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YOU, TOO, CAN HELP

Every Anzac Day sees a great revival of esprit de corps among ex-servicemen. Reunions are held and gab-fests are enjoyed. Once again the great comradeship that was such a feature of service life is renewed.

That great spirit of comradeship, of friendship, of brotherhood, of oneness—that great spirit which relieved war of its bitterness, its terrors and its evil—must it be left to one day a year?

For to many men today, Anzac Day is the only day on which such comradeship still prevails, for many men who attend reunions, many men who march in the parade do not, for some reason known only to themselves, wear the badge of the League and admit 'we must, some who do claim membership in the League are members in name only.

The League, it should be remembered, offers this comradeship, this brotherhood, to all who have fought for their King and their Country—not on any one particular day in the year, but on all days and upon all occasions. For the League as a body fights for the rights of its many members. It offers a helping hand to the needy; it offers succour to the aged and infirm; it offers advice to the bewildered; and—perhaps greatest of all—it offers comradeship of the highest degree to every fighting man.

The membership of the League is solid. It extends to all parts of the Australian Commonwealth—the cities, the country towns, the farmlands—and in many lands afar one can see its badge worn with pride.

But for all that its membership could be greater, and with Anzac Day and its comradeship still fresh in our minds it might be well if all of us, this year resolved that, come what may, we would—each and every one of us—introduce into our ranks one more member.

The League, since its inception, has done much good work for the ex-serviceman—but much more remains to be done. And nothing will aid the League in its efforts so much as strength in working members.

Can YOU do YOUR bit in introducing another member?
Will you try?
"The time has come," the Walrus said, "To talk of many things: Of shoes—and ships—and sealing-wax—Of cabbages—and kings."

A Personal Note: This page was previously given the heading "Meanderings and Varias," because the initial letters M and V stood for that well-known mixture which the troops encountered so often—and if the contents of this page are not usually a mixture, then they are nothing at all. But last month it was drawn to my attention that "the word 'Meanderings' is hardly suitable for this journal," so thereupon, being an ignorant sort of coot, I borrowed a dictionary and looked to see what was wrong.

Now to meander, I find (if the Oxford Dictionary is correct) is to take a circuitous journey, to wind about, or to wander at random, and if that is not what I have been doing in these columns I'd like to know just what has been taking place. But my critics (both of 'em) are literary blokes, and my aim (as the shopkeepers say) is to please, so I am changing the heading.

At first I thought it would be a good idea to call these effusions "Babble and Squeak," in a similar manner to which George R. Sims used to call his very famous column "Mustard and Cress," but on thinking it over I was certain that my critics would say, in unison, "It neither bubbles, nor does it squeak," so the title is, like it or not, "Of Many Things." And if I do not now go on to deal with many things I'll be prepared to eat my hat.

The quotation at the head of the page is by Lewis Carroll, and is taken from Through the Looking Glass. And if my critics are ready to pounce upon me because these columns do not deal with shoes, ships, sealing-wax, cabbages or kings—let me say, right here, that they do.

Ships.—We think we are doing fine today when we do the sea trip from London to Melbourne in some 33 or 34 days, but did you know that way back in 1875 the sailing vessel Cutty Sark completed the voyage from London to 50 miles south of Melbourne in 54 days?

Shoes.—According to a recent trade news report, high-priced footwear in Scotland is in poor demand, the call today being for utility-type footwear or, in other words, an economical buy for the money. Which reminds me of the remark of J. M. Barrie: "There are few more impressive sights in the world than a Scotsman on the make."

There was a sculptor named Phidias, Whose statues were perfectly hideous, He made Aphrodite Without any-nightie, And so shocked the ultra-fastidious.

Sealing Wax.—"Sealing-wax was, in the 16th century, made of bees wax, turpentine and colouring matter, and being imported into Europe through Spain was known as Spanish Wax. It is now made of shellac and Venice turpentine." So the encyclopaedia tells me, and that's about all I know of the subject, except that sealing-wax is used on some official documents—but as the only official documents I get are writs, why bring that up?

Cabbages.—The most fitting thing I can find to publish under this heading—and I think it fits the bill—is the oft-quoted item by Austin Dobson:

Postscriptum
And you, whom we all so adore,
Dear Critics, whose verdicts are always so new!
One word in your ear. There were
Critics before
And the man who plants cabbages
imitates, too...

Kings.—And here, what better could I quote than:
King David and King Solomon
Led merry, merry lives,
With many, many lady friends,
And many, many wives;
But when old age crept over them,
With many, many qualms,
King Solomon wrote the Proverbs
And King David wrote the Psalms.

Having covered the items set out in our sub-heading, let us get down to Many Things: Many things is a multitude; a multitude is an enormous number; an enormous number is 140,386,509; and 140,386,509 is the population of the United States; the United States is a foreign country; a foreign country is Russia; Russia believes in Communism; Communism is repugnant to the League; the League is out to assist the ex-service man; the ex-service man has many interests; many interests means an interest in many things—hang it, here we are, back where we started. You see how useless it is trying to stick tight to titles.

Britain is asking for volunteers for the armed forces, yet the Minister of Pensions says we cannot afford to pay fair pensions to 700,000 ex-service men and women who have been disabled while defending Britain in wartime. Our ability to foot the bill is proved by £80,000,000 given to Germany, plus the terrific cost—and petrol—of the "aeroplane," £33,000,000 given to civilian aviation, costly commitments in Malaya, Palestine, Greece, Indonesia, etc., and the secret, but high, cost of atomic research. The wealth needed to foot the above bill (mainly caused by inefficient statesmen) has been made possible largely by those 700,000 who are still refused a fair deal.—J. Gordon in a letter to "Tit-Bits."
A meeting of the State Executive was held on May 4. Members met at the R.S.L. Hostel, Murray Street, at 5 p.m., and were shown over the premises. Afterwards they adjourned to Anzac House, where the meeting opened at 6.30 p.m. Highlights were:

OLYMPIC GAMES
A motion was presented by Mr. Chaney: "That the Federal Executive be asked, in the event of any attempt being made to invite Japanese to the Olympic Games, to lodge an emphatic protest." This motion was carried unanimously.

ANZAC DAY
Mr. Stahl strongly protested against publicity being given by the League to the Air Force Association move to have the present method of observance of Anzac Day altered. Mr. Benson supported Mr. Stahl, and it was resolved that the Anzac Day Committee deal with this matter.

HONOUR AVENUE
Dr. Cook moved that the Anzac Day Committee might contact relatives of the fallen regarding the placing of wreaths on trees in Honour Avenue, King's Park, as at the present moment only a few of the trees have wreaths placed upon them.

Other reports included Repatriation (Mr. Stahl), Anzac Club and Anzac House (Mr. Ferguson), Finance (Mr. Herlihy), The Listening Post (Mr. Sten), Membership (Mr. Chaney), Migration (Mr. Lonnie) and Trustees (Colonel Mansbridge).

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

A further meeting was held on May 18. Highlights were:

FEDERAL EXECUTIVE
Dr. Greenham presented a detailed report of the recent Federal Executive meeting in Hobart, at which he was the Westralian delegate. Most of the items brought before the executive will be implemented, and the result of any action thus taken will be recorded, in due course, in our Newsreel pages.

LAND

The report presented by Mr. Davies brought forward the matter of tractor allocations, and in regard to these it was resolved "That all applicants for tractors and motor vehicles soliciting the help of the League, should do so through their sub-branch."

REPARTIATION
Mr. Watt presented a report dealing with psychiatric treatment of the mentally sick in Western Australia, a feature of which was a discussion with Dr. Alan Stoller (of Repatriation Headquarters), who stated that he had noted an improvement in the patients at Davis Road. Figures tabled showed that there were only 200 ex-servicemen certified mental patients receiving institutional treatment in this State, 97 being cases accepted by the Repatriation Department. (Total ex-servicemen patients in mental institutions throughout Australia is now 1,857.) Of the six per 1,000 males of over 20 years of age who are mentally insane, only 1.8 per 1,000 are ex-servicemen.

MIGRATION
The report submitted by Mr. Lonnie dealt with the work carried out by the Kalgoorlie sub-branch, where 360 migrants are being sponsored. Migrants required (owing to housing shortage only single men can be considered) are: 205 truckers and shovellers, 100 rock-drilling machine men, 23 surface labourers, 10 underground workers, 10 electricians, 7 general labourers and 5 boiler-makers. [The work and enthusiasm of the Kalgoorlie sub-branch in this regard was highly commended.]

HOUSING
Mr. Davies submitted a report in which it was stated that the Minister for Forests had advised that the quantity of sleepers being cut is, for the present, being reduced to 500 loads per month, to assist in the production of housing timber. It was decided to recommend to the Minister for Local Government that provision be made in all municipal and road board districts for caravan and camping areas, and it was suggested that, where an applicant for a housing permit is of low priority, and he desires to erect garage-cum-living accommodation, a permit should be granted for this as part of the building of his house. (Dr. Cook dissented.)
From the Editor’s Note Book

He wrote for certain papers, which, as everybody knows, is worse than serving in a shop or scaring off the crows.

So said Rudyard Kipling, and in many ways he was right, for a journalist, and in particular an editor, seems a fair target for any crank with an axe to grind.

In my mail, from time to time, I get some queer effusions—anti-Catholic, anti-Jew, pro-Communist, anti-Christ, and so forth—all of which go straight into the waste-paper basket. Occasionally I get some genuine grumbles—to which I endeavour to attend. And once in a while comes a letter of praise—which brightens the day considerably.

One such was received recently from Mr. F. A. Maugher, secretary of the Balingup sub-branch, which read:

Sir,—At our last monthly meeting I was instructed to write to you expressing the members’ appreciation of the improvement in your paper, and of its whole set-up generally. We feel that it is now a paper that does justice to the League.

We wish you continued success.

Now I do not take that exactly as a pat on the back but rather as an indication that The Listening Post is being read. For all of us know that quite a number of people read very little, and journals delivered to them often remain in their wrappers until they are thrown away. Now this journal of ours is the mouthpiece of the League in Western Australia, and it carries the League’s messages to some 25,000 homes. We want those messages to be read.

For that reason I ask readers who do scan these pages to tell any League member who does not read The Listening Post that it may be to his advantage if he opens his copy from time to time. If he has any queries as to pension, land settlement, rehabilitation and such things he may find our Newsreel pages of more than passing interest. If he does not attend his sub-branch meetings very often he may find out what it is doing by reading Sub-Branch Activities. If he wants to know what goes on at Headquarters, then This Is Official will be worth studying.

Every endeavour is being made to see that this publication is of interest to all members in all parts of the State. It is impossible, of course, to satisfy everyone. But if a majority of our readers open the journal regularly, read at least a portion of it, and feel reasonably satisfied, then I shall have cause to think that I am, as the New Testament says:

A workman that needeth not to be ashamed.

51st BATTALION (A.I.F.) ASSN.

At the annual meeting held at Anzac House on May 6, Mr. B. Bardwell reviewed a successful year’s work while Mr. T. Morell read a healthy financial statement. Members were disappointed to hear from Mr. Prov. Wood that there were still difficulties in getting the Battalion Cross from the Ryde Church, N.S.W., transferred to this State, but further efforts are to be made to secure this. It was decided to hold the annual reunion on October 8 at Monash Club. The election of officers resulted: Patroon, Commodore R. Christie, D.S.O.; president, Mr. Tom Mortell, vice-president, Messrs. Passmore, Wren and Keeving; secretary, Mr. L. Alderman; assistant secretary, Mr. Reg. Wood; treasurer, Mr. H. Barrow; auditor, Mr. R. Keeving.

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I VISITED FAVERSHAM

By H. A. WELLS

SOME little time ago I visited an ex-service pensioner in the city. His room was small, drab and drear. He was not expected to be in it all day, no matter what the weather. For his meals he had to walk quite a distance, and in wet weather it was difficult to get in time. He was, as he said, "barely existing," and life held very little for him.

During a recent week-end I paid a visit to Faversham House, now being run by the League as a home for ex-service pensioners. What a different atmosphere — so different, so pleasant, that I feel sure that did old-timers know fully what it was like, there would be so many applicants for admission that there would be a very lengthy waiting list.

Let me take you, for a brief few minutes, on a visit to Faversham.

Faversham House is at York, and is about seven or eight minutes' walk from the railway station. The house itself was once the home of the Monger family, and is built on very spacious lines. During World War II it was a hospital.

