

Miss M. E. Bush



Matilda

FEBRUARY, 1942.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting of the Executive Committee of the Girl Guides Association, Victoria, held at the Guide Office on 17th December, 1941.

Present.—Lady Chauvel, Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Blackwood, Mrs. Edmondson, Mrs. Littlejohn, Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Robinson, Misses Moran, McKellar, Ritchie, Swinburne and the Secretary.

Reported.—That 78,629 garments from the Guide War Appeal has been despatched to date; 66,503 being for children, and 12,126 for Seamen.

That the amount received to date for the Christmas Tree Appeal was £2,022.

That a letter had been received from Miss Irving, thanking the Association for the use of the Guide House for the A.W.A.S. Training Course and enclosing a cheque for £2/17/9 as a gift from the Officers of the Course. Agreed that in thanking Miss Irving, we should thank her also for the excellent way in which the House had been left.

That, on account of present state of emergency, the Headquarters Camps at the Guide House, the Extension Camp at Mt. Eliza, and camps at Ocean Grove had been cancelled. The holding of camps planned for later dates would be considered.

That the Camp for Guides and Rangers as Land Workers had been postponed till the New Year.

That three Division representatives had

been nominated to the Guiders' Committee to date.

Agreed.—That a letter of thanks should be sent to Mrs. Gordon Johnstone expressing appreciation for her effort in raising £60 at her Stall for the Guide War Appeal.

That a Girl Guide Cycle Corps should be formed, and that circulars should be sent regarding it and the suggestions made by Miss Moran for special holiday training.

That letters be sent to Commissioners in Evacuation and Reception Areas, suggesting ways in which members of the Guide Movement could help with the actual evacuation and also in linking children up with Companies and Packs.

That the revised syllabus for the All Round Cords and Gold Cords be tried for 2 years, as recommended by Imperial Headquarters; also that the test should operate immediately for any Guides not yet nominated, but that Guides who have already started under the old syllabus (i.e. including the Scottish clause) should continue provided they are finished by 1st May, 1942.

That Commissioners for Departments should be appointed and Diplomas endorsed at the end of the Guide year, and that the present appointments should be extended till 30th June, 1942.

Routine and financial business was transacted.

M. E. BUSH.

**HOLD ALL YOU HAVE—
BUY ALL YOU CAN...**



**WAR SAVINGS
CERTIFICATES**

"Matilda"

An Official Treasure Bag of Guiders' Information for Guiders of Victoria, Australia.

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No. 8.

GUIDE AND SCOUT WEEK, 1942.

It has been agreed that the Girl Guides Association of Victoria should fall in with the suggestion of the Boy Scouts Association Federal Council, that the dates of Guide Week and Scout Week 1942 should be arranged to include February 22nd, the Chief Scout's Birthday, which is also that of the Chief Guide.

The dates will be from 16th to 22nd February, 1942. Owing to the fact that many Guide Companies and Brownie Packs do not resume meetings until February or later, there may be some difficulties to overcome, but it is felt that Guiders will be willing to make the required effort to make Guide Week memorable for the Guides.

It will simplify organisation if Districts and Divisions make their own local arrangements for the various activities of the week, in co-operation with the Scouts of the District. The central thought suggested is "Remembrance"—the idea being to get back to SCOUTING FOR BOYS and GIRL GUILDING. Displays and combined activities based on these books could be arranged. Guiders are urged to re-read Girl Guiding and Scouting for Boys, and to base their programmes for Guide Week on these two books, in which the ideal we are striving for and the ways to attain it are clearly set out for us, remembering that the best memorial we can raise to the Chief is to build solidly on the foundations that he himself laid for us.

M. E. BUSH.

N.B. Guiders who have not copies of these books may be able to borrow them. As a shipment of books was lost at sea, new copies of Scouting for Boys are not available.

Guiders are asked to send in, for publication in Matilda, any helpful suggestions for Guide Week.

THINKING DAY CEREMONY

The following ceremony was given in the January, 1941, issue of "The Guider." Some Companies may use a camp fire, symbolising the friendship of Guiding; for others a fire on the hearth, in token that as Guides we pledge ourselves to help to rebuild the homes of Europe. The ceremony and prayers may be used without a fire. Many Companies may prefer to use their own form of prayer, but it is suggested that the opening prayer sen-

tences should be universally used. Guiders may like to know that the first quotation is a saying of the mediaeval troubadours, and the second is from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. If times of silence are used with Guides they should be short, and their thoughts should be directed.

This is a great opportunity for Guides to learn to use the Lord's Prayer as God's Family Prayer. It has a significance to-day which may have escaped us before the war. What child could fail to appreciate such clauses as "Thy Kingdom come; give us this day our daily bread; deliver us from evil," if they are linked in her thoughts to the Guides of Poland, for example? We do not need to go beyond the simple literal meaning of the words. Deliverance from evil and the provision of daily bread are stark necessities for millions, ourselves included. The prayer should be used thoughtfully and slowly, and the Guides helped to realise that they are acting as spokesmen for all Guides everywhere.

It is further suggested that in honour of all those Guides who are prevented from wearing uniform and from Guiding openly, each Guide in the British Empire who wants to celebrate Thinking Day should: (1) Polish her belt, badge, shoes, etc., and spruce up her uniform more specially than ever, and wear it on Thinking Day on behalf of those Guides in enemy-occupied countries who are unable to wear uniforms themselves; and (2) make a special effort to perform acts carrying out the Guide Law. The first would be a definite act of sympathy, understanding, and comradeship; the second would be a practical attempt on Thinking Day by Guides all over the world to combine with the forces of goodness in the fight against the powers of evil.

SUGGESTED CEREMONY AND PRAYERS

SAID BY ALL THE COMPANY WHILST THE FIRE IS BEING LIT:

"They carried the light over land and sea, and the name of that light was FRIENDSHIP."

