

GIRL GUIDE WAR APPEAL

The following letter which has just been received from the Ladies' Guild of the...

Matilda

It will be easy to hear that the...

It is our duty to hear that the...

Your warm thanks for your help...

With kindest regards...

LETTERS

We have considered what sort of...

NOVEMBER, 1942.



GIRL GUIDE WAR APPEAL.

The following letter which has just been received from the Ladies' Guild of the British Sailors' Society will prove of interest to those who have been working for the appeal.

The Secretary,
The Girl Guides Association,
Melbourne, Australia.

July 2nd, 1942.

Dear Madam,—I am writing to send our most grateful thanks to the Girl Guides of Melbourne for the further really marvellous consignment of Comforts for the seamen which they have sent for the use of our Yarmouth Hostel. Everything sent will be tremendously useful and I do not know how to say an adequate "Thank you" for this splendid help.

You will be sorry to hear that the Hostel in which you are specially interested has not been left untouched by the enemy but work goes on as usual and we all feel very proud of the members of the staff who are sticking to it in face of difficulties.

I am so pleased to be writing to you because I too am a Guide—Skipper of the S.R.S. British Prestige—and the Movement here is supporting us quite splendidly too. Much interest was aroused when the Hostel in Iceland was given to the Society by the Guides as a result of Gift Week in 1940, and most of the Companies and Districts which send to me here like their contributions to be forwarded to Iceland for the Trefoil Hut, which is performing a grand work in its area. If ever you would like a consignment to go there for a change, you would perhaps let us know.

Once again, many thanks for your help, and please pass on our message to as many contributors to the work as possible, we would like them to know how much it is appreciated.

Yours very sincerely,

ELSIE HYATT,

Assistant Organising Secretary, Division
Secretary, S.W. Herts Girl Guides and S.R.S.
British Prestige.

REFLECTIONS.

"We have considered what sort of reflection it would be nice to see in the mirror, and some ways of making the best of old uniforms so that this reflection may be achieved, but there are still several items which count for a great deal in appearance.

Shoes and stockings, or socks, are part of uniform, and these should be either brown or black, whichever the Company wears, or in the case of socks, brown or Headquarters blue ankle socks. Plain flat heeled shoes are far the most sensible for wearing in uniform, and at any time, so if you have got to buy a new pair, bear this in mind. Stockings and socks do present a problem in these days of coupons and limited stocks, but if it

could be the aim of every Guide to have one pair of the correct colour and to look upon these as much a part of uniform as a belt or tie, and keep them for uniform wear, we should go a long way to more uniform and tidier legs. Hair ribbons, if they are worn at all, must be blue or black, elegant pale blue or pink ribbons look very out of place.

Besides the uniform, what about the Guide inside it? The newest uniform can look a mess if it is worn badly, or if the wearer walks and stands badly, or is the kind of person who does not bother to brush her hair, to wash her hands, and altogether try to look alive and alert. In an article in First Class in "The Guide" a week or two ago, reference was made to Guides who look like suet puddings. Take another look in the mirror, and be sure the description could not apply to you!

I wonder whether anyone reading these articles on uniform thinks to herself, "Why all this fuss about what we look like? It is not the look that matters, but what we are." Of course how we carry out our Guiding is the most important thing, but surely any keen Guide wants to look the part as well? No real Guide can tolerate a slovenly appearance; she can not tolerate it for the feel of it for herself, and she cannot bear that other people shall get a bad impression of Guiding through her appearance, and if you think of it, the general public must, to a great extent, judge by appearance.

This is where our last reflection comes in. It would be bad enough if you were responsible only to yourself, or even your Patrol, if you went about in a dirty uniform, slouching along regardless of anyone, but you are not, your responsibility is far greater. How you look, how your Patrol and your Company turn out is going to reflect on the whole Guide Movement, because the people who see you will either think: "What a smart Company of Guides; they must be keen to turn out like that," or they will think just the opposite, and they will not stop at thinking; they will comment to their friends and people they meet.