As we go over the house one thing immediately strikes me. Here is no "institution." Rather does it seem to be a country hotel or good-class boarding house. The men staying here (one cannot call them inmates) have perfect freedom, for the rules of the house are few and simple, the main points being that, unless specially authorised, they must return by 10 p.m. each night; and they must make their own beds and keep clean the portion of the room allotted to them.

Some of the men have a room to themselves; some are two to a room; some share a room with three others. Each man has a hospital-type bed with a modern spring-filled mattress. There is plentiful clean linen and as many blankets as a man requires. It is noticeable that every room is spotlessly clean.

The dining-room has a number of tables, at each of which four men are seated. There is a spacious room with a billiard table, a piano, a radio and (so important during winter months) a comfortable fire. In another room there is a particularly good library. There is plentiful verandah space for hot or wet days, and in front of the house there are wide lawns and flower gardens.

During the period in which I stayed at Faversham the menu was as follows:

Saturday lunch (12 noon): Roast lamb, baked potatoes, baked pumpkin, cauliflower, baked apples and cream, tea.

Saturday tea (6 p.m.): Vegetable soup, lamb's fry, scones, bread and butter, jam, tea.

Sunday breakfast (8 a.m.): Porridge, boiled eggs, toast, marmalade or jam, tea.

Sunday lunch (12 noon): Roast chicken, baked potatoes, baked pumpkin, cabbage, peas, apple pie and cream.

Here lies G. Whiliken's friends, all five.

He took them along when he learned to drive.

Sunday tea (6 p.m.): Pressed beef, beetroot, tomatoes, grated carrot, jelly and cream, bread and butter, jam, tea.

Monday breakfast (8 a.m.): Porridge, fried fish, chipped potatoes, toast, marmalade or jam, tea.

In addition, tea and cake was served each day at 3 p.m.

The cooking was first-class, and every man was waited upon as he would be in a boarding house or hotel. Table cloths were spotless—indeed, to inject a very personal note—I doubt if superior food or comfort could be found in any of the hotels in the town.

Now I am not trying to "sell" Faversham. I am merely recording my visit as an outside observer.

Several of the men at Faversham were previously at "Sunset," and their candid opinion is that Faversham is well out ahead in every way. The oldest inhabitant is 83 years of age, and the youngest is 60. Several of the men are badly crippled, but all are cheerful, except for one thing—the fear that one day Faversham may be closed down. As one of the men said: "I have no kith and kin. I am crippled and occasionally need someone's aid. Here I feel I have a home, companionship, and the help I require. What would I do if this place closed down?"

Men living at Faversham can obtain a return rail ticket to Perth once a month for payment of a single fare, but even this payment is sometimes hard on a pensioner, and it was suggested that efforts might somehow be made to occasionally meet this sum.

It must be admitted that the men at Faversham do miss one thing: the frequent visits made by various bodies (particularly the women's auxiliaries) in the metropolitan area. The York women's auxiliary does its share to help, and the men wished to express their thanks to these ladies—to members of the Mt. Barker sub-branch for apples, and to members of the Gnowangerup sub-branch for mallee roots. Their thanks were also expressed for the kindness of Mr. Morris Edwards, of York, who, frequently provided transport for them, for the thoughtfulness of members of the local Buffalo Lodge and for the help of Mr. McDougall in providing firewood.

But many could not understand why Faversham House and the local sub-branch did not seem to be on good terms. However, as I heard only one side of the question I am not in a position to speak at length on the matter. But I am sure auxiliaries and sub-branch members in various parts could help these old fellows. Some are badly in need of clothing (one man lost everything in Malaya and faces the prospect of a winter spent in shirt and shorts); and gifts of fruit, vegetables, tobacco, toilet soap, tooth paste, sewing materials, leather for shoe repairs, thread, face flannels, slippers, firewood or cow or fowl feed would be greatly appreciated. Some think that if Faversham had a horse and cart or an old utility truck, many of the men could find occupation in getting in firewood and carrying goods to and from the town.

All these old-timers have a sweet tooth, and gifts of confectionery would, I am sure, be greatly appreciated.

Again I wish to stress that this article contains nothing in the way of an official statement, but is merely the view of an interested visitor. But I would add a word of praise to a most

(Continued on page 14)
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I MUST GO ON

A SHORT STORY BY L. T. SARDONE

IT IS the morning of the execution. I am kneeling in prison, praying—praying that, even at this late hour, a reprieve may come. But the chance is remote—so very remote. I rise, and look out of the window.

The sky is grey, the air chilly. It strikes through me, making me shudder involuntarily. I shudder again as I tell myself grimly that, if the reprieve does not come, I shall be standing upon the scaffold within the next ten minutes.

Ten minutes! It seems incredible, incongruous, that a life's end can be measured, calculated so accurately, so precisely. I visualise the hangman going about his task, so quietly, so methodically. During the three weeks that I have been in prison, I have not set eyes on him—there was no reason why I should have done so. No, he does not know me; I do not know him. But very soon we shall meet face to face. I wonder what he is thinking about now, and what his thoughts will be when he sees me. Possibly he will not even notice me; just taking it all as part of his job. Poor fellow: I do not envy him.

As I stand here, my mind goes back. The cinema of my memory flashes a series of very clear pictures before me. I see the small school I attended as a child. Then my advanced studies, and how I distinguished myself at them. My college days; the university. I remember with a thrill how I loved my Theology; I recall with pride my experiences as a preacher in the little country church.

How happy I was—then.

My breakfast is pushed away, uneaten. They gave me a choice—but somehow I could not eat. I drank only the coffee. It gave me strength—for a little while, at least.

I run my tongue over my lips. They are cracked; my throat is dry, my mouth parched. There is a dull weight dragging at my heart.

Again the cinema is flashing a picture. This time that of the trial and its long, weary three-week's duration. The crowded court scene floats vividly before me. I see again the jury filing in, quietly, ominously; the foreman's words falling upon a hushed atmosphere. I see again the judge and hear those words: "Arthur Fergus Mann: You have been found guilty of the crime of murder. Have you anything to say before sentence is passed upon you?" A deadly silence, then his voice again: "... there is nothing left for me to do but to order that you be returned to the place whence you came, and that you be hanged by the neck until you are dead. And may God have mercy on your soul."

I close my eyes. Must it end like this? Must another life be taken?

THE RETURN

To go back, half timidly,
Wondering whether
The past and the present
Can be linked together;
To go back, half doubtingly,
Hoping to find
The old welcome waiting
In hearts left behind;
To go back and know it all
Just as before,
The love and the laughter,
The widely flung door;
The long separation
Dissolved in a kiss—
There is no happiness
Greater than this

Must that grim code—a life for a life—be enforced? Is the legal taking of life, that of capital punishment, really punishment at all? It seems so unfair, that the answer to that commandment, Thou shalt not kill, is another life. Why? Why? I keep asking myself. Why?

Then I hear it. Yes—there it is! The sound of tramping feet down the corridor. Nearer, nearer, nearer it comes; louder, louder, louder it smashes into my ears. I clutch my hands, my eyes widen, my temples beat. Can it be? Can it be just possible—the reprieve? I try to control my breathing.

Those footsteps have stopped—immediately before my door. The door opens. I look into the face of the chief warden. He enters and looks a little unsteadily at me. My eyes are unflinching and my lips drawn to a firm line. But my heart is beating fast.

His face is taut, charged with the responsibility that lies so heavily upon his shoulders. In the depths of his grey eyes I can see utter futility, and I know now there is not any hope. But I also perceive in those eyes compassion and understanding.

I rise.

"Are you ready?" he asks, simply. I nod. "Yes, I am ready."

My voice is a mere whisper.

I join the gallow's party. I begin to walk, my footsteps a trifle unsteady. Left! Right! Left! Right! Left! Right! The chief warden walks two paces in front of me; on either side and level with me are two guards. The sound of our marching reverberates uncannily from the corridor walls.

My temples are throbbing, my hands moist, my heart is pounding. I want to cry out, to stop, to turn back. But I dare not—I must not.

I must carry out my task. I must go on, on to comfort and give strength to that poor unfortunate man waiting in the condemned cell.

I, Edward Henderson, young and newly-appointed prison chaplain, am about to attend my first execution.

THE POMMIE

There has been much discussion down the years concerning the origin of the word "Pommmie." "Dryblower" Murphy told me early in the present century that he had originated the word, and that the occasion was on the arrival of a shipload of British immigrants at Fremantle.

He soliloquised thus on seeing their faces lining the rail: "People Of Many Martial Immortal Epic." His penchant for coinning words and phrases asserted itself and the initial letters were used to give us the word POMMIE.

"Dryblower" was nothing if not patriotic, his—"This bit of the world belongs to us," being an instance.

If he was moved to so describe this boatload of Britons long pre-1914, how much more applicable is the phrase today in the light of Mons, Dunkirk and the Battle of London?

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BAGS — JUST BAGS — BUT HOW THEY SAVED LIVES

By G. H. BANTON

BAGS in thousands, bags in tens of thousands; bags coming in and bags going out. To those of us concerned in the passage through Lisbon of the Red Cross parcels for our prisoners of war in Germany and Italy, bags were an obsession. We spoke of bags, we wrote of bags and we dreamed of bags: Geneva bags and Basle bags; “food” bags and “tobacco” bags; damaged bags and wet bags; all sorts of bags—and bags and bags of them.

No port can ever have seen so many mail bags in such a comparatively short space of time as did Lisbon from the end of 1940 up to the cessation of hostilities in Europe. During that period over three million bags, containing over twenty-six million “p.o.w.” parcels, passed through en route to Switzerland—and all additional to the ordinary postal mails.

The main springs of the machinery responsible for this amazing traffic of parcels to our prisoners of war was the British Red Cross and Order of St. John, with headquarters at St. James Palace, London, the British Post Office, the Portuguese Post Office, the Swiss Post Office and that masterpiece of organisation, the International Red Cross, each performing its stupendous part. British and neutral seamen also played their part, inconspicuous but noble and courageous, in providing the links between British ports and Lisbon and between Lisbon and Marseilles. The neutral ships sailed to Marseilles under the eyes of the Committee of the International Red Cross and were guaranteed safe conduct by all the belligerents. But there were dangers that the “safe” conduct could not cover, and in October, 1943, the little Padua, making her seventeenth voyage in the Red Cross service, struck a mine in the Mediterranean and sank with the loss of six members of the Portuguese crew and over 11,000 bags of parcels. British ships which carried the “p.o.w.” parcels to Lisbon had no “safe conduct”; they shared the perils and losses common to British ships everywhere on the high seas.

Portugal first came into the “p.o.w.” parcel mail picture after the normal surface mail route from Britain to Switzerland had been cut by the German occupation of northern France. The mails were sent to Lisbon and were due to be forwarded to Switzerland by the usual postal route through Spain and southern France. But, after Dunkirk, the number of British prisoners increased in a brief space of time to over fifty thousand, with a corresponding increase in the volume of the Red Cross parcel traffic. The result was that the mails began to pile up at Lisbon. With the best will imaginable the Portuguese Post Office could do nothing about it; the capacity on the trains to Spain was totally inadequate. Moreover, there was no postal accommodation available in which to store the large quantity of accumulating mails.

Something had to be done. Something was done—by the British Red Cross, with the assistance of the British Post Office. Warehouses were hired for the use of the Portuguese Post Office; then small neutral ships were chartered and the International Red Cross arranged for them to convey the “p.o.w.” parcel bags through the war-ravaged seas to Marseilles and for the bags to be forwarded thence by special trains through Vichy France to Switzerland. There were many difficulties, but by the end of 1940 not only had the machinery been constructed but the wheels were going round. They continued to go round for four and a half years.

During all that time a representative of the British Post Office was stationed at Lisbon. His duties changed in detail and method as time went on, but his fundamental raison d’être remained the same throughout; it was to maintain a close liaison between the Portuguese Post Office and all the British and foreign elements concerned in the various transactions vital to the smooth working of the service.

Praise for the way in which the Portuguese Post Office performed the gargantuan task of receiving the bags from the British ships, storing them temporarily in the warehouses, and despatching them on the Red Cross ships to Marseilles, cannot be too high. The work was conducted with remarkable efficiency, due in no small measure to the wisdom of the Portuguese Post Office Headquarters in placing in charge an English-speaking official of wide experience in the handling of international mails. The “p.o.w. parcels” organisation was vast: thousands of people of different nationalities were engaged upon it, from the administrative brains in London and Geneva to the stevedores and porters who humped the bags. But if one person in the gigantic team had to be singled out, that person would, in my opinion, be Senhor J. C. Quadrijo Morao of the Portuguese Post Office. It was only at Lisbon, the nerve-centre of the system, that the whole of the bags became the immediate and personal responsibility of one man. Sr. Morao saw the work through from start to finish—over three million bags, and each one accounted for in the neat little record book at the Entraposto Postal Maritimo. All this was much more than “just a job” to him; it was a matter of conscience. To quote his own words, “We took the work to our hearts. We had many worries but we knew that some thousands of prisoners had to be fed, and we felt intensely if things did not go as smoothly as we wanted them to go.”