"The bricks are fallen down, but we will build with hewn stones;
The sycamores are cut down, but we will change them into cedars."

FOR THOSE GUIDES WHO HAVE

SMARTENED THEIR UNIFORMS AND KEPT THE LAW EXTRA WELL IN HONOUR OF THINKING DAY.

Here each Guide, Patrol or Company (according to whether the gathering were one of a Patrol, Company or District) could step forward in turn, and say: "I wear my uniform to-day in honour of the Guides of Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, Belgium, etc."

SAID BY THE P.L.'s, ONE TO EACH SENTENCE IN TURN.

"Let us remember before God the Guides in countries over-run by the enemy: any Guides who dare not light their fires, whose songs are unsung and whose uniforms are put away: who are hungry, suffering and in danger.

Silence.

"Let us remember before God the Guides and Wayfarer Guides of the British Empire, the Girl Scouts of America, and the Guides and Girl Scouts of all free peoples.

Silence.

"Let us remember before God the Promise that we made at our enrolment.

Silence.

"Let us remember before God the Chiefs, giving thanks for their lives and work, and praying that God will always have them in His keeping.

Silence.

"With all the Guides of the world in our thoughts, let us say, on their behalf and on our own, the Lord's Prayer."

Our Father.

SAID BY COMMISSIONER, OR CAPTAIN—OR SENIOR P.L. IF NO GUIDER IS PRESENT.

"Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no man evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all men; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit . . . and may God Almighty give us His blessing."

DUTY AND SERVICE

Call to the Nation

(From the Department of Information).

"Men and women of Australia! This is the gravest hour in our history," was the solemn warning sounded by the Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin) in a national broadcast immediately following Australia's declaration of war on Japan.

"The call is to you for your courage, your physical and mental ability, your inflexible determination that we, as a nation of free people, shall survive. My appeal to you is in the name of Australia, for Australia itself is at stake in this conflict."

In this stirring appeal for the willing and whole-hearted co-operation of the nation in whatever measures the Government found it necessary to introduce in the interests of national safety—no matter how drastic, no

matter how dislocating to civilian life as we had previously known it—the Prime Minister expressed his faith in the patriotism of the Australian people, and his firm confidence that his call would not go unheeded.

For over two years now Australia has been at war, but with battlefields thousands of miles distant the tendency has been to regard the conflict as something remote; something necessitating, of course, the large munitions production, the recruitment of young men for service overseas with the fighting forces; but as something not touching directly upon the even tenor of Australian civilian life.

Now, all feeling of remoteness is past. When Japan launched her attack in the Pacific with such dramatic and treacherous suddenness, war was brought nearer to Australia's shores than it had ever been before.

"No part of Australia is invulnerable," warned the Prime Minister. "Therefore no part of Australia will be permitted to immunise itself from the duties and responsibilities which the war with Japan involves. We are all endangered. We must all be at the place of duty and service. Neither fighting nor working must be slowed or stopped."

The weeks that have passed since December 8, 1941, have not lessened our danger; rather, as the battle area has widened and crept closer to our northern shores, it has been intensified. Australian territory in New Guinea has already been attacked; Australian shipping in Pacific waters is being subjected to continuous hazards; far-reaching decisions affecting Australian co-operation with the other allied nations have been reached, and Australia finds herself called upon to play a vital role not only on the battlefield, but also as a centre of supply in the Pacific war.

To fulfil this role successfully, Australia is called on for a stupendous effort and the Government is faced with the colossal task of organising and regulating the country's material resources, manufacturing processes and distribution of labour so that the maximum results will be achieved.

In bringing about the change from civil to war production on the extensive lines now found imperative by the Federal Government, great changes will be made in our peace-time manner of life. Orders already issued restricting the use of petrol and other materials of a vital defence value, and the freezing of stocks of tools and an increasing number of other articles, have necessarily caused inconvenience and perhaps even hardship, but the Prime Minister and the Minister for Supply (Mr. Beasley) have appealed to every Australian man and woman to co-operate, not tardily or with a bad grace, but at once and cheerfully in these measures which are so vitally necessary for their safety, and to resist with all their strength any movement which is anti-Australian in intent or designed in any way to hinder the vigorous prosecution of the war.

Mr. Beasley has said that all activities of the Supply Department have been reviewed,

necessitating a vast national stock-taking, and that, while the supply position is at present satisfactory, he intends that it shall remain so.

With the Pacific war, many of our oversea lines of supply have been cut off or endangered and therefore it is absolutely essential to conserve the stocks we have now.

Mr. Beasley has stressed the part which petrol plays in modern warfare, and he has appealed to car owners to use their cars only when absolutely necessary. While there are no restrictions or regulations concerning the manner or time in which existing petrol rations may be used, he has asked each motorist, each time he feels tempted to use his car to consider well, as a responsible citizen, whether the occasion warrants it, and to conserve as much as possible of his allowance and hold it in tanks against a possible emergency.

Therefore, it is up to every one of us, as responsible citizens of a threatened country, to go about our allotted tasks with vigour and courage; to give of our best in the service of our imperilled nation; to give to our elected leaders, with all our strength and will power, our uncomplaining loyalty and obedience; and to give whatever we have in material resources, in hard work and in sacrifice.

In the challenging words of the Prime Minister:—"Let there be no idle hand. The road of service is ahead. Let us all tread it firmly, victoriously."

GUIDE WAR WORK

Bendigo Guides had a splendid idea lately. They undertook to collect aluminium. The city and suburbs were divided into zones and a Patrol put on to each zone. The Guides had a fortnight for the work and a tremendous collection was made. One very small section weighed its load and it was one cwt., so that was well worth while. Collections were put into various dumps, and these were gathered up by the City Council. Now they are about to start on paper, the newly-formed Cyclist Patrol taking it down to the Waste Paper Depot.

