State Executive was held on November 3 at 5.30 p.m. Business dealt with included:

HOUSING
The report submitted by Mr. Davies covered the circularisation of sub-branches of the co-operative building scheme; prefabricated houses; request to the State Housing Commission to furnish a copy of Mr. Wallwork’s report on housing matters; sale of Commonwealth-State Rental Homes; and correspondence with the Minister for Housing re comparative costs of day labour and contract building. In addition, Mr. Fitzhardinge submitted a report on a meeting held with a building advisory panel. The report was adopted subject to the recommendation in respect of the self-help scheme being referred back to the committee for further consideration; and certain aspects of Mr. Fitzhardinge’s report being deferred until the next meeting.

RE-ESTABLISHMENT
The report submitted by Mr. Stahl covered the appointment of a Parliamentary Select Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Leslie to enquire into the fishing industry; retrenchment of ex-servicemen in the Prices Branch; and preference in the Public Service. Mr. Leslie, the ex-servicemen’s representative on the Regional Reconstruction Training Scheme, then submitted a report on the current position in regard to certain aspects of the P.W.R.T.S. Arising from this the following resolutions were carried: (a) That a conference be called with the executive of the Bricklayers’ Union with a suggestion that an aggregate meeting of all union members be called to hear the views of the Re-establishment Committee. (b) That the resolution of September 22, asking for the appointment of a Select Parliamentary Committee to enquire into the housing position, be submitted to the Federal Government through the League’s Federal Office.

REPATRIATION
The report submitted by Mr. Stahl covered a discussion with Mr. Blenkinsop, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of the British Ministry of Pensions, and Miss S. Cox, C.B.E., Deputy Secretary, and a recommendation that when a patient is admitted as an in-patient for treatment of his war disabilities he should at once be granted the rate for temporarily totally incapacitated members, either by way of pension or sustenance. At the chairman’s request, Mr. C. G. Ferguson submitted a report on the discussion, in which he stressed the excellent co-operation received and the results which would be achieved. It was resolved that the Ex-Imperial Association and the British Legion (through Federal Office) be advised of the outcome of the conference with Mr. Blenkinsop and Miss Cox.

FAVERSHAM
The report submitted by Mr. Sten covered the following recommendations in respect of the new policy at Faversham House: (a) Accommodation: Forty W.V.’s and staff; (b) Date of changeover to a W.V. Home: As from November 11, 1948. (c) Definition of a war veteran: An ex-serviceman of service pension age, eligible for League membership and receiving a pension of less than £2/10/- per week. (d) Fee: 25/- per week. (e) Selection of applicants: On the recommendation of a sub-branch and supported by a doctor’s certificate. The report was adopted, subject to the deferral for six months of the application of the financial provision of £2/10/-.

Other reports received included those from Mr. Lonnie (“Listening Post”), Mr. Chaney (Membership), Mr. Yeates (Aged Sailors and Soldiers’ Advisory Committee) and Col. Mansbridge (S. & D.S.L.).

A letter was read from Mr. C. Alliston, calling upon the W.A. State Executive to instruct the City of Perth sub-branch to admit him to full membership, but it was resolved that, as Mr. Alliston had failed to comply with the conditions laid down as being requisite for membership of the League, his membership be and is hereby terminated.

Mr. J. B. Fitzhardinge tendered his resignation from the State Executive owing to pressure of business, and this was accepted with considerable regret. A number of members spoke in warm terms of his work during his term of office, and he received hearty congratulations upon his appointment as President of the W.A. Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects.

Mr. C. W. Mitchell will now be informed of his appointment to the State Executive.

The meeting closed at 11.30 p.m.

A further meeting was held on November 17 at 5.30 p.m. A warm welcome was accorded to Mr. C. W. Mitchell who had been appointed to the State Executive in the place of Mr. J. B. Fitzhardinge. Business included:

ROYAL BIRTH
It was resolved that “The Federal President convey congratulations and good wishes to Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh from the ex-service men and women of Australia on the birth of their son.”

INDIAN OCEAN AIR ROUTE
It was resolved that the following message be sent to the crew of the Lancastrian, which is undertaking a survey flight from Guildford to South Africa: “In view of the advocacy of the W.A. Branch of the R.S.L. for the opening up of the Indian Ocean Air Route, this Executive extends its best wishes for the successful conclusion of your epoch-making flight and a safe return.”

RESIGNATION
MR. J. B. FITZHARDINGE
It was recommended that Mr. C. W. Mitchell be appointed to Mr. Fitzhardinge’s place on the following committees: Club and House, Finance, Membership, Migration, and that Mr. Fitzhardinge be retained on the Housing Committee, on which he is willing to act.

INCREASES IN WAR PENSIONS
As a result of the items concerning the inadequacy of pension increases discussed at the Federal Congress, it was agreed that “at meetings of pro-
test of all local ex-servicemen's organisations be arranged in order to give the widest possible publicity to the dissatisfaction of ex-servicemen at the smallness of the recent increases in pensions. The Management Committee recommend that a meeting of all ex-servicemen's organisations be called by the League, but that the matter be referred to the Pensions Committee for further discussion and implementation.

LAND

The report submitted by Mr. Davies covered a deputation to the Minister for Lands; cases from Gutha, Cowaramup, Bindoon, Salmon Gums, Greenbushes, Gnowangerup, Collie, Denmark and Darkan sub-branches; and a number of personal cases. Subject to the following resolution: "That a statement be prepared on the recent deputation by the State President and Chairman of the Land Committee, together with the Minister and Chairman of the Land Settlement Board for release to the Press," the report was adopted.

HOUSING

The report submitted by Mr. Davies covered amendment of advice re self-help scheme; correspondence between the General Secretary and State Housing Commission; telegram from Mr. Nelson Lemon re purchase of Commonwealth/State Rental Homes; attendance at the Nedlands sub-branch meeting by Mr. Stoddart; and a number of personal cases.

RE-PATRIATION

The report submitted by Mr. Stahl covered a recommendation that Item No. 6 of the conference of the R.U.S.W. be given support, and dealt with the deputation to the British Ministry of Pensions' representatives (dealt with in full elsewhere in this issue).

RE-ESTABLISHMENT

The report submitted by Mr. Stanford covered action taken to meet members of the Bricklayers' Union; offences committed by ex-servicemen whilst suffering from the effects of war-caused disabilities; successful representations re the appointment of a Meat Inspector; and a successful application to the W.A. Cement Distributors' Association.

33rd ANNUAL FEDERAL CONGRESS

Mr. J. E. Herlihy, one of the delegates, submitted a short verbal report covering the 33rd Annual Federal Congress held in Brisbane, in which he explained that all the items discussed had been sent to Executive members in the form of a tabulated report. The State President then touched on the major aspects and decisions of congress. A vote of thanks to the delegates was carried, in which they were complimented on the method adopted for submitting their report. It was resolved that: (a) This method of presentation of the report be adopted for the guidance of future delegates; and (b) A copy of the report be printed and sent to all delegates who attended the recent State Congress. (Further details of the congress appear elsewhere in this issue.)

Other reports included Remembrance Day, Faversham House (Mr. Bateson), The Listening Post (Mr. Lonnie), Anzac House and Anzac Club (Mr. Ferguson), the R.S.L. Hostel (Mr. Watt), Amelioration (Mr. Craig) and Poppy Day.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

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The Case of Rudolf Hess

Rudolf Hess, on May 10, 1941, surprised the world by baling out from a Messerschmitt over Scotland, and from then until the Nuremberg trial his action and his motives were a subject of continual controversy and wonder. Even the Nuremberg trial threw but little light—as far as the majority of people were concerned—upon the affair, except to draw attention to the fact that Hess was mentally far from normal. But now, in "The Case of Rudolf Hess" [William Heinemann Ltd.], we get the full and true story, most of which is supplied by seven medical men who were concerned with his actions from 1941 to 1946.

As the editor of this book points out, the arrival of Hess was exciting and it was also potentially important as an unusual event in the history of the war; but it was also a small additional embarrassment to the British Government. "The problems which faced the authorities in this country were to keep Hess safe from escape and safe from himself, and the further problem of security which had to be tackled was to ensure his safety from attack by other people who might possibly have formed their own conclusions about him and wish to take the law into their own hands as to his future. Our self-appointed prisoner was, therefore, something of a responsibility from many angles."

Hess, who was injured in his parachute drop, was first admitted to the Military Hospital at Drymen, near Loch Lomond, and then taken to the Tower of London. After about three weeks he was transferred to Mychett Place, near Aldershot. But in June, 1942, he was, for various reasons, moved to Maindiff Court, Abergavenny, in South Wales, where he remained until he was taken to Nuremberg at the end of 1945.

Joining the Nationalist Socialist Party in June, 1920, Hess spent seven and a half months' imprisonment in the Landsberg fortress with Hitler, acting as Hitler's secretary, and working with him on the preparation of Mein Kampf. Some time after the Nazis were released, Hess became Hitler's personal adjutant and secretary, and was in on all the Nazi plans for future world domination.

Hess is said to have played an important part in the Roehm purge, and was probably one of the main executioners. At the outset of World War II he was a member of the Ministerial Council for the Defence of the Reich, a body with six members in whom was concentrated all supreme legislative and executive power.

Concerned with his Health

The medical man who first admitted him to hospital after his flight reported that Hess was "a man very nervous and introspective about his health. He had been treated for cholecystitis, colitis and kidney trouble. He flew to this country with his pockets full of various drugs, chiefly homeopathic, including..."

He was constantly of the opinion that he was being poisoned. He wrote a long and detailed statement which shows us that he was, indeed, far from sane. In that statement he says: "For three years they caused my intestines to close by a medicine that they put in my food, and it could only be opened by a special antidote. At the same time they put the strongest laxatives in my food which caused me terrible stomach and abdominal cramps several times daily. In Abergavenny the periods of closing my bowels were extended to three weeks; since the laxatives which had so far been used became less effective, they now started using stronger ones until, finally, even for this particular use, poison was used... they tried to increase my pains in such a way that they added acids to all my foods which affected my liver and kidneys. Even bread and cake, which had given me relief so far, were finally treated with acid..."

