

M. C. Bush.

# Matilda

APRIL, 1942.





# “Matilda”

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

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No. 10.

## GUIDERS' COMMITTEE.

On March 6, the date set for the last Victorian Guiders' Committee meeting, only the Chairman and Secretary were present.

The next meeting is on Friday, May 1, at 8 p.m. at Headquarters. If we have not sufficient representatives to form a working committee at that meeting, the only alternative will be to ask the Executive to dispense with a Guiders' Committee.

There should be 29 representatives.—Jean Belot, Hon. Secretary.

## GUIDE WAR WORK.

News is just beginning to come in of the Guides' drive for cleaning rags for the Army and Air Force.

Hawthorn Guides, Rangers and Brownies all got together on the job, and after joining in a Thinking Day ceremony started straight away on their collection. On the first day they gathered in 76lb. weight of cleaning rags—13lb. of clean linen for hospitals as well as aluminium and books. Their latest progress report is 112lb. material delivered, and at least two depots opened by Companies in different parts of Hawthorn.

The two Ivanhoe Companies and 1st Fairfield Co. gave two Saturdays to the collection. Everything was taken, by pack horse, bicycle, hand cart, pram, or just hands and backs to the Ivanhoe Scout Hall, which was kindly lent to them. Two Saturday afternoons were spent in sorting and tying up and weighing, and over seven hundredweight resulted. One very pleasing thing was the amount of beautiful clean linen collected for Red Cross purposes. A whole mattress case was crammed full of this.

1st Pomborneit Company sent three sacks of waste material to the A.C.F. depot by rail—in all, 96lb.

1st Apollo Bay Company raised £1/8/- by picking blackberries, and sent the money to the Guide War Appeal Fund.

6th Caulfield Company held a bazaar which resulted in £5 being sent to the War Appeal Fund.

From Murtoa, we hear that the Guides collected 470lb. of cleaning rags—a job of which they may well be proud.

Hopetoun Guides have forwarded to the A.C.F. waste depot 64lb. of cotton rags; their total haul was 80lb., but the white linen and cotton (mostly sheet) they handed to the Red Cross for their urgent appeal. The Guides made a house-to-house canvass of the township, and made an effort to reach country

people through the schools and posters.

We are hoping for other reports soon, from all over Victoria.—N.M.

## CLEANING RAGS.

Please note:—

1. That old garments should not be torn up into smaller pieces, but left as large as possible. This will save time and trouble, and is according to the wishes of the A.C.F.

2. That there is a change in the address of the A.C.F. Waste Depot; it is now 185 William st., corner of Little Bourke st., Melbourne, C.1.

3. That bundles of cleaning rags will be carried free on the suburban railways, as well as country lines.—M.E.B.

## CYCLE CORPS.

A very interesting Field Day was held by the Cycle Squad of the Outer Eastern Suburbs Division on February 28 at Wattle Park. The Cycle Squad Organiser was present and inspected the Guides in Patrol formation, after which they formed a cycle horseshoe. This ceremony was very well carried out, and the Guides looked very well forming the horseshoe on bicycles. Later a practice was carried out of the various sections of the Cycle Corps training. This consisted of a series of sealed orders given to each Patrol Leader, and it worked out very well. In case others would like to have an afternoon training on a similar plan a general idea of the scheme is given.

The Leaders were given all the sealed orders together. These were numbered and instructions were given that they were to be opened one by one as the previous orders were carried out.

(1) Go to the Bridge north of the most southerly gate in Elgar Road.

Here the Guides found an accident patient for each Patrol, with directions stating nature of accident pinned on. After treating her and being passed by a Guider strolling by they opened the next order.

(2) Follow the path from bridge N.W. for 200 yards.

Here was a punctured bicycle tyre. The Guides mended a puncture in an old piece of tubing, and took off and replaced a tyre on bicycle.

(3) Go to the corner of Elgar and Riversdale Roads and make a map of the junction, and draw a map of the compass points.

This was a difficult junction, having five roads at awkward angles.

- (4) Ride around the North boundary of the Park and come in the N.W. gate, follow the path S.S.E. and report to the first Guider you see.