One other thing about the wearing of uniform, manner and manners. These matter so much, for again we are not only responsible to ourselves. I do not mean to suggest that special manners should be put on with uniform; that would be deplorable, but it can do no harm to remind ourselves of what Guiding stands for and to see that we do nothing when wearing our uniform or badge that can lower Guiding in the estimation of others.

Treat your uniform as a precious possession. When you wear it, remember what kind of people our Founder expected Guides to be—people alert and prepared for anything. Wear it with pride and with gratitude that you have the opportunity and privilege of being a Guide. —N.G.G. "The Guide."

“Matilda”

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

Price, 3/- per year. 4/6 Posted. Single Copies 6d. each.

Editor: Mrs. GUY BAKEWELL, 4 Stoke Ave., Kew, E.4.

Contributions should reach the Editor not later than the 16th of each month.

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No. 5.

MESSAGES OF SYMPATHY.

Cables of sympathy on the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent were sent by the Federal Secretary to Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent and Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. The following replies were received:—

“Please convey to the President, Federal Council of the Girl Guides' Association of Australia my heartfelt thanks for their very kind message which has touched me deeply and comforted me in my overwhelming sorrow.

MARINA.”

“Much appreciate kind sympathy.

PRINCESS ROYAL.”

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Meetings of the Executive Committee, held at the Guide Office on 17th September and 1st October, 1942.

Present.—17th September: Miss Cameron (chair), Mrs. Blackwood, Mrs. Edmondson, Mrs. Faulkner, Misses Holtz, McKellar, Moran, Swinburne and the Secretary. 1st October: Miss Cameron (chair), Mrs. Blackwood, Mrs. Edmondson, Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Littlejohn, Mrs. Springthorpe, Misses Maling, Moran, Swinburne and the Secretary.

Miss Maling was welcomed to the committee as Area Commissioner for 1st Metropolitan Area.

Agreed: That the Annual Balance Sheet be received.

That we should write to those of our Guide Districts concerned, in reference to calling meetings to interest people in the Women's Land Army.

That a Special Council Meeting should be held to make provision for amendments to Clauses IV. and V. of the Constitution being operative for a further two years.

That we should make an appeal in Matilda for children's books for the Victoria League Bush Library.

That the Reports from Departments be received.

That Mrs. Edmondson arrange for representatives to attend the official opening of a Display of National Savings Posters.

That we accept the invitation of the Y.W.C.A. for representatives to attend their Diamond Jubilee Service.

That we accept Miss Broadhurst's gift of Projector and Chalet Film with thanks.

That Miss Moran be asked to prepare a State Report for the Federal Council Annual Report.

That the letter from the W.V.R.N.S. in reference to urgent need for the Women's Land Army be put on the notice board.

That drafts of letters in connection with the Chief's Memorial Fund as submitted by Miss Hoffmeyer be approved.

That arrangements for the Guiders' Conference be approved.

That the draft of the Annual Report be approved.

That the summary of National Service Questionnaire be received.

That the present Commissioners for Departments be re-appointed and that Training and Camping Diplomas be endorsed.

That the arrangements for the Commissioners' Conference, as submitted by Mrs. Fairbairn, be received.

To accept the suggestion of the Federal Secretary that Guide Week 1943, should be in February to include Thinking Day.

Reported: That Miss Denny had agreed to be Secretary, and Miss Brett Treasurer, of the Chief Scout Memorial Fund.

That the Federal Secretary had received word that no metal badges at all would be available in future, and only a limited number of woven badges would be allowed.

That Mr. J. S. Gawler had consented to speak at the Annual Meeting.

That Mrs. Holden, Mrs. Booth and Miss Ross had accepted membership of the State Council.

That Mrs. Arthur Richardson had agreed to be District Commissioner for Kew.

Routine and financial business was transacted.

WARRANTS AND REGISTRATIONS.