"... They now started to add corrosive acids to my food. The food tasted interchangeably of soap, dishwater, manure, fish odor, petrol and carbolic acid. The worst was the secretion from camel and pigs' glands from which even the starchy foods were not safe... They gave me alcohol to disinfect a wound... there was some chemical in the alcohol causing infection; apparently they hoped to be able to cause blood poisoning. "They lit fires so that I had to stay for hours in smoke, which irritated my eyes. One hot summer day the air was suddenly filled with the smell of corpses, which increased continuously during the next few days."

Dictionary Decayed

"... An English-German dictionary showed signs of decay that increased from day to day, which increased soon made it useless. Therefore I declared that I had ceased the translation, and continued it secretly when I was alone, and gave the appearance of not touching the dictionary any more. Although I used it for another half year as before, there were no further signs of decay."

At Nuremberg, Hess asked Goering if he had noticed noises under his cell. Goering said he had, for they were made by the electric generators. But Hess persisted that they were (Continued on page 25)
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People You Should Not Forget

There are a number of people today who say that we should forget the horrors of war as perpetrated by the Japanese. Only recently one American sports association described the Nips as "decent fellows." One wonders how many ex-servicemen will echo such sentiments.

In order that we may not forget what the little yellow so-and-so is like, let us refresh our minds with a story told by Gwen Dew in "Prisoner of the Japs" [Hutchinson & Co.]. It is not a pleasant story; it is not a story for the squashmash; but—unfortunately—it is a true story.

The following story was told me by one of the nurses who went through the worst of all experiences at St. Stephen's (Hong Kong). She told it undramatically and methodically, but there were black circles under her eyes, and her thin, nervous hands, which kept knitting the air, gave hints of the inner turmoil that re-telling it occasioned. I hesitated a long time to ask her to live through the hours again with me, but I felt that I must have the story direct from one who knew every dreadful second of it, and obviously she felt that it must be told, exactly and correctly, so that those who do not come close to the Japanese can know what sort of men they are.

"No woman on earth is going to tell of being gang-raped by enemy soldiers unless it is imperative, and only the bravest would be willing to tell her story to the world. I marvelled at the inner strength which made her able to answer my most searching questions, and yet I sensed all through it the perspective which she had taken of the blackening experience; she was a soldier at her post; she had suffered grievous wounds which would leave scars on her soul for ever, but she had gone through this line of duty, and she had done her part without fear or failure, just as would any brave soldier.

"I checked and rechecked every detail of this story; it has been attested to by soldiers who were present and by those who lived through it. This is no vague 'atrocity story'; this is stark truth. I give it to you as one of the most astoundingly blackest pages of Japanese history—ranking with the rape of Nanking.

"It was six a.m. of Christmas morning that the Japs came to St. Stephen's," the nurse said. "We had established an emergency hospital here in the auditorium and the balcony. There were cots, but many of the wounded lay on the floor. A big Red Cross flag was over the doorway.

Some Canadian soldiers, exhausted, stopped for a minute to warn us the Japs were coming with their Bren and Lewis guns, and stumbled on.

"Colonel Dr. Black, who was in charge, went to meet the Japs. He stepped to the door, put two arms across it, and said, pointing to the Red Cross: "This is a hospital, and only wounded are here."

"The Japanese, without hesitation or further examination, bayoneted Dr. Black." The girl stopped a minute as her memory unwound the ghastly picture. "Then they stepped over him, entered, and bayoneted Dr. Witney, the doctor next in charge.

"We had converted the auditorium into an emergency ward, where hundreds of British and Canadian wounded soldiers were lying. Those blood-mad Japs stormed in, and despite the efforts of all the nurses to stop them, ripped the bandages from the wounded. Then they bayoneted and killed 52 of these helpless men while we could only watch.

"Silence dripped into time as we faced the pictures she was painting.

"Then—then—the nurse's hands worked quicker and quicker—they lined up all the nurses, all of us volunteers from Hong Kong. They took away the first three, and they never came back. We kept asking for them, but they never came back. Then they took the rest of us, one by one, and raped us time and time again.

"They kept us in a small room, and whenever a Jap wanted us he came and took us away. All Christmas Day. All Christmas night. I lost track of the times they used each one of us. Twenty-four hours of it—and I can ever, ever, forget it?"

"She couldn't say more. I couldn't ask more."

"One day a lovely Chinese girl, plainly of the better class, came to the door of the hospital with flowers and food for a friend interned there, and asked for admittance. The Jap guard looked at her insolently for a minute, then brought his fist up under her chin so hard she was thrown ten feet away on the pavement. Then he went over and began kicking her slender body over and over.

"Among us on the Asama Maru were elderly men who had been subjected to the 'water torture' of the Middle Ages; those who were bound with barbed wire, with live electric wires; who were slapped daily with bundles of bamboo on all the nerve centres of the body. . . . Three elderly men who had many times been subjected to the 'water torture' gave a realistic demonstration. . . . One was tied with knees drawn up to his chin, his neck being attached to his knees, hands bound securely behind him. The cords, in actual torture, had penetrated deep under the skin. . . . He then rolled over with his face up and water was poured into his nose and mouth.

"Six large buckets of water were used by the Japanese police, so that the subject lost consciousness. He was then brought back to consciousness to have the same thing repeated. One missionary was given the same treatment six separate times. . . . Twenty-five men were whipped until unconsciousness rescued them. . . . Straws were put under their fingernails and set on fire. . . . My friend, Mr. Powell, when last I had seen him in Shanghai, had weighed 165 lbs. During the exchange a small bundle-like child was carried on to our boat—heroic J. B. Powell, weighing 70 lbs."

LET US NOT FORGET!

CHRISTMAS MAIL

To ensure delivery of Christmas greetings and presents by December 25, mail matter should be posted to reach the G.P.O., Perth, for:

Queensland, not later than Monday, December 13.

N.S.W., Wednesday, December 15.

Victoria and Tasmania, Wednesday, December 15.

South Australia, Friday, December 17.

Western Australian Country Districts, Saturday, December 18.

Perth and Suburbs, Monday, December 20.
"Biljim" writes:

I strayed into Congress during the debate on the method of celebrating Anzac Day, and I was pleased with the high tone of the speeches on both sides of the argument. I was also delighted when it was decided to retain the dignified and solemn commemoration that has so successfully operated for over thirty years. I was surprised when watching the division on the vote to find about an even distribution of the men of each war on both sides, because I had believed that it was the younger men who desired the change and the older men the status quo.

But my reason for writing is not so much to express my pleasure with the decision but to protest against the cartoon which appeared in The Daily News the following day, for this gave offence to many who lost loved ones in the wars. It was an insult to the dead and to the majority of delegates at Congress.

Another objectionable feature has been the squealing by a few members who failed to get their own way. There were letters to the papers imputing underhand tactics, but I have been given a sub-branch journal in which appears the poorest example of sportsmanship (?) it has been my lot to encounter in League circles. In this published report appear such lop-sided comments as "Apostles of gloom," "An excellent red-herring," "Sentimentality rather than reason," "The majority [at the division] appeared to be 5 to 6 on the floor, but after proxy votes had been counted the position was: Reform, 92; Gloom, 95."

I saw the division and I know that this is absolutely incorrect. It is obvious that these delegates could not "take it." Anzac Day has never been a day of gloom. One speaker hit the target when he said that it was a day of proud remembrance. If to remember the glorious dead produces a feeling of gloom, even for an hour, it would be better to scrap all reminders of supreme effort and sacrifice such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day and forget the dead and with them all the lessons so dearly bought.

There is plenty of room for honest differences of opinion on this subject, but the imputing of unfair tactics and the talk of gloom by those who failed to convince the majority at Congress succeeds only in lowering accepted high League standards.

The Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Soldiers' Association reports that the family of one of its deceased members chose a practical and charitable method of commemorating the anniversary of his death. Instead of placing an "In Memoriam" notice in the local newspaper, they donate its cost to the association. Incidentally, this association is certain that there are a number of ex-service personnel who are eligible to join its ranks, and the hon. secretary (Mr. C. C. Walker) would be pleased to hear from them.

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A SHORT STORY BY L. T. SARdone (ex A.I.F.)

CREEPING up to the lighted window and peering through the flimsy curtains that rustled in the evening breeze, Harry Bennett's mind was immediately made up—firm and resolute. He saw Martin Mander, miserly old recluse and family friend, lying on his bed, a smoking oil lamp on a table near the window and a newspaper spread forlornly on the shabby floor. Mander had fallen asleep after reading the news.

As Bennett listened to his deep, raucous snoring, he smirked. "It'll be a push-over!" he chuckled.

Soon he'd taken a bunch of his firm's skeleton keys and had the door of the old-fashioned miniature safe open. Then he began crumpling his pockets full of the neatly folded bank notes inside. It was then that old Mander, on the bed nearby, gave a wheezing gasp and opened his eyes.

"Why—why, Harry—Harry Bennett!" he jerked out, blinking and trying to rise. "What are you doing here?"

Then everything went haywire with Bennett. In a mad panic he sprang at Mander, like some wild animal. Soon his long, powerful fingers were buried in the scrabby neck. When they released, the inert body fell back limply: a lifeless thing.

Bennett, his head throbbing, his eyes blazing and his whole body a-tremble, stood back, breathing hard. "My God!" he whispered hoarsely. "Murder—I didn't bargain for this!"

Hardly daring to look back, he hurriedly left the cottage and, after an uneventful trip, reached home and tossed down a stiff double whisky. He sighed ominously as he sat down on his bed. Extracting the notes from his pockets, he made a quick count: £850 was the grand total.