This Guider gave them instructions to form their Patrols at guard posts at 100 yards intervals along Elgar Road. When that was done the Patrol Second (last Guide) read instructions given to her and relayed them verbally along the Patrol; Guides were previously instructed not to move more than 50 yards from their posts. They were also instructed to make a map of the route from their own homes to the nearest First Aid Post and nearest Warden's Post, while waiting.

The verbal message was to ring up a certain person, giving name and address. The P.L. on receiving the message looked up the number and gave the message, which was that such and such a Patrol was on guard in Elgar Road. The message came back that the danger was over, and they could now dismiss.

After P.L.'s had dismissed their Patrols a general pow-wow was held; maps discussed, etc.

The whole practice took about an hour and a-half from the time of receiving the orders. Other Squads might hold Field Days on the same lines. The orders could well be adapted for Guides without bicycles. And are particularly suitable for Patrol meetings, as Patrols can carry them out singly.

The Cycle Corps Armlets are now ready at the Guide Office. They will be issued in the same way as first class badges: all certificates must be produced and should first be sent to the Cycle Corps Organiser for endorsement.

News has been received that Cycle Squads are training at Brunswick, Coburg, Preston, Melbourne, Ballarat, Geelong, Northcote, Corryong, Box Hill, Cohuna, Rutherglen, Toorak, Armadale, Cheltenham, and Wangaratta. Most of this news has been received in round-about ways. We would be most grateful if local Squad Organisers or Secretaries would send in official news of their activities. Individual application forms are obtainable at the Guide Office.—E.E.M.

#### GUIDE GIFT WEEK FILM.

When the Guides of the Empire contributed over £50,000 to the Guide Gift Fund in 1940, £200 was allocated to buy copies of the coloured film which was taken of the presentation of the gifts, so that the Guides in the far Dominions might have the chance of seeing some of the gifts to which they had subscribed.

The film for use in Australia has now been received by the Federal Secretary, and is available to be shown in the various States; there is no fee for hire, but postage or freight should be defrayed by the groups using the film.

The film is a short 16 m.m. coloured one (approximate time of showing—15 minutes),

and shows H.R.H. Princess Royal presenting the air ambulances to the R.A.F., and the motor ambulances to the Navy. It shows also Mrs. Marsham presenting two of the four mobile canteens to the Y.M.C.A., and includes a shot of the Y.M.C.A. Hut near London, and some photos of the lifeboat, "Guide of Dunkirk."

Applications should be made to the State Secretary at Headquarters. Ample notice, and alternative dates, should be given, as the film is available to the whole of Australia, and will take some time in transit between States.

—M. E. BUSH.

#### THINKING DAY FUND.

When Thinking Day was first instituted, it was agreed that every Guide might be asked to contribute voluntarily, on Thinking Day, one penny towards the furthering of the Movement throughout the world, and the money collected from each country was sent to the World Association in London for this purpose.

A recent circular from the World Bureau gave the following information about the Thinking Day Fund for 1941:—

"It is very encouraging to be able to report that, up to the moment of going to press (December 1941) the total amount received for the Thinking Day Fund for 1941 amounts to £484/0/5; this is a remarkable achievement as no special appeal was made last year by the World Bureau. It was realised that most countries find it impossible to send money abroad.

"In spite of this fact no fewer than 369 donations were received; the largest amount of money naturally came from Great Britain, but contributions were also sent by Antigua, Barbados, Bulawayo (S. Rhodesia), Ireland, Island of Anguilla (B.W.I.), Kenya, Malaya, Northern Rhodesia, Port of Spain (Trinidad), South Africa, Sweden, Verdun District (Canada), and Victoria (Australia).

"May we take this opportunity of again thanking our friends for their generosity and interest,"

The World Bureau has now asked each country to hold the money collected each year for Thinking Day Fund, until peace time, when it is hoped that the Fund will be used to help any special Guide or Girl Scout projects in countries throughout the world, and especially those which have suffered from the effects of the war. It is felt that all resources accumulated now will be of the utmost value when the time comes for rebuilding.

Towards Victoria's 1942 contribution we have already received £3/7/7—from 1st Bendigo Co., 3rd Bendigo Co., 1st Huntly Co., Bendigo Rangers, 4th Bendigo Pack, South and Port Melbourne District, 3rd Malvern Guides, Outer Eastern Suburbs Division, Barwon Division.