Sr. Morao’s not considerable share in the great undertaking which helped to keep 150,000 Britshers alive will not readily be forgotten.

(Continued on page 25)
Table Tennis S.O.S.

With the approach of winter, the table tennis season is under way again and once more the R.S.L. has nominated a team in the "A" grade. We were doubtful starters this year, as we have not yet succeeded in finding a hall which would be available as our home ground. However, this obstacle has been temporarily surmounted by the co-operation of the association, who agreed to arrange the draw in such a way that we play all our first round matches away from home, which virtually gives us until July 6 to find a home ground. So if there is any sub-branch in the metropolitan area with a table to spare on Wednesday nights with enough room around it to swing a bat, we would be glad to hear from it. Or even if only the room were available, we could arrange to bring our own table. This is your team, and your help is urgently required.

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THE LISTENING POST
June, 1949

A LETTER OF APPRECIATION

R.S.L. Ward,
"Sunset",
Nedlands,
April 7, 1949.

Hon. State Secretary,
Women's Auxiliary,
R.S.L. State Executive,
Perth.

Dear Mrs. Stockman,

Another year has passed and once again it gives me great pleasure to thank you and the members of the State Executive and all those who contributed to a beautiful outing to Rockingham.

I think this year the men enjoyed it more than ever, owing to the spell of hot weather. The bus ride away from sitting around the wards, and then to just sit about or wander and enjoy the seaside made a refreshing break. They should appreciate it, too, there are a lot of us who haven't been outside the gates for years.

Mr. Corness tells me there was no chance in the bustle of getting away to say a few words of thanks to all hands publicly. I am sorry for that, people expect it and I do like to hear of it having been done.

I regret that I cannot be on these trips. It is a great loss to me in not meeting so many of our good friends. However, I never fail to write and tell what real good our lady friends (and others—the memonal) are doing. I can assure you, you all have, one very staunch admirer.

I am also sending a little note of thanks to the Rockingham ladies and, please, would you let the Red Cross Transport know how much we appreciate their care. From time to time I drop them a line.

With best wishes for the Executive in the coming year, good health—and kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

H. M. PHILLIPS,
President, R.S.L. Ward.

Navy Needs Air Observers

The Royal Australian Navy requires immediately 12 qualified observers to serve as commissioned officers in the Royal Australian Navy.

Announcing this recently, Commodore Guy Willoughby, R.N., Fourth Naval Member of the Naval Board and Commodore (Air), said that, normally, applicants should not have passed their 27th year on December 31, 1948, but, in exceptional circumstances, applicants who were over 27 years of age on that date would be considered.

Candidates must already have been qualified observers or navigators (air) in one of the armed services. Preference would be given to those who had had operational experience as observers in naval aircraft or as navigators in Mosquitoes or in other two-seater aircraft which require the operation of air-borne radio and radar.

for a GOOD START and many of them

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DIRTY DICK'S

In a dirty old house lived a dirty Old Man,
Soap, towels or brushes were not in his plan;
For forty long years as the neighbours declared,
His house never since had been cleaned or repaired.

SOME years ago, a New York
woman on holiday in Britain
stepped from the crowded pavements
of Bishopsgate, London, and dis-
cended a gloomy staircase leading
from the street. At the foot of the
stairs she paused before a door. Then
she pushed it open and held her
breath. So this was Dirty Dick's.

Yes, it was Dirty Dick's — the
strange cavern-like place which has
seen few changes in two centuries.
Cobwebs hung from the ceilings,
estooned around the dirty beams like
macabre Christmas decorations — side
by side with the shrivelled parchment-
like remains of cats and rats, an alli-
gator, a lion's skull, and hundred other
mummified web-filmed remains hang-
ing like dusty stalactites.

The New York tourist — Mary
Buffy — was impressed, so impressed
that she wrote in the visitor’s book:
"This is the most interesting place
I've seen anywhere.

Dirty Dick's is probably the oldest
tourist spot in Britain. It is certainly
the queerest pub. Where else do
cobwebs cluster unmolested? Where
else does dust thicken year after year?
Where else are the dry, encrusted
shells of animals used as decorations?
Without all these things — well, it just
wouldn't be Dirty Dick's.

Strangers who stumble on this fam-
ous London wine-house often wonder
how the creepy facade of cobwebs,
dust and shrivelled rats began to form.
"Have the cleaners gone on strike
or what?" they exclaim.

No, not on strike — they were dis-
missed two hundred years ago by
Nathaniel Bentley, a well-known 18th
century dandy and prosperous trades-
man who inherited a good business
from his father.

It all happened when Bentley was
engaged to be married. To celebrate
he invited his bride-to-be, together
with a number of his friends, to at-
tend a banquet. On the day of the
reception, news came to Bentley that
the lady of his heart had died. Grief-
stricken, he locked the dining-room,

Charles Dickens (of Dirty Dick).
leaving the feast to be eaten by the
rats, mice, spiders and decay.

Bentley didn't much care — what
happened to it. Nor did he seem to
care what happened to himself.
He sacked his servants and went to pieces,
becoming slovenly in habit, degraded
and mean. Once when a frieund with
his best interests at heart remonstrated
with him about his personal appear-
ance, Bentley replied: "It's of no use.
If I wash my hands today, they'll be
dirty again tomorrow."

Bentley—or Dirty Dick as he soon
became known—lived the life of an
eccentric recluse until he died in
1809. After that, his shop was kept
open and preserved very much as it
is today, although the jungle of
cobwebs was partly cleared when a sec-
tion of the premises was rebuilt in
1870. But the walls and ceilings of
Dirty Dick's with their grisly relics
are substantially the same although a
few more cobwebs were shaken down
when a bomb fell nearby during the
war.

Thousands of tourists from all parts
of the world have been to Dirty Dick's
in London. They say there's going
there for years. A glance at the
visitors' book behind the bar shows
that. Hundreds of names are in the
book — "Sloppy Joe" of Baltimore to
the members of the All Blacks who
toured Britain in 1933.

What did they think of it? It
reminded an American from Bridge-
port, Connecticut, of Rattle Snake
Pete's in Rochester, New York; a
lady from Chicago thought it was like
a "tiny model of Sloppy Joe's, Ha-
varia." An Australian wrote in the
book, "A bit of old London and
how!" while a fellow countryman re-
marked, "Historically interesting." A
couple from Singapore celebrated
their twelfth wedding anniversary
there. A visitor from Melbourne
thought the place was "filthy but fas-
cinating." Hal Thompson, of Long
Island, New York, must have been
the oldest customer at Dirty Dick's.

When he was there in 1938, he com-
mented in the book, "My first visit
here since 1807! A visitor from
Dunedin, New Zealand, quipped,
"Home from home."

During the war years, the visitors'
book at Dirty Dick's was not main-
tained, so there is no record of the
large number of allied servicemen
who dropped in for a drink, but many of
them wrote from home to Dirty
Dick's recalling the past pleasant
hours they had spent there. Their
letters, sometimes accompanied by
their photographs ("Do you remem-
ber me?") were pinned on the walls
to mark their visit.

Dirty Dick's is perhaps the most
international of all London's pubs.
A barman there recalls that one even-
ning during the peak tourist season,
there were no fewer than seven dif-
ferent nationalities clustered at the
same time round one small corner of
the bar. He remembers, too, the
Danish visitor who, on buying a copy
of the guide-book from behind the
bar, exclaimed in surprise, "Good
heavens, it's clean!"

—From Coming Events.

ONLY YOU AND I NOW LEFT

The following "balance sheet" (un-
certified) places the production prob-
lems in the proverbial nutshell:—

| Population of Australia | 7,700,000 |
| People too old to work | 2,600,000 |
| Balance left to work | 4,900,000 |
| People too young to work | 2,200,000 |
| Balance left to work | 2,700,000 |
| People working in our seven Governments | 1,800,000 |
| Balance left to work | 900,000 |
| People in State and city offices | 650,000 |
| People left to work | 250,000 |
| People in hospitals and insane asylums | 74,000 |
| People left to work | 176,000 |
| Loafers, sundowners and others who won't work | 142,000 |
| People left to work | 34,000 |
| Persons in gaol | 33,998 |
| Balance left to work | 2 |
A man returning home after a few days' absence was met by his little boy:

"Papa, there's been a bogeyman in Mamma's bedroom."

"Oh, Johnnie, don't talk nonsense. You know there is no such thing as a bogeyman."

"Yes, there is, too," Johnnie says.

And what's more, he's up there hiding in the closet right now!"

So the man goes upstairs, a little anxiously, and opens the closet door. Sure enough, there is his good friend Sam from Czechoslovakia.

"Why, Sam," he cries, almost bursting into tears, "How could you do this to me? Didn't I furnish your passage from Europe? Didn't I rescue you from the clutches of Adolph Hitler? And now you repay me by hiding in the closet and scaring my little boy!"

The landlord of a public-house had a parrot which could talk about anything from horse racing to darts.

One day a stranger entered and said his parrot could talk better.

After an argument, a match was arranged for £10, the parrot which said the most in ten minutes to be the winner.

When the stranger's bird arrived, both parrots were put on a table. The local parrot did not speak at all, and the landlord had to pay his £10 to the stranger.

When he was putting his parrot back the landlord said to the bird: "You're a smart one, you are!"

The parrot whispered in his ear: "Listen, you make a return match for £10 and I'll talk the flamin' so and so's head off."

"Nero had to close the circus because of the overhead. The lions were eating up all the prophets."

The captain of a steamer took on two hands—one a Kirkcaldy man without a written character, the other a man from Dundee possessed of abundant documentary evidence as to his honesty.

They had not been long at sea when they encountered rough weather, and the Dundee man, when crossing the deck with a bucket in his hand, was swept overboard. The Kirkcaldy man saw what had happened and sought out the captain.

"Dae ye mind yon mon from Dundee?" he said, "that ye engaged wi' the fine character?"

"Yes," said the captain. "What of it?"

"He's awa' wi' yer bucket," was the reply.

It matters not a single jot
If sin is your vocation,
So long as, in the world you've got
A pious reputation.

A keeper from the lunatic asylum rushed up to a farmer and said, "I'm looking for an escaped lunatic. Did he pass this way?"

The farmer puffed thoughtfully on his pipe and asked, "What does he look like?"

"He's very short," said the keeper, "and he's very thin and he weighs eighteen stone."

The farmer looked at him in amazement. "How can a man be short and thin and still weigh eighteen stone?" he asked.

"Don't look so surprised," said the keeper angrily. "I told you he was crazy."

Keen Wife (to husband, in cinema): Those film actors don't always do those wonderful tricks. I'm told they have a double.

Bored Husband: I don't blame them. I'm going out to have one myself in a few minutes.
PERSONALITIES

Lieut.-General V. A. H. Sturdee, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Chief of the General Staff, sailed for the United Kingdom last month to confer on defence problems with the War Office authorities. At the same time he will inquire into the future trend in warfare in the light of scientific development of weapons.

Lieut.-Colonel R. W. Knights,

Mr. H. L. Kirke, of Bassendean, is another veteran of the League who claims membership of 30 years' duration. Returning to Australia in the Sardinia in December, 1918, he joined a Victorian sub-branch, but upon coming back to the West in 1919 he joined the Guildford-West Guildford (now Bassendean) sub-branch, worked hard as secretary for 11 years, was president for three

sub-branch, has been elected chairman of the Manjimup Road Board. Lou was president of the sub-branch for a period of six years, and is now president of the local branch of the St. John Ambulance Association.

Fred Bateson, of the State Executive, is to be congratulated upon his outstanding record of hospital visits. These are made regularly each week, throughout the year, and during May. Mr. Bateson made personal calls on no less than 265 patients at the Royal

OLD COMRADES

Assistant Adjutant-General at Army H.Q., left for the United Kingdom recently to attend a six-months' course at the Joint Services Staff College, Latimer.

Tom Morrell has been elected president of the 51st Bn. Association after long and honorable service as treasurer. He has, for a number of years, been one of the bulwarks of this association.

years, and is still an active member.

