A black and white image of a war memorial. The text on the page reads:

"LEST WE FORGET

"Nor shall your story be forgot, while Fame her record keeps"
The State War Memorial, King's Park, Perth.

READ

THIS WAS GALLIPOLI
FEDERAL PRESIDENT'S VISIT
MIND OVER MATTER (SHORT STORY)"
Anzac Day, 1949

State President's Message

Anzac Day has, with the passing of the years, reached a deep significance in our national life.

Gradually but surely it has been realised that this day has a meaning far beyond the commemorating of a magnificent feat of arms, the memorable landing upon the shores of Gallipoli by a young and determined body of men, chiefly of Australian and New Zealand origin.

For little did we then realise that by their sacrifices and determination and the success that was theirs as a result of the determined fighting spirit displayed, on each successive anniversary there would be assemblies of peoples proud of their achievements and anxious that this day should for all time be set aside, not alone to commemorate their noble deeds, but to pay tribute to those who fell.

Because of the solemnity of the occasion it has gradually broadened its purpose, so that today we understand that all men and women who have laid down their lives for their country shall on this great day be remembered by a grateful people.

Throughout the length and breadth of this country and New Zealand there will be commemorable assemblies of people in whose hearts there will be engendered a feeling of deep gratitude to those who, without counting costs, withstood an implacable enemy which threatened our freedom and our way of life.

Therefore, let us approach this great day in a true spirit of comradeship, and with a determination that we shall be worthy of the noble sacrifice of the fallen. Let our efforts, however small, be directed towards seeing that there will be no sacrifices in the future.

Finally, may we share with sympathy the sorrow that is ever with those who mourn. Anzac Day must awaken in their minds memories of those near and dear who are numbered among those to whom we pay tribute.

In our sorrow and our memories there must also be allowed to rise the thought that April 25 of every year commemorates the attainment of a status by our country and New Zealand requiring all the dignity and the highest qualities of leadership and statesmanship of which we are capable.

Our place within the British Commonwealth of Nations, for which we have paid so dearly, is one of great responsibility.

Let us see to it that we are not found wanting; that our contribution to the spirit of Anzac Day shall be promoted by the highest ideals of respect and of wisdom.

W. J. HUNT
When an American publicity concern recently requested the mayor of a middle-west city to hire for them 20 men to make a blindfold test of the flavour and other qualities of a variety of brands of beer, no doubt he thought that at the right to hand out such jobs would bring him considerable popularity. What happened, however, was quite different, for the swarm of applicants which besieged his office immediately the stunt became known nearly drove him crazy. Not only did hundreds of citizens signify their willingness to act as judges—the majority of them insisted that they be selected.

A baking firm in England, just prior to the outbreak of war, was baking white, brown, pink and green-leaves, the coloured varieties being extremely popular for cocktail parties. In the United States, hundreds of varieties of bread can now be purchased, many known by synthetic names and baked in all the colours of the rainbow. You can have a sandwich to match your drink — or even your dress. Most bread is sold ready-wrapped in cellophane, and much of it is ready-sliced.

When Frank Pramaggoni won the vodka-cocktail-mixing contest at the Waldorf Astoria, New York, he gained the unanimous verdict of 12 judges. Recipe: Three parts vodka, one part French vermouth, two dashes of grenadine, flavour glasses with bitters, frappe and serve.

Sally Rand, the original fan dancer—real name Helen Gould Beck—started off as a cigarette girl in a cafe. Then she posed in art studios, danced in third-rate vaudeville, did small parts in films, and played the small-time cabarets. Then, as she herself says, she "got wise to the value of white space," invented the fan dance, and by 1935 was making between $1,000 and $1,500 a week. She then had her own secretary, a personal maid, and a butler-chefaurier.

A Greek named Ctesibias, who lived in the third century B.C., is known as the inventor of the world's first manual fire engine.

The first fire brigade recorded in history was that established by the great Roman Emperor Augustus. This corps consisted of 7,000 men, and also served as a police force.

It is said that the original recipe for the drink "Block and Fall," so called because after partaking of it you could only walk a block before you fell, was as follows: 25 gallons of alcohol to make the head reel, 10 bottles of Pain Killer to burn up the inside, 10 lbs. of sugar to give the mixture a nice taste, 3 lbs. of plug tobacco to make the drinker vomit, and a little caramel for colouring.

Archaeologists at Kadan in Bohemia discovered a number of crude earthenware jars, tightly sealed. When opened they were found to contain traces of some liquid which, when analysed by chemists, was said to be beer made from spelt (a fine form of wheat) and barley, to which diluted mead was added. The "kick" was given, not by hops, but by myrrh. It was thought that the beer had been brewed about one thousand years before.

Canadians claim Jules Serrelli, an Ottawa tailor, to be the needle-threading champion of the world. Competition began when Mrs. Jeannet Cloutier, of Suncook, New Hampshire, U.S.A., read that Serrelli thought nothing of threading 200 strands of cotton through the eye of a standard darning needle. She sat down and succeeded in threading 224 strands, after which she sent the needle and threads to Serrelli with an invitation to try and beat it. Serrelli jammed another 26 threads through and sent it back. Asked why he did it, Mr. Serrelli just looked blank.

Excellent loaves are said to have been baked in ancient Egypt, where women kneaded the dough with their feet, a practice which survived in Scotland for many years.

Advertisement in The Daily Telegraph (England): "Can anyone recommend school, boy fourteen, where reincarnation is accepted and astrology understood?"

From a "Manual of Etiquette," published in 1845: "In the library, care should be taken not to place books by authors of different sexes next to each other."

Advertisement in The Chicago American of August 8, 1835: "Notice. My wife, Mary Bumley, left my house and bed on Saturday last without any just cause, and is supposed to have went away with another Hostler, who probably knew her better than I did. They will be handsomely rewarded for keeping her forever.—Jacob Reichter.

By dancing until the skin was entirely worn off the soles of his feet, Alfredo Fernando, a marathon dancer, has broken all South African non-stop dancing records. He achieved this by dancing 127 hours—just over five days and nights—without a break except a 15-minute interval allowed for "official resting" each night at 11 p.m.

Cartersville, Georgia (U.S.A.) has a by-law which states that before drinking a bottle of beer a person must be inside his house and seated.
A meeting of the State Executive was held at Anzac House on Wednesday, March 9, at 5.30 p.m. Business included:

**STATE CONGRESS ITEM 200: GWALIA-LEONORA**

The motion, "That Anzac Day be gazetted as a paid holiday for all ex-servicemen," referred back from the Re-establishment Committee, was referred to the State Executive for further discussion. It was resolved "That enquiries be made from the Registrar of the Arbitration Court as to which awards do not include Anzac Day as a paid holiday, and that enquiries be made whether the day can be legally gazetted as a general paid holiday."

**ANZAC DAY**

It was recommended that the procedure of former years, where the parade is held on a week day, be followed, and that arrangements as previously carried out be proceeded with.

**HOUSING**

The report submitted by Mr. Davies in respect of meetings held February 24 and March 3 covered co-opted members (Messrs. Keightley and Byass) in an advisory capacity; housing for migrants; stocks of timber; registered builders not actively engaged; and a number of individual cases. The report was adopted, subject to an amendment that the resolution regarding the matter of housing for migrants be referred back to the Housing Committee for collaboration with the Migration Committee with a view to submitting a composite resolution.

**MIGRATION**

The report submitted by Mr. Lonnie covered migrants at Collie; migrant nurses from the U.K.; Government employees/staging camps; and several letters of thanks.

Other reports included: Management (Mr. Hunt), Anzac House and Anzac Club (Mr. Ferguson), Faversham (Mr. Sten), Mining (Mr. Watt), Amelioration (Mr. Craig), State War Memorial (Mr. Hunt), R.S.L. Hostel (Mr. Watt), Staff (Mr. Davies) and S. & D.S.L. (Colonel Mansbridge).

It was resolved that the State President (Mr. W. J. Hunt) be appointed delegate from this State branch to the B.E.S.L. conference.

A vote of appreciation to the State President, the State Secretary and the staff responsible for the arrangement of the Federal President's itinerary, and to all sub-branches which provided hospitality, was carried.

The following sub-branch officials were confirmed: Bruce Rock, Goongarrie, Boyup Brook, Koorda, Bridgetown, Guildford, Mandurah, Cardif, Morawa, Williams, Walpole, Tambahellup, Riverton, Northampton, Meckering, Ex-Service Women, Denmark, Corrigin, Balingup.

**RE-ESTABLISHMENT**

The report submitted by Mr. Ferguson covered taxi license (T. H. Williams, Bridgetown); report from delegate to Federal Executive; a number of successful cases and letters of thanks.

A further meeting was held on March 23, on which the following visitors were welcomed by the State President: Messrs. H. G. Wilson (Fremantle), L. Hamilton, M.H.R. (Bencubbin), A. G. Scott (Boyanup), and W. Overheu.

Among the business transacted was:

**LAND**

The report submitted by Mr. Davies covered the proposed conference with the Federal and State authorities responsible for the W.S.L.S.S.; revival of Manjimup local land committee; proposed co-opted members; and a special report on W.S.L.S.S. required by the Federal Executive.

**TAKING A LOOK—ROUND YOUR HOME**

When you take a look around your home, how many of the everyday objects that you see do you take for granted? It is indeed sometimes difficult to realise that at the time of their invention or original development they were considered to be as incredible and as great wonders as are supersonic flight or atomic power today.

The clock on the mantelpiece was invented by the French some time in the thirteenth century, although the first pocket watch was not perfected until nearly two hundred years later at Nuremberg.

The thermometer hanging on the wall was invented by the great Florentine scientist, Galileo, towards the end of the sixteenth century, and its companion, the barometer, about 1643 by his pupil and successor, Torricelli.

But British in origin is the housewife's friend, the refrigerator, invented by Jacob Perkins in 1834. British, too, the process of cold storage for meat, first made practicable by Francis Bacon as long ago as 1626.

Advice to young men in love: Don't tell the girl you are unworthy of her. Let that come later as a surprise.
SUEZ FACTS

At the Port Said entrance to the bright sun-ridden Suez Canal stands a statue to Ferdinand de Lesseps, the man who planned it, but yet had never studied engineering until he was over 50. The statue is to the Frenchman, but it was an unknown British soldier who really clinched de Lesseps’ resolve to go ahead.

His name was Major Rawdon Chesney. De Lesseps had struck one big snag, for French engineers had proved conclusively that the difference in levels between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea was so great that the canal could not be built. But Chesney proved (just as conclusively) that the difference was insignificant: de Lesseps took his advice and the plan was started.

Why does Britain own so much of the Suez? In 1875, a London journalist heard that the Khedive of Egypt — nearly bankrupt — was about to transfer 17,000 out of the 400,000 ordinary shares to a French syndicate. He told Benjamin Disraeli, Britain’s premier; the price was £4,000,000. As Parliament was not sitting, it was not a simple matter to take £4,000,000 out of the Treasury without government sanction. Disraeli acted on his own. He sent a message to his friend Baron Lionel Rothschild: “I want £4,000,000 tomorrow. The British Government will be security.” He got the money.