—M. E. BUSH.

## THE PATROL LEADERS' PAGE.

### Calling All Patrol Leaders!

P.L.'s, here is something new and exciting for you, something we hope you will find helpful to you in the running of your Patrols—a page of your very own to appear each month in "Matilda"! Do you realise what a lot is going to depend upon YOU now, even more than in the past?—Perhaps Captain is working at a full-time job, she may be only able to come to the Company occasionally, perhaps not at all; even if she can come fairly regularly she is not likely to be able to give up as much time to the Company as she used to do. Then, too, you may be evacuated with your schools, and Captain may be left behind. What is going to happen in these cases? Is the Company going to lapse, or are you all going to step into the breach, do as the P.L.'s in England have done, as B.P. meant you to do, and carry on your Patrols yourselves?

We know what your answer will be, and we are here to help you to carry on, let us know your difficulties, and we will see what we can do about them, that is, if Captain is away and you have no Commissioner to ask. If either of them are available, they are the people to give you the best help and advice. They know you personally and your local conditions, but if they are not there, write to "TUL-KARA," c/o "Matilda," Guide Office, 60 Market Street, Melbourne, C.I., and I will do what I can.

As Leaders you are responsible for the training and progress of the five, six or seven other girls in your Patrols, but don't forget that your Seconds are there, too. You have chosen them as your helpers, so use them. Talk things over with them, plan the programmes for your Patrol Time with them, arranging beforehand which of the things the Guides want to learn you will do at the next meeting, which shall be taught by the P.L.'s and which by the Seconds. That means that you and your Seconds will all have to make very sure that your knowledge is up to date. You must be able to do things well yourselves, and know how to show your Guides to put what they learn into practical use.

Remember that a good Leader must inspire her Patrol, and it is your example, what you really ARE, rather than what you say, that counts with your Guides. Two books that you would find very helpful are "The Lone Wolf Trail" and "The Patrol Leaders' Handbook," both obtainable at the Girl Guide Shop. What about buying one or both from Patrol funds, or suggesting at your next Court of Honour that they could be obtained from Company funds? They cost 1/4 and 1/- respectively. If there is a copy of "Scouting for Boys" in your library read that again: it is the Chief Scout's first book, the book that was used in the early days by the pioneers of Scouting and Guiding.

Why not start off this month by trying to improve the appearance and smartness of

your Patrols? Have a thorough inspection of uniforms. Is everyone neat and tidy, well pressed overalls and ties; polished shoes, badges and belts; everything in its right place? There is no need for a uniform to be new, an old one well pressed and looked after is a credit to any Patrol. Do you really think that appearance matters? Ask your Guides and see WHY they think it does. If you were a stranger and wanted someone reliable to do a job for you, would you choose the neatly dressed, alert Guide with the well-polished badge, or the rather slovenly one who looks as though she has slept in her uniform? This is what "The Guide" says about uniform: "Our uniform is the outward sign of the great Movement to which we belong and of our Guide sisterhood. It is also a symbol of the things for which Guiding stands: our loyalty and service to God and the King, our readiness to help other people, and our obedience to the Guide Law. Smartness of appearance and turn-out shows that we are Guides at heart. Slackness in drill and untidiness in uniform indicate a lack of mental alertness, one of the essential qualities of a Guide. Your Patrol's and Company's appearance is YOUR concern. Get it right. Set yourself a high standard and do not rest content until you reach it."

### GIPTON WORKING BEE.

The week-end, March 14-15, 1942, was a very busy one for 39 energetic souls who "reported for duty" to give Gipton Camp site its annual overhaul.

The weather was perfect, and the 20 who camped overnight—especially those who slept "under the wide and starry sky"—experienced again the joys of camping under ideal conditions.