District Commissioner.—Kew: Mrs. Arthur Richardson, 20 Barry St., Kew, E.4.

Captain.—3a Hawthorn, Miss J. Belot; 7th Hawthorn, Miss G. H. Swinburne; 1st Nhill, Miss G. Tassicker; 3rd Victorian Post Guides, Miss S. Luke; 7th Victorian Post Guides, Miss M. Shaw; 3rd Victorian Lone Guides, Mrs. K. C. Jones.

Lieutenant.—4th East Malvern, Miss G. Brooks; 1st Horsham, Miss M. P. Mills.

Cancellations.—Mrs. Maddern, District Commissioner, Seymour; Miss M. Monger, Brown Owl, 1st Toorak Park.

VICTORIAN GUIDERS' CONFERENCE.

Conference time came near, members of the Guiders' Committee were dispersed by war-time exigencies, so the Executive Committee asked Miss Swinburne and Miss Holtz to convene those members still available and add to their number to form a committee to organise the conference. The members were: Miss Belot, secretary; Mrs. Thomas, treasurer; Mrs. Knight, Miss Leigh, Miss Rogers, Miss Cameron ex officio.

The Committee discussed the possible purposes of the Conference.

1. For the State Commissioner, members of executive and Guiders to meet together, to discuss trends of opinion upon general policy;
2. To gain strength and vision for leadership by sharing experience, ideas and practical activities;
3. To discuss individual problems with those best qualified to advise;
4. To gain information about new developments and their success;
5. For Guiders to take part in general organisation — State Council, Guiders' Committee;
6. Social, friendship;
7. Practical—"I learnt this at Conference."

If all or most of these aims are to be realised, Conference must be considered as a whole—each session and each free period an important feature. If these purposes were not served, if you have ideas for a better conference, please write at once—all ideas will be filed for next year; comments on placing songs at better intervals have already been received.

For Conference 1942, Cairns Memorial Hall, East Melbourne, was chosen, so that free time could be spent in the gardens. Displays were arranged on such subjects as Home Emergency Service, Alternative Second Class test, Lones, Patrol Corners, Brownie charts—to give information as quickly as possible, and stimulate group discussion. A special vote of thanks was passed to the sub-committee under Miss Moran and Miss MacLeod.

Miss Cameron, acting chairman of the Executive, took the chair, and the Conference opened with the National Anthem and a prayer. Guiders sent to Lady Chauvel, the State Commissioner, a message of greeting, remembrance and regret that she could not be with them. Attendance was smaller than usual, as was natural in war time, but we greeted especially Guiders from Geelong, Benalla and Bendigo.

Announcements were made concerning the Guiders' Committee, the Conference Committee and the State Council. No nominations had been received before the Conference, but because several special circumstances had operated, nominations would be received up till 5.30 on that afternoon. Ballot would be from 5.35 till 7.10.

Discussions on "Home Emergency Service," opened by Miss Harrison and on "Guides in war-time; the effect of war upon the children; how can we lead them?" led by Miss Boyes, took place. These discussions will be described more fully in another article, and conclusions perhaps in another issue. Thirty-four Guiders took part.

Free time went quickly, and the evening session commenced promptly.

After songs, the closing of the ballot, the **Brownie Session** was opened by a paper from Miss Nicholson on "The Guide who has been a Brownie, and the Guide who has not been a Brownie." This was read by Miss Rogers.

State Council.—The results of the elections were announced. Eight nominations had been received, and the following Guiders were elected:—Miss Gross, Richmond; Mrs. Knight, Caulfield; Miss MacLeod, Malvern; Mrs. Rylah, Prahran; Mrs. Thomas, Footscray. Vigorous discussion followed upon the importance of the election, and the method of nomination and election. Miss Cameron explained that the present regulations were experimental for two years, and had been extended for a further two, so full consideration was desirable. The object of the alterations is to provide a wider basis for membership of the State Council; members of the Council being eligible to elect and to be elected members of the Executive. The reasons for sending in nominations before the Conference were discussed; pre-nomination is the only method which gives complete freedom of nomination to the Guiders; an important election should not be influenced by the accident of absence from the conference (illness etc.), and the consent of the nominee is essential. Guiders asked that a reminder of the election should be given some considerable time before Conference so that there should be opportunities for discussing nominations.