Then he thought about Mander. "Darned old fool," he muttered sourly. "It was all his own fault, and if I hadn't done for him, he'd have had me arrested—nothing surer—the grasping old swine!"

Now, as he reflected still further, he became convinced that chances of detection were most remote. There were no fingerprints, for he had used a handkerchief on the safe and the back door. He had spoken to no one at all and now, for an alibi, he'd phone Arthur Stockton to check up on the evening's radio programme.

Around about 5.30 the next morning, he awoke and found himself wondering just exactly how much he'd have over after returning the required cash to his firm's strongroom, from where he had "borrowed" it and "given" it to several bookmakers. Quickly he sought the envelope on the back of which he had made his rough figuring. But it was not in his hip pocket. "Funny," he mused, "made sure I put it back there last night."

He made a thorough search through all his clothes, then the whole of the room—but that envelope was not to be found—anywhere.

"Many marry Christmas, friendships, great accumulation of cheerful recollections, affection on earth, and Heaven at last for all of us." —Charles Dickens.

Fear—utter, stark, sickening fear—clutched at his heart. He must have dropped the envelope on the floor of Mander's bedroom when he pulled out his handkerchief to use on the safe.

"Yes!" he muttered hoarsely, "yes, that's it! I remember now. I did think something fell to the floor, but—..." he stiffed a sob "... I didn't take any notice—I was keeping my eye on old Mander all the time, curse it all!"

He sank into a chair, sick at heart. "I'll bet my life it's there," he muttered. Then he thought: 'The police will be at the office within minutes after discovering the crime. Mr. Bennett,' they will say, so smoothly, 'we found this envelope on the floor of Mr. Mander's bedroom this morning. It's addressed to you. Now we have to warn you that Mr. Mander was found—'

He ran nervous fingers through his tousled hair. "No, No!" he gasped, "I'd break after twenty minutes of that! I wouldn't be equal to it. Then there's those figures on the back! I've got to get that envelope, no matter what happens. There's still time!"

A few minutes later, he had washed, dressed and was hurrying down the street, making for a train. His mind one mass of surging, incoherent thought, he stepped from the footpath to cross the road. He heard a motor horn, a shout, a screeching of brakes; then came complete darkness.

"I was on top of him just as I turned the corner," the driver of the heavy milk truck told the policeman. "Help me," he went on, obviously badly shaken, "I didn't have a chance to pull up. He was looking..."

"All right," the policeman said quietly, "this witness substantiates everything you say. The ambulance will be here shortly, but it looks to be all up for the poor chap."

And even as the officer spoke, Harry Bennett's heart was ticking over for the last time.

Back in Mander's Street, two women were talking over the fence in their best gossipy manner. "It's a darned shame," said one, "they say he's almost unrecognisable. The poor man; why only yesterday he gave my Jeannie such a nice box of chocolates. Real kind he was."

The other eyed her neighbour shrewdly for a moment. "Mrs. Wells always said he had a pile stacked away somewhere. But tell me; how did it happen? Did you hear, Mrs. Mason?"

"Well," Mrs. Mason began, in an enlightening way, "one of the coppers was telling my old man. He wasn't sure, but he thinks that poor Mr. Mander must have fallen asleep early and left the lamp burning near the window. Then, when that gale sprang up during the night, it blew the curtains on to the lamp, see?"

The other sniffed as she gazed on the blackened remains of old Mander's cottage. "Whew! looks a proper wreck, don't it?" she exclaimed, wide-eyed. "Burnt right down to the ground—and everything inside it. Why, I do declare there's not a single thing left intact. Am I glad I'm livin' in a brick cottage!"

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What Australia Means To Me

By H. G. ROSENDORFF

I have gained the knowledge that I am as good as my master. It took me a long time to get used to this Australian superiority complex. But it is this attitude which makes people independent, which makes them throw in a job if they do not like the nose of the boss. This independence can be dangerous if exercised to the extreme, but on the other hand a boss will discuss problems with his employees man to man, exchange ideas and sometimes act accordingly—something unheard of on the Continent. But here it often helps to make factory or office routine run more smoothly.

The "yes" man is not popular in Australia, while on the Continent men would be afraid to say "no" to the boss, because of their fear that they may lose their jobs. I have a job here, and a good one which I would not like to lose, but if the day should come I hope to find another one. Yes, I know that there are men unemployed at present who for some reason or other cannot find a job. I belonged to them for many months before the war and for four months after my discharge from the army. It was not a nice experience, but I knew that I would not starve because I could always earn a few bob up the bush if the worst came to the worst.

I have gained many friends and learnt what comradeship means. Whenever I was stuck in the bush or was unable to do a job on my own, the neighbours came to my rescue. They helped me along and showed me how to do things, and nothing was too much for them. They were friendly and showed a Christian spirit which is now so seldom found in this world. It was the same in the Army when overseas. Our unit was supposed to load and unload ships, and I was the despair of the N.C.O.'s in charge of wharf work. I had hardly ever seen a winch, let alone unload a sling. But after a few vain attempts, the old hands of the game showed me how to do it and how to avoid getting knocked about. Although I never became efficient, I soon learnt enough to hold my own with the others. I always found that everybody was willing to help and teach me.

Yes, I know there are a few people here who dislike me because I am not Australian-born. But they do not count. These prejudices always exist but they can be overcome. The main reason for it is probably that some people are afraid that newcomers take jobs away from Australians. The sooner they realise that immigrants create jobs because they are consumers, the better it will be for Australia. It might also be worth while to point out that nationality is an accident of birth. Nobody can choose the land he wants to be born in. But when an immigrant loves a country well enough to get naturalised and to fight for it, surely nobody could object that he earns his living and pays his taxes.

Australia has given me two other cherished possessions: a wife and a son who, I hope, will become a real Aussie.

In short, Australia means this to me: freedom, independence, comradeship, a living and a family. Australia, I thank you.

A Navy spokesman states that recruiting for the Royal Australian Navy is proceeding "at a satisfactory rate," with about 120 men a month joining. Inquiries are for higher, but high educational and physical standards bar many men.
They were busy in the sergeants' mess rehearsing carols, when the Sgtd-Major suddenly stopped them. "Here, here," he said, "we can't have this, you know. Something's wrong somewhere—and it sounded to me more like hiccoughs." One of the sergeants, a trifle the worse for wear, looked at the S.M. aggressively. "What d'you mean—sound like hiccups?" he said. "That was hiccups.

It was Christmas Eve, and the Marine was calling to take his latest girl friend to the pantomime. At the door he was greeted by a youngster of about ten years of age. "Is Evelyn your oldest sister?" he asked. The reply came pat: "Yes, she is." "Oh, and who comes after her?" This time there was a slight hesitation; then, "You—and those sailors."

The corporal was preparing to fingerprint a recruit.
"Wash your hands," he said.
"Both of them?" asked the recruit. After a moment's hesitation, the corporal said, "No, just one. I want to see you do it."

Three old sweats were discussing the ideal way of dying. The first, aged 75, said he'd like to crash in a car going 80 m.p.h. The second, aged 85, said he'd take his finish in a 400-m.p.h. plane. "I've got a better idea," said the third, aged 95: "I'd like to be shot by a jealous husband."

Out of the mouths of babes... It was just after the blackout had been lifted in England. A small boy said: "I know, Mummy, that it doesn't matter now about the light getting out. But how do we stop the dark from getting in?"

The new padre had given his first sermon at the camp church-parade, and after the service was over he stopped a few of the men and chatted with them for a few moments. One hard-case said: "That was a very interesting sermon, padre." The padre blushed modestly and said, "Thank you very much." The hard-case grinned. "It would have been much better," he added, "if I hadn't heard every word of it before." The padre was aghast. "That cannot possibly be true." The h.c. grinned even wider. "But it is," he replied, "I have a book in my kit bag which contains every word of it." With somewhat ruffled dignity the padre said, "Well, I should very much like to see that book—if you really have it."

With a nod the h.c. said, "I have it all right, and I'll send it over to you by one of the boys this afternoon." He did, too—and it was a pocket dictionary.

An American soldier went round telling everyone that he had always heard the English were fools, and now he knew it.

It seems that in the remote countryside of Oxfordshire he was given a lift in a pony trap by a retired colonel. Every hundred yards or so the colonel took a pinch of powder from a packet and threw it on the road behind. He gave no explanation and at last the mystified American asked what it was.

Anti-lion powder," replied the old warrior briskly.

"I don't know much about England," said the soldier, "but surely there aren't any lions in Oxfordshire?"

The colonel fixed him with a steady stare.

"No, there are not," he said. Then he added: "It's just as well, too, because this anti-lion powder is no dam' good."

The camp waits were trying their best to impress the Colonel by singing their complete programme outside his window. But at last the Colonel had had it. Opening the window he beckoned to the leader. "You chaps must be tired by now," he said kindly. "Come inside and have—" The leader of the waits broke in: "Thank you very much, sir," and a rush for the door began. Then the Colonel had a chance to finish what he was saying: "—a listen to some decent carols on my radio."

Young Angus, of the Sixteenth, was on leave and he had been out late with his girl. When he reached home he found his father waiting up for him. "Have you been out with that lassie again?" asked the old man.

"Aye, Father, but why do you look so worried?" replied Angus.

"I was just wondering how much the evening cost," he responded.

"No more than half a crown."

"Aye? That was not so much."

"No, Father, but it was all she had."

British and allied ex-service men and women are specially invited to use the Commonwealth Employment Service. District Employment Offices are situated at Fremantle, Midland Junction, Bunbury, Bridgetown, Albany, Northam, Merredin, Collie, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie, and there are branch offices in Armadale, Karratha and Narrogin. There are also agents (usually road board secretaries) in many other country centres.