Now, though the Suez is technically an Egyptian company, it is in practice an ordinary business concern, and the £4,000,000 which Disraeli borrowed in 1875 have so far earned Britain more than £60,000,000 profit. A good rate of interest.

The canal took ten years to make. It is 103 miles long, and shortens the route from London to Bombay by 4,363 miles, from London to Calcutta by 3,667 miles, from London to Melbourne by 645 miles. It has multiplied by ten times the trading of Great Britain with the Far East. It has made fortunes for the ports of Marseilles, Brindisi, and Trieste. It created the export trade of Australia.

It costs more than £1,500 for an average cargo boat to pass through it. A transport carrying 4,000 men would have to pay £9,000. Speeds are limited to five knots (to save the banks), and no two ships are allowed to pass in motion. One must tie up to the bank. Mail boats and tankers have priority — tankers because of the danger from their inflammable cargo.

About 6,000 ships use the canal each year. But war generally caused the traffic to drop. The Abyssinian war made it rise — Italy, for instance, paid more than £1,000,000 in dues to transport her soldiers through the canal, while we were deciding whether or not to close it to troops.

Britain’s influence may end in 1968 when the Egyptian concession to the Suez Canal Company expires — or is supposed to. Negotiations for a new concession must be started soon.
This Was Gallipoli
By "BECHEY BILL"

The Gallipoli campaign of 1915 must always have a special significance for Australia and New Zealand. It was then that their famous army corps literally put its name on the map. It earned for the men of both Dominions an imperishable record in the annals of war. For the first time in the short history of both countries they had a battlefield entirely their own.

The silent motion-picture film was entering its heyday at the time of the Gallipoli campaign when the epic of Anzac was enacted. It amazed me then, and it has been a source of regret ever since, that the Landing was not filmed. A magnificent panorama of battle was presented to the onlooker offshore. Its like had never been seen before and can never be seen again. The atom bomb will see to that.

It is true that an attempt was made to film the majesty of the Allied armada off the coast of Normandy on D-Day in World War II. But those who saw the result projected in our cinemas must have realised the limitations imposed by the dull, murky atmosphere. The distance of the camera from the shore, the low coastline with comparatively flat country inland, and the fact that the bombardment of enemy positions came from aircraft at great height, militated against the possibility of getting a worthwhile reproduction.

By contrast, the brilliant sunshine at Gallipoli on April 25, 1915, was made for photography. So, too, was the procession of troopships close to the coast from near the Asiatic shore to the famous cove north of Gaba Tepe; the rugged nature of the peninsula; the dependence on naval gunfire for the heavy bombardment of enemy strongpoints; and the absence of amphibious landing craft which, on D-Day, cleared the beaches rapidly.

I stood that day on the deck of a troopship nearing the Asiatic coast south of the Dardanelles. Here French troops were landing. It was after mid-day and our vessel swung in close to Cape Helles, the northern extremity of the entrance to the straits. The British, 9th Division had got a foothold at this point. A fierce struggle was in progress and lines of infantry could be seen advancing just as they had advanced in peacetime manoeuvres.

Standing a short distance out to sea off both points and extending northward to Gaba Tepe, British and French battleships and cruisers were belching great sheets of flame. Smoke ascended in huge billowing clouds as the great guns hurled their broadsides at indistinguishable targets inland. The Queen Elizabeth was there with her 14 in. guns blazing away at targets over 20 miles distant. Miniature volcanic eruptions of dirt and smoke along the ridges marked the opposing Turkish lines.

On land the scene was partially obscured by smoke and dust; and there floated out to our ship the detonations of field guns and howitzers, the sharp rattle of machine-guns and an ever-increasing crescendo of rifle fire. Shells screamed through the air, shrapnel pellets showered the beaches, searched the sheer-rising cliffs and the low scrub above, and spattered the decks and the sea on which floated almost every type of sea-going craft the world had seen. The din was terrific.

Meanwhile, destroyers came and went. They darted hither and thither and crept close inshore to discharge successive loadings of troops from the innumerable transports, which were hove-to at a safe distance from the Turkish shore batteries. Motor pinnaces towing barges, and smaller craft of every description crossed the sunlit sea. All were surrounded by bright white flashes which told of accurate shooting by the enemy gunners. Harmless-looking but vicious shrapnel burst overhead in woolly-white puffs of smoke and took its toll of the troops crowded on the destroyers' decks. It was a grand sight—a magnificent spectacle.

"I was an onlooker at the greatest military contest the world has witnessed."

—Granville Fortescue, in "What of the Dardanelles?"

North of Gaba Tepe, now Anzac Cove, there was a similar concentration of shipping. Our vessel joined it and hove-to in the late afternoon. We were close to a battleship. The mighty steel monster reeled backward every time she fired a broadside and we swayed on our feet as the concussion passed.

Little did we know that this glorious episode was but the beginning of the end of a strategic conception which could (if carried out with speed and vigour when first conceived) have changed the whole course of the war. Here every strategic and tactical blunder in the military calendar was made. If Liman von Sanders (the German General commanding the Turks) had chosen the points of attack to suit himself, they would have been the same. His disposition of the Turkish defenders was masterly; but he admitted afterwards that our best chance of success lay in an attack from the Asiatic shore.

The Anatolian coast presented comparatively flat, open country. A ridge paralleled the straits several miles south and a large army could have been deployed and manoeuvred there with ease. The ridge commanded the Chanak forts which were entirely open to the rear. Their guns covered the straits and the minefields, but could not be fired towards the land. Had these forts been taken, the occupying troops could have destroyed the minefields, thus permitting the Allied fleet to pass to the Sea of Marmora in safety.

It is a sad commentary on British military ineptitude that we actually knew the limitations of the Chanak forts. They were reported on by a British naval mission to Turkey before the war. After the element of surprise was irrevocably lost on March 18 by a naval attempt to force the Straits, whatever possibilities remained for success on land were thrown away by the high command.

Of the whole sorry business Winston Churchill, who conceived the whole idea, has written, "I was ruined for the time being in 1915 over the Dardanelles, and a supreme enterprise was cast away through my trying to carry out a major and cardinal operation of war from a subordinate position. Men are ill-advised to try such ventures."

(Continued on page 27)
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MIND OVER MATTER
A SHORT STORY BY WILLIAM BEECHAM

Most people believe in some kind of existence after death. A few, it is true, dismiss all thoughts of it with the dull statement, "When you're dead, you're dead," but even the most primitive of races have a belief in some sort of survival.

My theory is that what does survive is some part of the thought mechanism. For it is the brain which makes man superior to the animals. But my friend James Wilberforce could have told you more about this. He believed, as I believe, that most dreams are but messages coming to us from our mind-friends, and that when they are received correctly they tell their story in accurate detail. But unfortunately so many are garbled in the receiving—mainly because our earthly minds are ill-attuned for their reception, that the few which do achieve results are generally known as premonitions or some such foolishness.

I know that James Wilberforce was right in his assumption that some portion of the mind lives on and is able to communicate with those on earth. But let him tell his own story, exactly as he told it to me:

"It was on the night of November 3, 1945, that I went to the Royalty Theatre. It was the first time I had been to a show for over ten years, and I went with my friend Robert Buchanan. I was not in the habit of going about very much, but whenever I did it was with a male acquaintance, for I purposely avoided women: I had been jilted some years back by the only girl I had ever cared for, and the wound refused to heal.

"The night was hot, and we were late in arriving. Not that it mattered much, for we had our seats booked, but through hurrying I felt a bit blown as we sat down. However, the sensation went almost unnoticed as I saw what was taking place on the stage.

"An illusionist was appearing—Bezante was his name—and he was demonstrating what he described as his Magic Ray.

"This ray," he said, "is capable of achieving effects which are almost miraculous. It can make the old regain their youth. It can make the poor wealthy. It can grant your dearest wish—if you only wish hard enough."

"He switched on the power and a beam of light cut a swathe across the semi-darkened stage. Focused upon an empty bowl it caused it to become suddenly filled with golden coins. Turned upon a pot of earth it caused a plant to spring to life, throwing out masses of foliage and bloom.

"Then upon the stage came a withered old crone. The ray struck her and we saw, to our amazement, that she had suddenly become young and lovely. Her rags had changed to finery, her bare neck had become besplendent with diamonds.

"Of course it was merely a trick, but a devilishly clever one, well merit- ing the applause which came from all parts of the house.

"Then Bezante called for someone in the audience—someone who would volunteer to have the ray turned upon him. 'Someone,' he said, 'who might like to secure the gratification of some wish.'

"Now I am not the type of man who is at all likely to thrust himself into such a position in public, but somehow I found myself led up the few steps to the runway which crossed the orchestra-pit, and there I was, upon the stage.

"For a moment this remained in semi-darkness. Then there was a sudden blinding flash of light—so bright that it seemed to physically sweep me off my feet. I faintly heard a murmur from the audience—then everything went dark for a moment—"

"I don't know what had happened, but the light quickly came on again, the beam was focussed upon me, and there I was, by some jigger-y pokery or other, dressed as an Eastern prince, my fingers ablaze with jewels.

"There was a roar of applause. Then I heard the magician say, 'I would like our friend to make a wish.

"So I wished—I wished that Margaret could be mine again—that I should once more know the joy of holding in my arms the woman I still so deeply loved.

"The magician made some remark. I couldn't catch what it was, but there was a light ripple of laughter from the auditorium. The ray disappeared, the footlights came on, and with a murmur of thanks Bezante led me back to my seat in the stalls.

"But for some reason I didn't sit down again. Instead, I walked straight up the aisle and out of the building. Something inside me urged me on.

"When I reached the street—there she was. My Margaret—beautiful as ever—with the smile that had made me her slave from the moment when first we met.

"'Jimmy,' she said, 'how wonderful to see you,' and within a few moments we were walking down the street, arm linked in arm, deciding that come what may, our lives must be lived together.

"Somehow the world seemed in a haze. Nothing mattered at all—nothing except the fact that we were together again—for always.

"Now she is my wife. We love each other deeply. We have each other for always. The past is over—done with. The future—our future—lies before us.

"I am the happiest man in the world."

Editor's note: Pinned to this MS was the following newspaper cutting:

Perth. November 5, 1945—Something of a sensation was caused at the Royalty Theatre last night when James Joseph Wilberforce (36), single, who was on the stage assisting the celebrated illusionist Bezante in his Magic Ray trick, suddenly collapsed as the light was flashed upon him. Carried from the stage he was taken to the Perth Hospital by a St. John's ambulance, but was pronounced dead upon arrival.
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Federal President Visits Us

When attending Federal Congress in Brisbane last year, the State President (Mr. W. J. Hunt) suggested to the Federal President (Mr. Eric Millhouse, K.C.) that he might visit the Western Australian Branch and see the sub-branches, particularly those in the country areas. Mr. Millhouse promised to give this request favourable consideration and early this year the visit was arranged.