It was agreed that before the regulations were cast in final form several questions of adjustment and detail must be considered, such as the possibility of country Guiders taking more part, and the clear statement of who shall have the right to vote.

Guiders' Committee.—The method of forming the Guiders' Committee from representatives of Divisions seemed unsatisfactory; several alternative methods were discussed, and the suggestion was made that for the next year, the five Guiders elected to the State Council be asked to act as the nucleus of a committee of Guiders as might be required from time to time. This was proposed in the form of a recommendation to the Executive Committee and carried.

Chief's Memorial.—Miss Hoffmeyer spoke about proposals for the Memorial to the Founder—see article in this issue. Miss Cameron spoke briefly of the policy with regard to Guides meeting on Sundays; this could be approved only with the co-operation of Guides, parents, and the Minister of any

Church or Churches to which Guides belonged; purpose of Sunday meetings, and the programmes, should be very carefully considered. South Australia had adopted a wise and well expressed attitude to the question.

Difficulties that are before us with regard to Uniform, and the problem of how to Carry on Without Guiders, were brought before the Conference, so far as time allowed.

Appreciation was expressed to the Management of Cairns Memorial Church, to the volunteers who served tea and washed up, to the Conference Committee and to Miss Cameron.

The Conference closed with the vesper, "Grant Us Thy Peace."

—G. H. Swinburne, Convener.



There are many methods of teaching in the Pack, and often the single-handed Brown Owl feels very handicapped. This especially applies to she who has had a helpful Tawny Owl or Pack Leader, and has now lost them. Is there nobody she can find to help her? So often we don't look hard enough for assistance, but just sit and wait till it is found for us. We needn't always wait for a full-time Tawny. Is there a married woman who would come for a few meetings—or every other meeting, or even once a month? You may have to alter the day of your Pack meeting to get her, but it will be worth it. Could a Brownie's mother come in and help now and again?

It is Brown Owl's job to find someone to help her, because two heads are better than one, and the Pack will be all the better for another point of view. The difficulty of finding people is Brown Owl's real chance to show her mettle and resourcefulness.

In the meantime, how to get on with the test! While Brown Owl is single-handed she will be well advised to keep her numbers down and to limit herself to about twelve Brownies.

One Brown Owl writes that she does Golden Bar work one week and Golden Hand the next. When they come to a part that the Golden Hand Brownies know very well, they have a Pow Wow, and all teach each other! After a short time of learning, they play a game on the test. This Brown Owl tries to find new ways of teaching the tests each time, and finds that her children are very thrilled. She says, "I have to be very careful about the games I play, and see that each Brownie has a chance to learn in the game, I find races or speed games quite hopeless for this kind of game, as they only fluster the ones who are trying to learn."

Another Owl has many charts. One, for instance, for rules of health, with full explanations written, and many pictures, and another for table-laying, and so on. This Owl writes: "It took me a long time to make them, but I live in a tiny town many miles from help, and I knew I should probably always be single-handed, so I thought it would be worth while.

Another method for the single-handed is to have large labels for each part of the test, and to hang them around. Underneath are all the materials necessary, and each Brownie can choose what she wants to go and practise. The Brown Owl who sends in this method suggests that other materials are brought as well, in order that the perverse Brownie who never wants to do what is suggested has something to interest her. A box of pictures with which to make up stories, and if a very good one is accomplished it can be made into a scrap book. A box of cleaning materials and various brass things to clean. Handcrafts. Odds and ends to play with and make into scenes, etc. A book to read.

"It is essential to explain this method to the Pack," she writes, "and to show they can help by working away by themselves. I move round from Brownie to Brownie making sure to get to each one, and we do get on, and I know the Brownies are really interested.