On Saturday and Sunday parties totalling 19 came for the day, and put in very good work. In spite of a dire lack of tools, a great deal of effective work was done: some of the hedge clipped, some of the fence painted, the gate completely painted, the wood stacked, and kindling broken up and stacked, the shed turned out (do keep it nice, won't you?), a borer-riddled tree chopped down (have you seen 2nd Caulfield District Rangers at work?), a whole sandhill removed to sundry hollows (some Twigs will tell you how many loads into how many hollows!), another two tent sites cleared, making room now for at least four more tents; the grass was mowed, and clipped round the trees and shrubs, giving a very trim appearance to the grounds (South and Port Melbourne District Guides and Guiders did valiant service in this and other back-breaking jobs).

The Quartermastering Section of the week-end achieved, under Mrs. Ebeling, a triumph; a quarter-pound of tea proved enough for four meals for 20 people, and second cups, too—and there were still two good teaspoonsful left!

Altogether the week-end was great fun,

good camping, and excellent service to the Movement's property. There is still much to do (the house still needs painting), and we are hoping to collect a working party for Easter to continue the job, even if we do not finish it. The Defence authorities have not yet taken our tents, though we have them ready stacked for them, and we do want to keep the property in good condition for the use of present and future Guides.—F.V.B.

#### BENALLA GUIDE CAMP.

This was held on the banks of the Broken River at the property of Mr. and Mrs. Burton, Riverview, Goomalibee, and 16 Guides took part. The camp was on Patrol lines, tents were pitched in Patrols, and each Patrol looked after its own section of the camp site. With the exception of cooking on the same fire, all orderly work was done in Patrols, and the "washing gadgets" were a feature of the camp, about which there was much inter-Patrol rivalry. There were many hikes from camp and the neighbouring people were most hospitable whenever the Guides called in. Here is an account of a hike for the Trampler's Badge, a special Camp Badge:

"We started off at 7 o'clock on a hike. There were three of us—Dorothy Smith, June Hyde, and Dorothy Thewlis. We had to move away from the camp without waking anyone. We went down to the store tent and got our provisions for breakfast. We then set off to Mrs. Burton's to get some milk. From here we went across the paddocks, singing as we went. When the three of us got to the Goomalibee Hall we went down a road and past Meadow's and there was a bull standing near the gate. One of the Guides had her tie around her neck, and it was a very bright orange. The bull gave her a very nasty look, but we did not take any notice of it.

"When we got past Mrs. Anderson's we had our breakfast, which we enjoyed very much. We went on for about two miles, and then we turned back. As we were coming back we went into Mrs. Anderson's and got a drink of nice cold water. We arrived back in camp at 12 o'clock in time for dinner. We had a most enjoyable time, and the people were very good to us."

#### AUTUMN GLORY.

Amazed I stood as I beheld the hues  
Of silver birch and other woodland trees  
Against the soft autumnal sky. The glow  
Of setting sun, with quiet calm, induces  
The whole phantasmagoria with peace.  
I know no other season of the year  
That can so great a glory give, or show  
How nature in her whims and careless ease  
Hath borne in triumph her predestined role—  
No works of man such wondrous beauty  
show.

—Frank Lakeman.

#### ALTERATIONS TO THE BOOK OF RULES.

##### Rule 32, Page 31.—Brownie Golden Hand (First Class) Test: 2, Handcraft, Clause 3:—

It was agreed to alter the present Test to read as follows, owing to the rationing of milk and difficulty in obtaining fruit:—

Cook a useful dish, such as milk pudding, porridge, potatoes or other vegetables, or prepare a mixed salad.

##### Rule 38, Page 63, International Knowledge Badge:—

It was agreed that this Badge should be called the TRAVELLER'S BADGE, and the following Syllabus was passed:

- 1.—Choose any foreign nation and prepare for a visit to them by making your own Guide Book, illustrating—
  - (a) Country and climate, agriculture and industries, religion, history, government during recent years, customs and culture.
  - (b) Guiding and Scouting, or where there are no Guides and Scouts, the National Youth Movement and how their aims resemble and differ from our own.
  - (c) The life and achievement of a national hero or heroine.
- 2.—Do TWO of the following, one from each group—
  - (a) Sing a song, dance a dance, speak some verse or prose, play a tune, tell a story or legend, sing or play a national anthem.
  - (b) Cook a dish, make some useful article (which may be one of the following: Needlework, embroidery, wood carving, etc.).

Each to be an example of the national culture of some nation other than your own.
- 3.—Have a knowledge of the national flag of not less than 20 of the foreign countries to the World Association.