It can be claimed that League history has been made in Western Australia, for many sub-branches which, by reason of their distance from the centres, are only occasionally able to receive a visit from the State President, actually had the honour of a visit from the Federal President himself.

The itinerary which was arranged was a strenuous one, and the Federal President is to be commended for his ready acquiescence to take part in such a comprehensive tour. It afforded him an opportunity of seeing the League in action in this State, and no doubt convinced him that the traditions of the League were being worthily upheld in Western Australia.

The warmth of the welcome which awaited him at each centre was apparent immediately upon his arrival, not only by the large number of local members of sub-branches who assembled to honour his visit, but by the fact that a large number of sub-branch members from outlying areas had travelled in some cases hundreds of miles in order to be present.

The Federal President was very impressed with the enthusiasm which his visit aroused, and the success of the functions held at the various centres which were the stopping-places on the itinerary was very largely attributable to the arrangements made for entertainment by the Women’s Auxiliary.

In fact, the work of the Women’s Auxiliaries was an outstanding feature of the whole trip, and the official party and sub-branch members alike were loud in their praises of the preparations which the Women’s Auxiliaries had made.

Another outstanding feature of the tour, peculiar apparently in Western Australia only, was the recognition given by local governing authorities. This is no new experience in the League here, as local governing authorities have always paid due honour to League officials when visiting their areas.

Mr. Millhouse was indeed impressed by the fact that the standing of the League was so high as to have official recognition from the local authorities in every centre that was visited.

The tour served the very useful purpose of instilling into members the Commonwealth-wide aspect of the League and the great influence which it is able to exert in the life of the nation.

The Federal President’s visit will also have served the useful purpose of proving to the members of the League in Western Australia that they are part of a great nation-wide brotherhood, and that the old idea of isolation from the rest of the Commonwealth no longer exists. With the quick means of transport now available, the Western Australian sub-branches may be brought into close contact with the League throughout the Commonwealth, and this has been amply illustrated by the fact that the Federal President, who resides in Adelaide, and who exerts his influence as chief of the League from Melbourne, is able in a matter of days to visit so many of the sub-branches of Western Australia.

The itinerary was bounded by centres at Geraldton in the north, Kalgoorlie in the east, Katanning in the south, and Bunbury in the west. Some idea of the distance involved may be gained from the fact that the northernmost centre (Geraldton) is over 530 miles from the farthest point south (Katanning), and Kalgoorlie on the east is 375 miles from Perth. An indication of the widespread sub-branches contacted during the itinerary may be gained from the fact that to the centres actually visited by the official party, sub-branch representatives travelled varying distances up to as much as 200 miles. Within that maximum mileage were mileages of 110 and 80 miles, ranging down to 20 miles. The average mileage travelled by each sub-branch member visiting the centres was 53. The number of outlying sub-branches that met at the various centres ranged from two to sixteen and the average representation from each sub-branch thus visiting the centres was five.

The centres selected were Kalgoorlie, Perth, Harvey, Bunbury, Narrogin, Katanning, York, Northam, Wyalkatchem, Dalwallinu, Carnamah and Geraldton. The total distance travelled by car was 1,400 miles and by plane, 335 miles. Then there was, of course, the journey made by the Federal President by plane to Perth, and back again from Perth to Adelaide. The aggregate distance of the Federal President’s trip was over 4,000 miles.

One of the pleasing features of the visit was the excellent publicity afforded by all sections of the country press, which provided full reports of the meetings and activities of the Federal President and sub-branches at the various centres.

The visit was given front page prominence in each of the country newspapers, without exception. The speeches given by the Federal President and the State President were also reported in full.

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Straight from the Shoulder

The Supreme Sacrifice

BY ALBION

That was indeed to live—

At one bold swoop to wrest

From darkling death the best

That Death to Life can give.

Brave words, indeed, like many
other words spoken on Anzac days,
but to the general run of our citizens,
what do they really mean?

The great majority of us hope to
live our allotted span—or perhaps
even a little more; and when we are
faced, as we are upon occasions, with
the spectacle of friends and-loved ones
taken from us long before their
time, by sickness or by accident, we
grieve and say, with Milton—

But O the heavy change, now thou
art gone;
Now thou art gone, and never
must return.

For the great tragedy of death is
its finality. Expected as it is by those
whose limbs have grown old, whose
eyes have grown dim, and whose spirit
has grown weak; when it comes to
those who yet are young it can be
nothing other than a catastrophe.

And when it comes to the young
man in the prime of life—when it
comes to him, because he did the
things which were right—when it
comes to him because of his spirit
and his valour—then the tragedy
becomes even more poignant.

Yet how quickly are our heroes forgotten.
Not by their loved ones, to whom their memory is ever green, but
by the world in general.

During the war the public reads of
such episodes as the Kakoda Trail, the
Landing at Gallipoli, the Battle of
Britain, the Battle of the Coral Sea,
and it thrills. But all too soon after
a war it becomes bored by even the
mere mention of a war. "Give to a
war memorial?" it says; "Help the
aged sailors and soldiers?"; "Remember
the Diggers in hospital?" Largely
it hardly bothers to ask "Why?"

"Greater love hath no man than
this, that a man lay down his life
for his friends," said Christ, and the
world should remember.

For those lads, and lasses, too, who
laid down their lives for their coun-
try, who laid down their lives that
the rest of us might live, should be
remembered—must be remembered—
for all time. For they made life as
we live it possible.

It should not be necessary to write
these words. It should not be neces-
sary to remind the civil population
that Anzac Day stands for something
more than a mere parade. It should
not be necessary to add that the 25th
day of April is not merely a day's
holiday which may profitably be spent
in the garden.

But, unfortunately, it is necessary.
Unfortunately it is a fact, particularly
in the larger towns and cities, that
with many people the holiday spirit
has engulfed the real reason for the
day's commemoration.

The matter of whether Anzac Day
should or should not be celebrated this
way or that way does not enter into
the question. The basic fact is this:
EVEYONE, from the youngest to
the oldest, should remember the men
who fought and died for their country.
They should be proud to pay
tribute to those who did not return
to their homes and to their loved ones.
They should be thankful that these
heroes fought their battle and, al-
though they perished in the attempt,
won it.

Yes, our war dead should for ever
be honoured. To those brave souls
our thanks are ever due, as are the
thanks of millions yet to be.

M.N. MEMORIAL?

Writing in the current issue of the
Merchant Navy Journal, the official
publication of the Officers' (Merchant
Navy) Federation, Capt. W. H.
Combs (President) suggests that a
fitting memorial to officers and men of
the Merchant Navy—"who died in the
cause of freedom"—would be a signal
mast in Trafalgar Square, at the mast-
head of which the Red Ensign should
fly night and day—as did the Union
Jack on the Residency at Lucknow—
to serve as an active and efficient re-
member to all the sacrifices made in,
and our dependence upon, our Mer-
chant ships. If from a yard-arm were
flown each day the house-flags of
ships sunk on the corresponding day
of a war year, he adds, that would
surely be an impressive reminder of
all the sacrifices made in preserving
the nation's life-line.

COMMUNISM AND THE LEGION

Following the expulsion recently of
the Queensland Branch from the Aus-
tralian Legion of Ex-Service Men and
Women, the Federal President (Mr.
B. J. McDonald) has announced:
"The legion will not permit any ele-
ment to remain within its ranks which
is communist-dominated. We will
not tolerate any part of the legion,
whether a State branch or a sub-
branch, which does not abhor com-
munism."

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"I've been trying to see you all week," said the patient over the phone. "When may I have an appointment?"

"You must make a date with my secretary," replied the dentist.

"I did; we had a swell evening; but I've still got to see you."

Two friends, apart for twenty years, met in a bookshop.

"Great to see you, Joe," said one.

"I guess you're married by now."

"No, I never took the plunge."

"You must be crazy, Joe. You don't realise what it means to be married! Take me, for instance. I come home every night from a hard day at the office to a warm, comfortable house. My wife is waiting to hand me my slippers and the evening paper. Then she cooks me a luscious dinner, topped with my favourite liqueur, and plants me in my easy chair by the fire. She hands me my pipe and she washes the dishes. Finally, she comes and snuggles down by my side and starts to talk. She talks, and talks, and talks. I wish she'd drop dead."

Have you heard about the publicity man who gave away a million toothpicks, each engraved with his name, so that it could be in everybody's mouth?

"The thing most equitably distributed in all the world is common sense. No man will admit needing more than he already has."

Grandfather was never known to admit that the weather in his native Tasmania was anything but near-perfect. His infrequent trips out of the State strengthened his belief that he lived in the most agreeable spot on the globe.

One morning a few years ago he arose to find a full-fledged blizzard blowing. Grandfather went about his chores as usual, apparently unmindful of the driving wind and waist-deep drifts. When he returned to the house, Grandmother asked, "Pretty cold out, ain't it?"

"Cooled off pretty fast," Grandfather admitted, then added, in all seriousness, 'From the looks of this they must be gettin' a bad storm over in Melbourne."

First Club Member: "All water for cooking should be boiled at least an hour before use."

Second C. M.: "You are a doctor, I suppose?"

First C. M.: "No, sir, I am a wood merchant."

Film Actress: "Any mail for me today?"

Secretary: "Only an advertising circular from an electric fan company."

Film Actress: "How wonderful! I've received some fan mail at last!"

Little Moran cut off his finger so that he could play the piano by ear.

The lady who had been trying to get an engagement as violoniste was at last granted an audition by the agent.

She continued making the most awful squeaks and moans on the instrument for ten minutes, then turned to the tormented agent and said: "Did you notice that beautiful 'slur' from 'G' to 'E'?

"Madam," groaned the agent, "it was more than a slur—it was a de­cided insult!"
PERSONALITIES

Eric Nichols has been appointed publicity officer of the Goomalling sub-branch.

Mr. I. T. Birtwistle, a stalwart of the Press sub-branch, recently returned from a well-earned vacation. Much of the success of the Press debating team last season was due to Mr. Birtwistle's sterling and pains-taking leadership.

“Tug” Wilson, secretary of the Fremantle sub-branch, has returned from a holiday trip to the Eastern States and we are told that he “looks a new man.”

Producing a periodical newsletter and the secretary, Ross Gliddon, of the Repatriation Department, asks all old-timers to get in touch with him.

Mr. D. H. House, chairman of the Gnowangerup Road Board, recently forwarded the State President a neat greeting in the form of a booklet of photographs and statistics of the district. Excellent publicity, this, and a move which might well be emulated by other country centres.

Mr. S. E. Dutton, of Nolba, via Geraldton, says: “If my reckoning is correct, I have paid my subscription regularly to the League for 30 years, and I would be interested to learn how many members of such long standing there are in this State.” The Listening Post would like to be able to reassure Mr. Dutton that he has a number of such cobs and would appreciate hearing from them.