From Portland comes news that the Guide Despatch Riders are busy. A great deal of their time in the holidays was spent in riding messages for and generally helping the Air Warden.—N.M.

1st SALE COMPANY

War Work News

The Sale Agricultural Show was held on November 12 this year, and gave permission for the Sale Company to have a display of their work. The Guides worked hard cutting out and painting stars—3d. for blue ones, 6d. for red and 1/- for gold, silver or white; and attached small cottons to them. Then we arranged a branch of pine tree and decorated it a little, but the main decorations were the

stars, which were sold and put on the tree. Guides took turns in looking after the tree, and by the end of the day we had collected £2/16/-. Then it was decided to finish the week off by having a window display by courtesy of Miss Myra Dickenson, who kindly lent half of her window. We carried on with the selling of stars till we had collected £4/4/-, which was sent down to the big tree at Myers.

The smaller Guides felt they had not done work in connection with the tree, so arranged a garden party at the home of one of them, unfortunately they picked the hottest day of the year, and the attendance was not so good; but the children enjoyed it, and the drink stall was most popular. This netted a further £1, and the Company decided to send an additional £4 from Company Funds, and so were able to help to raise the grand total a bit.

DO YOU COLLECT COUPONS?

The Guide War Appeal have already received very useful parcels of gift coupons, given away with various commodities and which we exchange for towels.

The towels are then boiled to get rid of the dressing, and cut up to make mufflers for the men on minesweepers and trawlers. The towels, worn round the neck inside oil-skin coats, collect the rain and prevent it trickling down to the woollen shirts and sweaters.

If you know of anyone who would like to collect the coupons and send them to the War Appeal for this good cause, would you tell them about it?

FOOT MESSENGERS

It has been suggested that Companies might form Foot Messenger Squads for Guides who have not got bicycles. Training would be on the lines of that for the Cycle Squads, and would include reliability tests, message carrying and knowledge of the district.

NEWS FROM OVERSEAS

The Commissioner for Extensions

The following extracts are quoted from a recent letter from Miss Alison Campbell, who is at present attached to the 1st A.G.H., Abroad.

After describing the work she is at present doing, and commenting again on the value of Guide training "my most useful asset has been a thorough knowledge of knot tying—the clove hitch, timber hitch, sheet bend and reef are all in use at the moment! Why do a University course?" She goes on to describe a journey through the Sinai Desert to Cairo.

"The trip across the Sinai yesterday was really amazing. The road is not just a straight

line, for the first hundred miles to the border it curves from side to side, runs along the crest of sand ridges and in and out of wadis. I was very nearly car sick by the time we made the border.

From there on it is another type of engineering, and goes up and down over the sand hills. We only hit the roof three times, and it was rather like the big dipper and I think good for the liver!

The country varies enormously—hills of ochre yellow sand, flat plains of silver sand dotted with camel thorn, and here and there bright red sand hills. At times the cloud shadows were almost purple and so were the mountains. We passed a couple of ranges that looked exactly like the mountains that you draw as a child. Then there was one that reminded me of the picture of Mount Sinai and Moses collecting the ten Commandments, and as we skirted it a sand storm blew up with a rushing mighty wind, and we could hardly see a yard in front of us. The road here was black bitumen, and the sand blew over it in a silver swirl for all the world like water on concrete

We passed a couple of Bedouin encampments, and saw others farther off, and at one stage ran nearly into a really Sheik-like individual on a lovely horse, with five or six camel—big white beauties—and a couple of retainers—and the most lovely coloured harness and saddle bags. He was crossing towards the mountains as we came over a sharp rise, and his camels nearly broke away with terror at the car.

We passed at one place thousands of Turkish graves of the last war, and also the line of the old light railway with which Lawrence dealt so faithfully.

I just can't think how Abraham and Sarah and Joseph, and the rest, ever found their way to Egypt—it must have been by faith.

At Ismailia we had a belated but glorious lunch. . . ."

She concludes by sending her love to "any Post Guides you may see."

COLOUR CEREMONIAL

In the December "Matilda" you read an interesting article on the significance and origin of Colours. To-day, I want to help you with the actual handling of Colours, so that we may express our attitude towards them by the manner in which we treat them.

Colours, if dedicated, are sometimes kept in the church, in a bracket specially made for them. If not in church, perhaps they are in the Company cupboard or at Captain's home. Wherever they are, they should be kept in a case (if not displayed) which can be made of waterproof material, by one of the Guides for her Second Class Test. If kept in church, a Colour Party should take possession of them with proper formality, and see that the brass parts are polished and all

is in order for the coming ceremony.

A Colour Party consists of three Guides—the Colour Bearer and two Escorts. If there are two Colours there may be five—two bearers and three escorts, or two complete Colour Parties. When there are other flags as well as the Union Jack, the latter takes precedence.

To take charge of the Colour, either from the church or at the Company, the Bearer stands conveniently near and orders her Escorts to fall in, which they will do very smartly on either side of her. They will then march to the Colours, halt, and the Bearer will step forward and take the Colours. The Colour Party is now under the orders of the Bearer, save that the Captain will give the word when to carry on and when to march off.

If Colours are to be carried any distance, as at a church parade or held as at an enrolment, a carrier should be worn, the strap being over the left shoulder. Colours should be held perfectly straight, the right hand holding the pike and being in front of the face—for this reason the Escorts must march shoulder to shoulder with their Bearer as she may not be able to see very well where she is going. The left hand is held straight down at the side. The right hand holds the bottom corner of the fly only freeing it when passing a saluting base or during an enrolment. If gloves are worn, the whole Colour Party should have them and they should be the correct brown leather gauntlets.