Ned Kinsella, a member of the Kensington sub-branch, is still a sick man, and we understand he has had to relinquish a number of his activities. One of the men responsible for the foundation of this sub-branch, we trust, that the younger members keep him well in mind.

Lou Thompson, of the Manjimup

Perth Hospital. His visits cover 10 wards, and an average of 66 men receive attention from him each week.

Mr. W. J. Hunt has been elected the second delegate to the B.E.S.L. conference to be held in Canada during September. At the last meeting of the State Executive congratulations were extended to the State President on the honour conferred on him.
I VISITED FAVERSHAM

(Continued from page 5)

I visited Faversham efficiently and courteously staff, headed by Mr. Fred Combs, who appears to be a veritable Poo Bah. Although younger than the men he cares for (and "cares" is the right word), he fathers them in every way. I doubt if he can do right in everyone’s eyes, but I am sure he is the right man in the job. The whole of the staff, indeed, seem imbued with a desire to help the old-timers, even at the expense of their own personal time.

The oldest inhabitant, Mr. W. A. Smith (an ex-W.O. I of the 10th Bn.), said, before I left: “If only other pensioners knew what this place was like, I am sure they would flock here. I am sure that if any sub-branch cared to take me, or any of the other men here, anywhere as an ambassador of this home, we could satisfy any who have doubts that this is the best place we could possibly have, and that it should never be closed down.”

Faversham still has vacancies for more pensioners — and (a significant feature which I have left to the last) the weekly fee is only 25/-.

VERSE CONTEST

W. A. Song Sleigh

An original poem about Western Australia suitable for setting to music as a community song is sought by the League, which has requested the Press-Sub-Branch to conduct a Commonwealth-wide competition for that purpose. First and second prizes of £25 and £15 respectively are offered.

Conditions are as follows:
1. The competition is open to everyone resident in Australia and there is no entry fee.
2. Previous publication of a poem, will not make it ineligible for this contest.
3. Competitors are free to choose any theme they wish, provided that it is definitely West Australian in atmosphere.
4. No music should be submitted at this stage. The prize-winning poem in this contest, if judged of adequate merit, will be submitted in a later contest for musical setting.
5. The West Australian Branch of the R.S.S. & A.L.A. reserves the right to make no award if, in the opinion of the judges, one of the entries received is at a sufficiently high standard.
6. Entries must be received not later than August 11, 1949, by the President of the Press-Sub-Branch of the R.S.S. (Mr. J. A. K. Tonkin, "The West Australian" Office, Perth), that sub-branch having been designated to conduct the competition.
7. Competitors may submit more than one entry.
8. Prize-winning poems will become the property of the W.A. Branch of the R.S.S., including copyright, etc.
9. Subject to approval of the author, an entry may be published in "The Listening Post."
This Concerns You and Me

By T. H. BOLTON

"The people never give up their liberties but under some delusion."
—Burke.

[The following article is contributed by a member of the Press sub-branch. It is published because we feel it contains much sound sense. Perhaps one who favours the introduction of manpower direction may like to contribute a reply. Readers are reminded that the views expressed are not necessarily those of either the Editor or "The Listening Post."]

WHEN we went to war with Hitler most of us thought we were fighting to preserve our democratic freedom—the right of the individual to live his life in his own way.

For some time I thought we won. Yet today in all the Allied countries there is less personal freedom than there was in 1939. By Hitler's design the Soviet Union fought on our side, but in 1939 the Russian was a slave and in 1949 he is still a slave. He works how, when and where he is told and it is not good for his health to ask why.

During the early part of the war, when things were going badly, there were some spects who clamoured for a clear statement of our war aims; and the Atlantic Charter—the Four Freedoms and the Declaration of Human Rights—was the direct result. You are reminded of these facts just in case you feel like having the Government run your life for you on the Soviet plan. You are reminded of them, too, because our Press sub-branch wants direction of manpower reintroduced; the members favouring this want more labour directed to the production of more house-building materials. Owing to the housing shortage, they say, Australian morale is at a pretty low ebb. Their remedy is to resort to a system requiring for its successful administration an army of snooper and informers—a host in themselves who would be better employed in producing the much-needed materials. And these comrades of ours forget that already one in every four employed persons in the Commonwealth is working for a government, either Federal or State.

Those members of the Press sub-branch who want everyone put to work just how, when and where the bureaucrats think best (it was decided on the casting vote of the chairman), evidently did not hear or read what went on under manpower regulations during the war; or perhaps they have forgotten.

In Australia today you are not bound to work for anybody in particular. If you did have to, you must surely agree that the fighting of a war to ensure the personal freedom of the individual against State interference must have been a pointless proceeding. In a totalitarian war against totalitarian dictatorships we had to accept totalitarian methods. We did so reluctantly for the sole purpose of protecting our individual freedom in peacetime.

Today if you are fired from your job you can always go to another. There are nearly 30,000 factories with different owners in Australia; and there are thousands of emporiums and shops, banks and insurance offices. If you work in one of these and don't like it, you can try something else and no one can stop you.

But under manpower control during the war it was different. Do you remember the identity card you had to carry? The Manpower Directorate had a record of you and it would not let you change your job without its authority. A constable could accost you and demand the production of your identity card. If you had left it in your other coat, it was just too bad. You would be hauled before a magistrate and fined.

If your boss wanted to give you a better job but had to get rid of an incompetent ass above you, he couldn't do it. He had to negotiate with Manpower for about six months and write countless letters; and in nine cases out of ten would be refused. And you could go on working in the same job for ever. You could not go to another job without your boss's consent or without that of Manpower.

Under that system, husbands who happened to be out of a job for a moment were torn from wife and child and sent to the Eastern States, to Darwin or roadmaking in the Never-Never. They might plead that their wives were expectant mothers and that there was a family of little ones to be cared for. But pleading with officialdom was seldom of much use.

Do you think it is a good thing to give a public servant the power to send you to another State or to Alice Springs or Darwin? Of course pressmen will not be sent, at least not while we still have a free Press. But if any inky wayfarer did get too troublesome, it would be a good way to deal with him; and soon you would not have a free Press at all. That is the Russian technique, and it works. If your local bureaucrat dislikes you and decides to discipline you, what can you do? You might be a union boss, but if your union does not align itself with Manpower, you will end up in Darwin or some such place; and even there you'll like it or else...

The system works in Russia, but how? A rich, fertile country, larger and with a much greater population than the United States, it had a bigger oil industry than the U.S. 20 years before World War I in the bad old Czarist days. And it had a gigantic steel industry and the biggest trade fair in the world worth £50,000,000 a year. We know fairly well the comparative progress under the Soviet system since then.

In the face of the known facts it would be strange if we, as free citizens, were to embrace the harsh discipline, political control, intellectual limitations and crude suppressions of the dictatorship systems. It seems to me that our conceptions of the ideal social order are to be found in the freedom of the individual where it does not infringe the rights of others, political and industrial freedom, and the right to order our own lives as it seems best to us.

The dictators rode to power on the strength of specious pleas such as those being made on behalf of the homeless. But the sacrifice of your liberty won't get you a house if you haven't one. It will shut you up, though. If you complain you will be sent somewhere where you will have a long time to think things over, perhaps to Central Australia where you won't need a house.
TRAINING: TOBACCO PROJECT.—Eligible ex-servicemen selected as suitable for this scheme will be given training, first at the training centre at Harvey for a period of two months, and then for a period of one year at the practical training centre at Manjimup. During these periods trainees will be required to live at the centres, single accommodation only being provided. Training allowance will be: Single man, £3/15/; Harvey; £5/10/; Manjimup. Married man with no children, £5/6/- and £5/10/- respectively. Married man with children, £5/15/-. In addition, living-away-from-home allowance will be paid to married trainees without children, 15/-; with children, £1/10/-. Fare and travelling expenses will be paid from place of residence to Harvey and Manjimup on commencement and completion of training, and a book allowance of £10 will be made. Two weeks paid leave will become due on completion of training. When training is concluded properties will be made available to applicants who successfully complete the course. Further details, if required, may be obtained from Anzac House.

FORGED ACTIVE SERVICE BADGES.—Certain instances of Returned from Active Service badges having been forged have been brought to the notice of the military authorities. Employers and others who have any doubts as to whether a badge is genuine are asked to request the person who claims to be entitled to the badge to produce his Certificate of Discharge. On this will be shown, whether he is entitled to such a badge or not. In the event of it being suspected that a badge has been forged or is not in the possession of its rightful owner, the person to whom it has been offered for inspection is requested to communicate with the headquarters of the relevant service authorities.

PEN FRIENDS.—The Thurgoland and Stainborough branch of the British Legion, the Chemistry, Worton, near Sheffield, Yorkshire, thinks it would be a good idea if, as a branch of the Legion, it made a correspondence friend of one or more branches of the League “with a view of exchanging ideas and keeping the friendship made in wartime.” The hon. secretary of the branch (Mr. W. E. Wallis) adds: “We are only a small village branch of 100 members . . . with a ladies’ section of 30 members, but we keep this place going with all kinds of entertainment and sport.”

JUNE 30 IMPORTANT.—The Regional Director of the Commonwealth Employment advises that June 30, 1949, is a very significant date so far as serving members of the Forces are concerned, for “Reinstatement rights may be exercised in accordance with the provisions of the Re-establishment and Employment Act by those persons who enlisted in the

"Actually we're in a spot—I arrested him, and then he arrested me."

Forces on or before June 30, 1947, and are discharged on or before June 30, 1949. Similarly, apprenticeships which were interrupted by reason of the enlistment for war service of the apprentice may be revived only in cases where the enlistment occurred on or before June 30, 1947, and the discharge occurs on or before June 30, 1949. Particulars of both these re-establishment rights can be obtained on application to the Central Ex-Servicemen’s Office, 575 Wellington Street, Perth.

INCREASED ALLOWANCES, C.R.T.S.—A resolution moved at the February meeting of the Federal Exec-utive by Western Australia: “In view of increased costs of living, and in view of the unfavourable reply received from the Minister for Post-War Reconstruction in reply to representations made, the League presses for further allowances for C.R.T.S. trainees,” has brought the following reply from the Minister: “I must again stress that as C.R.T.S. living allowances are necessarily closely related to allowances granted to ex-servicemen for other purposes, separate action cannot be taken which would place trainees in a favoured position compared with ex-servicemen on other re-establishment benefits. While, therefore, the allowances are not basically related to movements in living costs, provision nevertheless exists for their periodic review in the light of economic conditions—as exemplified by the two increases of 5/- per week to date, the more recent of which took effect on October 28, 1948. There is ample evidence that the allowances, which currently range from £3/15/- per week (for a single man) to £5/15/- for a married man with dependants, plus other considerable benefits such as provision for members living away from home, and for fees, fares, books and equipment, afford a generous measure of assistance towards qualification in all courses . . . However, where a C.R.T.S. trainee desires to supplement his allowances, it is open to him to engage in outside employment during vacations retaining in full income received. At other times, only earnings in excess of £3 per week are deducted from allowances. Having regard to these factors, I am not prepared at this stage to support a further increase in allowances to trainees.”

GRATUITIES.—Resolution No. 211 presented at the 53rd annual Federal Congress: “That the War Gratuities Board be asked to review the decision not to make early payments of gratuities to ex-servicemen for the erection of houses by personal effort of hired labour,” has brought the following reply from the Prime Minister: “The War Gratuity Act provides that a war gratuity may be transferred to an approved lending authority which is assisting the ex-serviceman financi-
ally to acquire a house. Provided he can comply with the conditions laid down, there is nothing to prevent an ex-serviceman acting as his own contractor doing his own building (if competent) or engaging efficient labour for the purpose. In cases where the ex-serviceman is acting as his own contractor, etc., the proceeds of the encashment of his gratuity would be made available to him by the approved lending authority as the work proceeds.

REPATRIATION LOANS.—A resolution passed at Congress: "That where ex-servicemen are granted repatriation loans their war gratuities be accepted as security for same" has brought the reply: "The use of war gratuities as security for Repatriation loans or any other purpose is expressly prohibited. This embargo arises from experience gained in the administration of the War Gratuity Act relating to the 1914-18 War... and it is not the intention of the Government to weaken this protection in any way."

MIGRANTS AND MINING.— As a result of a resolution carried at the R.S.L. State Mining Conference last year, the Under-Secretary for Mines states that an approach has been made to the Commonwealth Government that a larger proportion of suitable migrant labour for the gold mining industry might be made available. "This request has been sympathetically received, and arrangements are in hand already for migrant labour to be supplied."