“SOMETIMES I WONDER”

A correspondent to these pages, who shall be nameless, in sending us some news of sub-branch activities, states that he has “a confidential list of widows.” We are not quite sure what he means—but one of these days ...

The 2/3rd Field Regiment Association, now conducting a membership drive, is anxious to obtain the address of all former W.A. members of the regiment. The association is now proceeding in the form of a booklet of photographs and statistics of the district. Excellent publicity, this, and a move which might well be emulated by other country centres.

Mr. A. R. Field has been appointed secretary of the Glen Forrest-Darlington sub-branch, and is certainly going all-out to make a success of the job. His address? McGlen Road, Glen Forrest.

Mr. A. E. Sayers of the Nedlands sub-branch, recently returned from a seven-weeks' holiday in the Eastern States, where he was accompanied by his wife, daughter Jean and son Ian.

Jim Ward, of the Mt. Hawthorn sub-branch, recently presented a handsome smokers’ stand to the Totally Permanently Disabled Soldiers’ Association’s rest room.

Mr. K. Bolton, president of the New South Wales branch of the League, has resigned owing to heavy pressure of business. He has held office since 1945.
THE LISTENING POST

April, 1949

THEY SAY...

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I wish to draw your attention to page 28 of this month's (February) publication, under the title "Settling In," by Larry Boys.

I am amazed and indignant that you permit the publication of such utter tripe and bilge. On reading the article, particularly paragraphs 4, 5 and 6, to use the exact words, "Like most of the inhabitants of the British Isles..." had never seen a foreigner... and had only the wildest 'boheyman' conception of what a Frenchman looked like," the impression is given that up till 150 years ago most Englishmen were a lot of nincompoops who had neither set foot abroad nor had met other nationalities than their own, particularly, Frenchmen.

What of the Spanish Armada in 1588, two hundred years before? Did Drake, Hawkins, Howard and Baber think they defeated chimpanzees? Or Cape St. Vincent, in 1797, when Jervis and Nelson defeated the combined Franco-Spanish fleets, or again at Trafalgar in 1805, or at Waterloo in 1815 when, in conjunction with Blucher (a German Field Marshal, if he doesn't know it), Wellington sealed the fate of Napoleon.

Does Mr. Larry Boys really think that the inhabitants of the British Isles had no conception of what Napoleon was like, or does he think they imagined he was a hairy, malformed, subhuman creature?

What also of the French revolution period? Were the French refugees mistaken for hairy apes?

I'm afraid Mr. Larry Boys needs himself to study history before writing such balderdash, and I should like to remind him that the average Englishman had a very good conception of what the Frenchman was like as far back as 1066 at the time of the Norman Conquest.

I think the article ridicules and insults the English intellect. I also think it reflects on the intelligence of all Australians expected to read and believe it, as some surely will.

I am a Pommy and proud of it. I am proud of my English heritage and English tradition, but I most emphatically object to it being ridiculed, whether by accident or intent, ignorance or otherwise, and in your next month's publication I should like you to correct such erroneous impressions as may have been caused.

It would also be interesting to ascertain from the writer what his object was in concocting such an article, so utterly misleading to the Australian readers, and offensive to the English.

Yours faithfully,

F. A. SHARPLESS.

[The item in question was written especially for the Department of Migration, and we suggest that our correspondent approaches it upon the matter.]

The Council was discussing the type of milk which should be provided for school children. To conclude the debate, the chairman rose to his feet. "Gentlemen," he declared, "what this town needs is a supply of clean, fresh milk, and the Council should take the bull by the horns and demand it."
Use of Flags in Decoration

WITH the approach of Anzac Day it may be well if we give, in these columns, some data regarding the correct handling and use of flags.

The Union Jack is the Empire's national flag and may properly be flown on land by any subject of the Empire, but when flown it should be on a mast by itself.

The Royal Standard should never be flown by the general public or used in street or building decoration.

The White Ensign is essentially the flag of the Royal Navy and should not be flown anywhere or on any occasion except by a ship (or shore establishment) of the Navy.

The Commonwealth Ensign (blue) can be flown by private individuals; as can the Commonwealth Merchant Flag (red ensign).

The Red Cross flag should not be used in street or building decoration.

When displaying a flag over the middle of a street, as between buildings, those with an emblematic canton near the hoist (as the Australian Ensign and the Stars and Stripes) should be suspended vertically, with the canton towards the north in an east-west street, and to the east in a north-south street. When there are a number of flags they should be balanced to the centre. Such flags displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from a window, balcony, etc., should have the canton clear to the head of the staff. If displayed horizontally or vertically against a wall, the canton should be uppermost to the observer's left.

When the Union Jack is displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, the "Jack" should be on the right, i.e., the flag's own right, and its staff should be in front of that of its accompanying flag staff.

Respect must be shown to the Union Jack

In a decoration scheme the "Jack" should always receive the place of honour, and should never be placed where it can be contaminated or soiled, or draped over chairs or benches for seating purposes. A common but regrettable practice at public functions is to drape the "Jack" like a table cover, and then place all kinds of articles upon it. When the "Jack" is used in unveiling a statue or monument, it should never be allowed to fall to the ground. If possible, a staff should be erected and a lanyard passed through the pulley and connected with the draped flag on the statue, so that when released it can be hoisted to the top of the staff, thus forming a distinctive feature during the remainder of the ceremony.

When flags of two or more nations are displayed they should be displayed from separate staffs of the same height, and the flags should be approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of a nation above that of another. During hostilities this indicates surrender. The hoisting of a flag of a friendly nation above that of another in time of peace should be carefully guarded against, or it may easily be taken as an insult.

Half-Masting the Flag

The custom of half-masting the flag, that of lowering it to a position halfway or more down the staff, is a recognised sign of mourning, and can be traced as far back as 1612. In half-masting a flag, always hoist it to the top of the staff and then lower it to the position (the top of the flag one-third down from the top of the staff). In lowering the flag from half-mast, which is usually done after the funeral, the flag should first be raised to the top of the staff.

On Anzac Day, flags fly half-mast until noon, when they are raised to the masthead until sunset.

The Flag as a Pall

The Union Jack figures as the pall of every sailor, soldier and airman of the Empire who receives the honours of the service at his funeral. Although of no authority, it is used as a pall at funerals of prominent citizens accorded a State funeral, and for organised bodies such as the police and fire brigades. When the Australian Ensign or flag is used as a pall at a funeral, it should be placed lengthwise on the casket with the Union at the head and over the left shoulder of the deceased.

Lastly, when the Union Jack is old, faded and worn out, it should be destroyed, preferably by being decently burned or some other method lacking the suggestion of irreverence or disrespect. On no account should a Union Jack be used for secondary purposes.

ANTHONY EDEN AT ANZAC HOUSE

The reception to Mr. Eden on 3rd March was one of the most interesting and enjoyable held at Anzac House. He was accompanied by Commander A. H. P. Noble, M.P., who has a grand record of service, having commanded destroyers in the last war and being awarded the D.S.C. and the D.S.O.

Mr. Eden's remarkable record in war and politics is well known, but his charm of manner, his gift of speech, his outstanding personality, has to be seen and heard to gain a full appreciation of his greatness.

The R.S.L. was greatly honoured by Mr. Eden's presence, and the large gathering gave him a welcome fit for a King.
To Get Farms Earlier.—Lands Minister Thorn states that, as the Commonwealth Government has agreed to the proposal to place ex-servicemen on properties on which development is necessary, subject to temporary accommodation being available, "this realistic approach to overcoming labour and managerial difficulties, particularly in occupation of larger sub-divided estates... will allow a number of applicants to get their farms earlier than otherwise."

C.P.S. Seniority.—Resolution 202 of the 33rd Annual Federal Congress: "That the Commonwealth Public Service Board be approached to amend a concession granted to ex-servicemen on papers A.47/3597, reading as follows: "For seniority purposes only, former members of the Forces whose transfer to the third division as clerk, in pursuance of C.P.S. regulation 112, is effected subsequent to their discharge from the Forces, will have their transfers ante-dated to the date of the first transfer made following the first examination for transfer as clerk held subsequent to the date of enlistment subject to eligibility for transfer being acquired not later than 18 months after the date of discharge from the Forces" as follows (amendment): "That the eligibility period be extended from 18 months to three years after date of discharge from the Forces; and that the concession should be extended for salary range upon transfer in addition to seniority purposes," has brought the following reply from the Prime Minister: "The decision of the Public Service Board... was given with a view to offsetting the disadvantage which may otherwise have been suffered by officers who may have qualified for transfer as clerk at an earlier date but for war service. The period of 18 months was arrived at with the express purpose of helping those officers who had been endeavouring to pass the C.P.S. clerical examination prior to their enlistment, and who, if they had not enlisted, might normally have passed that examination at some time prior to the date of discharge from the Forces. Any extension of the specified time limits cannot be authorised except where evidence is produced to the satisfaction of the P.S. Board that the failure of an officer to qualify within 18 months was due to a war-caused disability. It is considered that the C.P.S. Arbitrator's determination which varies the minimum rates of pay for ex-service members, reasonably offsets any disadvantage an officer may have suffered in the way of salary by virtue of his war service, and approval cannot be given for the decision of the board regarding the ante-dating of seniority to be extended for purposes of salary also."

Increased Allowances, C.R.T.S. Trainees.—At the 33rd Annual Federal Congress of the League, the West Australian branch moved the following resolution: "That previous representations requesting increased allowances for C.R.T.S. trainees be reaffirmed." As a result of the passing of this resolution, the Prime Minister was again approached, but he says: "In my letter to you of November 17, 1948... I pointed out that as from October 28, 1948, living allowances had been increased by 5/- per week, and that, in view of this and other factors outlined, I was not prepared to support a case for any greater increase in allowance than that granted by the Government after full consideration. I do not feel that anything further need be added to my previous letter."

Allowances to Children.—The Minister for Repatriation (Mr. Barnd) says that educational and apprenticeship allowances to children of deceased and disabled ex-servicemen are to be made more liberal. Previously allowances were reduced on a sliding scale if the child secured a scholarship, but as this policy destroyed initiative, a grant of £30,000, which later may be increased to £35,000, has been approved to permit the removal of such anomalies. However, limits will not be removed entirely.

Employment Temporary Officers, C.P.S.—At the recent Federal congress a resolution was moved, "That the Commonwealth Government be requested to guarantee employment under the Commonwealth Public Service Act to returned ex-servicemen with satisfactory service who are temporary officers (and who are above the age for admission to permanent ranks, superannuation, etc.) until the date of the usual retiring age under the Act." This has brought forth the reply from the Prime Minister that "This resolution is tantamount to making the employees concerned permanent. Its adoption would, in effect, reintroduce the anomaly, which Parliament removed when it repealed section 84 (9) (c) of the Public Service Act which gave eligibility for permanent appointment without examination after two years' satisfactory temporary service. As there is no legislative authority, the P.S.B. has previously refused permanency by virtue only of service in a temporary capacity. In the circumstances the Government regrets that it is unable to see its way clear to support the resolution."