The single-handed Brown Owl has often a great difficulty with testing. There are always a few minutes before and after the meeting, but these have a way of becoming rather mythical, as they are taken up with so many problems. It is essential to keep a list, and to give the children turns in being tested, otherwise it is very easy to help the naturally pushful child, and take her more often than the others.

It is a good idea to have a neighbouring Brown Owl every three months to test definite parts of the test, giving the whole meeting to this. I can hear some of the Brown Owls say, "Neighbours! The nearest is over 100 miles away!" In that case, perhaps, it is best for you to give up a whole Pack meeting every few months to testing. It is essential for the Brownies to feel that they are getting on, as otherwise they tend to lose interest in the whole test.

There is always a way out of every difficulty if we will only look. Brown Owls who have a Tawny or a Pack Leader or both, are comparatively wealthy! They can use all the methods given above, and also divide into groups, giving each Brownie far more individual help and attention.

Keep lists carefully and plan your work ahead, go steadily through the tests, doing something new each week and keeping up the old as well.

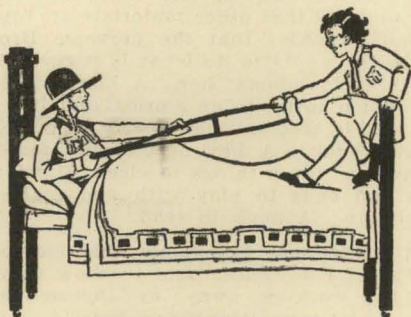
The Brownies are at the practical age when doing things is a continual delight, and we must always remember that to each

Brownie the test is something new and thrilling, and a fresh world of adventure and discovery.

Testing—

- 1.—Should be fun.
- 2.—Be true to life.
- 3.—Be fair.
- 4.—Contain the unexpected.
- 5.—Have a time limit.

—V.A.T.



Editor: Sydney Foott.

Games For Post Companies:

In a previous MATILDA we discussed games for Extension Guides—that is physically handicapped Guides attending meetings—either in active companies or in hospital or institution companies.

As well as these Guides there are the Post companies—collections of ten or twelve Guides, all physically handicapped, and all unable to attend regular weekly meetings. In place of ordinary or “active” Guides, they have their monthly “Company Meeting”—a meeting on paper, consisting of five or six pages, and combining all the things that an active company finds in its meetings.

One of the most important things of Guiding is of course GAMES, and to some people it may be difficult to visualise Guide-y games without a whole company present. However, it CAN be done, and here are some games that can be played “by post.”

Post Hiking:

With any camp or hike games, one needs to lead up carefully in previous meetings—with a description of a hike by Cap, recipes by Lieut., cuttings from “The Guide” or “Matilda,” stories, and so on.

Then the company can go on an imaginary hike, and the whole of that month’s “Meeting” is devoted to it. Inspection can take the form of what each must remember to bring (points off for forgetting one’s mackintosh, etc!); test work can be description of fire-lighting; handicraft could be some gadget which could be done even by the people in bed, using some special knots, and so on.

One game could be, “How many living creatures did you see on the hike”—the Guide has to notice every living creature either mentioned by name (NOT including the company and Captain!) or drawn in that month’s meeting, and write a list. Incidentally, I once played this with my Lone company and one Guide wrote a VERY good list, ending with “and something else—I’m not sure what it is—it might be a bushy-tailed possum?” Actually it was a squirrel of which I’d been rather proud!

Another hike game could be a map, drawn to scale, and to compass instructions given; or a map drawn from a real traverse done on a real hike; or (though not quite such good fun) the traverse of an actual map, given directions, etc.

Incidentally, though maps are not, strictly speaking, games, I know of nothing more exciting for Post Guides and Rangers, and nothing which opens wider the windows of the “shut-in.”