There are three ways of carrying the Colour—at the order, at the slope and at the carry. If it is necessary to stand for any length of time, the Bearer may bring her Escorts to the "Order," which means feet apart and so an easier position. The Colour is lifted out of the Carrier and the bottom of the pike placed on the floor near the Bearer's right foot. If the order is given to stand at ease the Bearer's left hand is placed behind her back and Escorts clasp their hands behind the backs. A Colour Party's job is to guard the Colour, so it never stands "easy." If the Colours are to be carried far they should be at the slope, which means the pike rests on the shoulder, the fly still being held in the right hand. "At the carry" has been described and excellent photos of these positions are in the little booklet, "Colour Ceremonial."

When the ceremony is over and "March off the Colour" has been given by the Captain—the Company standing at the salute while it passes—the Colour Party marches away. The Colours are then handed to the Lieutenant, and if necessary the Colour Party returns to the Company. If not, the Colour is replaced in the church or in its case, and the Colour Party dismissed. To dismiss, the Colour Party should march away from where the Colour is stored, halt, the Bearer steps out in front of her Escorts, about-turns and gives the order, "Colour Party, dismiss!" upon which the Escorts turn to the right and salute, or not, as previously arranged, and run away.

These are some of the formal things one does when handling Colours—but it may be that it is impossible to do any one of them for some extraordinary reason. In that case, the important thing to remember is to handle the Colours quietly, with dignity and respect—it is our gesture of honour to the symbol of our nationhood.—M.H.

BED MAKING

In the Sick Nurse Badge, one of the things a Guide has to be able to do is to make a bed, and change the sheets, with the patient in bed. It has been suggested that in these days of scarcity of nurses any Guide should be able to do this.

The best way to learn this, and the way that should be taken wherever possible, is to find some one who is experienced, and can show you just what to do and how to do it. The experienced person can be, preferably, a trained nurse, or somebody with St. John Home Nursing Certificate.

Don't wait until you have a real patient. Practice with a friend or another Guide repeatedly until you are sure that you know just what to do.

A person who can't move out of bed is probably quite ill, and it is better to have some one helping you in making the bed. Be certain to do this if you are not a very big Guide and the patient is some one large and heavy. To do all this alone might be harmful to both you and the patient.

Remember to ask about the two ways of changing the sheet. If the patient can't move because of injured limbs or is in splints, it might not be possible to turn her on her side, and it will be necessary to roll the sheets across and bring them down under the patient, along the length of the bed, instead of the ordinary way.

If you unfortunately are living far away in the country, and have nobody who can help you, then the only thing to do is to buy a St. John Nursing book and follow carefully all the instructions on bed making there. Practise this with a friend or sister as patient. Keep on trying until you feel confident that if the need should come you will know what to do, with ease to yourself and the patient.

—M.M.

LONES

Dear Lones,—

It was agreed towards the end of last year that in future the minutes of the Lones L.A. and of the Guiders' meetings should be set out in this page in "Matilda," in order to save both paper and stamps. As the first meeting of the Lones' L.A. was held at 236 Kooyong Road, Toorak, on January 13, I will begin my letter this month by recording the minutes. They are as follows:—

Present.—Mrs. Fairbairn (in the chair), Mesdames Field, Hull, Higgs, Keble, Harley, Jardine, and Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Hughes.

Members welcomed Mrs. Field, who was the only country member present.

Apologies.—Apologies were received from Mesdames Morris and Miss McWilliams.

Business Arising from Minutes.—**Library:** Lone Guiders had suggested that Miss Moran be asked to give advice as to whether the Lone Library had been a success when she was Commissioner for Lones, and whether it would be worth while trying to get one together again. Mrs. Fairbairn reported that she had not yet approached Miss Moran, as this was her busy time of the year, so the matter would have to stand over for the present.

Badge Work: Mrs. Field suggested that Guides could do the Child Nurse Badge through their local Health Centre nurse. If there is no local one the Baby Health Centre Training School, Swanston Street, may help by correspondence. The Health Centres in the country had always been most helpful. Mrs. Fairbairn said she would ask Captains to encourage their Guides to do this Badge. Mrs. Field suggested that they might also be encouraged to do Junior First Aid and Home Nursing. This was a good time to do these Badges, as lectures on these subjects are being so widely given at present.

Reports from Office-bearers.—**Secretary:** Miss Doris Norton sent in her resignation owing to her inability to attend meetings. This was received with regret.

A letter had been received from Mrs. Treasure, Castlemaine, explaining that the member for that district is Miss N. Cherry, not Mrs. Treasure.

Treasurer: Mrs. Jardine reported a bank balance of £13/16/11. On the motion of Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mrs. Field, the following amounts were passed for payment:—

To Hon. Secretary, postage 4/6, duplicating 3/3, warrant fee (Miss Reeves) 1/-, duplicating Guiders' minutes 1/5; total 10/3.

Also 10/- deposit to be lodged with Headquarters for Equipment Secretary's expenses.

Equipment Secretary: Mrs. Harley reported having issued the following:—8 Guide badges to Miss Reeves; 2 badges (replacements), 7 Guide stars.

Correspondence.—From the Commissioner at Port Fairy, saying she had been unable to obtain a representative for the Lones' L.A.

From Commissioner for Lones, New Zealand, asking if this association could send her a copy of "Matilda" each month. In return she would send us a copy of the New Zealand paper. Mrs. Keble offered to send her copy on.

From Miss Barfus asking for a copy for a Ranger in hospital. Miss Paling had already agreed to supply her with this.

From Miss Bush saying that in the event of evacuation of children, help would be needed by certain institutions, and Headquarters suggested this help might come from Guiders and L.A. members. As a copy of this circular would be received by all Districts, Mrs. Fairbairn suggested it would be better for our members to work through their own associations.