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PERSONALITIES

Cliff Sadlier, V.C., of the Subiaco sub-branch, is at present convalescing, after illness, at Busselton. His many friends in the League will wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr. E. J. Eaton, of the Geraldton sub-branch, has recently been visiting Perth. Mr. Eaton has a younger in hospital, and we trust he will soon be on the way to a full recovery.

Wally Driver, of the Carnegie (Victoria) sub-branch, who was prominent in the recent interstate baseball carnival here, has now settled down in Perth. He should be a decided asset to the sports line-up of some sub-branch.

Mr. N. P. Stehn has been elected president of the West Perth sub-branch.

Murray Church, of the Highgate and Nedlands sub-branches, is again back in Perth after spending some months in the North-West.

Mr. F. Platt, secretary of the A.R.M.S. competition, informs us that a full report of the year's contest will be available for inclusion in our January issue. In view of the unavoidable delay, the photograph of the winners has been held over for publication in that issue.

The bigger a man's head gets the easier you can fill his shoes.

“A LITTLE HELP FROM THOSE FELLOWS WOULDN'T COME AMISS”

Bill Geary has been appointed publicity officer of the Carlisle sub-branch and is already getting his pen to work on his comrades' behalf.

Roy de Pedro, of the Bridgetown sub-branch, has now moved to Perth and is recuperating after a nasty illness.

Mr. A. McKenzie has been elected president of the Yealering sub-branch.

Geoff Baker, of the Nedlands sub-branch, is to be congratulated on the arrival of a second son.

Mr. D. O'Brien has found it necessary to resign from the secretariatship of the Coolgardie sub-branch.

Mr. E. Congdon, of the Subiaco sub-branch, recently topped the poll in the South Ward, Subiaco Council election. Congratulations are in order.

PROMOTION WHILST P.O.W.

The Department of the Army states that it has again been decided that it would be inadvisable to change the existing policy regarding the rank and status for pay of members of the Australian Defence Force while prisoners of war, and no further action can be taken in the matter of confirming the local unpaid acting rank held during the period of captivity.
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Ex-Service Personnel
THE 33rd Annual Federal Congress was held in Brisbane at the end of October, those attending from Western Australia being the State President (Mr. W. J. Hunt), Mr. J. Herlihy (of the State Executive) and the State Secretary (Mr. J. Chappell). His Excellency the Governor of Queensland (Sir John Lavarack, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.) officially opened the function.

In an interesting speech His Excellency said that he could see that the League was keeping fast to its principles, and had not, and did not, relax. "Men of the first A.I.F. and of the second A.I.F.," he said, were the salt of the earth, and no class of people deserve more consideration from those responsible."

Among those in attendance at Congress were the Minister for Immigration (Mr. Calwell) and representatives of the Department of Immigration, the Repatriation Commission, the Department of Works and Housing, and the Department of Post-War Reconstruction.

Mr. E. Millhouse was re-elected Federal President, Air Vice-Marshall G. W. Mackinolty was re-elected Hon. Federal Treasurer, Major-General F. P. Derham was re-elected Hon. Solicitor, and Mr. J. H. Wicks was re-elected Hon. Auditor.

Messages were received from the Governor-General, from His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, from Lord Louis Mountbatten, from the Dominion President of the New Zealand Returned Services' Association, and from General Sir Thomas Blamey.

No less than 359 items were dealt with, among the most outstanding being the following:

"That official opposition of the R.S.L. to the Communist Party of Australia is not of party political nature, but with the object of removing the existing alarming threat to our democratic way of life and to the prosperity and well-being of the people of Australia. Not recognising Communism as being political in character, but a disloyal foreign ideology, having for its object the diminution of production with consequent shortage of commodities, the creation of unrest, strife and misery, and having for its ultimate object the overthrow of our Australian democratic system by force and revolutionary methods for the purpose of establishing a totalitarian state, this Federal Congress strongly urges the Commonwealth and State Governments to: (a) Ban and declare illegal the Australian Communist Party; (b) remove from public service all Communists, particularly those in key positions; (c) enact the necessary legislation to prevent Communists from holding office in Trades Unions, Trade Associations and similar organisations; (d) deport immediately all foreign-born Communists; and (e) prevent the entry to Australia of any Communists." (Carried unanimously.)

"This 33rd Annual Congress, representing 1,765 sub-branches of the R.S.S. & A.I.L.A. in Australia, unanimously endorses the action of the Federal Executive in amending the Constitution to ban Communists from membership in the League, and urges all districts and sub-branches to (1) immediately scrutinise their membership records and report to State headquarters all known Communists who are financial members at present; (2) to take special care to ensure that no Communists are admitted to membership in future; (3) to embark on a campaign to combat the evils of Communism." (Carried unanimously.)

"That the R.S.S. & A.I.L.A. presses continuously for the reintroduction of universal military training."

"Realising the magnitude of the task faced by the Commonwealth Government in respect of the rehabilitation and re-establishment into civil life of ex-service men and women following the 1939-45 War, and also fully realising that this task is only part of the national reconstruction but believing that conditions are now more stabilised, in addition to realising that the aims of the Government and the R.S.L. are parallel, this Congress asks the Federal Government representative at Congress (Hon. A. A. Calwell) to arrange a conference of two representatives of the Federal Executive of the R.S.L. with himself.

(Continued on page 25)
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.


"On earth peace." What a glorious prospect to us in these days—yet, it would seem, what a vague and uncertain prospect. Thomas Hobbes once said that the first and fundamental law of Nature was to seek peace and follow it. Strangely enough, millions of people today are crying aloud for peace, but almost all of them are living in the fear and the shadow of war.

Few, if any of us who have been to a war want anything more to do with another. Few, if any of us who have lived through two world wars can do anything but dread a third. True, there have always been wars (the years of full peace have been few), but until recent years war was waged by professional soldiers, and the general populace went their ways without let or hindrance. Whether a war was lost or won—it made very little difference to the man in the street.

But of recent years wars have been waged on a colossal scale. The death rolls have been enormous, and civilians and serving personnel have suffered alike. The vanquished have been left in a state of misery terrible to behold, and the victors have been given, in their victory, but an empty shell. In short, modern wars are disastrous to victor and vanquished alike, and seek as one will, no single person can be found around one who really wants a war.

But, for some strange and perverse reason, no one seems to be able to ensure peace. Britain wants it—of that there can be no doubt, for, despite claims by certain persons that Britain has "Imperialistic aims," there is the inescapable fact that Britain today is poorer than ever she has been in her entire history. Her people go hungry, her strength has been sapped, her future sadly mortgaged. All because she was engaged in a world war which almost beat her to her knees. Yet, withal, she was the victor. Can it be said that she wants war?

"Does the United States want war? She has no record of warlike intentions. She has always striven to keep clear of European entanglements. Her unguarded boundary with a foreign country—Canada—is surely proof of peaceful intentions over the years. Yet there are folk who say that the United States has "Imperialistic aims" too. Is that a likely story?

With the exception of the Soviet Union, no other country in the world is in a position to wage a war. France has no military machine today. Germany is crushed. The other European countries are too small to be world-wide aggressors at any time. Japan is under occupation. Why, then, cannot we have peace?

The only answer that seems to fit is that the distrust of Russia makes peace so elusive. Because of the atmosphere of doubt and uncertainty the leading nations of the world are forced to spend money on armaments and on armies in order to achieve some little sense of security. Because of the haziness of the future, the world cannot settle down to peaceful aims.

A sad state of affairs indeed. Every human must have learned that warfare is an unprofitable occupation. Yet here we are—millions of us—with one of the greatest calamities in history not yet faded into the background, in fear and trembling that, ere long, we shall be engulfed by another.

"War is death's feast," says George Herbert, and he adds: "When war begins then hell openeth." Wars not only rob us of the flower of our youth, they are disastrous to our economy.

The United States Treasury Department, in recent statistics, shows the progressive cost of war as it has affected that nation. The Revolutionary War of 1775 to 1783 cost 144,555,642 dollars. The war of 1812 (1812 to 1815) cost 179,918,390 dollars. The war with Mexico (1846 to 1847) cost 227,693,106 dollars. The Civil War cost the U.S. Government 15,655,515,516 dollars and the Confederacy a further 2,099,768,707 dollars. World War I cost America 41,775,000,000 dollars. And World War II cost America 412,743,561,855 dollars. See how these sums continue to grow. And note the total expended on war by a comparatively new land—no less than 412,743,561,855 dollars which, at present rates of exchange, is something in the vicinity of £137,581,153,960.

Some would contend that all of this money was wasted. But let us be fair. Some portion of it was spent in wages, in food, in medicines and the like, but the great majority of it went in unproductive and wasteful avenues. However, if only one-half of this money—some £68,000,000,000—could have been used for the good of the country, what enormous strides could have been made. Suppose, for instance, such an amount of money could have been spent upon medical research—upon discovering cures for T.B., for cancer, for pericarditis and such diseases—enormous numbers of valuable lives must have been saved instead of, as they actually were, destroyed.

Looking at wars as we must look at them—in the matter of actual manpower losses—let us again compare American figures (these are used because they are available in more detail than those of any other country). The average battle deaths per month

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**Peace**

_Were half the power that fills the world with terror,_
_Were half the wealth bestowed on camps and courts,_
_Given to redeem the human mind from error,_
_There were no need of arsenals and forts._

—Longfellow.
in the Revolutionary War were 50. In the war of 1812 the average monthly battle deaths had risen to 62. But in the Civil War the losses per month on both sides amounted to no less than 3,845. And in World War II this monthly total had been brought up to 4,576. What havoc is the Grim Reaper to harvest in a future war?

It has already been mentioned that early wars were fought by professional soldiers. World War I saw civilians killed and maimed from the air and (in Europe) on the roads. World War II saw civilians killed in numbers hitherto undreamed of—indeed, it was often said semi-humorously that the British soldier was safer than was the civilian. Now we have the atom bomb, and if Hiroshima is any example (and it is now said to be only a mild one) of what the civilized world may expect in another war—then God help us.