M.N. AND AGRICULTURAL LOANS.—At the 33rd Annual Federal Congress a resolution was passed: "That the War Service Land Settlement Act of 1941 be amended to provide for the inclusion in the definition of 'member of the Forces' a person who is, or was, during the war, a member of the Merchant Navy and who served continuously for six months or upwards at sea in a recognised theatre of war; also that such person be made eligible for the Re-establishment Agricultural loans and allowances. To this the Minister for Post-War Reconstruction replies: "The question of widening the eligibility to include men who served in the Merchant Navy has been given careful consideration. It has been decided, however, that, as the number of persons already regarded as eligible for settlement under the scheme appears to be in excess of the opportunities for settlement likely to be forthcoming for a considerable period, no useful purpose would be served by widening the eligibility provision for the present. The question of ex-members of the Merchant Navy being eligible for agricultural re-establishment loans has also received consideration, but, due to the nature of their service, it has been decided that they must necessarily be regarded as being former members of the Defence Force. However the Commonwealth vacated the field of land sales control in September last, whilst National Security (Economic Organisation) Regulation 6a shall cease to operate when the Defence (Transitional Provisions) Act, 1947, ceases to be effective at the end of this year, and it will then be a matter for the States to take any action deemed necessary... the resolution, therefore, is one for consideration by the various State authorities."

DEFERRED PAY:—DECEASED SERVICEMEN.—A resolution passed at the recent Federal congress, "That the dependants of deceased servicemen, previously reported missing, be paid deferred pay up to the date upon which death was officially presumed," has brought this reply from the Prime Minister: "Deferred pay is definitely a soldier’s emolument and as such must be linked with the active pay and other allowances payable to members of the Forces... This proposal is not, therefore, in accord with the general principle which applies universally that pay, salary and other emoluments pertaining to a position or appointment cease on the death of the holder. It is considered that the fact that it was not practicable to determine a member’s location or fate for a period after death had actually taken place does not justify a departure from this firm principle. The effect of cessation of pay at death was, however, taken into consideration in making the special provision for widows and orphans of the members under reference whereby allotment at the rate in force and dependants’ allowances were continued up to at least one month after notification of death and for a further period of six months at the standard rate plus dependant’s allowance. It will be realised, therefore, that the provision made for wives and children may have been continued in certain cases for some years."

LOST PAPERS.—Mr. Robert John Leonard (1747), a member of the Southern Cross sub branch, who was discharged at the termination of World War I, is seeking lost discharge papers. Another Southern Cross resident, Mr. R. Teale, who is anxious to join the League, also seeks discharge papers which have been lost.
"THE BIRTH OF THE WEST"

"History owes its excellency more to the writer's manner than to the material of which it is composed," said Oliver Goldsmith, but both material and manner have been admirably blended in Malcolm Uren's Land Looking West (Oxford University Press).

Here is a book which may well be recommended to all who live in Western Australia, even though it may be the first biography they have ever tackled. For from it there is a likelihood that they will learn more about Perth and its surrounding districts than they did at school—and should the word "learn" frighten them, it is possible that they will get from it as much enjoyment as they would from many a work of fiction. For in Sir James Stirling, Malcolm Uren has uncovered a character to whom the West owes its very existence, and I stress "uncovered" for the very reason that, to the great majority of Westralians today, Stirling means either an hotel, a city street or a suburban highway. Not that the author has uncovered Stirling as much as some might have liked; for he has concentrated more upon the times than upon the man. But perhaps that is all to the good, for whereas few of us will care whether a longsince dead man had family troubles, financial worries or a carbuncle, we are all interested in how our capital city was first founded; in how the early settlers lived; and in how our landmarks received the names they carry.

Of biographers we have had many, and it has been truly said that the ideal biographer must be afflicted with an insatiable curiosity, a tenacious memory of detail, some conversational ability of his own, and considerable lack of reticence. He must regard his subject as something of a hero, for coldness and indifference will be fatal.

I do not think that Malcolm Uren could truthfully be called the ideal biographer—my individual preference for living biographers is strongly inclined towards Hesketh Pearson, whose Oscar Wilde and Bernard Shaw are both minor masterpieces, and whose Gilbert and Sullivan makes other books on this celebrated pair little more than tolerable.

But Uren has most of the traits of the biographer par excellence. His research has been wide, painstaking and fruitful. Of "coldness and indifference" he cannot possibly be accused.

The dying Hamlet said—

If thou didst ever hold me in thy heart,

Absent thee from felicity awhile,

And in this harsh world draw thy breath in pain

To tell my story.

Uren has been, if not Stirling's Horatio, at least the very able chronicler of his times.

For books are more than books, they are the life, The very heart and core of ages past; The reason why men lived and worked and died, The essence and quintessence of their lives.

He shows us how keen his hero was to see the West settled by the British:

"As a Naval and Military Station upon a great scale, the neighbourhood of Swan River would be of the highest importance." He proves how niggardly the British Government was in its attitude towards the venture. He tells us how disappointed many of the new settlers were, and how many of them returned home. (How true it is that history repeats itself.) Then he goes on to give us the story of the settlement until the return of Stirling to England.

We who find difficulties in living on current salaries find more than passing interest in the bonds of service which applied between master and servant in those days.

"One such... required a man to serve his master without reward for seven years, the master's part of the bargain being to provide the passage money to Swan River for the servant, together with his wife and child, and to house, clothe and feed the man and his family while the man remained in his employ. A carpenter undertook for himself and his wife to serve for five years for £10 a year... Less fortunate indentured servants had to refund their passage money after they reached Swan River."

In 1832 the colony had a population of 1,497.

"...of whom 400 were in Fremantle, 360 in Perth, 120 in Guildford, 70 at Augusta and 60 at King George's Sound... the settlers had sunk about £200,000 in the formation and development of the colony... Buildings in Fremantle were worth about £15,000 and in Perth about £10,000... about £100,000 had been spent by the settlers in passage money and "in fruitless or unproductive expenses on the Part of Individuals."

But Stirling in his report to the British Government, said:

"...there is no Colony under the Crown which appears to hold out to Emigrants, whether Workmen or Capitalists, greater Attraction in Agricultural, Pastoral or Commercial Pursuits."

Few books could hold out greater attractions to a student of the history of Western Australia than this. It is written in a style that is eminently readable, it is well illustrated, and at 24/6 it is a really good buy. A book, indeed, which one can open with expectation and close with profit.

—W.B.

"Land Looking West" by Malcolm Uren: Oxford University Press. Our copy from Albert's Bookshop.

Sporting Tattle

The inaugural meeting for the 1949 season of the R.S.L. Sports Council was held at Anzac House recently, when the following officers were elected—

Chairman: Mr. Alan G. Douglas.
Vice-Presidents: Messrs. Cliff J. Lambe, Sid Dawson and Alan Blake.
Secretary: Mr. Jim Cutmore.
Mr. Noone, Secretary of the W.A. Darts Association, submitted a proposal for the formation of an R.S.L. Australian-English Darts League and this was referred to a sub-committee for consideration.

A matter of interest to Digger golfers is a proposal by the N.S.W. Branch of the R.S.L. for an interstate golf-match. This has been referred to the W.A. Golf Association in order that returned servicemen members could be invited to take part.
To the Editor.

Sir,—I wonder if you or your readers would elucidate a point that has puzzled me ever since my service days. It is reported in the Press that the commander of H.M.S. Amethyst was posthumously "mentioned," this being the only award available to him, despite "utmost gallantry and devotion to duty," other than the Victoria Cross or the George Cross. Why? Surely if a man is killed in performing an act of gallantry that would have brought him the D.S.O., D.C.M., M.C. or M.M., or anything else had he survived, he is entitled to the award in death. The George Cross, I think, is confined to civilians, and between a V.C. and a "mention" is a very wide gap.

Yours, etc.,

"CURIOUS."

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Our New Zealand Visitors

As most of our readers are aware, four delegates from the New Zealand Returned Services Association — Messrs. G. Warren, M. Jenkins, C. Inch and W. H. Simmons — came to Perth for the Anzac Day celebrations, and afterwards were taken by officials of the League through some of our country areas, visiting Harvey, Collie, Brunswick, Bunbury, Bridgetown, Manjimup, Kojonup, Katanning, Narrogin and York.

We have now received from Mr. Warren the following letter:

On the eve of our departure for New Zealand I appreciate the opportunity of expressing the sincere thanks of the New Zealand delegation for the wonderful hospitality that has been given us in Perth, Fremantle and the country districts we have visited.

We came to a State that is famous for its hospitality to New Zealanders during the war years, and we find that there has been no slackening in this respect during the intervening period.

The delegation has been greatly impressed with the outstanding calibre of the men who are at the head of the R.S.L., and in particular we would congratulate them in having for State President such a man as our newly-made friend, Bill Hunt.

In no lesser light would we mention our friend Tom Sten, who seems to have done yeoman work in making our trip both instructive and enjoyable.

Likewise, we would like to mention several others who have done a great deal of work in making our stay in W.A. so pleasant and memorable, but if we tried to mention all the people we should be sure to leave some out, so we had better not make the attempt.

All members of the delegation have been greatly impressed with the whole of the arrangements of the Anzac services at Perth and Fremantle, and have noted several matters which we feel could be adopted in New Zealand with advantage. We feel that the people of W.A. are more sincere in their observance of Anzac Day than is the case in New Zealand, and we envy you this most desirable state of affairs. In our country there is, unfortunately, a growing tendency for the day to be taken as just another public holiday in which thousands go in quest of personal enjoyment and our glorious dead are forgotten. We trust that your solemn observance will continue for many years to come.

Those who were responsible for our country tour planned a trip which was informative and delightful. During the journey we made many friends with whom we hope to keep in contact.

We have seen most of your industries and a good part of your country which, unfortunately, was not enjoying the measure of rainfall desired, and thus did not appear to full advantage. Despite this, we have gained information enabling us to put together a picture of your farmlands as they appear in more favourable circumstances.

We were impressed with the efficient manner in which country sub-branches were functioning. At each place we visited we were most hospitably received and entertained in a lavish manner. We were surprised at the number of mayoral receptions and the desire to show us as much as possible in the short time at our disposal.

As we leave, we feel that we should mention that, in our opinion, this is a country capable of greater development, and young men who are prepared to work and break in some of the many thousands of acres of bushlands we have seen should be assured of a good livelihood.

As we leave this fair city of Perth, where there is much evidence of civic pride, we have one desire in our hearts: that is, to return and see it again, and the delightful country surrounding it.

We are deeply grateful for the wonderful time we have had, and to all those members of the League who helped to make our stay so enjoyable we offer our thanks. We trust that in the near future we will have the opportunity of returning some of the hospitality to some of your members.

Private Smith was brought before his C.O. one morning and charged with being drunk and disorderly in the canteen the previous night.

"Now, Smith," said the C.O., "this is the tenth time you have appeared before me on this charge. What have you to say?"

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

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HAS THE AIRSHIP ANY FUTURE?

The news that the U.S. Navy has ordered dirigibles for training and communications purposes illustrates that lighter-than-air craft still have their uses, despite the tremendous progress made during the past decade with the heavier-than-air machine.

With the latter outstanding development there is a tendency to overlook the importance of the part played by the airship in the history of aviation, although there still exists a section of people who persist in the belief that the airship is the real answer to aerial transport.

The airship was evolved from the balloon, which was first discovered in France in 1783 by the Montgolfier brothers. The balloon represents a stage in man's struggle to find a means of flying. But it also brought about a split in the ranks of early enthusiasts, resulting in two schools of thought and experiment. One school branched off on to the lighter-than-air principle and produced the airship; the other continued with the heavier-than-air principle and finally produced the aeroplane.

The balloon was not navigable and so the cigar-shaped balloon was evolved, and eventually in 1852, with the aid of a specially built steam engine, Henri Giffard made the first controlled flight in an airship. Thus the airship came into being 51 years before the first aeroplane flight by the Wright brothers in 1903.

The big drawback to the airship, however, was its size, which increased proportionately as its lifting power was increased. The original non-rigid and semi-rigid types depended on the inside gas pressure to maintain their shape, and consequently possessed many faults. It was not until Count von Zeppelin introduced the rigid type, built of girders covered with stiff fabric and depending for its lift on the number of gas-filled bags within its frame, that the airship became reasonably safe.