From Mrs. Stride, saying that the L.A. at Yarck had disbanded owing to there no longer being a Company in the district. Outstanding funds had been sent to Headquarters, with a suggestion that if it were in order to do so they might go to the Lones' L.A., as the last remaining Guides had become Lones. Mrs. Fairbairn said that this decision was out of our hands. Mrs. Stride was leaving the district, and going to Colac. Mrs. Fairbairn had written to the Commissioner for Colac telling her of Mrs. Stride's good service to us in the past.

Next Meeting.—It was decided that as every one is so occupied with various activities this association would meet every three months instead of every two for this year. If there were something urgent to discuss the Hon. Secretary would notify members. Therefore the next meeting will be on April 14 at 2 p.m. at Headquarters.

The meeting then adjourned for a very pleasant afternoon tea, after which members picked bunches of lavender in the garden. The sum of 2/- was collected for the funds.

As these minutes have taken up most of my available space I am afraid I cannot say much more. But I do want to tell you that we have two more Lieutenants. Miss Lurleen Coultas and Miss Joan Harvey. They have answered my appeal to all Metropolitan Ranger Companies to help with Lones. I am sure their Captains are pleased that they are willing to carry their Ranger service into wider fields, and I am personally thrilled to have secured their help. If children are evacuated to country areas there will be many more applicants for Lones, and therefore an increasing need for Lone Guiders. We must do our utmost to compensate the children for all they will miss by the severance of their natural ties.

I hope to hear from other Ranger Companies shortly, and in the meantime thank the Captains who co-operated with me so readily.—M.R.F.



HANDCRAFTS

The reason for including Handcrafts in the Pack meeting are to help to develop the Brownies physically, mentally, and morally. Physically, they develop control of hand and eye. Then there is mental development through the pleasure derived from creating. The moral development comes through patience and perseverance learnt by doing something well, by appreciating the efforts of others, by unselfishness in sharing materials, in co-operation (combined efforts), and, lastly, through the development of the Brownies' taste in choice of colours and arrangement.

In a combined Pack effort each Brownie contributes something to the whole. How

about making a gaily striped scarf for the first Pack handcraft of the year? You can make a really lovely one by darning wool into ordinary coarse net. An oatmeal coloured net is best to use, as this goes with any coloured wool. When you have cut a strip the length and width you require (usually 30 inches by 9 inches) turn over the edge of the net all round once.

Remember to make the squares of the mesh of the net meet together as nearly as possible, so that when you come to darning where the net is doubled, you will still be able to run the needle in and out easily.

Cut each needleful of wool long enough to go the whole length of the scarf, allowing sufficient to make a knot at each end, as well as to form a nice long fringe.

You can use several different colours and it will look so pretty. Red, blue, and emerald green would be attractive for a gay scarf. Pale shades of grey, green and blue, and lavender are for girls who prefer the more delicate colours. Before starting the work, plan how you will arrange the stripes of colour. If the net is coarse use a thick wool; if fine, you will, of course, need fine wool.

This scarf is quite simple to make, but there are two important things to remember. First, cut the lengths of wool longer than you require, as you can easily cut off the fringe evenly afterwards if it is too long. Secondly, do not pull the wool too tightly when darning it in, but let it lie flat as possible in the net. Knot the wool securely at the end of each row by tying it into the net. If the wool is not quite thick enough to fill the net you can always use it double. If Brown Owl presses it down when finished, the Pack will be proud of it.

THE QUINTS BECOME BROWNIES

"To help other people every day, especially those at home."

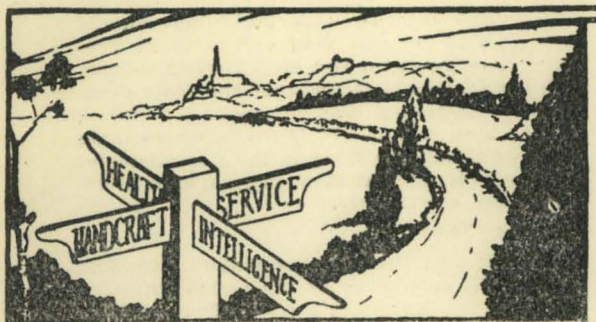
On the day of the Quints' enrolment more than 300 Guides and Brownies from Sudbury, Sturgeon Falls, North Bay, Sundridge, and Callendar filled the horseshoe-shaped Obersavation Hall that surrounds the playgrounds. Mr. and Mrs. Oliva Dionne and all the other members of the family and the entire staff of nurses and teachers were present.

On the soft green grass, stepping stones had been arranged leading up to the mysterious magic pool. Beside this stood the Brownie Toadstool. At the call, "Tu-whit, tu-whit, tu-whoo!" from the Brown Owl, Miss G. Vezina, six little sisters, the Quints and their sister Pauline, in uniforms complete from head to toe, ran into the playground. Madame Lionel Paulet, of Sudbury, the Director of the Federation des Femmes Canadiennes Francaises Girl Guide Companies, took each recruit in turn by the hand and gently helped her over the stepping stones. A twist, a turn, a peep into the magic pool that each might see her Brownie smile, then standing

beside the Toadstool at the salute, each repeated in a clear voice her Brownie Promise. Mrs. C. J. Elliott, the Division Commissioner, pinned on the Brownie Recruit Badge and welcomed each new Bownie with a hand-clasp. After all had been enrolled, Rev. Father Lafrance, Corbeil Parish Priest, gave the sextet his blessing while they knelt.

Tony, the Quints' faithful watch dog, was greatly disturbed, for never before had children been allowed inside the gates. Shrieks of delight broke from the Quints as they spied all the children so near, and then the Brownies broke into the Fairy Ring, ending up with a Grand Howl which made the tree tops fairly shake. Standing at attention all the Guides and Brownies sang "O Canada," and then "Taps" made a perfect ending to the thrilling event.—From "The Canadian Guider," November, 1941.