According to American scientists, there can be no military defence against the atomic bomb. Nor can the secret be kept for more than five to fifteen years. Eventually, it is predicted, atomic bombs will be cheap and easy to make, so that a nation with the industrial capacity could produce them by thousands. One atomic bomb, it has been testified, could destroy overnight forty million of America's population.

It is officially stated that the radiations alone from several atomic bombs, dropped low or exploded under water, would be enough to destroy an armada such as landed on the Normandy beachhead.

What a terrible picture this conjures up. But we must face facts. Scientists tell us that the atomic bomb explodes in the incredible time of one-tenth of a millionth of a second. To the layman, this is really meaningless—indeed it is to all except the fact that it explodes is enough. But read on: “At the centre of the explosion the temperature reaches 100,000,000 degrees Fahrenheit, or about 10,000 times that of the surface of the sun. It produces pressures equivalent to many millions of atmospheres and creates winds travelling at about 1,000 miles an hour.” Shades of the old jam-tin bomb.

“One kilogram (less than 2½ lb.) of plutonium is equivalent to 20,000,000 tons of t.n.t. However, as only one-tenth of one per cent. of the mass of the atom is converted into energy, the complete fission of one kilogram of plutonium would yield an equivalent of about 20,000 tons of t.n.t.” Whether that statement, made by a prominent scientist, is intended to be comforting or not absolutely escapes us.

Yet this same atomic power, if used for peaceful rather than warlike pursuits, could in time work wonders for us. Let me again quote a prominent scientist:

“The advent of atomic power could open a new era. For it will be possible to build large power plants for generating enormous quantities of power in cities and in ships. It could be used to irrigate wastelands where neither coal, oil or water power is available. It could turn deserts into blooming gardens. It could be used to air-condition the tropics and make sub-Arctic lands habitable.

“But power is the least of the promises of atomic energy. It holds greater promise as a key to the mysteries in nature. With it man can create elements at will for use in industry and medicine. Ordinary elements can be made radioactive and used effectively in cancer treatment. We may, with the use of certain elements, find out why and how we get cancer. We may find the means to prevent and cure it.

“We may find out why we grow old and how to postpone the coming of old age.

“With atomic energy, man at last has a fuel with enough power to lift him beyond the region where the earth's gravity can pull him back. He thus at last has a fuel for a spacecraft to carry him to the moon and the planets.

“Man stands at the gateway of a new world, provided he does not commit suicide in the meantime.”

If we can keep war away, our descendants may live a life such as we never knew or even dreamed of. Thus our sufferings may bring forth a new and a better world. But can we make sure that this new force is used wholly and solely for the betterment of man and not for his destruction?

Let us not lose sight of the fact that the explosion of a number of these new atomic bombs (even some degree of carelessness or even uncertainty in the storage of them) may set forth a blast which will split our world into pieces.

In the aeons of cosmic history our little civilization means less than nothing. Scientists now realize that there are probably planets in outer space which we shall never know of. They realize that the planetary system which we do know is possibly only a portion of what exists in that great open space of the sky. Our world is everything to us, but in cosmic history its disappearance would probably pass almost unnoticed.

But, as I have already said, to us this world is everything. We live upon it, and with all its faults we hope to have sons and grandsons and great-grandsons, and many descendants to people it. Is it to be a better place than ever it was? Or is it, at

(Continued on page 25)
The Idle Hour

BOOKS, FILMS, PLAYS, RADIO, ETC.

And now each man bestride his hobby, and dust away his bells to what tune he pleases.—Charles Lamb.

There are few men, it seems, who have not a hobby of some kind, and in response to a number of requests this month the book reviews will deal with works of interest to the man who dabbles in some spare-time occupation.

CONCISE HANDBOOK OF AUSTRALIAN FISHING
by "Toggerty" [Robertson & Mullens Ltd]

This little handbook is written primarily for the Victorian fisherman, but its modest price (1/6) makes it an attractive asset to anyone who wants to catch fish. River fishing, sea fishing, the catching of estuary fish, rock fishing, surf and big-game fishing, tackle, handling of baits—all are dealt with in a straightforward manner, and the volume contains some interesting illustrations. [Our copy from the publishers.]

☆

GIANT HOME WORKSHOP MANUAL
by various authors. [Grosset & Dunlap]

The man who loves to potter in a home workshop will find this volume something to really enthuse over. But if he has a 'teen-age son he will have to keep it under lock and key, for it will be more than the lad can do to keep his hands off it. This book, prepared by the editorial staff of "Popular Science" magazine, covers woodworking, furniture making and repairs, painting, model making and general workshop handicrafts, and has over 1,500 working drawings, diagrams and illustrations.

Whether you wish to run a model railway, re-string a tennis racquet, get more pep from your outboard motor, build a modern bedstead, re-paint your car or cure your chimney from smoking—this book tells you how. Written in non-technical language, it is interesting to the veriest novice. [Our copy from Alberts Bookshop.]

THE AUSTRALIAN GARDENER
by Leslie H. Brunning [Robertson & Mullens Ltd.]

I really have no hesitation whatever in recommending this book to anyone. The fact that the copy I have on my library shelf is the 22nd edition alone speaks volumes; the fact that it is Australian and that it covers every phase of the cultivation of flowers, vegetables and fruit means that the amateur gardener can use it as his chief reference volume.

Dealing with the sowing of seed, the author says something which, I think, is well worth remembering: "Failure and disappointment are often experienced in raising seeds... and the result is the complaint, 'These seeds do not grow.' In 99 per cent. of these cases there is nothing at all wrong with the germination of the seed and on many occasions when the seedlings do appear above the ground, owing to mismanagement, they fail to grow sufficiently strong enough to be transplanted from the seed-bed to the open ground. The reasons for the non-germination or, rather, non-appearance of seed are:

It may have been sown too thickly. It may not have been sown deep enough. It may have been sown too deeply. It may have been sown at the wrong period of the year. The soil may not have been firm after sowing to bring the seed into contact with the soil moisture." In short, the author shows us that we cannot be too careful if we want results from our garden, and he gives us every possible aid for success.

He not only gives details of how to plant for the best results, but he covers, I should say, almost every feature of the home garden. Moreover, he covers it all in plain, simple, everyday English.

☆

THE ALL-IN-ONE CAMERA BOOK
by W. D. Emanuel [The Focal Press]

Here is a volume which can be warmly recommended to any student of photography. Its very simplicity makes it the ideal book for the beginner, as it covers all the essential points of using a camera and making good pictures in a straightforward, easy-to-follow way.

The author describes all the component parts of a camera, covers the problems of exposure in great detail, goes into such matters as the type of material to use, the composition of good pictures, work on dull days, night photography, use of artificial light and the modern aspects of colour photography.

He gives a number of outstanding hints and tips to both novice and more advanced photographers, and covers all types of photo subjects at some length. "Developing, printing and enlarging are made quite simple for those who previously knew nothing whatever of the subjects. The volume is profusely illustrated, and is inexpensive (12/- in Perth). [Our copy from Alberts Bookshop.]

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SOLDIERS' CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIPS

The Soldiers' Children's Scholarship Trust has, on the results of the secondary education examinations conducted this year by the Education Department, awarded scholarships to the following pupils who are the children of deceased or incapacitated ex-servicemen: Non Cadwean, Sylvia M. Herley, Henry B. N. Hocking, Brian J. Kidd, Richard N. Lilly, Robin W. Lyon and James K. Marshall.

These scholarships are tenable in the first place for a period of three years to enable the students to gain the Junior school certificate, and, in the event of satisfactory progress, may be extended for a further two years to carry the holder to the Leaving certificate. Scholars are also eligible for additional assistance from the Trust in the purchase of books necessary for their studies. In announcing the awards, the President (Professor A. D. Ross) said that during the past year the Trust had awarded 16 new scholarships in addition to 31 given previously and still current. Class books had also been provided for 125 pupils. The Trust was particularly grateful to the R.S.L. women's auxiliary and the trustees of the Scholarship Fund for the financial support given to this educational work.

Ex-servicemen uncertain of the position with regard to the Landlord and Tenant Regulations (recently taken over by the State) should contact the Legal Service Bureau.

Eligibility for the gift of tools of trade to settlers whose placement on their own land under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme, or by assistance under the Re-establishment and Employment Act prior to June 30, 1948, has been delayed through circumstances beyond their control has now been extended.
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ALL MAKES NEW TYRES SOLD
Imperial Pensions Deputation

A deputation comprising Mr. E. S. Watt, Mr. C. Ferguson and the secretary of the Pensions Committee attended the Repatriation Department on Monday, November 1, to interview the representatives of the British Ministry of Pensions (Mr. A. Blenkinsop, M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary, and Miss M. S. Cox, C.B.E., Deputy Secretary of the Ministry). The following matters were discussed.

Funeral Allowances

It was pointed out that the M.O.P. allowed funeral expenses to the amount of £10 only in cases where the ex-soldier’s death was due to war service; whereas the Repatriation Department had recently increased its allowance from £15 to £20. The deputation stressed that the Ministry’s allowance was quite inadequate to ensure a burial worthy of men whose death was due to their war service.

Mr. Blenkinsop stated that the matter would receive consideration, and he was confident that an increase in the grant would be made.

The deputation mentioned that no allowance was made in regard to ex-Imperial soldiers whose deaths were not due to war disabilities and who died in indigent circumstances. It was also pointed out that no funds were now available from the Imperial authorities for the relief of ex-Imperial men in distressed circumstances. Mr. Blenkinsop promised to go into this matter on his return to England.

Ex-Indian Officers

The matter of pensions and treatment of ex-Indian personnel was not a responsibility of the Ministry of Pensions but of the War Office, Mr. Blenkinsop stated, and overtures on their behalf should be made to the War Office through the Ministry of Commonwealth Relations. He mentioned that this was a new department, and in view of the complex problems being encountered, some delay was inevitable.