The Germans possessed a large fleet of non-rigid and semi-rigid types at the outbreak of the 1914-18 war, and these carried out bombing raids on England immediately after war's declaration. However, with the speed and maneuverability of the aeroplane increasing, and heavier anti-aircraft defences being mounted, the slow ungainly airships became exceedingly vulnerable and their great losses forced their complete withdrawal.

The rigid type appeared towards the end of the war and Britain, visualising their possible use, constructed R33, R34 and R38. The second of these - R34 - succeeded in crossing the Atlantic, non-stop both ways, in 1919. R38 was sold to the United States but crashed on trials, killing all but five of its crew of 49. In 1924 a new British airship policy was formed and larger airships, R100 and R101, were built; but on the maiden voyage of R101 on October 5, 1930, it crashed into a hill in France, burst into flames and only four of its complement of 55 escaped death. Airship construction was abandoned in Great Britain after this tragedy, the R100 being completely scrapped.

Airships were never fast, rarely exceeding 100 m.p.h., and by their very size (the later types averaged about 770 feet long) they were exceptionally hard to handle in high winds, especially at the beginning or ending of a flight. Airships were also particularly vulnerable to fire, barely a spark being necessary to turn the whole airship into a blazing mass within a matter of seconds. Most countries experienced tragic airship losses between 1919 and 1936, perhaps the greatest loss being that of the U.S.A. airship "Akron" in April, 1933, when 73 from a complement of 76 were lost. England lost the R38 and R101, Germany the "Hindenburg," and Italy lost Nobile's "Italia."

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UNABRIDGED HISTORY

WROUGHT TARGET

Up on Tianjin, not long after the landing, and with the Nips up to all their happy little stunts, a patrol from the 2/3rd Pioneers was sent out to "get" an up-a-tree sniper who was making something of a nuisance of himself.

Moving up the track they encountered, coming from the opposite direction, one of those L.S.T. Yanks who so nonchalantly set out from time to time to look at the war from close quarters and sometimes start one for themselves.

"Say, you guys," he drawled, "I've had my glasses on something up a tree that looks like a Jap."

"That'd be the one we're after," the boys told him.

"Would you like me to get him?" offered the Yank.

Nothing worth to see an easy solution of what could have been a sticky job, they watched him disappear along the path, heard sounds of a shot and the crash of a body falling from aloft. A short interval and then the Yank came pelting back along the track.

"What's wrong?" they asked.

"Waal," said the Yank, "I pumped a bullet into that Jap and down the son-a-bitch came. I went up to make sure he was finished, and instead of a Jap I found a goldarned ape. Waal—then it dawned on me: if that's an ape so-and-so sniper is still up one of these trees. So I left—pronto."

* This story earns 10/6 for A. McDonald (Manjimup).

ANY HORSE-SAILORS?

In charge of a seaside Naval convalescent camp 35 miles from the city and eight miles from civilization I found one of the Indians; a skin case, complaining of abdominal pain. Knowing the Indians' habit of faking illness I waited until I was sure of acute appendicitis and then walked a mile to a Light Horse patrol, and on a borrowed charger and with an accompanying trooper made eight miles of moonlit beach to the nearest telephone,

returning in time to meet the ambulance at the camp. Does my claim as the only mounted sailor stand unchallenged?

"DOC" (Perth).

NEWS TO HIM

Bert, ere the war had advanced too far, went overseas as a sgt./pilot and his subsequent postings took him from the Middle East to India and Burma and the lesser parts of little-known Asia, where time and the authorities forgot him. Several years later he returned to Aussie, and in his stained and faded sergeant's uniform visited Records, where he made vigorous inquiries regarding pay and promotion.

To the sympathetic but clueless clerk he waxed eloquent about being a mere sergeant while all the blokes he had joined up with were P.O.'s. The clerk made reluctant promises and disappeared in search of files. Three minutes later he returned bearing a sheaf of papers, snapped smartly to attention, saluted and exclaimed, "Excuse me, sir. You're a squadron-leader!"

BOB CHAMBERS.

SHIP'S PROPERTY

Whilst returning home on a troopship from a P.O.W. camp in Singapore, I arrived back from the bathroom to my cabin, only to find that I had left my toothbrush behind. Quickly retracing my footsteps I was amazed to find a fellow engrossed in the operation of cleaning his "stumps" with my brush.

I glared at this bloke with utter disgust and said to him: "Eh, Digger! That's my toothbrush you're using."

He immediately discontinued "Operation Toothbrush," extracted the blistered weapon from his mouth, looked at it as though he was losing his best friend, held his hand out to me complete with toothbrush, and said, "Sorry, mate. I thought it belonged to the ship."

BOB MURRAY.

(Mt. Hawthorn.)

BAGS - JUST BAGS

(Continued from page 9)

It was rare that a consignment of bags arrived from the United Kingdom without a few parcels having been damaged on route, but, considering the conditions of transit and the huge number of parcels conveyed, the proportion was surprisingly small. The damaged parcels and all loose items were collected and taken to the "hospital" for special treatment by selected members of the Portuguese Post Office staff employed at the warehouses. The care and interest devoted to this work resulted in our prisoners of war receiving hundreds of parcels which would otherwise have gone astray.

I cannot omit reference to the most hectic fortnight in the whole of the "p.o.w." parcel service. In the early hours of May 31, 1943, six British ships stole quietly into the Tagus and created postal history. The Algerian, City of Lancaster, Finland, Grodno, Shetland and Volturno brought no fewer than 168,389 bags—surely the largest consignment of mail ever to arrive at one time in any port or "office of exchange." Unloading commenced next day and proceeded for a fortnight: but during that same period 108,789 bags were loaded on the Red Cross ships Urola, Ambriz, Tagus, Zemanel, Padua and Vega, and despatched to Marseilles—a turnover of considerably more than a quarter of a million bags. The resources of the lorry service were taxed to the limit and our good friend, Senhior Fortunato dos Santos, who supplied the service, had the most harrowing time of any of us.

An account of that fortnight's work alone would make a long story, and it would require a book to give a detailed description of all the work at Lisbon—its creation and growth; the warehouses, quays and ships; the host of people concerned; and the problems met and overcome. My own term of service there, from March, 1943, to March, 1944, coincided with the peak period of the traffic and it was often hard going—but it had its compensations!
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The Last Post

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

BATES, J. E., Victoria Park sub-branch; late of the 16th Bn.
BURDETT, A. E., Victoria Park sub-branch; late R.A.A.F.
COLEMAN, J., Victoria Park sub-branch.
DILLON, M. N., Newdegate sub-branch; late of the 27th A.I.B.
HILL, J., Maylands sub-branch.
HOLME, C., Bunbury sub-branch; late of the 11th Bn.
KELLEHER, J., Jarrabad-Mundijong sub-branch; late of the 11th Bn.
MORTIMER, W. S., Denmark sub-branch; late of the 11th Bn.
NELSON, J. C., Bedford-Morley Parks sub-branch; late of the 2/28th Bn.
ODONOHUE, J., Albany sub-branch.
PHELPS, L. W., Press and Mount Lawley sub-branches.
SHAW, A., City of Perth sub-branch; late of the 26th Bn.
YANN, A. G. S., South Perth sub-branch.

We regret to record the following deaths:

COLLETT, Mrs., widow of the late Colonel Collett, State President of the League from 1926 to 1933.
FAROUKHAES, Mrs., wife of Mr. H. E. Farquharson, past president of the Rockingham-Safety Bay sub-branch.
SEAGAR, B., son of Capt. G. Seagar (late U.S. Navy), of the Waroona-Hamelin sub-branch.
WEEKES, Mrs. S., of the Maylands women's auxiliary.

The women's auxiliary of the old 16th Bn. are visiting Sunset on June 26, and are hoping to take comforts to old 16th members. Any donations will be gratefully received. These may be forwarded to Mrs. Newick, Hunt Street, Mt. Lawley.

These, deeds will live forever

2: A very gallant gentleman

In 1910, Captain Robert Falcon Scott set out to discover the South Pole. Those were the days in which Antarctic exploration meant soul-searing hardship and often death. Sometimes progress was no more than nine or ten miles a day.

On January 11, 1911, Scott and his party were only 27 miles from their goal, but by now there was a dread that they might have been beaten by Amundsen. The dread was correct, for when they reached the Pole three days later a tent had the Norwegian flag still flying.

Disappointed, Scott and his party retraced their steps. As Scott wrote in his diary, they had '500 miles of solid dragging to do. The temperature was forty degrees below zero, and two of the party—Wilson and Oates—suffered the agonies of frostbite. They kept going until March 3, but on that day they covered only 44 miles. Oates was very ill, so the party rested for three days. Then they went on again, but by the night of the 16th poor Oates could go no further.

Captain Lawrence E. G. Oates, of the 9th Inniskilling Dragoons, then proved how brave a man he was. As Scott wrote in his diary (found after his death): 'He slept through the night before last, hoping not to wake, but he woke in the morning—yesterday. It was blowing a blizzard. He said, I am going outside and may be some time.' He went out into the blizzard, and we have not seen him since. We knew that poor Oates was walking to his death; but though we tried to dissuade him, we knew it was the act of a brave man and an English gentleman.'

Anzac Club Amenities

An annual meeting of those interested in the Club amenities was convened for April 29, and resulted in the following election of officers:

Chairman, Mr. Alan Blake; hon. secretary, Mr. E. MacLeod; hon. treasurer, Mr. Harry Folkard; committee: executive and Messrs. Fred Burns and Rex Heygate.

Close co-operation with the State Executive Club Committee is being maintained, with Mr. Chas. Mitchell as liaison member.

The inter-club billiards competition has again been entered and the first game played by Anzac Club was against the Buffs at the Buffalo's Hall on Wednesday, May 11, when Anzac Club for the first time was beaten in all four games.

Fixtures, handicaps and teams selected weekly are posted in the Club.

Billiards and Snooker

Club championship and handicaps will both be held. Entries for both will close on July 15, 1949.

As previously, nominations for the championship section will be requested from sub-branches who hold the Presidents' Cup for the ensuing year, the player receiving a trophy.

Nominations fee for each event is 2 shillings, (£/2) per head.

Bridge, euchre, crib and darts competitions are being held and reports of play will be published from time to time.

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

In one of the main London sorting offices, "magic-eye" machines, which are being developed, will automatically sort mail. Georgie Henschel, who reported this recently in the BBC overseas series "In Britain Today," said this more-than-human device would sort letters from packets and parcels, then letters into their different sizes, turning them right way up with the stamp in the right place for franking, and even marking them invisibly with a fluorescent code stamp which sent them to the right "human" sorting office for their addresses to be read — the one thing apparently, which as yet couldn't be done.
Sub-Branch Activities

BEDFORD-MOORLEY PARES

With the Anzac Day commemorations behind us for this year, the sub-branch can consult the newspaper and entertainment columns to see what share of the true Digger spirit with its sub-branch activities. It was reflected at the Anzac Day and Memorial Day services held at the town hall on May 12, when a large gathering assembled to hear the sub-branch life.

The retiring president (Tom Serventy) did not seek re-election, and the following members were nominated for the board of sub-branch for the coming year: the president, F. F. Pearson; vice-president, H. Leipers; assistant secretary, A. Patterson; social and sports secretary, J. O'Connell; stewards, Geo. McKay and D. Slinger; publicity officers, P. J. Pearson and D. Slinger; auditors, J. Hicks. The management committee elected for the coming year was: Messrs. H. Blackhurst, J. Capstick, D. Dunn, T. Lamb, G. Wall, J. Pepperell, A. Shimburg, D. Slinger, T. Tibbett, G. Wall and T. Williams.

The new team have plenty of work before them, and the committee meeting was held on the next General meeting on June 14 will be held on the following day. The sub-branch had no meetings over the Cup with no handles on. So, drop in, Digger, for a very pleasant night.

FREMANTLE

The Anzac parade and service here was the best ever. The Chief Marshal, Lieut.-Com. mander Hatten, R.A.N., carried out the arrangements with his usual efficiency. He was in command of units of the Australian Forces, Navy, Army and Air Force. We are indebted to the R.S.L. Memorial Band and the Fremantle Pipe Band for that martial music which has delighted us for the past twenty years. Fremantle has been the pick of the Western Australian places for the Anzac Day observances.

The four New Zealand delegations and the Australian branch were present. They were received by the Mayor, Councillor D. M. Lamb, who headed the members of the parade, and the parade was led by the Salvation Army and the Salvation Army corps, followed by the R.S.L. and R.S.M. branches. The marchers were very fine, and the parade was very well turned out. The parade proceeded to the Town Hall, passed down the main street and returned to the Town Hall, where the services were held.