The Sign Post



Editor: Marjorie Nicholson

Mere pluck, though not in the least sublime,
Is wiser than blank dismay,
Since "no sparrow can fall before its time,"
And we're valued higher than they.

—Ye Wearie Wayfarer.

Dear Guiders,—

Now we are commencing a new year I think it would be much nicer to have some bright suggestions from YOU re articles you would like to have appear on this—your—page. Would you like any competitions to pass on to your Guides? Would you like articles on First and Second Class work?

Do try to be helpful and the Signpost will do its best to help you.

Have you planned your programme for Guide Week? Now with daylight saving, how much more exciting to have outdoor meetings. Genuine "wide" games.

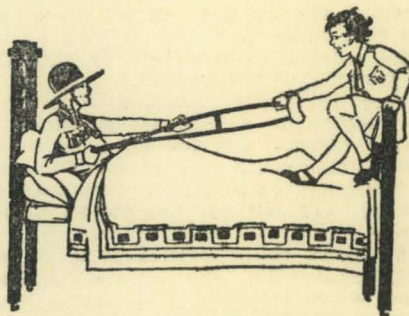
Have you asked the Guides' parents to one of your activities during Guide Week to let them see just what Guides are capable of doing?

Could you invite them to an outdoor "dinner," or would they be horrified?

A good First Class Guide should be able to prepare and serve a good dinner. Imagine the surprise of the parents, having a roast dinner served so elegantly before them! But, beware where those fires are lit, and be most particular regarding preparation of same.

Thinking Day falls on a Sunday this year, which calls for a very special service and possibly a church parade.

Please address your articles to: Miss M. Nicholson, 42 Bay Road, Sandringham, S.S.



Editor: SYDNEY FOOTT.

CAMP.

As with Guides in active Companies, the Post Guides had to give up their camps this January—and accepted this fact with the same cheerfulness as everyone else. It WAS disappointing—the fact that you wouldn't be meeting the rest of your Company and Captain and get a chance of passing those tests—but there it was!

The Post Rangers' week-end at the end of January was also cancelled, but they are having a Ranger get-together in the Fitzroy Gardens, and this will compensate a bit.

"BE PREPARED"

As soon as Headquarters forwarded the various ideas for Companies during the holidays, the Extension Branch decided that Posts too must work to prepare themselves for any emergency which may arise. Obviously we can't be a cycle corps, or even have whole-day meetings (transport is one of our major problems nowadays), but we can be prepared. So each Post Guide and Ranger and Brownie now has a page of suggestions—all of which are taken from the article in "Matilda" and suitably adapted, and which includes every main point in the article. Among other things, we have suggested that each Post appoint herself Chief Black-out Reminder and Salvage Collector in Chief for her house. They are all busy learning the geography of their district, and making maps to include A.R.P. and first aid posts; gardening if this is possible; learning all they can of first aid and making a first aid kit for the house; and most

important of all, learning to use a telephone in all circumstances.

Some Companies are having competitions to see who can qualify herself in all sections—others, who can meet occasionally, are learning first aid together. Even a small Post Brownie can find many jobs in the house—and even the most handicapped Guide can help by being unfailingly cheerful and considerate.

NEW RECRUITS

There has been (and probably will be) a good deal of movement in our Guides and Brownies—children have been taken to the country, others have been sent home from hospital. We try and link all these up with Post Companies, and also, if they have gone to the country, to link them up with the active Guiding of the District.

There are times, however, when someone gets "lost." If a Post Guide should come to your District, and you have not been previously told, could you please write to the Commissioner (Miss Alston, 5 Struan Street, Toorak), and tell her the child's name and address.

The same thing applies if a physically-handicapped child who has not been a Post Guide, wants to come to an active Company. It is always wiser to find out whether her handicap is such that she would not be better in a Post Company, with occasional visits to the active Company.

MATILDA SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note that the increased postage rate brings the annual subscription to 4/6 per year (posted), so please include additional 6d. when sending payment.

Receipts for subscriptions are held at the Guide Office unless a stamp is enclosed for return postage. Receipts are held for the following:—

September.—Miss P. Barrett; 1st Rutherglen Co.; 1st Curlwaa Co.; Miss O. Beckingham.

October.—Miss M. MacDonald; Mrs. R. G. Orr; 1st Yarek Co.; Mrs. E. G. Roberts; Mrs. Procter.

December.—Miss L. Duff; Miss I. Watson; 1st Monivae Co.; Miss Elsie Sydes.

F. V. BARFUS.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Girl Guide Courier, Western Australia (2 issues).

The Trail Maker, U.S.A. (2 issues).

Te Rama, New Zealand.

The Victorian Scout.

The Girl Scout Leader, U.S.A.

The Waratah, N.S.W.

The Canadian Guider, Canada.

TRAINING AND CAMPING

Elaine Moran

District Captains

"A Commissioner may recommend, when necessary, a warranted Guider to act as District Captain to take command of combined rallies, or for any duties compatible with these regulations with which she may invest the appointment. This appointment is annual. A District Captain should preferably be a First Class Guide. Her appointment must be approved by the County Commissioner."—P.O.R. Rule 19, page 19.

The appointment of District Captain is a very important one in a Guide District. The District Captain can be of great help to the Commissioner in many ways; particularly in helping with new Guilders and new Companies, organising First Class test days and helping the other Guiders with their own First Class. The District Captain should have had good practical experience with Guide Company activities, should be warranted and running a Company during the period of her appointment. This is most important. She should be appointed for one year only, and be prepared to retire at the end of it. It rests entirely with the District Commissioner and State Commissioner whether she is appointed for a further term or not. In Districts where there are several suitable Guiders the Commissioner will probably appoint them in turn, thus dividing up the work fairly.

Training Classes

Brownie Guiders.—Elementary training classes will commence at the Guide Office on Tuesday, 3rd March at 8 p.m. There will be about six classes and one outdoor afternoon. Fee 1/6 for the course.