Wheat-truck Drivers.—The manager of Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. has indicated to the League that of the 197 permits issued 137 were granted to individual ex-servicemen. In addition, there are a number of owners, such as transport companies, who have assured Bulk Handling that their drivers are ex-servicemen.

Tobacco Distribution.—The secretary of the Tobacco Distribution Commission states that to date 992 rehabilitation quotas have been granted (66 in 1948). The Distribution Commission has agreed that, in addition to its policy of assisting
to rehabilitate ex-servicemen within 12 months of their discharge, special consideration will continue to be granted to disabled ex-servicemen and to special cases where rehabilitation is urgently needed.

Reafforestation. — Resolution No. 168, at the 33rd Annual Federal Congress, "That this Congress requests the Commonwealth to pursue a more vigorous policy in regard to reafforestation," brings the following reply from the Minister for the Interior: "The management and development of forests within the States, including their reforestation and afforestation programmes, is the responsibility of the State Government. The Commonwealth recognises the importance of forestry and tree planting generally, but the matter is one for the State authorities concerned."

Rehabilitation on Land of British Ex-Service Migrants. — The Minister for Post-war Reconstruction states: "United Kingdom ex-service men who settle in Australia are not eligible for land settlement benefits which are available to Australian ex-servicemen unless they were born in Australia or domiciled in Australia immediately before joining the British Forces. I feel that many of the persons who claim that they have been misled would have been saved disappointment if they had taken the trouble to obtain and read the official publications which are available for the express purpose of informing them of Australian conditions and the circumstances under which they would be required to settle in this country."

R.A.A.F. Ground Staff and 1939-45 Star.—The Western Australian branch has raised the question of the entitlement of R.A.A.F. ground staff to the 1939-45 Star, and the Prime Minister's Department states that the matter is now receiving consideration. And it is officially stated that, "Time spent as a prisoner of war can be counted towards the qualifying period whilst service as a member of the Forces between June 6, 1944, and May 8, 1945 (the dates of the Allied invasion of Europe and of the cessation of hostilities in

Sick Pay and Leave Benefits, C.P.S.—A resolution carried at the 33rd Annual Federal Congress was, "That the limiting period of five years be deleted from the special sick pay and leave benefits under the various Commonwealth Public Service Acts, for officers and employees discharged from the Forces, and be amended to read 'for an indefinite period'." This has brought the following reply from the Prime Minister: "The Commonwealth Government has no evidence before it that justification or necessity exists to alter the present period of five years. If, however, you wish to submit data which would, in the view of the League, warrant an alteration, the Government would give the matter further consideration."

St. Quentin Memorial. — Through the courtesy of Brigadier-General Martin, of the Press subbranch, the following details regarding the St. Quentin A.I.F. Memorial, which was erected after World War I from funds subscribed by all ranks, are now available: "During the last war, the German military authorities removed from this memorial the bronze figure which surrounded the marble pedestal, together with the four bronze panels which indicated the circumstances in which the memorial was erected, a list of the battle honours of the Second Division, A.I.F., and reproductions of infantry bombers and field guns being brought into action. The War Memorials' Commission officials have made a thorough search to locate the founder, but no trace has been found, so that there is no possibility of casting a new figure. It has also been ascertained that the cost of making new plaster casts and a new casting of the figure would run into many thousands of pounds. Under these circumstances, the War Memorials' Commission decided not to attempt to replace the figure, but to have a fresh casting made to replace the panels. In place of the figure it was decided to place an inscribed band around the top member of the pedestal, detailing the circumstances of damage done to the memorial by the German Army. Some Australian shrubs planted around the memorial have not proved satisfactory, and it is now proposed to plant New South Wales kurrajongs." Major-General Sir Charles Rosenthal, who commanded the 2nd Australian Division, has been following this matter up with keen attention, and it is from him that Brigadier-General Martin secured this information.

Permanent Positions C.P.S., Ex-Servicemen 51 Years. — The Victorian branch of the League recently claimed, "That the right of appointment to permanent positions in the Commonwealth Public Service be extended to returned servicemen temporary employees, with the necessary qualifications and long and satisfactory service, who, because of no earlier opportunity of such appointment, and having reached the age of 51 years, are now debarred from any professional positions being created in the service." To which the Prime Minister replies: "The general intention of the Commonwealth Public Service Act is that persons over 50 years of age should not be appointed to the Service. The Government is unable to concur in the suggestion that the Act be amended to provide for the admittance of returned soldiers who have passed the age of 50 years."
THE NEWS WAY
If you are fed to the teeth with the syndicated rubbish which is being offered as reading matter to your children — reading matter which is likely to do them more harm than good — I suggest that you secure a copy of the Australian children’s publication, “The News Way,” which offers the story of Australia in interesting form. This little paper is full of worthwhile matter, and it brings the “dry” events of history right up to date. Your kiddies will enjoy the thrills of the Bounty Mutiny, the exploration of Van Dieman”s Land and such stories, and the feature strip of “For the Term of His Natural Life” will undoubtedly be followed with keen interest. Copies are obtainable at newsagents at 3d., or direct from the publishers, Box 12, P.O., Chats- worth, N.S.W.

HOUSES FOR MODERATE MEANS, by R. Randal Phillips, Hon. A.R.I.B.A. [Country Life Ltd.] Here is a book of plans and furnishing details which is extremely interesting, although, as it is an English work, many of the two-storey buildings depicted will be somewhat out of the Australian class. But that the book contains ideas aplenty cannot be denied, for it covers a range of homes from the country cottage (costing, in pre-war days, around £500) to the modernistic home (worth around £2,000). Some of the interior decorative schemes are particularly interesting — indeed, this is a volume which is well worthy of very detailed study by anyone who has house planning in mind. [Our copy from the Adult Education Library.]

WOODWORK IN THEORY AND PRACTICE by John A. Walton. [The Australasian Publishing Co. Pty. Ltd.] This is a most unusual volume. Actually, it is a series of lessons, ranging from tools and their use, through materials, technical terms, joints, timbers, veneers, plywood, fibre boards and furniture styles to examples of practical woodwork.

For the amateur carpenter, there surely could be no better book of reference, and for those who know nothing whatever about woodwork but are anxious to learn, here, I would say, is the volume for which you have been looking.

The book is profusely illustrated and working plans cover such items as stools, book shelves, household steps, tables, a traymobile, a table lamp and a breadboard. Something, indeed, for the veriest novice and something for the man who knows something about the game.

There are nearly 300 pages simply crammed with detail, and at 12/6 this is a buy which seems to be well out of the ordinary. [Our copy from Alberts Bookshop.]

RATTIGAN RAT, by Paul Buddee. [Imperial Printing Co. Pty. Ltd.] If you wish to buy your youngsters a book, why not this one? which is written by a Westralian (an ex-Digger), illustrated by a Westralian, and printed and published in Western Australia. There are a series of yarns dealing with a remarkable young rodent which, I feel sure, will appeal to youngsters of up to nine or ten years of age. [Our copy from the publishers.]
TRIALS OF AN AIR HOSTESS

When a Continental Airlines (U.S.) plane was about to leave Denver for Kansas City, says the journal, "American Aviation," the air hostess, Clara Kern, told the passengers to fasten their seat belts, but one rather large gentleman didn't heed the advice. So Miss Kern asked him again if he would fasten his belt.

"Don't have to," he replied triumphantly, "Wear braces."

A PERMANENT JOB
A PERMANENT JOB

Alfred Winny, of Windsor, England, died in 1939 at the age of 99. He had served as butler in one family for 72 years.

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And it seemed a Nation's day was done,
Till the ravenous horde was brought to rest
By a handful of men on Kokoda's crest.
Bravely stemmed by scattered groups
Of green, untried Australian troops,
Who bravely fought and fought so well
In the fastest stench of a jungle hell.
Weak with fever, drenched with rain,
Tortured bodies wracked with pain,
Death in the jungle, death from the skies,
But grim resolve in their burning eyes;
Of horrors they knew, they dare not tell
In the slimy depths of a jungle hell.
The yellow horde forced slowly back,
Yard by yard 'long that ghastly track.
Each yard bought with a hero's blood,
Stark and cold in the jungle mud.
No stir of life within his chest,
All earthly weariness at rest.
A hollowed spot where each one fell
In the darkest green of a jungle hell.

HONOUR THE DEAD IN EACH JUNGLE GRAVE;
HONOUR THE LIVING, SALUTE THE BRAVE.

Honour the dead in each jungle grave;
Honour the living, salute the brave.
On history's page let us engrave,
How selflessly their lives they gave;
Who bravely died and dying fell,
For their country's sake in a jungle hell.

—W. E. BROWN (Nedlands).

Mt. Barker Annual Report
By the President

Membership.—The financial members of this sub-branch total 150, and with the co-operation of members it would be possible to increase this membership to 180, making it a 100 per cent membership.

Attendance.—The attendance at the meetings throughout the year has been excellent. Of a total of 12 meetings the average attendance has been 40.

Anzacs.—I wish to thank all members who attended the march and service on this day; also I would like to thank Mr. F. Goble on behalf of all members for the excellent address given.

Poppy Day Appeal.—The sale of poppies on this day was 560, and with volunteer help for next Poppy Day sales could be increased to at least seven or eight hundred.

Billiard Tables.—The billiard tables have not been so well patronised for the past year, as will be seen from the balance sheet presented by the treasurer (Mr. Ryan) and report from the hon. auditor (Mr. E. Dowey). I wish to thank all members who volunteered throughout the year to relieve the caretaker of the club on one night each week.

Local War Memorial.—Apart from the clearing of the site, progress has been very slow, and a concerted effort will be necessary to carry this plan out to its final stages.

State War Memorial.—The quota of £130 allotted this sub-branch to raise for the State War Memorial has been completed.

Colonel Collett Trophy.—This sub-branch was placed third for the Colonel Collett Trophy, and with a concerted effort this year there is no reason why we should not win.

Finance.—The sub-branch has had a good year financially, with the amount of £684 having passed through the books. Although we have a credit balance as shown in the balance sheet, I consider that the amount should be much greater so that assistance to a member in need may be given should the occasion arise.

Social Activities.—During the year the cricket match against the Cranbrook sub-branch for the Dr. Walker Cup was held, and the return match to be held at Mount Barker will have to be held in the very near future.

The picnic held at Frenchman’s Bay although a success was not well attended. I would like to see more members attend this year should the sub-branch decide to hold a similar function.

The sub-branch, in conjunction with the Mount Barker branch of the Red Cross, held an appeal for Food for Britain, and this was a financial success, the amount of £88/3/2 being raised.

League.—During the year the sub-branch was privileged to receive a visit from the State President and the State Secretary and members of the State Executive, and with such short notice and the meeting being held on a Sunday morning, the attendance was excellent. I wish to thank the State Executive for the co-operation received in all matters placed before them from this sub-branch.

Appreciation.—I wish to thank the vice-presidents of this sub-branch for their support throughout the year, together with the secretary, treasurer, committee, auditor and members.