The next General meeting will be held on the following day. The sub-branch had no meetings over the Cup with no handles on. So, drop in, Digger, for a very pleasant night.

KALGOORLIE

Anzac Day, 1949, has come and gone, and it is pleasing to know that the activities of the sub-branch in connection with this great anniversary were a great success. At the Anzac Smoke Social in the Town Hall on the night of the parade, the members enjoyed themselves.

The sub-branch is very buoyant and membership is slowly but surely getting back to normal. We are glad to report that all presidencies and secretaries and their wives were invited (also the above-mentioned and their wives) was not the success contemplated. We thought this would give a lead to other sub-branches to do as much as they can. The League should foster the social side and balance. No solid work members are called on to do.

MANAMPUP

Members of the Mannum sub-branch might be pardoned for feeling somewhat the generosity extended visitors.

A larger number of people were present at the Anzac Day gathering than was the case last year. The members of the sub-branch have been putting in a lot of work during the past few months to ensure a successful meeting. It is hoped that all members will do their utmost to help out in his new task. Co-operation in the sub-branch will again be a live, constructive organization.

THE LISTENING POST

June, 1949

Bedford-Moorley Pares

The Anzac parade was a great success. The sub-branch had no meetings over the Cup with no handles on. So, drop in, Digger, for a very pleasant night.

Kalgoorlie

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Melville

The May meeting was opened at 8 p.m. by President Bill Brown and Vice-President Mr. H. J. Bird. The committee reported that the branch was in good standing and that the financial position was satisfactory.

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was passed for payment. A motion was passed to endeavour to persuade the authorities that an additional sub-committee was necessary. The sub-committee was formed to meet delegates from other organisations in the district to further assist in getting consideration of our transport difficulties. The possibilities of forming a club within the sub-branch was discussed, and the president promised to report to the executive at a later date on this procedure in this regard. The meeting closed and the balance of the evening was spent in drinking, ear-boxing, cards, cards, and ear-boxing.

**M. HAWTHORN**

Recent meetings of the sub-branch have been very well attended and great interest is being manifested in activities. There is a big programme ahead. The Anzac Day commemoration service was this year held in our own hall and proved a record, the attendance being in the vicinity of 400. Our thanks are due to the members of the Perth Highlifh Pipe Band, Rev. Law-Davis, Capt. Reves and Vociolla—Miss Neill Shortland-Jones, Mrs. B. Eekley and Brian Jose. As each year passes, the day gains greater significance. Prior to the main service at 9.30, a formal roll was taken to those who fell in the 1939-1945 War, unveiled by the Rev. Law-Davis. Mt. Hawthorn is one of the few places to provide a memorial. On May 4 we journeyed to Mosman Park, where we played the local sub-branch band, and we were treated to a gallery of local people. The hospitality extended to us by the Mosman sub-branch, and extend thanks to Ted Griffiths and staff. Our Sons of Soldiers League boys were successful in defeating Bedford-Maylands in the first of the Inter-Branch Memorial Shield games. This will make the locals keener and augur well for the future. At the general meeting held on April 14, the following motion was moved: "That the sub-branch support the State President in the council during the recent State Executive Debit, re the use of public halls safety, and extend our sympathy to H.E. Farquharson, of Safety Bay, and a member of the sub-branch, on their bereavement figures have increased by 28 during the month. The figures represent new members, transfers, and old members joining. Eight of these tournaments are held every Tuesday evening during the summer months. On May 13 we were at home to Nedlands in the Inter-Branch games, and Mt. Hawthorn went all games with the exception of the shoot, and this is usually our strongest feature. The evening proved a most enjoyable one and the attendance was exceptionally good. June meetings will be held on pension nights, 11th and 25th.

**M. LAWLEY-INGLEWOOD**

As the result of a recommendation of a special committee appointed to enquire into the matter, the sub-branch at its May meeting passed a resolution to alter its by-laws. It is the hope of the committee that this alteration will facilitate the working of the various committees, and result in a more even distribution of the duties of the office-holders. The Younger Set, launched only a few months ago, is now working enthusiastically and held its first social on May 15. The financial membership has reached 235 and continues to rise. On May 5, 10 members of the sub-branch were guests of the sergeant's mess, R.A.A.F., Pearce. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent by everybody, and a return visit was arranged. One of the party will not forget the visit in a hurry, for he took an involuntary plunge in the R.A.A.F. fishpond. After being rescued and driven home in a borrowed Air Force uniform.

**NORTH-EAST FREMANTLE**

Two Anzac Day services were conducted by the sub-branch, one at the Fremantle Cemetery at 9.30 a.m. and the other, in conjunction with the North Fremantle Council, at the North Fremantle Memorial Reserve at 11 a.m. Senior Motor F. Jones (Salvation Army) conducted both services, being assisted at North Fremantle by Capt. Martin (Salvation Army) and Pte. Spratling. The cemetery service was impressive in its simplicity. Conducted in ideal surroundings, on the green lawns near masses of white chrysanthemums, here was reverence and beauty and thought. In the afternoon spratling conducted the service at the North Fremantle Cemetery, where the memorial to be unveiled by the Mayor of North Fremantle. People of Fremantle were present and great interest was shown. The service was a particularly large gathering at the North Fremantle service. The address by Pte. Spratling was typical of the Fremantle service. He said:

"I was at one time a member of the Fremantle Salvation Army Band, whose services, as always, were greatly appreciated. The dignity and reverence of the services, and the homage paid by those who met in solemn concourse, causes one to reflect on the past and to say to himself, 'is it worth it? Is it worth living anything less than the day we observe it now would be a sacrilege?'" The service was a great occasion, and the proceedings were a fitting tribute to those comrades who can be present only in proud memory, and whose deeds of valour we honour and respect.

**ROCKINGHAM**

The Rockingham and Safety Bay sub-branch held Anzac service at the Agri-cultural Hall, Rockingham. Members paraded in Rockingham and marched to the Agricultural Hall where the Honour Roll was temporarily housed. The president of the Rockingham sub-branch (Mr. A. J. MacKinnon) opened the service at 9.30 p.m. The usual order of service was observed and the address was appropriately given by Mr. H. Farquharson (who is a member of both sub-branches). The ceremony of laying of wreath was solemnly carried out. Bouquets of wreaths and floral tributes were sent by the Rockingham Tennis Club, Bowling Club, R.C. Board, Country Women's Association, Boy Scout Troop No. 265, Rockingham R.S.L. and Women's Auxiliary, Safety Bay Yacht Club, R.S.L. and many relatives and friends of Sailors and Soldiers who paid the supreme sacrifice. Some 250 members of both sub-
branches and friends were present, including the Scout Master and Troop Leader (W.A.) Boy Scouts, the Rev. G. H. Hills (Church of England, Rev. G. E. Lowe, London United Church) and an officer of the Salvation Army. The Last Post was sounded by bugle-major George Glenn (age 20) of the Rockingham sub-branch. Great credit is due to Mr. P. A. Scott, Mr. J. H. Bowerman, Mr. H. F. Bowerman, and to Brian Gray for the tons of his pauch-addressed society money which the sub-branch and, despite its short existence, now proudly boasts a membership of 70 financial members.

SHENTON PARK

At last a real proof of our intentions has appeared on our notice by the erection of a fence almost the whole length of the road. This is also intended to create an impression that, as in the past, it is not to be used as a dumping ground. Other improvements will be made in the near future with the view to building operations. The picture snow in the Daily News was very poorly attended, and considering the very good snow and the troubles which the staff were put to, those who did not attend missed something. A tentative date for a visit by President K. W. Hazlett and the Branch President is set for July 11. The visit is planned to take the form of a sports and social night, and if there is no reoccupation of the sub-branch, it will be as good as previous sports nights. So come along to the meeting and you will understand all about it.

SUBIACO

The April general meeting was quite an innovation in two ways: Lodges of the auxiliary attended and a combined games evening was held. The evening was spent as a combined games evening, which was being played by the staff and London United Church, and also well advertised, was most well attended, and we will have to be assured of more sub-branch support; in fact we made it work again on such an ambitious project. The Anzac Day service at the Masonic Hall, through well-organised and also well advertised, was not well attended, and we will have to be assured of more sub-branch support at the next meeting.

VICTORIA PARK

Our May programme was rather strenuous. In addition to two meetings this month, the monthly meeting the usual first Friday evening in the month, and the meeting the first Monday in each month, the Subiaco Municipal Council will shortly add the names of the officers of the local company to the local memorial. This project was originally started at the request of Subiaco sub-branch, but a complete nomination list was submitted through the sub-branch. It would seem, however, that the sub-branch representatives to members were responsible in some cases for the information going direct to the local company, and that we materially increased the Council’s own efficient and comprehensive efforts.

WARGOONA-HAMEL

The sub-branch annual general meeting and election of officers was held in March. Mr. W. L. Barr, who was appointed sub-branch secretary, and Miss H. Watson, who was appointed sub-branch treasurer, were elected to the chair. Mr. P. A. Scott, most able secretary for some years past, was re-elected to the vice-chair. A notice was read out regarding the sale of land and lotteries, to which was attended and well advertised, and which was not well attended.

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During recent convalescence I was able to read Buckley’s book right through. I found it very interesting. Samuel Buckley writes well. One of the characters, “Aida,” reminds me of the little dark-eyed Gypsy, who accompanied our battalion on its march to Amiens to entrain for France.

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**WOMEN’S AUXILIARIES**

**STATE EXECUTIVE**

At our meeting on May 3, Mrs. Burrows and Mrs. Larry, President and Secretary of the Independent-Women’s Auxiliary of West Leederville, welcomed and entertained us during the afternoon as interested listeners.

**Deductions**

All the ladies have responded whole-heartedly to the recent appeal for the Red Cross and the R.S.I. War Veterans’ Home at York, and following donations have been received this month by Mrs. Stockman.

Red Cross Appeal: Spearwood and Narembeen.
- 20 cents, Mrs. J. B. Stone, Midland Junction, and Mr. J. Hayne, 6/5/1.
- 10 cents, Mrs. F. S. Knight, Baldivis, and Mrs. J. H. Lipton, Guildford, Gloucester Park, Collie and West Leederville.
- 50 cents, Faversham House, York, Spearwood, 2/5/1.
- 10 cents, Mt. Hawthorn, 10/10/1.
- 50 cents, Southern Cross Club, Brookton, 2/1/11.
- 50 cents, Midland Junction, 2/1/1.
- 10 cents, Victoria Park and City of Perth, 5/5/1.
- 50 cents, Maddington and Kentish, 5/5/1.
- 10 cents, West Leederville, 5/5/1.
- 25 cents, Bassendean, Belmont, Norsemann, 1/5/1.
- 10 cents, North Perth, 10/11/1.

Other Donations: Bassendean, Soldiers’ Scholarship Fund, 1/1/1; Bunbury, horse riding entertainment, 10/1.

**Presidents and Secretaries’ Meetings**

A meeting was held in Anzac House on Friday, May 13. The Annual Exhibition, to be held in the Town Hall on September 19, was discussed. The agenda was that it is decided that the exhibition remain open until 11 a.m. on the morning of the event and gifts would be auctioned. Nominated auxiliary volunteers to attend for afternoon tea and ten auxiliaries requested stalls for the sale of flowers, cakes and miscellaneous articles. As no money prizes can be given this year, individual members and auxiliaries proposed trophies for outstanding exhibits. As the show is being held in May this year, members were urged to make an early start. This month, Mrs. Stockman turned in several entries. Mrs. McIlroy mentioned the need for more frequent visits to Wooroolo Sanatorium. A bus was arranged for members and representatives of auxiliaries to visit the institution. Only we were aware that the arrangement was found to be satisfactory, further visits would be made during the year.

Mrs. Randall reported on the successful holding of auxiliaries for the twice-weekly Visits to Hospitals. Five auxiliaries requested to be added to the roster. Matron Ferguson has asked our assistance in obtaining white-hand knitted hospital stockings. Those promised to convey this need to matrons in their auxiliaries.

Mrs. Brown spoke on behalf of Glendalough, where there are now 26 old citizens. A warm welcome is given to all auxiliary visitors, not only by the veters, but also by the workers and matrons in charge. The home is now under the full-time charge of a trained nurse.

**Official Duties**

On April 26 Mrs. McIlroy visited Monmup, where she was entertained at a social in the S.S.L. Hall, attended by the auxiliary members. Next afternoon, at the monthly meeting of the Narembeen auxiliary, Mrs. McIlroy attended the auxiliary on their splendid donation list totaling £179.