Guide Guiders.—Elementary training classes will commence at the Guide Office on Wednesday, 4th March at 8 p.m. There will be about 12 classes in the course and three outdoor afternoons. Fee 4/- for the course.

Uniform.—Uniform is worn at all Training Classes. Guiders should bring sandshoes, notebook and pencil.

Applications.—Applications must be sent to Miss Macartney at the Guide Office not later than 24th February. Special enrolment forms are available at the Guide Office or by post from Miss Macartney if a stamped addressed envelope is sent.

Combined Ranger Camp

If prevailing conditions, and the number of applications warrant it, a Combined Ranger Camp will be held at the Guide House from 2nd to 6th April, 1942. The Fee will be between 16/- and 17/6 according to the number, plus fares. Rangers may apply for part time and the Fee will be adjusted accordingly. Applications, accompanied by 5/- deposit for each Ranger must reach Miss Harrison, 126 High street, Glen Iris, S.E.6. not later than March 1, 1942.

FRIENDS WAR VICTIMS RELIEF IN GREAT BRITAIN

for



**Little Children,
Mothers,
Old People.**

WILL YOU HELP ?

Donations are cabled, clothing, milk, etc., despatched to London by The Society of Friends' Relief Committee, 20 Russell St., Melbourne, C.1.

The Relief Work of the Society of Friends in Great Britain includes:—

CARING FOR "THE UNDER-FIVES"

In the bombed cities there are still many children left alive—and so far left without chance of evacuation. Where possible, children are being moved out. Some are tied to the danger areas because their mothers are working in the towns to supplement reduced incomes; if these children are to be saved from danger and the general bad environment of blitzed areas, they must be moved under guardianship. Running hostels for "under-fives" is not an easy job, for these children will not be happy unless they are given a sense of security and a serene atmosphere. Relief workers are gathering these small children into hostels.

Milk ration in England is one-third of a pint per head per day. Will you help to supplement this by giving tinned milk?

CHANGING CONDITIONS

In rickety old buildings used by hop-pickers in the season, mothers, children and elderly folk from bombed areas were living. The conditions were often very bad; no heating, windows unglazed, water having to be carried and cooking done on dangerous oil stoves or in crude field kitchens. Relief workers have converted such places into new communal homes.

SHELTERING THE AGED AND INFIRM

Forty country hostels housing elderly and infirm people stretch in a chain across England. An Australian visitor to one of these writes, "Most of the old ladies had been so badly blitzed as to be invalids, many lame and badly scarred about the face and head; several had lost relatives and two had been buried and dug out of their homes. Many of them look very frail, and one of them had died the week before." Relief workers have brought these hostels into being, and are caring for the old people.

MEETING SPIRITUAL NEEDS

In some centres, small meetings for worship and fellowship are held. A warden writes, "This is one of the things which has contributed more than anything else to the happiness of the centre. The wise and simple teaching has helped greatly to the change we see in the sufferers." Again, where a small group of elderly men are living, a W.E.A. lecturer gave them a lead, and lively discussions on religion and social reform are frequently heard. Relief workers help to minister to their spiritual as well as mental and bodily needs.

THIS IS BEING DONE BY

Nearly 400 men and women who are serving with Friends without salary, receiving maintenance only. £5000 to £6000 is needed each month.

WILL YOU HELP ?

Donations are cabled, clothing, milk, etc., despatched to London by The Society of Friends' Relief Committee, 20 Russell St., Melbourne, C.1.

MONEY *and Goods*
to the value of £3,300
have been sent overseas
by the Victorian
Committee.

**Much more needs to
be done.**

ISSUED DECEMBER, 1941

SUPPLEMENT TO MATILDA, FEBRUARY 1942.

C L E A N I N G R A G C O L L E C T I O N .

U R G E N T !

A Chance for Guides to help.

The Australian Comforts Fund have appealed to us, saying that Cleaning rags are urgently needed for Defence uses. Will Guides help to collect?

Clean cotton or linen materials (not silk) are needed; pieces should be the size of a handkerchief or larger, and may be any colour. Woven cotton vests, old tablecloths, flannelette, worn-out summer frocks, and other articles will all be useful.

Guides throughout the State are asked to make their own local plans to collect as many cleaning rags as they can. Local depots can be established, and the bundles from these should be sent addressed to the A.C.F. Waste Depot,
268 Latrobe Street,
Melbourne, C.1.

Bundles so addressed, sent from the country will be carried freight free on the railways.

If rags are sorted into bundles of similar size, it will save extra work at the A.C.F. depot.

The New Zealand Guides recently collected more than 51,000 lbs. of cleaning rags, for the Army and Air Force.

Will Districts keep a tally of the weight collected locally, and send reports to Miss N. Maling, c/o Guide Office, so that she can record our total in Matilda.

Here is an opportunity for Service in which even the smallest Brownie can help.

M. E. Bush.

State Secretary.

U R G E N T L A S T - M I N U T E C A M P I N G N O T I C E S . 1 0 . 2 . 4 2 .

USE OF THE GUIDE HOUSE in 1942.

Owing to the cancellation of country Sunday trains, it will not be possible to hold the usual Open Week-Ends this year.

If Week-End Camps are held, there are two alternatives:

1. Travelling home on Sunday night by bus to Lilydale and thence by train, at a cost of about 10/- return (full fare) and about 8/6 (under 16), plus 6/3 fee.
2. Obtaining permission from Headmasters, and returning to Melbourne by train on Monday morning, arriving about 10.30 a.m.

The Camping Committee is anxious to do everything possible to enable Guides to have week-ends at the Guide House. It is felt that week-ends should have a purpose beyond the holiday-camp idea, and it has been suggested that special training in certain subjects could be given at week-ends. If any Company would like a Week-end for training in a special subject, such as the Badges for the Little House Emblem, Pioneer, Hiker, or any other Badge, or for First Class subjects, it will, if circumstances permit, be arranged on the lines of Open Week-Ends, the Guides returning on Monday morning. It will be understood that all arrangements will depend on conditions at the time.