In regard to the Brownie First Class alternatives, we have probably had no difficulty as yet, but it is a help to Brownie Guiders to know there is an alternative Test if the need should arise.

For the change from International Knowledge to Traveller's Badge, Guides can start working on the new Badge straight away, and there will be no alternative after June 30.

COMMISSIONERS, GUIDERS AND BADGE SECRETARIES, please note.—M.M.

#### PAST HISTORY.

The question has been asked: "What do the letters P.U.G.P.U.P. stand for?" (See last issue of "Matilda").

The answer is: Pick Up Glass Pick Up Paper.—F.V.B.

## COME WIND, COME WEATHER.

C. BROADHURST.

"By St. Nicholas I have a sudden passion for the wild wood. We should be free as air in the wild wood. What say you? Shall we go? Your hands, your hands!"—Robin Hood.

But we are at war and the Army wants our tents—our time is limited—there is so very little time for Camping these days. But, perhaps, because of that there is all the more reason why we as Guiders who hold the Camper's Licence and Campcraft Badge should take every opportunity to take away camping small parties of Guides or Rangers, even for one night. To go away with our packs on our backs carrying in them all the necessities for our life in the open "come wind, come weather." Let our parties be small with a goodly percentage of seasoned Campers who will care for and who will initiate the Tenderfoots into the mysteries and joys of camping "light-weight."

If we intend to be "come wind, come weather" our first consideration is a tent that will weather these—at the same time being light enough to carry on our backs with the rest of our kit. This type of tent we call a "hike tent," and many of us already possess them—some of us have bought them ready-made, and others have made their own with great success, thereby having a greater pride in ownership and a greater thrill from the joy they have had from its use. For the benefit of those who wish to have that thrill, too, we are passing on to you now the benefit of our experience in the most suitable styles of hike tent to make, types of material, the quantity to buy and how to waterproof when the tent is completed.

There are many styles of light-weight hike tents, but perhaps the most satisfactory of them all is the Wedge style. It is light, stands about 3 to 4 feet high and allows the occupant to sit up with ease. It is easy to pitch with or without poles and is well adapted to uneven ground. In wooded country the camper often may find two trees or saplings from which to stretch a rope or two stout sticks about a foot higher than the tent can serve as uprights from which to guy out the tent fore and aft. It is unfortunate that we are unable to supply drawings of the design, but should any of you who read this article have the desire to go ahead and make a tent, if you write to Miss V. Harrison at 126 High St., Glen Iris, S.E.6, she will send to you a copy of the design and all directions for making. (Please enclose a stamp!)

Now regarding material—this is somewhat of a problem—it is no longer possible to obtain balloon cloth and jeparra, both ideal materials with such a close weave that they do not need waterproofing. Unbleached calico is too bulky and heavy. Here are the possibilities—British fuji; dress materials in floral or check designs—if the material is boiled

the colours will run and will give you a good camouflage effect with very little effort (it would be most charming to see a row of floral design hike tents set in suitable surroundings!) Silk is excellent, it is the lightest of all and does not need proofing, but it will not stand much friction, and is, of course, expensive. These are three suggestions, and apart from silk it should be possible to buy material in the region of 1/11 a yard.

You can dye your material to the shade you desire; follow the directions of any good dye for cotton goods. Dye the material a deeper shade than you require, for it will fade considerably in sun and rain. The dyeing must be done first.

The width of the material is important. In a tent of thin material the widths should be narrow to keep the tent taut when it is pitched. Fuji silk is 31in. wide and most cotton dress goods 36in. wide. These are both good. For 36in. material, nine yards is required, and for 31in., you will need ten yards.

Next month we will give directions for proofing. This is not done until the tent is complete, so be ready for us by the time you receive your copy of the May "Matilda."

## CHILDREN'S RIGHTS.

"I am convinced that all children ought to have a chance to become familiar with the open country.

They should know the joy of playing in healthful mud, of paddling in clean water, of hearing the rooster call up the sun, and birds sing praises to God for the new day. . . .