I would also like to make a special mention of the ladies’ auxiliary, without whose efforts we would have been hard pressed to carry out functions organised by this sub-branch.
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Manjimup Annual Report

President Andrew McDonald registered disappointment in his annual report at the manner in which some of the stalwarts of the past have so completely dropped out of active participation in sub-branch affairs. He stated that their counsels had been needed, and without such the executive had at times found themselves floundering more than may have been necessary.

Mr. McDonald said: “The past year might well be regarded as a transitional period in the history of the sub-branch. Last year the members decided to appoint an executive, which consisted largely of men who served in World War II. It was inevitable that a changeover from one generation to another must come, for the older men could not be expected to carry on for ever. Whether or no the changeover in this case was too abrupt or not may be a matter of opinion.

“It is my duty to review the year that has just passed, and the first question one might well ask is: ‘Has it been a successful one?’ I would not be the first president, or the last, to answer, ‘yes and no.’

“One of the more experienced members of the sub-branch expressed the opinion that, although the present executive may not be doing a great deal of good, it was doing no harm. I accepted that remark in the kindly spirit in which it was offered.

“Membership showed an increase, albeit a small one, over that of the previous year, which is encouraging. Less encouraging was the average attendance at our monthly meetings. Without having any figures before me, I think I would be right in saying that this has shown a drop.

“Various reasons have been given for this, but I consider the main one is the fact that in these comparatively prosperous times there are few who need the assistance of the League and, human nature being what it is, people generally are more apt to embrace a cause when they can see a personal or communal benefit from that cause. It is a striking fact that the largest attendances of the year were recorded at times when controversial matters were to be discussed.

“After a review of the year’s activities, I would like to thank the many people who have given such good support to the sub-branch and myself during the past 12 months. Associate bodies in the women’s auxiliary and the band have responded to every call for assistance, and the public has given good support to our efforts.

“I am rather diffident about mentioning individuals, lest omissions be made of those meriting special thanks, but I cannot let pass without reference the fine work of our hall caretaker, Mr. G. Greaves, who, in addition to carrying out his duties in an excellent manner, has voluntarily given much time and labour to the improvement of the hall and its surroundings.

“I thank the members of the Management Committee and of the various sub-committees for their loyalty and enthusiasm, and the secretary-treasurer for the manner in which he has borne with me in my, at times, very considerable demands upon his time.”

Mr. J. F. Berry (hon. secretary) reported that the membership of the sub-branch at present stands at 223, compared with last year’s figure of 219. In comparing these figures, it should be borne in mind that a lot of previous members did not renew their subscriptions during the year, but this factor was completely offset by new members joining either from the ranks of new arrivals to the district or from those who had previously taken no part in the activities of the R.S.L.

Mr. Andrew McDonald was re-appointed president for his second term.
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HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?
The speaker was addressing a crowd of Diggers in a P.O.W. camp. He had taken as his subject, Africa. It was evident that he was experiencing some difficulty in holding his audience and as he continued it became only too apparent that he could have been more full of his subject.

The Padre had arranged the lecture and he was noticeably perturbed. At last he could stand it no longer, and in a somewhat annoyed voice asked: "Have you ever been in Africa, my man?"

"No," answered the imperturbable speaker.

"Then why do you try and speak about a place where you have never been?"

Like a flash came the reply: "Padre, have you ever been in heaven?"

IAN STEWART

★ This story earns 10/6 for Ian Hanger (Perth).

WATER SHORTAGE?
I was indulging in the pleasure of a hot bath in the ablutions block on an airforce station somewhere in England when I overheard the following conversation between two airmen who had been detailed to clean out the showers:

"Said the first: "These Aussies always seem to be taking showers."

"Answered the second: "I guess it must be because there aren’t many showers in Australia, and the novelty hasn’t worn off yet."

W. E. BROWN

★

A BOTTLE OF THE BEST
The troopship was pulling out from the wharf at Fremantle. Diggers bound for overseas thronged the ship’s side as they took their last look at Aussie for a long time to come. The aft hawser was cast off and the ship moved away, stern first.

Showing signs of a complete night’s jollification, three Diggers staggered on to the wharf making frantic efforts to persuade all on board—from the captain down—that three indispensables were being left behind. Much to their dismay, no one bothered about them, and slowly the ship pulled out.

Two of the trio gave up, sank down on the wharf and commenced to drink more beer. The other, more full of spirit and enthusiasm, made his way towards the ship’s bow and stood for a moment caging the thick hawser which had not yet been cast off. Then inspiration suddenly possessed him, and before anyone could move he had jumped. A bottle of the best in one hand, he made a wild grab at the rope and, to the amazement of the laughing crowd, caught it with his free hand. Only for a moment, however, then he slipped down between the ship and wharf.

Laughter ceased immediately as the onlookers saw the possibility of comedy becoming tragedy. The ship slowly edged out while frantic efforts were made to fish out the Digger. After some confusion and much effort he was at last returned to terra firma, little the worse for his experience. Certainly it had sobered him considerably, but not sufficiently to make him release his hold on the bottle of beer which, with pride, he still held firmly in his left hand.

I. H. (Perth)

★

FEARSOME FLEA
Tex was a good fellow, but as the only Yank in the small bunch of Aussies he felt obliged to air his patriotism. Consequently we heard about America at every possible opportunity and soon learned that everything there was so much bigger—according to Tex. We became fed up and decided to take action. Tex climbed into his bunk that night and was out again two seconds later clutching a large live crayfish. As his wild cries subsided, someone crawled: "Don’t you have fleas in the U.S.A., Tex?" He saw the point, and thereafter the glory of America resumed its normal proportions.

BOB CHAMBERS (Bunbury).

OPERATION BRISTLE
I was in the bathroom when a young head was poked in and the voice of the owner asked: "You seen our toothbrush, Doc?"

"What d’you mean, ‘our’ toothbrush?"

"Slinger and Bill and I use it. It’s got a yellow handle."

"No, but there’s a red one over there."

"S’no good. Somebody else may have used it, and the head was withdrawn."

I still wonder if there was any connection with a hygiene lecture I had given the previous day.

"DOC" (Perth).

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Those Medals

AUSTRALIANS are now receiving the medals which were struck for service in World War II, and in Britain some five million people are receiving similar awards.

Originally, medals were always made of gold or silver, and they were often attached to a valuable chain. Actually, the medal proper originated with the Roman Empire, known examples bearing on one side the bust of an imperial personage and on the other a commemorative scene or symbol. But there is scarcely any evidence to show that these were meant to be worn.

The medal as we know it today is an institution of the Renaissance period. From the middle of the 15th century to the end of the 16th, the art of the medallist flourished as never before or since. The Italian school specialised in vigorous designs with bold and simple (but not always flattering) likenesses, while the German school relied upon minute detail.

Early British medals issued in the reign of Henry VIII are of a personal character, bearing the portraits of the King, Anne Boleyn, Sir Thomas Moore and other notables of the Court. But it was not until Elizabeth came to the throne that medals were issued in any quantity in Britain.

Queen Elizabeth devised a medal in commemoration of Drake's great victory over the Spanish Armada. This famous design is known as "The Ark in Flood," and it was presented to certain officers of the day. James I employed medals for propaganda. But in 1603 Charles I issued a medal "as a reward for naval achievements" and he ordered that this be worn on the breast of every man "certified to have done us faithful service." Charles was the first English sovereign to have his likeness upon a medal.

The first English campaign medal was issued by the Commonwealth Government of Oliver Cromwell on September 3, 1650, to commemorate the Battle of Dunbar. It was presented to every man who took part in this battle. This was the first time on which the rank and file were all decorated.

The custom of rewarding all combatants in the regular forces with a medal was not established until the days of Waterloo, but since then every campaign in which British forces have been in action has been commemorated by the issue of medals to every man taking part. Prior to that, the army of the East India Company had received decorations for Deccan, Mysores, Nepal and other campaigns, but the British soldiers who fought side by side with the native armies went unrewarded. This unjust distinction caused bitter comment, and actually it was popular indignation that was responsible for the Waterloo medals.

Queen Victoria not only evinced great interest in the awards made in her reign, she also issued medals for earlier campaigns, such as the Peninsula. Actually only the highest officers had been decorated for this campaign but the Queen had a medal struck for the rank and file, and it was distributed to all who could be traced.

Awards from Waterloo to World War I make a somewhat imposing array. Some of the medals are indeed real works of art. But it is what the decoration stands for, rather than what the medal actually is, that really counts to the recipient, although the mere collector may have a different opinion.

Practically every country recognises the bravery of its armed forces by the award of medals. Some countries present medals extremely freely, others present medals somewhat parsimoniously. Prior to the year 1802, France rewarded her heroes with a ceremonial sword, but in that year Napoleon instituted the Legion of Honour, still France's greatest award.

Medals may be awarded for bravery—these include the Victoria Cross, the Distinguished Service Order, the Military Cross, and the Military Medal—for long service, for special ceremonial occasions, for general service in the field, and so forth, and there are a number of civilian awards, including the George Cross, the Edward Medal and the Order of the British Empire. Unofficial civic awards also exist, such as the Royal Humane Society's medal and the medals presented by Lloyds.

To commemorate the fifteen major battles of World War I, Britain issued nearly 15½ million campaign medals. For the last World War, Britain will issue twelve different medals. The distribution of these to service and ex-service personnel is expected to be completed at an early date.

When the Germans sank the Lusitania during World War I they struck a medal which showed Death distributing ship's tickets from the New York office of the Cunard Company. But they made a mistake—they issued the decoration two days before the vessel was sunk. In early anticipation of the capture of Paris towards the last days of 1914 they struck a special Victory medal, but this became useless, and most of the medals which had been completed were destroyed.

In 1867, Pope Pius IX issued a medal to those who fought in the defence of Rome.

The Victoria Cross, Britain's highest award for valour, has a red ribbon, although prior to 1918 the ribbon issued to naval winners was of blue. Prior to the outbreak of World War I, the total V.C.'s awarded were 525. During World War I the awards of the Victoria Cross totalled 581, including two bars.

OUR LADY MEMBERS

RETURNED SISTERS

At the meeting held in the clubrooms on March 3, the 20 members present were advised that the State Executive had heartily approved the request put forward after the previous meeting for the change of name of the sub-branch to that of the Returned Sister's sub-branch. The meeting was addressed by Miss Goff, who read a request that the sub-branch should be put on a firmer footing and that the amount of its activities be increased. The meeting was entertained by the F.U.S.W. at a very pleasant social function at Anzac House on the afternoon of March 5, Miss Clifton being the guest speaker. Old associates of Sister M. Taylor will be glad to hear that she is recovering after many months in the Repatriation Hospital at Hollywood. Sister Teooland served in the Middle East and France in World War I.