At Norwood, on April 30, Mrs. McIlroy was present at a very fine exhibition of hand-made and sale of goods, which was held there. She outlined the general work of the R.S.I. auxiliary, and wished the Greenfield auxiliary every success in their work.

**Public Meetings**

On the evening of April 30 this auxiliary held their first meeting in the Lesser Hall. An invitation had been extended to the Lander auxiliary to be present with their friends, and the party was well attended, and after the auxiliary meeting, refreshments were given a general welcome, items of music, dancing and games were enjoyed by all. Music was kindly played by Mrs. Needle, Mrs. Clarks and Miss Hunter.

**NAREMBEN**

On the evening of April 30 this auxiliary held their first meeting in the Lesser Hall. An invitation had been extended to the Lander auxiliary to be present with their friends, and the party was well attended, and after the auxiliary meeting, refreshments were given a general welcome, items of music, dancing and games were enjoyed by all. Music was kindly played by Mrs. Needle, Mrs. Clarks and Miss Hunter.

About 11 p.m. a sumptuous supper was served, and the Auxiliary Cake was much admired and sold a prominent position on the supper table. Mrs. Hunter was also visited by Mrs. Knight and Mr. Whittam, of Torbay, the latter being at Albany Hospital.

**Executive Official Visit**

April 21—Mrs. Henderson, on behalf of the R.S.I. auxiliary, presented a cheque of £22 to the War-Biinded Association at a social given by them to representatives of metropolitan branches, in their rooms in Pier Street.

April 22—Mesdames McIlroy and Stockman attended the exhibition given by the R.S.I. State Executive to the four New Zealand R.S.I. auxiliaries, via W.A.

April 25—The State President laid the official foundation stone of the new Anzac service on the Esplanade.

April 28—Mrs. Henderson and executive members attended a function given by West Leederville auxiliary for Bessie and Lennnox.

May 1—Mesdames Henderson and Brown were present at the tea and entertainment given by West Leederville auxiliary to inmates of Sunset and Lemnos.

May 4—Mrs.McIlroy and Henderson met and entertained Mrs. Bleney, a member of the War Widows and Widowed Mothers’ Auxiliary, Victoria.

**Hospital Visit**

Mrs. D. D. reported that for the past four weeks hospital visits had been made at R.P.H. by State Executive members.

Mrs. Wilson, of Fremantle, hopes to return home soon.

Mrs. Henderson, of Subiaco, has left R.P.H. to complete her attendance at John of God’s Hospital, West Leederville.

Mrs. E. R. has entered R.P.H. to undergo treatment, which is expected to complete recovery this time.

Executive members for the last month were Mesdames McIlroy, Cullen, Sherlock and Hamersley.

In addition to the usual sweets, cigarettes and literature, two oranges were distributed.

The following letter was received recently from the Mayors of Croydon (England):

Mrs. McIlroy, President Ladies’ Auxiliary, Hereford, 2nd April, 1949.

Dear Mrs. McIlroy—"I am taking advantage of my visit to Australia (Mr. H. Poole) to Austraia to send you the sincere greetings of the mayor of city of Hereford. I know of the many kindnesses which the ladies of Australia and other countries have done for the people of Britain. We do not wish you to visit any occasions when you have to return to the people of Britain. We do not wish you to visit any occasions when you have to return to the people of Britain. We do not wish you to visit any occasions when you have to return to the people of Britain. We do not wish you to visit any occasions when you have to return to the people of Britain. We do not wish you to visit any occasions when you have to return to the people of Britain. We do not wish you to visit any occasions when you have to return to the people of Britain. We do not wish you to visit any occasions when you have to return to the people of Britain.

With our very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

E. M. PEACH.

Maycross.

**SOUTH PERTH**

The month of May was a busy one for our auxiliary, and at our last meeting reports were received of some good work done.海棠花 was again visited and the men entertained with musical items and afternoon tea served. The sub-branch held a very enjoyable children’s party on May 7, and while the children were enjoying the many games we were able to dispense afternoon tea to the parents. At our meeting on May 13 we were able to see our strumpet member, Mrs. Miller, back with us once more. Mrs. Puttik is now packing her dummy, and will be able to return to us once more. Mrs. Rams has just returned from one of her many journeys, and we want to give her a travel talk on her return in the well-known Fitzpatrick style. Our auxiliary is now in the midst of kitchen necessities at the forthcoming exhibition, so get your scrub box and needles and run up some small articles such as kettles, dishes, cloth dishes, etc., and any donations of any kind will be gratefully received by the Auxiliary.

**VICTORIA PARK**

The last two meetings of the auxiliary have been most successful and enjoyable. Mrs. C. R. Rock, who has been a visitor at our meetings, has now returned to her home town. Edward Millen House: Mesdames Anstey and Clues were the visitors last month with Mrs. Anstey and Mrs. Clues, and Salm and Norris have now taken over for the next month. Invitations have been received from Haydon, Yokine and Como auxiliaries to attend their birthday parties, which have been well attended. Mrs. Clues was again present at Wooroloo Hospital.

An executive meeting was held at the office of the State Secretary, Mrs. Frue, has been taken to Perth Hospital. She is in the area and is very cheerful. We hope that her speedy recovery. Mrs. Norris will be acting Secretary until Mrs. Frue’s return.

**P.U.W.**

The monthly social was held at Anzac House, where Mrs. H. Dean, O.B.E., president, and Mrs. H. L. Fowler, president of the War Widows’ Guild, was the guest speaker. She outlined the work of the Guild and the usefulness of the work they managed to get by their efforts. Edward Millen House: Mesdames Anstey and Clues were the visitors last month with Mrs. Anstey and Mrs. Clues, and Salm and Norris have now taken over for the next month. Invitations have been received from Haydon, Yokine and Como auxiliaries to attend their birthday parties, which have been well attended. Mrs. Clues was again present at Wooroloo Hospital.

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**F.R.F.**

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

A.E.M.E. ASSOCIATION—President: Mr. Lee Jones, 8 Fourth Avenue, Mt. Lawley; Secretary: Mr. C. Clingin, A.E.M.E. H.Q., W. Camden, B 3143, Ext. 258.

ARTILLERY COMRADES—Sergeants' Mess, Swan Baracks, Francis Street; last Tuesday each month at 8 p.m.; President: W. Masters, 97 Hayeysburh Road, Subiaco; Joint Secretaries: S. A. McNamar and A. J. Snow, 74 Hayeysbury Road, Subiaco.

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

A.E.F. GUNSMITHS' ASSOCIATION—Gregson's, 32 King Street, Perth; Friday before Anzac Day and 2nd Friday in October; President: L. J. Parks, Govt. Tourist Bureau, Perth; Secretary: E. W. Wallace, 244 Shipparton Road, Victoria Park.

FEDERATED T.B. SAILORS, SOLDIERS & AIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION (W.A.)—2nd Floor, Wellington Buildings, 158 William Street, Perth; 2nd Monday; President: C. H. Hatcher, 9 Princess Road, Nedlands; Secretary: C. L. Lee, 158 William-Street, Perth (B 3266).

MEDICAL ARMY UNITS ASSOCIATION—Room 53, 5th Floor, Gladden Buildings, Perth; 3rd Friday each month; President: Col. C. H. Freedman, M.C.; Chairman: C. W. Brick, Holton Road, Roleystone; Hon. Secretary: W. H. Hugg, 26 Elizabeth Street, North Perth (Phone B 3394).

PARTIALLY BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (W.A. Branch)—Room 53, 5th Floor, Gladden Building, Perth; 1st Thursday in each month; President: W. A. Broduige, 257 Labouchere Road, Como; Secretary: J. MacKay, 51 Hardy Street, Nedlands.

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

ROBERTS AND IMPERIAL VETERANS' ASSOCIATION—Monash Club, cn. Hay and King Streets; 3rd Monday in each month, at 2 p.m.; President: F. W. Bateison, M.M. c/o Monash House, Perth; Secretary: G. Gumpich, 539 Hay Street, Perth.

THE IMPERIAL EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION (W.A.)—A.O.F. (Foresters) Hall, cn. Francis and Museum Streets, Perth; 1st Tuesday of each month; President: L. S. Mitchell, 60 King William Street, Bayswater; Secretary: A. H. Wright, 7 Birrell St., Mt. Hawthorn.

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, Perth; when necessary; President: D. M. Benson. Anzac House, Perth; Secretary: W. Webb, 12 St. Kilda Road, Rivervale. Phone M 1430.

TOTA!LY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION—Room 53, 5th Floor, Gladden Buildings, Perth; 1st Pension Day of the month at 2 p.m.; President: W. E. Shearer, 47 Florence Street, West Perth; Secretary: Chas. C. Walker, 124 Wallcott Street, Mt. Lawley.

8th BATTERY ASSOCIATION—Annual reunion, Friday of Show Week; Patron: General J. M. Hobbs; President: Viv Odierno, 132 Mount Bay Road, Perth; Secretary: Jack Kenny, 136 Sixth Avenue, Inglewood (Phone U 1560); Assistant Secretary: John Lawley, 115 Cloothide Street, Mt. Lawley.

10th LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, Perth; when called; President: C. W. Mitchell, 5 Vista Street, South Perth, Hon. Secretary: L. Thomas, 29 Hayeysbury Road, Suburban; annual reunion sermon, Tuesday of Show Week; annual general meeting, third week December; financial year ends September 30, subscription 2/6 p.a.; dates and places in "The Linting Post." 2nd Monday of each month at 7.30 p.m.; Hon. Secretary: A. R. Birt, 15 Victoria Place, Perth.

12th & 32nd BATTALIONS' ASSOCIATION OF W.A.—Annual reunion at Railway Institute, Wellington Street, Perth; when called; President: E. Tonkinson, 37 Cambridge Street, West Leederville; Hon. Secretary: A. Cook, 168 Railway Terrace, Maylands.

16th BATTALION & 4th BRIGADE ASSOCIATION—Committee meetings at 1443-William Street, Perth; Hon. secretary: C. H. Mitchell, 8 Irwin Street, East Fremantle; Secretary: W. Newick, 39 Ruit Street, Mt. Lawley.

21st BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Committee as arranged; 2nd Monday; President: B. McIntyre, John Street, Cottesloe; Secretary: M. J. Foster, 132 Coode Street, Como.

32nd & 2/32nd BATTALIONS' ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, nearest Saturday to July 10; President: A. R. Trumble, A.M.P. Chambers, Perth (Phone B 8116); Secretary: J. R. Rutherford, Victoria House, St. George's Terrace, Perth (Phone B 2646).

44th BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Annual reunion, Monday of Show Week; President: J. P. Everell, 12 Joseph Street, West Leederville; Hon. Secretary: H. S. Brown, 23 Second Avenue, Mt. Lawley.

46th BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Anzac House; President: I. P. McKeown, 16 Glyde Street, East Fremantle; Secretary: B. S. Golding, 82 Great Eastern Highway, Nedlands; Treasurer: H. P. Browne, 7 Highland Road, North Perth (U 726).

81st BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Reunion Friday in Show Week each year; other meetings as arranged; President: T. G. McNeil, 80 First Avenue, Mt. Lawley; Secretary: L. B. Alderson, School House, Turf Hill; Assistant Secretary: Reg. Wood, 81 Ashgrove Street, Nedlands; Treasurer: H. S. Browne, 7 Highland Road, North Perth (U 726).

1/44th MACHINE GUN BATTALION EX-MEMBERS' ASSOCIATION—In Ambrose's office, 3rd Floor, C.M.L. Building; Committee meets 1st-Monday in each month at 7.30 p.m.; President: D. R. Horn, Union Bank of Aust. Ltd., St. George's Terrace, Perth; Secretary: W. J. Devitt, 29 Kent Street, Victoria Park.

2/16th BATTALION ASSOCIATION—President: A. A. Hughes, Grand Theatre Buildings, Murray Street, Perth; Hon. Secretary: E. McNaught, c/o. Dunklings, 655 Hay Street, Perth; notifications of meetings published in "Pioneer Post," the official journal of the Association. Subs. 5/- per annum.

1/45th BATTALION ASSOCIATION (W.A. Branch)—Annual reunion October 29; President: V. P. O'Dea, Secretary: A. Kennedy, c/o B. Davidson Council Avenue, Perth; Treasurer: G. P. Richards, c/o Vacuum Oil Co. Pty. Ltd., St. George's Terrace, Perth.

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