As it is impossible to keep up the Guide House without the revenue from Camps and Week-Ends, the Committee is anxious to know what use is likely to be made of the property by Guides. It may be necessary to make alternative plans for the use of the Guide House if Guides are unable to use it.

Therefore it is absolutely urgent that we should know as soon as possible if Companies are hoping to use the Guide House this year, so will Guiders please write straight away to Miss Harrison, 126 High Street, Glen Iris S.E.6, and state:

1. Whether they are planning any sort of Camp, and when;
2. If they would like a Company Training Week-End arranged, and in which month;
3. If they have any other ideas!

COMBINED RANGER CAMP.

It has been agreed that any sort of Ranger Camp should have a definite purpose behind it at this time. Therefore, the Combined Ranger Camp as such has been cancelled, and applications are invited for a Guide and Ranger Fruit-Picking Camp not far from Melbourne, in the Easter holidays. Details in MATILDA in March. Please apply as soon as possible to Miss V. Harrison, 126 High St., Glen Iris S.E.6.

OPEN WEEK-ENDS at GIPTON, Frankston.

It is still possible to use Gipton, Frankston, for week-ends under canvas. It is proposed to hold Open Week-Ends for Guides, should applications warrant it, and circumstances permit. The dates are 20th-22nd March and 17th - 19th April. The fee will be approximately 6/3 plus fares (3/- adult, 1/6 half, and 2/- 14-16). Week-Ends will also be held later in the year from September^{on}, should circumstances permit. Please apply to Miss Harrison, sending 6/3 fee for each Guide. Applications close 1st March and 1st April respectively, and fees will not be refunded if applicants withdraw less than a full week before date of camp. (If it should be necessary for Headquarters to cancel the Camp, the fee will be returned).

MAY HOLIDAY CAMPS AT GIPTON.

Two four-day Camps for Guides will be held at Gipton in the school holidays in May, if applications warrant it and circumstances permit. Full details will be published in MATILDA in March. Applications will be received after 15th March.

Elaine Moran,
Commissioner for Camping.

Summer Camps

It was very disappointing that so many of our Camping plans had to be cancelled. All the Headquarters Camps were cancelled first, as most of them were near Christmas when we were asked not to travel, and also the Guides were coming from far and wide and it was thought it might be difficult to get them home in an emergency. One by one the other Camps were cancelled for various reasons. The Ocean Grove site was not allowed to be used for Camping; there were staffing difficulties because of cancelled holidays, and so on.

Finally, the only Camp plans to be carried out were the Combined Dandenong, Lilydale, Worri Yallock and Warburton Camp at the Guide House, the 1st Richmond Pack Holiday at the Guide House, the East Malvern District Camp at the Guide House and the Benalla District Camp at "Riverview," Benalla.

The Fruit Picking Camps near Geelong have been a great success. Eight Guides and Rangers went per rail and bicycle on New Year's Day and as the fruit was not ready they helped with harvesting. They had their own Camp, sleeping in hike tents. Later they moved Camp to the orchard. On 12th January a second camp was formed at another orchard, seven other Guides joining in. It is planned to work right through the school holidays as long as the Guides are needed.

Holiday Training

At the time of going to press news is coming in of various activities in connection with the Guides' holiday training scheme. One Com-

pany was planning to meet in Patrols. The Captain was arranging to have a different Patrol to her house every night, during the day the Leaders were to take their Patrols separately. Another Company is meeting at Captain's house during the day. In another District the Companies are combining and three Guiders, free during the day, are taking it in turns to take charge. One District started with a Patrol Leaders' Training. One Company has changed its Camp Challenges to Holiday Challenges, with badges for the Totem Pole. Instead of tent pitching, and Colour hoisting, there are challenges for such things as mending a puncture and carrying messages; putting out an incendiary bomb, turning off the gas, water and electric light at home and knowing the air-raid signals; there are three challenges for swimmers at various stages and a special first aid challenge. Other Companies are meeting with their Guiders in the evenings—what a boon the daylight saving is. Many and various are the meeting places, most are in private back-yards or gardens, some are in public parks. Many Guiders have made an effort to give their Companies the opportunity of "doing Guide things" in the holidays, and there is no doubt that the Guides are appreciative and have gained in practical knowledge and happiness.

Cycle Corps News

From what we have heard and seen up to about the middle of January, the Guides who have bicycles are thrilled with the prospect of



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BROCKHOFF'S
"Oven-crisp" **BISCUITS**

SHELTER

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joining the Guide Cycle Corps. Many Guiders too, have said that they think it is a splendid idea. So far most of the activity has been in the direction of working for and polishing up the Cyclist Badge test. Some Districts where there are Guides longing to start have had difficulty in getting Guiders to run the Squads, but most of these are proving that "where there's a will there's a way."

Will Districts who are forming Cycle Squads please write and tell us about it, even if there are only a few Guides in your Squad, as we are so interested to know how you are getting on, and if you have had any opportunities for service. The Brighton Guide Cyclists have been asked to help the local A.R.P. organisation, when they are trained. Guides are already helping here in other directions. Benalla, Terang, Portland, and Bendigo, are country Districts that are forming Squads. Benalla are starting theirs in camp.

Portland cyclists have worked out a form of cycle drill and are having training in running repairs and care of their cycles. They are attached to the local A.R.P. organisation and have already been used to carry messages.

Are any other country districts starting? We have not heard from all the Squads but we know that Guiders at Canterbury, East Malvern, Kew, Malvern, Preston, Yarraville and Footscray are others that have begun training.

Please be sure to send in all your Cyclist news!

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