Miss Cox mentioned that the Ministry had an office in Canada which dealt with Imperial ex-servicemen in U.S.A. and Canada. By agreement, United States ex-servicemen were given medical treatment in Britain and the cost was refunded by the United States Government. The matter of an office of the Ministry in Australia was under consideration, but the conduct of the Ministry’s business by the Repatriation Department to date is most satisfactory.

New Claims

Miss Cox informed the deputation that the Repatriation Department would be given greater powers of discretion in dealing with ex-Imperial problems on the spot to avoid delay. Authority would also be given to the department (in the cases of new claims, where a medical officer recommended admission to Repatriation hospitals for diagnosis and opinion regarding attributability of the disability to war service), to admit the claimants at the Ministry’s expense, without reference to Britain.

Migrants

The deputation pointed out that many of the migrants from England would undoubtedly require medical treatment for accepted war disabilities and it would be of great benefit if their service documents could be sent to the Repatriation Department at the time of their embarkation. Miss Cox promised that this would be done—the documents would be despatched by air mail and would be available before the migrants disembarked.

Funeral Allowances

The deputation respectfully criticised the Ministry’s procedure in giving final awards after a few years for such disabilities as bronchitis, which in many cases progressed even to the extent of total incapacity, whereas the pension was fixed at the final award percentage and appeals were disallowed on the grounds of the time limit.

Mr. Blenkinsop stated that the Ministry had now changed this procedure—final awards were not being made, but periodical reviews by medical examinations at, say, yearly intervals were being conducted so that pensions would increase as the disability worsened. Pensioners had the right to appeal for an increase if the disability became worse. Tribunals had been set up to hear appeals against entitlements and assessments, and in regard to 1914 war personnel, cases were now revised on appeal in spite of the former time limits.

Miss Cox informed the deputation that in every instance where the ex-soldier felt aggrieved at the decisions on his case, a review would be made on his application. This also applied in cases where a final award had been made. She stressed the value of supporting medical opinions.

The deputation thanked the Ministry’s representatives for their courtesy and the keen interest displayed in the matters put forward, and assured them that the information given with regard to the more liberal attitude by the Ministry would be warmly welcomed by ex-Imperial servicemen in this State.

DEBATING

The second annual debating competition for “The West Australian” shield has now been finalised, the winners being members of the Press sub-branch.

The final debate was held at Anzac House on Monday, November 22, at 8 p.m., teams being: Press, L. T. Birtwistle (leader), G. McKeever and H. A. Wells; Mount Lawley, R. G. Harris (leader), A. S. Strickland and P. Chaney. Adjudicators were Messrs. Phillip Masel, T. Sten and S. Jackson.

Mr. W. J. Hunt (State President of the League) presented the shield to the winning team.

It is hoped that, when this contest again commences in 1949, greater support will be given to the teams.
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Under Part II of the Re-establishment and Employment Act 1945, members and ex-members of the Forces are entitled to preference in certain circumstances in engagement for employment. They also have other special rights—for example, in relation to housing and tenancy, and moratorium and re-establishment benefits.

The Commonwealth Attorney-General's Legal Service Bureau advises, without charge, on all legal matters affecting servicemen or their dependants. Any member or ex-member of the Forces who believes he has not been given the treatment to which he is entitled, under the Re-establishment and Employment Act or otherwise, is invited to place the facts of his case before the Legal Service Bureau, either by letter or by personal call.

H. V. Evatt,
Attorney-General of the Commonwealth.

---

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and the Prime Minister with a view to removing misunderstandings which may now exist and to enable them to present the views of the R.S.L. in relation to shortcomings in present legislation dealing with re-establishment and repatriation; further, that in order to avoid future misunderstandings which must arise from time to time unless closer contact is maintained, the Prime Minister be asked to provide facilities whereby problems may be placed before him and his Ministers in person by the R.S.L., which has a current membership of over 300,000 returned ex-service men and women, representing approximately 1 in 25 of the population of Australia.”

Western Australia presented 64 items to Congress—46 were carried, 5 were defeated, 11 were withdrawn, 1 was referred back, and 1 is to be referred to the Federal Executive.

Lack of space prevents us dealing with these items in detail, but those carried were (numbers on 1948 State Congress agenda): No. 2 (covered by Tasmanian motion), 15 (covered by S.A. motion), 16, 17, N-M 5, 19 (amended to £3,000), 20, 21 (amended), 22 (amended), 35 (amended), 39 (amended), 41, 41a, 53 (amended), 56a, 56b (both covered by Queensland motions), 72, 76 (covered by Victorian motion), 78 (amended), 79, 80 (covered by Queensland motion), 83, 85, 86 (two latter covered by Queensland motion), 87 (covered by Victorian motion), 90 (covered by Queensland motion), 94 (covered by N.S.W. motion), 98, 103, 104 (two latter amended), 106, 111 (covered by N.S.W. motion), 112, 115, 116 (all amended), 118 (covered by Tasmanian motion), N-M 6 (covered by Victorian motion), 122 (in part),

123, 125 (covered by N.S.W. motion), 128, 231, 232 (two latter covered by N.S.W. motion), 231 and 253 (amended). The Maylands Citation re Certificate of Merit was also carried. All State Congress delegates are being provided with full details.

**THE CASE OF RUDOLPH HESS**

(Continued from page 5)

specially installed to keep him awake at night. Goering was sure that Hess was not mentally sound. Schacht added that Hess was crazy. “What a spectacle there is going to be when he gets up to give his final speech,” he said. Speer, after Hess had used him for a “physiological experiment,” merely said, “What a screwball.”

Now Hess has a lifetime of imprisonment in which, no doubt, he will find many things that are queer.

**ON EARTH, PEACE**

(Continued from page 17)

its best, to revert to a place where savagery, want and privation are its main features?

Today we are living in an age which is critical—an age which may well prove to be the turning point in history. What are we going to do with the powers we have acquired?

Bear in mind the words of Jules Jusserand: “Remember this also, and be well persuaded of its truth: the future is not in the hands of Fate, but in ours.”

During the British Commonwealth the Puritans forbade the general public to celebrate Christmas. December 25 was ordered to be observed as a market day, and the eating of plum pudding and mince pies was denounced as a heathen practice. The Church revived the festival at the Restoration.
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THE MISFIT

Every unit had a misfit. Through no apparent fault of his own the poor, unfortunate blighter seemed unable to perform even the most simple task without making a complete hash of it. But we, perhaps, had the greatest no-hoper of them all.

When marching, he had a peculiar gait—comparable only to that of an ostrich in slow motion, but he was totally unaware that it was the least bit abnormal.

The only solution seemed to be: give him something else to do. But what? Then there was a brainwave. Why not let him stoke the boilers? All that was to be done was the cleaning and the stoking. But was Misfit capable of performing even that elementary task?

For a solid week the man who was vacating the position taught Misfit all that could possibly be known about boilers. He briefed him on the amount of water required, how to watch the gauges and dials, and miracle of miracles, at the end of the allotted week Misfit himself announced that he thought he could do the job. He was cross-examined and successfully put through his paces regarding all the various do’s and don’ts.

So the day at last arrived when Misfit was officially transferred to the position of chief of the boilers. Knowing his reputation for invariably creating havoc, quite a number of the boys rose early, working upon an assumption that there would ‘not be much hot water while Misfit was in charge. And they were right.

The men of the group trotted down to the showers and dived under the spray. To say that they dived out again would be a gross understatement. For they zoomed out from under with the speed of a V2. The water was ice cold.

Misfit had filled the boilers and prepared the fire—but he hadn’t been able to find any matches. —F.C.

★ This story earns 10/6 for N. F. Coleman, West Perth.

ADRIFT!

Although it was Saturday afternoon, and we were swinging at anchor in Darwin harbour during a long-overdue boiler-clean, there were the usual defaulters to do the necessary jobs on hand as a form of punishment.

"Skeeta," the ship’s "funny man," was one of the "criminals"—he’d stayed ashore a day too long!—and was painting the ship’s side. A Carley raft had been lowered and secured to the ship’s side so that "Skeeta" could paint along the waterline.

The tide was running out at its usual 6-knot race and "Skeeta" was paying out the line on his raft so that he could paint further round to the stern. But the wet line slipped from his paint-covered hands, and the racing tide took charge of the raft and its lone occupant.

Nobody saw him swept away, and "Skeeta" didn’t call out for help thought it would be a good excuse to get out of his punishment.

But "Skeeta" didn’t laugh when he was swept out past the boom ships and, late that afternoon, picked up (three miles out) by an incoming sweeper.

Nor did he laugh when, on return to the ship, he got "16 days" for being "absent from his place of duty whilst under punishment."

JACK TRUE, Collie.

★

TOUGH!

With considerable emphasis on the tough aspects of what they had been through, two ex-soldiers and one sailor were swapping experiences over the bar. The long, thin soldier described a three-day march that had nearly killed him before he was sent to the comparative ease of active service. The ex-corporal followed with his story of jungle training in the Queensland mountains. "Manoeuvres, they called it. Eight days without any decent tucker, just a spilt of water, couldn’t light a fire, stinking hot in the day and the night full of mosquitos and bugs and snakes. An all we’re doing is going up and down the cliffs. You couldn’t see the edge for thick undergrowth, and those so-and-so instructors shouting all the time for us to get a — move on, until a bloke felt like going back to the Middle East for a rest."

They took a long, silent pull at their beer. Then the long bloke said:

“Never had anything like that in the Navy, eh?"

“No," replied the sailor. "But have you ever tried carrying a hammock and kitbag through revolving doors?"

—Bob Chambers, South Perth.