RETURNED EX-SERVICE WOMEN

The annual meeting of the Returned Ex-Service Women's sub-branch was held in Gleedon Buildings on Friday, March 11, there being an attendance of 40 members, and the following were elected for the ensuing year: President, Miss Mary Macrae; vice-presidents, Mrs. J. Dowson and Miss I. Flitton; secretary, Miss W. A. Walker; assistant secretary, Mrs. Eastaugh; hon. treasurer, Miss J. Keplinger; social committee, Miss Bayford, Misses N. Morrison, J. Hall, E. McMillan and D. Rutherford. Meetings are held every Friday at the T.D.A. Soldiers' rooms, 5th floor, Gleedon Building.
THIS WAS GALLIPOLI
(Continued from page 5)
He was yet to prove himself the outstanding strategist and military
genius of the age. This thought gives rise to speculation on what might have
been the result if he had been the Commander-in-chief on the spot.
Who can doubt that this hero of
the most perilous journeys by air
during World War II would have
failed to reconnoitre the enemy positions in a seaplane. Seaplanes made
sorties there every day. I venture the
opinion that if Churchill had been in
command for a single day, he would
have made at least one flight.
And who can doubt but that this
great captain of war would have been
on the spot at Suvia Bay to see that
his plan did not miscarry. At the
first hold-up in the forward
momentum he would have gone ashore
to ascertain what was wrong. Genius
has a habit of seeing things for itself.
Reviewing the might-have-beens is
an unprofitable business; and there
is nothing to be gained by the retelling
of the many features of the campaign.
No warfare in British history has ex-
hibited greater muddling, none has
has bettered the sublime heroism, self-
sacrifice, devotion to duty and uncom-
plaining suffering of the rank and file.
Never again, perhaps, will the men
of the two Dominions be afforded an
opportunity to equal the epic of
Anzac.

DISASTROUS
The doctors, after much consulta-
tion, had decided that, after 20 years
in the mental home, Mr. Blank was
fit to be released.

On the morning of his release, Mr.
Blank was allowed to shave himself
instead of having to submit to the
atentions of the barber in the home.

Turning to address a remark to one
of the attendants who had come to
wish him good-bye, his razor caught
the string which supported the shav-
ing mirror, which fell to the ground.
When Mr. Blank tried to go on
with his shave, he looked at the blank
wall.

"Well," he said, with a sigh, "if
that isn't just my luck. After 20
years in this place, on the day I'm
going to be let out, I've been and cut
my head off!"

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THE LISTENING POST

If I Should Die

Many delightful and beautiful things have been written about death.
The good, as we are often reminded, die young. What a delightful turn is given to this in the lines:

The good die first,
And they whose beards are dry as summer dust
Burn to the socket,
The best-known lines about death are those written by Laurence Binyon during World War I:

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn;
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Almost as well known is the beautiful sonnet of Rupert Brooke which begins:

If I should die, think only thou of me
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England.

There is much that is delightful in the verse:

When I am dead, my dearest,
Sing no sad song for me;
Plant thou no roses at my head,
Nor shady cypress tree;
Be the green grass above me,
With showers and dewdrops wet,
And if thou wilt—remember;
And if thou wilt—forget.

Requiem

How could this subject be better concluded than by giving Stevenson's courageous call:

Under the wide and starry sky,
Dig the grave and let me lie,
Glad did I live and gladly die
And laid me down with a will.

This be the verse you grieve for me:

"Here he lies where he longed to be;
Home is the sailor, home from sea,
And the hunter home from the hill."

—RODERICK RANDOM.

THESE DEEDS WILL LIVE FOREVER

1: THE LOSS OF THE "BIRKENHEAD"

The story of the loss of the troopship Birkenhead will stir the senses of the British race as long as civilisation survives.

On January 2, 1852, the vessel left Cork with 12 officers, 479 warrant-officers, non-commissioned officers and men, three surgeons, a number of Royal Marines, 25 women and 31 children, making, with the crew, a total of 680 persons. She was taking reinforcements to South Africa.

An iron paddle-wheel steamer, the Birkenhead was a good sea boat, only seven years old, and with the exception of a spell of bad weather in the Bay of Biscay, the passage was calm and uneventful.

But a decision to keep close to the shore after leaving Simon's Bay (when the total complement was 638) turned out to be fatal, and at 1.50 a.m. on February 26 the ship struck an uncharted reef off Danger Point.

It was soon seen that the ship was doomed, and she had but six boats. Many of the troops were raw recruits, but recruits and veterans alike behaved with a heroism which resulted in their deeds being remembered for all time.

Horses were thrown over the side in order that they might have a chance (a few got to land), and the men fell-in on deck as if they were on the parade ground. Women and children were got away in the boats — and for 15 minutes the troops stood in formation, knowing that if they made for the boats these would be swamped. Sharks made swimming to shore almost an impossibility.

Less than 70 men were saved, but birth had been given to a new maritime code: "Women and children first."

We regret to record the death of Mrs. Anderson, wife of past president Mr. J. M. W. Anderson, which took place on March 7. The sympathy of readers of this journal will, we know, be extended to Mr. Anderson and his daughter and sons in their sad loss.

When Marie Tagioni, a famous ballet dancer, left Russia for the last time, her belongings were sold by auction. Her ballet slippers were purchased for 200 roubles. These shoes were then cooked, served with a special sauce, and eaten at a dinner arranged by ballet enthusiasts.
Sub-Branch Activities

It is the aim of "The Listening Post" to make its columns of wide interest to members of the national, State, and local sub-branches. The members generally, and the Editor welcomes reports from all sub-branches. But in order to make as broad a coverage as possible, secretaries and publicity officers are asked to confine their reports to a maximum of 200 words. 

BUNBURY

The sub-branch has settled down to 1949 fairly well, and has again concluded a successful year. The annual reunion held in February was very enjoyable, and was well attended by those who attended. Meetings are attended only reasonably regularly by the executive and the executive advises that there is still room to broaden in the conduct of their meetings along business and financial lines. The sub-branch was most attractive, with the addition of a ceiling general cleaning and painting, and this was certainly an event the recent visit of the Federal President. This function was ably handled by the Governor (Sir James Mitchell), the State President and State Secretary. A special feature of the proceedings was the presentation of Mr. Milburn with a life membership certificate to Arthur Murray. This was given in recognition for very valuable services which Arthur Murray has rendered, both as a secretary for over 15 years and as a member of the sub-branch executive. He was also asked to work hard for the welfare of the sub-branch, and to keep up the good name which the sub-branch's efforts have won. The meeting was an excellent one. A large number of ex-servicemen and relatives attended the meeting, and all old and new members were requested to attend.

BOYANUP JUNCTION

A well-attended meeting of this sub-branch was held at the headquarters, which was held on March 30. The meeting was conducted by the president (H. C. Morrissey) and secretary (E. F. Evans) and held up supplies under difficulties. This sub-branch is one of the fastest growing in the State, and the secretary reported that an attendance of 200 was expected at the next meeting. So all you fellows who had a jolly good time last year, and didn't come out at all, don't do it again.

GOOMALING

The annual meeting held recently was well attended and a happy augury for the year ahead. The president (J. P. J. Dillon) was elected to the position of secretary, and Mr. E. Nicholson was elected to the position of vice-president, in both of which capacities Mr. Nicholson has already shown himself as a capable and efficient officer. He has done much to improve the financial status of the sub-branch, and the raising of a considerable sum towards the sub-branch's attempts to raise the shield which they won last year. 

KALGOORLIE

Arising out of discussions at the February meeting, a sports committee was set up and, as a result of this, it is hoped that the efforts of the sub-branch will be better known. The formation of the committee is in the hands of the secretary, who will be kept well informed of developments. 

Sub-Branch Activities, April, 1949
and should be completed by our next meet-
ing. Wagering tongues, sinking schooners and the ubiquitous garlic sausage finally ended another good night.

MOSMAN PARK

A large crowd of members and friends had a very enjoyable outing on the occasion of the annual general meeting and dinner held at the Zoo on Labour Day. The highlight of the varied sports program was the success of the annual secretary (Bob Keay) in the old-buffers' race with the demand from the also-rans that a second be let be entered. The district Amateur Radio service for this year is being organised by the Peppermint Grove Road Board. Falkin is at 2.15 p.m. in Jarrad Street, when the assembled members of Mosman Park and Cottesloe sub-branches will march to Manner's Bill Park at Keane's Point, where the address will be given and salute taken by Brigadier Athol Hobbs. A military band will be in attendance and members are urged to take part in the ceremony. Two popular members in Frank Monford and Bill Crane, who have been in hospital, are home again, and members join in wishing them both continued good health for the future. A night always looked forward to is the shell picture show, which will be held in the Town Hall on Friday, April 21. With the approach of winter, more social functions are being organised, so keep in touch with the social secretary and don't forget the general meetings held on the last Tuesday of the month.

MT. HAWTHORN

In spite of various restrictions, sub-branch meetings have been fairly well attended and keen interest is being shown in fixtures. We paid a visit to Pickering Brook on Sunday, February 27, and played the local lads in a game of cricket. We found the locals particularly good sports, and they joined us in everything connected with the visit. The day was warm and those who went under the shade of the trees really enjoyed themselves. We hope that the Pickering Brook team will be our testers in the not too near future. We visited Kensington sub-branch on Tuesday, March 1, and had a great night. We appreciated the splendid hospitality extended by this infant sub-branch. Emie Travis, a former member of Mt. Hawthorn, is now Kensington's sports director, and is doing a good job. Anzac Day service will be held this year in our own hall. The parade will assemble at Saddler Park at 2.30 p.m. and, headed by the Perth Highland Pipe Band, will march to Eucalyptus Park where Messrs. Keane, Jarrad and the officers of the sub-branch will be laid prior to the service. A tablet will be erected in memory of the fallen of the 1939-45 war. April meetings will be held on the 14th and 28th.

MOUNT LAWLEY-INGLEWOOD

In order to encourage public speaking, the sub-branch holds debate after the February meeting. Fred Stohl, of North Perth, was the adjudicator assisted by Messrs. Davies (Mt. Lawley-Inglewood). The subject was "Should service pensions be increased?" It speaks highly to the skill of the team holding the negative case that they got the verdict, for they evidently argued against their own convictions. There has been much activity in the sporting line in the sub-branch lately, and social affairs are beginning to look up. The "Boomerang Club," a citizen's organisation for helping the building trade, has been founded, and the formation of a Younger Set has passed the preliminary stages. It is hoped that the efforts of these helpers will dispel the apathy that members of the sub-branch usually display towards entertainment and other fund-raising activities.

NORTH-EAST FREMANTLE

The general meeting held at the East Fremantle Town Hall on February 28 saw a smaller attendance than usual apparently due to lighting restrictions. However, a good time was had by those present. Business was dealt with quickly and the meeting concluded under the capable direction of President Bert Wallwork, then in the light of Norm's Tilley lamp. It was agreed to continue in the next month's meeting and to hold the social portion of the meeting at the Amsterdam, where the another meeting was held.