They should hear the answer the trees make to the rain and to the wind; the sound of rippling and falling water, the muffled roar of the sea in a storm, and its lisping and laughing and clapping-of-hands in a stiff breeze. They should have heard a leafless ash hum, a pine tree sigh, old trees groan in the forest, and the floating ice in a brook making its incomparable music beneath the frozen crystal roof of some flooded glade.

They should have a chance to . . . sleep under the open sky."

—HENRY TURNER BAILEY.

## DAYLIGHT SAVING

"Busy old fool, unruly sun"—Donne's boisterous apostrophe has been running through my mind since our latest juggling with Time. There is something pleasantly blasphemous about this impertinent chiding of the Sun for his very punctuality. Yet the thought strikes a sympathetic note in most of us. We should have been glad, as well as amazed, to see the Sun stand still upon Gibeon and the Moon in the valley of Ajaon, or to watch the shadow move ten degrees backward on the dial of Ahaz. But the "saucy pedantic wretch" will not forgo his pedantry. At his appointed hour he peers "through curtains and through

windows"; without a word he goes off to bed and leaves us to the dark.

Of all the wonders of astronomy the most wonderful is the terrible and inexorable order of the universe. It was that that frightened Lucifer as he gazed upon the starlight:—

He reached a middle height, and at the stars,

Which are the brain of heaven, he looked, and sank.

Around the ancient track marched, rank on rank,

The army of unalterable law.

And it is that which humbles and frightens us all when, the mood being upon us, we pause to consider our little Earth, with its load of tumultuous warring humanity, spinning upon its relentless way.

I feel that Donne, had he been living to-day, would have written a poem to the shade of William Willett. For here was a man who dared, in his puny human fashion, to fool the busy old fool. It is pleasant to think that they have set up a dial to his memory, whose shadow cheats the Sun by an hour; that the miracle of the dial of Ahaz recurs every sunny day in Pett's Wood. And now, we have even out-Willett Willett himself. We were slow in learning his trick of turning the hands of the clock; it was too simple a thing at first for us to take in. But now we have bettered the instruction. A twist of the hands, and behold! we have made the Sun one hour late. He says it is five o'clock in the morning, and we laugh and say it is six. There is something rather magnificent about it.

True, we feel deep down that it is he who is laughing at us. Yet what does it matter? We go to bed now, like children, by daylight, and we get up almost—if not quite—with the dawn. If the summer stretched so far, we should forget the stars. But at least we have achieved this miracle, that in a darkened world we have given ourselves more light. There is a kind of joy in the thought that, at our waking, the Sun has not been long awake; a childlike comfort, which dispels our human fears, in the knowledge that when our eyes are heavy his last beams are shining over the fields of sleep.

—From "John O' London's Weekly.

### ON ADJUSTMENT.

(From "Waratah," March, 1942).

It is merely trite to say that these are days of rapid change. Yet there are times when we must take account of the obvious and read its lesson, penetrating behind the more evident announcements of change.

Our Guide motto is: "Be Prepared." Have we been truly living this, are we living this ideal to-day? There is feverish haste in the community to do the things so long neglected, lulled by a false sense of security. First Aid classes are being rushed. Do we Guides know our First Aid so that we can stand by those

who did not trim their lamps? Have we taught our P.L.'s thoroughly so that in their turn they may teach the Guides and spread the necessary confidence? If you have not already done so, go to your nearest Warden, and tell him you have an adequate First Aid kit and know how to use it, and can put it at the service of your street. Are you fit to do this? You should be. Judging by the experience we have heard from those who have done this you will receive a thankful welcome—and incidentally put the movement up a peg.

Have you noticed that during black-out or air-raid tests it is illegal to use a whistle? British Guides have not been permitted to use whistles for many months. Can you adjust yourself and your Company to other methods? Start working now with hand signals, Patrol and Company calls, and see how individual and effective you can make them.

Talking of black-outs, the brown-out is dark enough to make Company meetings unwise after sundown. Many of you, we hear, are already adjusting and giving the Guides your precious Saturday afternoons, or meeting earlier. Think ahead, those of you who have not, for winter and shorter days will soon be here. Have you ever tried an early morning meeting, particularly for hiking?

Do you know your own locality thoroughly? We may have all signposts and street names and numbers removed. Learn while yet you can.