MEMBERSHIP AND POPPY DAY CONTESTS

The Newdegate Cup, presented by the late Sir Francis Newdegate, and competed for each year by metropolitan sub-branches for all-round activities, was won this year by the Highgate sub-branch, runners-up being the Returned Army Nurses (2) and the Leederville-Wembley-Floreat Park sub-branch (3). Highgate increased its membership from 70 to 178, had an average attendance at meetings of 51 per cent., and its record in patriotic activities was excellent. Other sub-branches worthy of special mention were Fremantle City, Gosnells and South Perth.

The Collett Trophy, presented by the late Senator Colonel H. B. Collett, and competed for by country sub-branches, was won by Mukinbudin, with Bruce Rock in second place and Mount Barker third. ‘Mukinbudin had only a small increase in membership, but its record in patriotic activities, amelioration and social activities was particularly fine. Other sub-branches which came in for special mention were Broome, Tammin, Toodyay and Three Springs-Arrino.

The Mary Cornell Trophy, presented by the late Hon. James Cornell, is awarded annually to the sub-branch showing the best Poppy Day results in accordance with its scope and opportunity, and the winner (for the 1947 Poppy Day) was Pinella, with South Perth (2) and Bruce Rock (3) as runners-up. The amount of sales made per financial member by the winning sub-branch was 7/8.

Trophies are held by the winning sub-branches for a period of one year, and duplicates in miniature are presented to the winning team.
**The Listening Post**

I think of death as some delightful journey
That I shall take when all my tasks are done.

**DORNEY, W.**—Mr. W. Dorney, of the Mt. Lawley-Inglewood sub-branch, died on November 19. He served with the 16th Battalion.

**DUNN, M.**—Mr. Mark Dunn, who served in World War I with the 44th Battalion, and who was a member of the City of Perth sub-branch, died on September 28. Mr. Dunn was a keen worker on behalf of the S. & D.S.L., and one of the sporting trophies he presented will in future be known as the Mark Dunn Memorial Trophy.

**HEWSON, G. C.**—Mr. G. C. Hewson, late of the 1st A.M.C., and of the West Leederville sub-branch, died on October 1.

**JAGGS, A. J.**—Mr. A. J. Jaggs, who served with the 3rd Brigade Engineers, and who was a member of the North-East Fremantle sub-branch, died recently.

**O'NEILL, T.**—Mr. T. O'Neill, late of the 2nd Field Co. Engineers, and of the North-East Fremantle sub-branch, died on November 4.

**MCILDOWIE, J.**—Mr. J. McIlwkie, late of the 1st M.G. Co., 11th Battalion, and of the North Perth sub-branch, died recently.

**LIDDINGTON, W. G.**—Mr. W. G. Liddington, of the City of Perth sub-branch, died in the Repatriation General Hospital, Hollywood, on November 22 at the age of 52 years.

**Migration**

The Congress resolution that the League should foster an immigration scheme by the nomination of ex-service men and women is now being implemented.

Current applicants for sponsorship are:

**EDNEY-HAYTER, E. G., age 54 years;** Protector of Aborigines for the Federation of Malaya; married, no family. Good knowledge of farming. Applicant wishes eventually to secure an interest in a property; but first wants farm work of any kind which is not actually sheer manual work. Has had 12½ years' active service (Royal Horse, Royal Field Artillery and Intelligence). Address: Kaula Lipis, Pahang, Malaya.

**GOODE, D., age 18 years.** This young man is anxious to find work in Western Australia, and his family—father, mother, brother (20) and sister (11)—also wish to settle here. Address: 9 Senneleys Park Road, Senneleys Park, Northfield, Birmingham 31.


**STEVENSON, T. R., age 31 years;** accounts clerk (statistics); married, with son aged 5 years. Service unit: R.A.F. Applicant is open for any type of work, including manual. Address: 18 Parsley Crescent, Edinburgh.

**WODROFFE, A. J. H., age 30 years;** deputy manager wages dept. of commercial firm, but willing to take whatever work offers; married, with daughter aged 3 years, 10 months. Service unit: Gloucestershire Regiment. Religion: C. of E. Address: 75 West Hill, Putney, S.W.15.

Mr. G. A. Nicholls writes from Devonshire to the effect that, as a result of his application being featured in the September issue of The Listening Post, he received two offers of sponsorship, one of which he has accepted. He is now awaiting a passage to this country.

A true music lover is a man who, upon hearing a soprano in the bathroom, puts his ear to the keyhole.

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**THESE WORDS WILL LIVE FOREVER**

*4: Mazzini to Young Men*

Love your country. Your country is a land where your parents sleep, where is spoken that language in which the chosen of your heart, blushing, whispered the first word of love; it is the home that God has given you, that by striving to perfect yourselves therein you may prepare to ascend to him.

Give to it your thoughts, your counsels, your blood. Raise it up, great and beautiful as it was foretold by our great men, and see that you leave it uncontaminated by any trace of falsehood or of servitude; unprofaned by dismemberment. Let it be one, as the thought of God. You are endowed with active, splendid faculties; possessing a tradition of glory the envy of the nations of Europe.

Let not a man remain excluded from the fraternal bond destined to join you together; let not a glance be raised to that heaven which is not the glance of a free man.

Anger, pride, ambition, and the desire of material prosperity are arms common alike to the peoples and their oppressors, and even should you conquer with these today, you would fall again tomorrow; but principles belong to the peoples alone, and their oppressors can find no arms to oppose them.

Adore enthusiasm, and the visions of early youth, for they are a perfume of paradise which the soul retains in issuing from the hands of the Creator. Respect above all things your conscience and, while labouring in harmony, even with those who differ from you... yet ever bear your own banner erect and boldly promulgate your own faith.
We have just landed a large shipment of Army Disposals Prismatic Binoculars of various British and Foreign makes. They are all in excellent condition and priced from £12/10/- to £27/10/-.

Also Army Grearcoats, 1st grade, 20/-; Army Tunics, 1st grade, 15/-; American Stirrup Pumps, 15/-; .303 Rifles, reconditioned, 90/-; .303 Cartridges, 22/6 per 100; .310 Cadet Rifles.

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CARLISLE
At the November meeting the attendance was better than during the winter months. The following officers were present: Bill Morton, Fred Parker, Vic Hucklestep and Secretary. There were always a few absent due to illness and the illness of their officers carry on the good work. By the way, nominations are due at the December meeting and the January meeting, so let's see a big roll up at both meetings. The usual festivities will be on tap at the close of the meeting. First Thursday of each month in the Carlisle Hall (right opposite Railway Station).

CLAREMONT
The A.R.M.S. games this year were much enjoyed by members. They have laid the foundation for future inter-sub-branch visits. Both Mt. Hawthorn and Fremantle extended invitations to our members to drop in. Our hospital visiting committee were happy to receive a word of appreciation from Mr. McDonald, of Leedon, regarding the September outing when a busload of the men enjoyed a day in the hills. Auxiliary members entertained us at a pleasant social and refreshments were served in the presence of our President, Capt. (Bluey) Omera, who made a short but appealing speech. Our members did their bit for the Sub-Branch and the motion was seconded by Mr. J. B. Pottery. The money raised will assist our Sub-Branch in the purchase of equipment and other items for the sub-Branch's needs. Many thanks are due to the National Defence for the assistance given.

MOSMAN PARK
MOSMAN PARK was to have been the site of a sub-Branch Social, but due to the heavy rain the committee has had to postpone the meeting for a few weeks. The meeting will now be held on the last Thursday of this month. The committee has been working hard to ensure a successful meeting.

LAWLEY-INGLEWOOD
The Auxiliary has been working hard to ensure a successful meeting. The meeting will now be held on the last Thursday of this month. The committee has been working hard to ensure a successful meeting.

SOUTH PERTH
During the month of October, the Auxiliary was able to hold two successful meetings. The first meeting was held on Thursday, 1st November, and was attended by a large group of members. The second meeting was held on Thursday, 8th November, and was attended by an even larger group of members. Both meetings were well attended and were successful in raising funds for the Auxiliary.

SUBIACO
During the month of October, the Auxiliary was able to hold two successful meetings. The first meeting was held on Thursday, 1st November, and was attended by a large group of members. The second meeting was held on Thursday, 8th November, and was attended by an even larger group of members. Both meetings were well attended and were successful in raising funds for the Auxiliary.

VICTORIA PARK
During the month of October, the Auxiliary was able to hold two successful meetings. The first meeting was held on Thursday, 1st November, and was attended by a large group of members. The second meeting was held on Thursday, 8th November, and was attended by an even larger group of members. Both meetings were well attended and were successful in raising funds for the Auxiliary.
December 1948

**THE LISTENING POST**

**WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES**

**STATE EXECUTIVE**

Since the last issue of "The Listening Post" those members had been held, and all were well attended.

**Hospital Visiting**

Every Friday, executive members have visited to Perth Hospital and the comfort to ex-service men and women—the best average over 50 each Friday. Hospital Hospital visit is done as per roster, bi-weekly.

**Offcial Visits**

October 10: Nedlands auxiliary entertained patients from the Home of Peace, Lennons and Sunset. During the afternoon, they tickled the picture show item and after tea enjoyed dancing and musical entertainment.

October 14: The President and members attended a social arranged by the Bayswater auxiliary, and had a most enjoyable evening.

October 15: Mrs. McKinlay attended the memorial service. Mrs. Townrow and Mrs. Wilson entertained them to lunch and afternoon tea—and did a real good job at their initial outing.

October 21: Mrs. Henderson (acting State President), State Secretary and members of the State Executive attended the 25th birthday party of the City of Fremantle auxiliary.

October 24: Mrs. Stockman (State Secretary) attended the outing for patients from Claremont Memorial Hospital. They were conveyed by Red Cross buses to Mt. Helena, where one of our guests came down, the auxiliaries entertained them to lunch and afternoon tea—and did a real good job at their initial outing.

October 27: Shenton Park celebrated their fourth birthday, and Mrs. Henderson, acting State President, State Secretary and members of the auxiliary.