VICTORIA PARK

Our annual picnic and river trip took place on March 6. Four "Val" boats conveyed the party to Mosman Park picnic ground after a trip through the suburbs. A good attendance of members, their wives and children made for their enjoyment, although ample space and refreshments were provided for a larger number. A very enjoyable day was had by all. The river trip has been a hit with our members. Invitations have been extended to all. A few members who have joined up and new faces are showing up at our meetings, and the time for the picnics and river trips will be regular—the old die-hards never fail us. The sports nights are now a regular feature. On the first Tuesday of every month we shall be in our next one. Come along and get some practical business advice or social get-together with the women's auxiliary for an evening's entertainment. A good supper will be provided. A group of members have been asked to organize a "Boomerang Club" to compensate for the workers' efforts. The Red Cross March Appeal has been supported otherwise. Memorable! On the morning of March 10, several cash donations were handed in at the monthly meeting. Everyone is, arriving in slow but surely. This little reminder may help with your week's take. Put in, Dig.

WESLEEDERVILLE-WEMBLEY-FLOREAT PARK

On Sunday, February 27, we held a very enjoyable picnic to Karrinyup Point. For those members who were fortunate enough to have the time to attend, it was well worth while. The launch trip down the Jarrah River was most pleasant, while the children, indulging in a bit of ice cream and ginger bread, thoroughly enjoyed it the whole trip. This event was held in co-operation with the local sub-branch of the A.P.A. Presentations were held over from last year, and were made to Mr. Stephens (quota) and Messrs. Newton and Cross (bridge). The annual dinner meeting was held on Monday, March 7, and was considered a real success. Several new members have joined in the last few months and we are hoping to continue the trend. The dinner was held at the Ideal, and was well attended. The weather was good, and the attendance as usual. The member for West Leederville D39, thereby winning the "ten bob challenge for a week. On Sunday, March 20, they met and defeated the Wembley team at Fremantle. West Leederville 12, these wins placed us third on the premier list. Mr. J. Jackson (bridge) was lost but crossed it before which would have put the celebrated Fizz-Pot in a dilemma. He described a surveying trip to cairn from Fremantle, Bar and thence to Mosenthal. Some of his stories were hair-raising and some extremely humorous. We promised together, it made very good listening.
STATE EXECUTIVE
Since the last issue of "The Listening Post" three meetings of the executive have been held.

Hospital Visiting
Hospital visiting each month becomes more and more strenuous and the number of patients visited each week in the Royal Perth Hospital shows an increase, but these weekly visits are looked forward to eagerly by ex-service patients and their appreciation of the comforts taken to them should give pleasure to auxiliaries who so generously contribute to the Hospital Visiting Fund.

Hollywood Hospital is visited twice weekly by auxiliaries, and here again the visits give great pleasure, as it is the personal contact and the knowledge that they are remembered by R.S.I. auxiliaries which is appreciated even more than the gifts taken to them.

Country patients are always made to feel that they have friends even when so far from home, and these visits are to them a very real pleasure. The executive is always pleased when names of country members of sub-branches are sent in by the auxiliary, giving the opportunity of cheering their stay in hospital.

Home of Peace, Heathcoat, Glendalough, Claremont, Sunset and Lennox receive many visits, and whenever possible outings are arranged to outer auxiliaries who find the entertaining of these men a really worthwhile job.

Official visits
February 11.—Measdames McKinlay and Stockman attended South Perth auxiliary meeting.
February 23.—The State President and State Secretary, with hundreds of auxiliary members and friends, enjoyed a river trip to Green Island. All voted it a lovely picnic.

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The President and ex-M.P. Mr. W. Combe, called the meeting to order and the business of the evening was read. The President then stated that the members of the auxiliary met the next Monday night, at 8 p.m., at the headquarters of the auxiliary.

McKinlay Shield Games
These games have made great progress and from reports received are as popular as ever, and very keen matches have already been played.

VICTORIA PARK
Since our last report, the auxiliary has held two meetings—February 11—and March 11—both of which were fairly well attended. During the time the auxiliary was in recess, Measdames Ames, Clues, Phillips and Windsor carried on with the fortnightly visits to the Edward Miller Home. Since then, Measdames Phillips, Clues and Coleman have taken over, there being an average of 35 patients in the home who seem to welcome our visits on the auxiliary's behalf. Sports teams were formed at the first meeting, and Mrs. Prue was again appointed sports director. It was decided to ask the Kenwick sub-branch to meet us with their auxiliary—which is newly formed—at a sports night at a date to be arranged. The annual sub-branch river trip held on Sunday, March 6, was well attended by members and their friends, and proved a very popular event. Our next meeting, which will be on April 8 at 8 p.m., will be at the Auxiliary's headquarters. A donation was passed for payment to the Red Cross March appeal. The Thrift Club commenced the year with a good start.

Lifeboats stationed round the British coast saved 531 lives last year, Two lifeboatmen won silver medals for gallantry and two were awarded bronze medals.

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ARTILLERY COMRADES—Sergeants’ Mess, Swan Barracks, Francis St., last Tuesday each month at 8 p.m.; President: W. M. Morley, 97 Haynesbury Road, Subiaco; Joint Secretaries: S. A. McNamara and A. J. Snow, 74 Haynesbury Road, Subiaco.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF W.A.—Meetings as notified; President: J. B. Roberts, Parliament House, Perth; Secretary-Treasurer: Miss J. Davenport, 33 Fairway, Nedlands.

EX-MACHINE GUNNERS’ ASSOCIATION—Gregson’s, 32 King Street, Perth; Friday before Anzac Day and 2nd Friday in October; President: C. E. Brown, Pastoral Bureau, Perth; Secretary: E. W. Wallace, 244 Shepparton Road, Victoria Park.

FEDERATED T.B. SAILORS, SOLDIERS & AIRMEN’S ASSOCIATION (W.A. Branch)—2nd Floor, Wellington Buildings, 158 William St., Perth; 1st Monday in month; President: C. H. Freedman, M.C.; Captain: C. W. Brick, Holden Road, Boleyn House, Hon. Secretary: W. H. Rugg, 25 Elizabeth Street, North Perth (Phone B 3894).

PARTIALLY BLINDED SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (W.A. Branch)—Room 53, 5th Floor, Gladstone Buildings, Perth; 1st Thursday in each month; President: W. A. Broadfield, 267 Labouchre Road, Como; Secretary: J. Mackay, 51 Hardy Street, Nedlands.

R.A.A.F. ASSOCIATION (W.A. DIVISION)—U.S.I. Rooms, Swan Barracks, Francis Street; every 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m.; President: V. L. Siessman, Taxation Department, Perth; Secretary: W. Robertson, Commonwealth Oil Refineries, St. George’s Terrace, East Perth.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND IMPERIAL VETERANS’ ASSOCIATION—Monash Club, cnr. Hay and King Streets; 3rd Monday in each month at 2 p.m.; President: P. W. Batean, M.M., c/o Monash House, Perth; Secretary: G. Gumprecht, 538 Hay Street, Perth.

THE IMPERIAL EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION (W.A.)—A.O.F. (Foresters) Hall, cnr. Francis and Museum Streets, Perth; 1st Tuesday of every month; President: L. S. Mitchell, 40 King William Street, Burswood; Secretary: A. H. Wright, 7 Burrell St., Mt. Hawthorn.

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN BLINDS SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, Perth; when necessary; President: D. M. Benison, Anzac Pass Road, Nedlands; Hon. Secretary: W. H. Rugg, 25 Elizabeth Street, North Perth (Phone B 3894).

TOTAally AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION—Room 53, 5th Floor, Gladstone Buildings, Perth; 1st Pension Day of the month at 2 p.m.; President: W. E. Shearer, 47 Florence Street, West Perth; Secretary: Cpl. C. Walker, 124 Walcott Street, Mt. Lawley.

8th BATTERY ASSOCIATION—Annual reunion, Friday of Show Week; Patron: General J. M. Hobbs; President: Viv Oâ’Neil, 132 Mount Road, North Perth; Secretary: 226 Sixth Avenue, Inglewood (phone U 1569); Assistant Secretary: Johnny Lodge, 25 Clothfield Street, Mt. Lawley.

9th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT—Anzac House, Perth; when called; President: H. M. Macnee, 10 Bedford Road, Nedlands (WMA 2603); Secretary Roy Perry, 22 Cooper Street, Nedlands.

11th AND 21st A.I.F. BATTALION ASSOCIATIONS—President: C. W. Mitchell, 5 Vista Street, South Perth; Hon. Secretary: L. Thomas, 28 Haynesbury Road, Subiaco; annual reunion, Tuesday of Show Week; annual general meeting, third week December; financial year ends September 30; subscription 2/6 p.a.; dates published in "The Listening Post."

14th & 52nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION OF W.A.—Meets at Royal Institute, Wellington Street, Perth; when called; President: D. P. M. Tonkinson, 97 Cambridge Street, West Leederville; Hon. Secretary: A. Cook, 168 Railway Terrace, Maylands.

16th BATTALION & 4th BRIGADE ASSOCIATION—Committee meetings on 1st Tuesday each month; President: J. D. Morgan, 8 Irwin Street, East Fremantle; Secretary: W. Newick, 39 Hut Street, Cottesloe.

23rd BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Committee as arranged; 2nd Monday; President: V. McIntyre, John Street, Cottesloe; Secretary: M. Foster, 152 Cooks Street, Nedlands.

32nd & 2/32nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, nearest Saturday to July 19; President: A. R. Trumble, A.M.P. Chambers, Perth (Phone B 190); Secretary: J. J. Rutherford, Victoria House, St. George’s Terrace, Perth (Phone B 2346).

44th BATTALION ASSOCIATION—As advertised; Annual Reunion, Monday of Show Week; President: J. D. Selwood, 414 William Street, South Perth; Secretary: R. R. Austin, 23 Fairway, West Leederville; Hon. Secretary: H. S. Brown, 123 Second Avenue, Mount Lawley.

4th MACHINE-GUN BATTALION EX-MEMBERS’ ASSOCIATION—Resides at Ambrose’s office, 3rd Floor, C.M.L. Building; Committee meets 1st Monday in each month, 7.30 p.m.; President: J. Unsworth, 24 Coghill Road, Subiaco, Phone B 6038; Secretary: D. D. Pearson, c/o W.A. Trustees Co., 155 St. George’s Terrace, Perth; Secretary, W. T. Bassett, 40 King William Street, South Perth.

5/16th BATTALION ASSOCIATION—President: A. A. Hughes, Grand Theatre Buildings, Murray Street, Perth; Secretary: W. E. McPherson, 835 Hay Street, Perth; subscriptions for meetings published in "Pigeon Post," the official Journal of the 5/16th

5/18th BATTALION ASSOCIATION (W.A. Branch)—Annual reunion October 23; President: V. F. O’Dea; Secretary: A. Kennedy, c/o R. J. Davidson, Council Avenue, Perth; Treasurer: G. R. Richardson, c/o Vacuum Oil Co. Pty. Ltd., St. George’s Terrace, Perth.

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