Above all, have you yourself in hand, ready to rise and meet any emergency calmly, courageously, efficiently? Last Sunday I had the privilege of hearing the Rev. Hugh Paton preach a most stirring sermon on the "peace which passeth all understanding." That peace which no translator has found words to describe. Yet you may have it. Dr. Paton gave the recipe which I pass on to you. First, admit Christ fully and fundamentally as your Saviour; second, no matter what is happening, do not worry; third, pray—pray about everything, no matter how insignificant you may think about it; and, fourth, be thankful. Having followed sincerely all these directions your face will glow with the beauty of His Peace, and it will "guard your heart and mind for ever and ever."

### GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA.

"Over 700,000 young women are now endeavouring to do everything they can to aid defence." Thus read the headlines of an article on the Girl Scouts of America which appeared in the "Christian Science Monitor," dated 27th October, 1941.

Then followed a very full description of the good work carried out by the Girl Scouts of America, the main points of which are incorporated in the following paragraphs.

The Girl Scouts who, two years ago, were recreationally-minded young women who loved to cook in the open, hike, etc., have now turned



TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE GUIDE MOVEMENT.

-----  
Commissioners, Local Association Members, Guiders, Rangers,  
Guides and Brownies. -

The GUIDE HOUSE needs your help - and it is only you who can help it out of its difficulties - quickly, generously and happily!

The Guide House owes £120 which it must pay immediately. - Owing to the war situation, we were not able to hold any of our large camps at the Guide House during the Christmas holidays; and the difficulties of transport have made week-ends there almost out of the question. Thus we have been deprived of two large sources of income. During the last year we found it necessary to build a Caretaker's Cottage, in order to give ourselves more room in the House, and to give our caretaker, Mr. Manson, more comfortable and convenient quarters. An appeal was made to the Guide Association for the money to build this Cottage, but when finished, we still owed £70.

So the Guide House Committee found itself in the unfortunate position of having to borrow £70 for the Cottage and £50 to pay rates, taxes, telephone etc. Therefore we are in the same plight as Mr. Micawber:

"My other piece of advice, Copperfield," said Mr. Micawber, "you know. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen nineteen six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery. The blossom is blighted, the leaf withered, the God of Day goes down upon the dreary scene, and - in short, you are for ever floored ---- As I am!"

Our blossom is blighted - in short we are floored - but, we have hope, not for ever! Will you help us to meet this debt? And also to give that amount more which will enable us to carry on the Guide House until it is possible to find suitable tenants, so that the rent will make the property self-supporting?

Local Associations and Companies - you who are rich, will you give us some of your wealth? Those of you who are not rich - will you give what you can? Could you send it to the Guide House Treasurer, c/o Girl Guides Association, 60 Market Street, Melbourne, before April 30th?

We give you our very grateful thanks if you will help us to discharge our debts honourably, and so to make the "result - happiness" for the future of the Guide House.

Our very best wishes to you -

THE GUIDE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

Melbourne,  
1st April, 1942.

M. Littlejohn,  
Convener.

their hands and energies to working for the National Defence Programme. Girl Scouts—700,000 of them—in cities, town and villages; on farms, in remote mountain areas, are individually and in groups engaged in running errands for "Uncle Sam." The "errand" may be one that involves saving food, knitting for soldiers or mapping the quickest routes to community centres that would be strategic during an emergency. In countless other ways both the "Brownies," aged 7 to 10, and the Senior Girl Scouts are thinking up new ways, and rehearsing old ones, of presenting a useful front in home defence.

A few months ago, 633 girls and women in Girl Scouting presented a promissory note to President Roosevelt which, in a sense, voiced the sentiments of their 700,000 sisters.

"On demand," the note said, "the Girl Scouts of America promise to pay to the order of the people of the United States any required number of hours of service in the interest of national defence." Since then, the payments on this note have been steadily coming in. In some places Girl Scouts have been contributing messenger service to the Red Cross and the National Defence Committee. They have made a thorough study of streets, mapping the location of important buildings and making detailed plans for feeding, clothing and caring for the people. In other places they are collecting windfalls, making them into jelly and turning it over to hospitals. They are donating services to church and welfare groups, tending nurseries and joining in other helpful activities. They are taking up the threads where the Civilian Conservation Corps boys left off, saving pine trees and currant bushes from "blister rust" and winning high praise from the local forestation official.