October 31: Swan View auxiliary entertained service patients from Sunset for lunch and afternoon tea. A bus was provided by the auxiliary, and Mrs. Townrow and Mrs. Prue travelled with the patients. Everything possible was done by the members to make them and their guests a happy day. The party was a success, and the men thoroughly enjoyed the sumptuous lunch, after which they were conveyed by Red Cross bus to Kings Park.

November 3: Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Stockman, members of the executive and representatives of the auxiliary were entertained by the Claremont auxiliary.

November 7 (Remembrance Sunday) was marked by an outing arranged by executive members on behalf of country auxiliaries for patients from the Edward Miller Home, the Home of Peace, Lennons and Sunset. Cross busses conveyed our guests to Aringes House for tea. Mrs. Henderson (acting State President) welcomed the guests on behalf of their country auxiliary, and we all joined to the ballroom, where a two-hour programme of music and singing was enjoyed by the men. We无不 tendently spoke to all the artists who came along and put on such a wonderful programme, and we feel that this Remembrance Sunday will be one that the Diggers will long remember. Mrs. Henderson and Mr. Brown followed the Fremantle Day ceremony in King's Park and had a wreath laid at the War Memorial on behalf of all auxiliaries.

**Personalities**

Mrs. Grey, secretary of City of Fremantle auxiliary, has returned from her trip to Hollywood, where she visited the War Memorial in the gardens. She was at the opening of our war memorial in London, in the gardens of the Savoy Hotel, and to the Royal Albert Hall. She visited the War Memorial in New York, and she has now fully recovered.

Mrs. G. A. McEwen (a member of Como sub-branch, who is now an inmate of St. Dunstan's, England), who spoke in most glowing terms of the wonderful work being done for ex-service men and women by branches throughout the world, has returned from her trip to the Eastern States and was present at the meeting on November 1st at a most enjoyable holiday, and met many interesting people connected with the League.

**Christmas Cheer**

Donations for Christmas Cheer are steadily rolling in, and arrangements are being made for all homes and institutions to be visited and every ex-service patient will receive a Christmas parcel or a gift of cash as deemed most suitable.

**Greetings**

The President and members of the Executive send Christmas Greetings to members of auxiliaries everywhere, and trust the season brings happy to all, and their families.

**COTTESLOE**

During the month of September theauxiliary held its usual fortnightly bridge and monthly meeting. Visits were paid to Holly Park, where an afternoon tea was held in St. Philip's Hall. We were most honored by the presiding officer, Mr. Grayden, M.L.A., who has been granted leave of absence from the Parliament of Western Australia. Mrs. Townrow, who has been granted leave of absence from the Parliament of Western Australia, was present with us, and gave an informal talk, gave us some information and for the first time, as a whole, and answered many questions from members and guests, Mrs. McKinlay being an able accompany.

On behalf of the members of the auxiliary, Miss L. Homary, will act as president during the absence of Mrs. Townrow, will present her with an inscribed fountain pen and a souvenir.

**CITY OF FREMANTLE**

Our first meeting in October was well attended. We hurried along the business and adjourned for lunch at the Royal Perth Hotel. Mrs. A. M. Palmer has been very busy during the month, and we shall miss him. Mrs. Wilson has returned from her trip to Hollywood, and we shall always have Miss Prue with us. We have been rather unfortunate in losing the assistance of three of our executive members, namely, Mrs. Grey (our secretary), Mrs. Griffin and Mrs. Wilson, and our thanks are due to all our members for their support.

**MOUNT HAWTHORN**

Our members with their families went on a railway trip with our monthly visit to Sunset and taking our turn to be the hostesses, we held a sale of gifts and also held bridge evening. The railway trip was on Thursday afternoon and on Friday night. In addition, we had our annual exhibition run by the sub-branch every Tuesday night. We had a very good attendance at the result of the exhibition, as we had only a few members who entered exhibits and we won 90 prizes in all (also the prizes donated by Bridge Birch, a beer-drinking cow, is claimed to be the world’s biggest milk producer. The cow, whose diet includes half a gallon of stout a day, recently gave 41,952 lbs. of milk for 329 days. The previous record was 41,943 lbs. for 365 days, and was held by an American cow.
A. E. M. E. ASSOCIATION—President: Mr. Les Jones, 8 Fourth Avenue, Mt. Lawley; Secretary: Mr. G. Clingin, A. E. M. E. H.Q., W. Cudahy, 54.143, Ext. 230.


ARMS AUCTIONS OF SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF W.A.—Meetings: as notified; President: J. R. Roberts, Parliament House, Perth; Secretary: J. Show, 74 Hay Street, Subiaco.

FEDERATED T. S. B. SOLDIERS & AIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION (W.A. Branch)—Second Floor, Wellington Buildings, 128 William Street, Perth; President: Mr. H. Brown, 1/1915, 6th month; President: G. H. Wyber, 9 Prince Edward Road, Nedlands; Secretary: F. W. Davenport, 9 Red Street, Nedlands.

MEDAL ARMS UNITS ASSOCIATION—Room 55, 5th Floor, Gibbon Buildings, Perth; President: C. E. B. Fowle, 5th Floor, Gibbon Buildings, Perth; Secretary: J. B. Knight, 51 Hay Street, Nedlands.

BADGE ASSOCIATION (W. A. Division)—131 Room, Swan Barracks, Perth; President: E. J. Smith, Swan Barracks, Perth; Secretary: W. J. Tomlinson, Swan Barracks, Perth.

SOUTH AFRICAN AND IMPERIAL VETERANS' ASSOCIATION—Monday Club, 45th and King Streets, 2nd Monday in each month, at 8 p.m.; President: V. R. Smith, 52 Woodhouse Street, Balcatta; Secretary: A. E. Wight, 7 William Street, Mt. Hawthorn.

THE IMPERIAL EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION (Western Australia Branch)—2nd and 4th Floors, 151 Adelaide Street, Nedlands; President: A. E. Wight, 7 William Street, Mt. Hawthorn.

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN BUNNED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, Perth; President: W. J. Chadwick, Anzac House, High Street, Perth; Secretary: W. J. Chadwick, Anzac House, High Street, Perth.

TOTTALLY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION—Room 55, 5th Floor, Gibbon Buildings, Perth; 1st Penultimate Day of the month, 12noon, 15 Florence Street, West Perth; Secretary: Chas. C. Walker, 124 Wallant Street, Mt. Lawley.

DISPOSALS GOODS

In reply to a resolution passed at the August meeting of the Federal Executive, "That the Disposals Commission be requested to release, where possible, unused materials, such as horse stalls, etc., and that such materials be made available to returned soldier settlers," the Commonwealth Disposals Commission advises that no horse stalls are available for disposal, but as various State authorities have purchased surplus buildings, etc., for the purpose of providing ex-service settlers with temporary homes and farm buildings, it is suggested that such settlers submit their requirements to the Land Settlement authorities.

ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICEMEN. Rates: £1/1/- Per Annum

9th BATTERY ASSOCIATION—Annual reunion, Friday of Show Week; Patron: General J. M. Hobbs; President: W. J. Chamberlain, 78 Fourth Avenue, Mt. Lawley; Secretary: Jack Kenny, 1/1914, Suburban Rd, Nedlands (WMS62513); Secretary: Roy Perry, 22 Cooper Street, Nedlands.

10th LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, Perth; when called; President: H. M. Hume, 4/1915, 1 Coen Road, Nedlands.

11th and 12th A.I.F. BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION—President: C. W. Mitchell, 5 Vissel Street, South Perth; Hon. Secretary: E. MacDonald, Burngreave, Victoria Avenue, Perth; annual reunion Saturday, February week annual general meeting; third week December; financial year ends September 30; sub. 2 p.m. Dates and places in "The Listening Post."

16th BATTERIES ASSOCIATION OF W.A.—Meets at Railway Institute, Wellington Street, Perth; President: J. A. Shepherd, 111 Wellington Street, Perth; Secretary: J. A. Shepherd, Wellington Street, Perth; Treasurer: R. J. Mathews, Wellington Street, Perth.

22nd BATTERIES ASSOCIATION—Committee meetings at the Anzac Hall, William Street, Perth; as notified; President: L. Brickhill, 9 Irwin Street, Perth; Secretary: W. Newick, 39 Hurt Street, Mt. Lawley.

28th BATTERIES ASSOCIATION—Committee as arranged; 2nd Monday of each month; President: G. McMillan, 154 Coode Street, Como; Secretary: C. C. Snell, 154 Coode Street, Como.

32nd & 33rd BATTERIES ASSOCIATION—Anzac House; nearest Saturday to July 15; President: A. J. Hendry, 15th Battery, Kalamunda; Secretary: J. A. Shepherd, Wellington Street, Perth; Treasurer: W. E. McMillan, 3rd Battery, Perth; Secretary: W. E. McMillan, 3rd Battery, Perth.

44th BATTERIES—As advertised; Annual reunion, Tuesday of Show Week; President: J. S. Everett, 12 Joseph Street, West Leederville; Secretary: H. S. Browne, 123 Second Avenue, Mt. Lawley.

48th BATTERIES ASSOCIATION—Anzac House; President: J. P. McDonald, 16 Grieve Street, East Fremantle; Secretary: R. E. Goldsborough, High Street, West Midland (U 7260).

51st BATTERIES—Annual meeting Friday in Show Week; all other meetings as arranged; President: J. R. R. Smith, 114 Banksia Street, Subiaco; Secretary: L. R. Alderman, School House, Tuft Hill; Treasurer: A. C. Devine, 81 Athelstane Street, Nedlands; Secretary: T. Sandall, 81 First Avenue, Guildford.

4/4 MACHINE-GUN BATTERIES—Anzac House; members of Anzacs; Secretary: A. R. McDonald, Anzac House, High Street, Perth; Treasurer: J. A. Shepherd, Wellington Street, Perth; Secretary: W. E. McMillan, 3rd Battery, Perth.

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