Following the good example of the Girl Guides in England they have branched out into a new field of child care. In one town they gathered up toys and story books for children's homes. Collection of toys also were made by the Girl Scouts of another town who also made baby garments and clothing and blankets for British relief. They made oil-cloth dolls and small cloth toys for the Red Cross to pack in the boxes of needed articles for British children. Also they collected old linen and cotton sheets, pillow cases and towels for bombed-out residents of London.

The question of how to provide more nutritious meals for the average family has proved an absorbing one to hundreds of Girl Scouts in New York City who co-operated with the Department of Health and completed a regular course in nutrition, winning badges of honour from City officials.

The Girl Scouts have trained themselves to be handy women. They know how to use a pair of pliers, a saw or a hammer as well as a pair of sewing scissors. They can replace burned-out electric fuses and can use some means of transport, such as bicycles, roller skates and in some cases, aeroplanes. The seniors are acting as air wardens; they can

relay messages in code, make minor repairs on an automobile, transport evacuees, operate a telephone switchboard or accomplish any number of additional duties.

From "The Guide Courier."

#### THE DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY.

(By A. A. Maynard—from "The Guider" January, 1942).

Sir Percy Everett tells us that the Chief Scout said his training was based on the Delegation of Responsibility; that is on finding the right man for the job, and letting him get on with it, which is, as we know, the Patrol System. Had our Chief been one of those people who "Prefer to do it myself, thank you"—we all know that kind—only his immediate circle would have benefited from his character and ideas, but because he could delegate and enthrust others in their turn to do the same, countless people the world over have benefited from the Scout Ideals besides the actual Scout and Guide membership.

The Chief Guide has that same gift; soon after she was elected Chief Commissioner she was having her second baby; instead of making that an excuse for a holiday, as well she might, she wrote hundreds of letters to people she thought would make good Commissioners, and started painting the Counties of England on a map as one by one they began to be organised. She convinced these people in the letters that there was a job terribly worth doing, and they were *the* people to do it. She rarely got a refusal.

To those of us who have watched the tree of Guiding grow, it seemed so obvious that it must do so; the girls themselves were calling for it, were, in fact, becoming Scouts, that we forgot that without good leadership it would have soon died, as it does die now when this delegation business stops, for there are many dead branches on our tree, putting forth no fresh buds, often because some Guiders cannot pass on responsibility.

FEAR AT THE ROOT.—Lately I have watched the death of a branch of a Youth Service Movement from that very reason. It started full of enthusiasm, some 50 strong, with a keen, energetic young leader. One day she said, "I can't come Saturdays, because you see I must go with my boys wherever they are working; last week they were asked to paint the curbs white, and they painted the pillar boxes too! So you see, I can't leave them." As she could not be in two places at once, the branch soon died a natural death of inanition. I felt that, had she been a Guide, she would have known better. But would she? Sometimes it is not want of knowledge but something in the character of the person that hinders the growth.

A most interesting illustration of this is seen by comparing the lives of Florence Nightingale and Sister Dora, both equally devoted,

it. Then you will know I'm not pulling your leg.

The ants milk their cows by stroking them which causes them to exude a nice fluid which they can drink.

#### DEVIL'S COACHHORSE

First ants and their cows, then the devil's coachhorse, what is "Matilda" coming to! This most interesting creature appeared in some cabbages that were left standing. There were two rows and like all good cabbages they decided to mature about the same time so that after eating cabbage solidly for many days the last two or three were left with the result that they used to get hot in the day time and cold and dewy at night, this causing a sort of decaying of the outside leaves. Now this is just what the devil's coachhorse loves for the decaying matter attracts the blowfly and the maggots are what it feeds on. You may feel you don't want to hear any more about this creature but he is very interesting to see— $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long, very black with a red head, small back eyes and metallic purple elytra—that's him. When disturbed he runs about in a very characteristic attitude—head raised and tip of the body turned up. He resents the open too and soon scuttles, or as the book says "prances" to cover. He belongs to the Rove Beetle clan.

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