Also, I have on occasion been asked whether I think it kind and wise to describe to a Post Guide the joys of hiking and camping, when they are something in which so many Posts can never participate. Personally, I think that is the very reason why we should share with Post Guides the things they themselves lack. “O let strong imagination turn the great wheel,” and let Post Guides, ALL Guides, share in the greatest joy that Guiding holds.

Speed and Timing.

One of the things one misses most in “postal Guiding” is the sense of speed—there is no time limit. However, you can introduce this time limit in various ways. If everyone in the company has a wireless, then you can have a competition timed by some session or some song. (Incidentally, this timing can be used in various ways—you can use the notes of Big Ben in the evening overseas news as a reminder to say the company prayer for peace, and so on. It does help to link the company together if they feel they are all doing something as a company, and not individually).

Secondly, you can say, “This competition is to take three minutes”—either by the clock, or by judging.

(To be continued in December Matilda).

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Adventuring (South Australia); The Canadian Guider (Canada); The Girl Guide Courier (Western Australia); The Girl Guide Magazine (South Africa); The Girl Scout Leader (United States of America); Te Rama (New Zealand); The Victorian Scout (Victoria); The Waratah (New South Wales).

IMPRESSION OF THE CONFERENCE 1942.

For all of us, life is as a road with a signpost pointing upwards marked "Service" and the downward pointing arm marked "Self." The down hill looks so easy, so safe, so attractive, so much more likely to lead to what we want than the chilling upward path. To-day it must seem much more alluring than ever before, especially to the young. Never was there a time when their unskilled labour could command such high wages. The temptation to be satisfied with a very low standard must be enormous, for their services are in great demand and the new regulations make them feel secure in their jobs whatever their standard. We cannot but feel tremendous pity for them that they live in these days when false standards look so well, when such small efforts win such great rewards, when the highest ambition is to have a boy friend.

Yet, alluring as this road seems, we are thankful that the call to adventure even though it be to hardships and danger always finds a ready response among the young. When we were young, how many of us wished that we had lived in the days of chivalry and adventure. How gladly would we have fought, suffered and endured; how readily would we have accompanied kings to the wars, yes, and Florence Nightingale and even Oates into the snow. To-day, there is that avenue of adventure and service open to girls. However much we may have smiled at some of our girls being dazzled by the glamour of the uniform, we now realise that girls may be called upon for service which may demand their very life.

On those of school age the war has its effects in known and unknown fears, often in less parental control, in the loss of values by the ready acceptance of lower standards by those older, in the sense of bewilderment and lack of security.

Can Guiding really help? Yes, we believe wholeheartedly it can. It can provide standards, opportunities for self discipline, opportunities for learning the joy of "Service before Self."

For those who approach Ranger age there should no longer be any hesitation about going on. To meet the needs in England, there has been developed the H.E.S. training so that over there, Rangers are recognised as an organisation in the pre-training scheme. The H.E.S. training makes a foundation for those joining the Services, V.A.D.'s, Nurses, Land Army, as well as giving a training to those whose occupations will not be of the obvious national service. There need be no longer the feeling of frustration so often met amongst the sixteens and seventeens that they are too young to "do their bit." They can now feel that they really are doing something which has a direct bearing on national service.

For us, the Guiders, there is nothing better that we can do in our Brownie and Guide meetings than to run them as our Chief would have had us do. We can best help the young in these bewildering and insecure times by remembering our First Promise, for it is only in so far as we have peace of soul that we can give to the children that sense of security that they so desperately need to-day.

—LEILA TULLOH.

GUIDE WEEK.

FEBRUARY, 1943.

It is necessary to start gathering ideas for this now.

What shall we do?

What celebrations and company activities shall we plan?

What shall our underlying thought or theme-word be?

Will you discuss these questions among yourselves and in your districts, and send any ideas to E. Bunning, 15 Kent Street, Kew, E.4, before the end of this month?

Last year, our thought was "Remembrance" for the late Chief Scout, now our aim must surely be to "carry on," or to "forge ahead" or "progress."

How would YOU express it?

ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

We have received the following additional names:—

A.W.A.S.—Dorothy Ward, June Cunningham, Dorothy Maltby (Geelong).

W.A.A.A.F.—June Hitchcock, Myra Maltby, Ivy Bowen, Margaret Bennetts (Geelong).

V.A.D.—Beatrice Hocking (Geelong).

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH MATILDA.

Most of those who read Matilda's pages have little idea of the labour involved in her production. In addition to the writing of the articles, the editing, and the sending out of the finished copies, there is all the checking of the proofs, and the task of making the material fit into the space allotted to it. For some years now this work has been done by Miss Ethel Batten, who gave up some of her hard-earned leisure to play this important part in producing Victoria's Guide magazine. Unfortunately, now, through pressure of work Miss Batten is prevented from carrying on. Matilda is most grateful for all Miss Batten has done for her.

—EDITOR,



B-P Memorial Fund

You don't fumble over a job, you do it quickly and easily. For you, a walk is full of interest and your eyes are everywhere. You can cope with an emergency, can render first aid, hike comfortably, light fires; you've learnt to sing round your fires . . . even perhaps, learnt to make a speech! You've had such fun, in camp, at training weeks, at rallies.

YOU KNOW WHO TAUGHT YOU, UNFOLDED TO YOU, GAVE YOU, THESE THINGS YOU HAVE SO ENJOYED, THIS WAY OF LIVING. THE FOUNDER, THE CHIEF SCOUT, LORD BADEN-POWELL. AND HOW TO SHOW YOUR THANKFULNESS FOR HIS GREAT GAME? THERE ARE THREE WAYS—

- ★ BY BEING A BETTER GUIDE.
- ★ BY CARRYING ON YOUR GUIDING SO THAT MORE AND MORE CHILDREN MAY HAVE THE FUN OF LEARNING THE THINGS YOU'VE LEARNT.
- ★ BY GIVING TO THE B-P MEMORIAL FUND, AND WHILE HELPING YOUR COUNTRY BY LENDING NOW, GIVING TO THE POST-WAR MEMORIAL TO THE FOUNDER.

Start Planning and Saving Now!

Make a Special Christmas Effort!

LEND TO A GREAT CAUSE!

GIVE IN GRATITUDE FOR A GREAT LEADER!

For full details and all instructions watch Matilda month by month.

GUIDE HOUSE IN THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS.

The Guide House has fallen empty as our previous tenant is not renewing the lease. The Executive Committee has decided not to look for a new tenant immediately, so that members of the Movement may use the House during January.

It is available to Guide or Ranger Companies with a qualified Camper holding Camper's Licence or Indoor Camp Certificate; Brownies with a Brown Owl holding Pack Holiday Permit; parties of Guiders; warranted Guiders taking parties of non-Guide friends; L.A. members. Children may not be taken.

For all details of fees, etc., apply to the Guide House Booking Secretary, Miss Barfus, at Headquarters.

M.LITTLEJOHN.

TO COMMISSIONERS.

WARRANTS. Following a similar decision of Imperial Headquarters, the Victorian Executive Committee has decided, as a war-time measure, that, when Commissioners consider it advisable, Captains and Brown Owls may obtain Warrants any time after the age of 19, and Lieutenants and Tawnies from 17 years. It is strongly recommended that no Guider under the age of 18 years should take charge of a Company or Pack.

Miss Marjory Shanks, the Commissioner for Training at Imperial Headquarters, writing in THE GUIDER of July, 1942, about the war-time lowering of the warrant age, says: "It is important that aspirants for Warrants should not consider it their right that they should obtain them before the usual age of 21 or 18, because this is a matter which must be left entirely to the judgment of Commissioners. District Commissioners should take a special interest in the training and testing of these young acting Guiders to see that they are well prepared for the responsibility which will be theirs when they are warranted..... Commissioners should try to arrange a course of pre-Warrant training classes, at which the District Commissioner herself trains her future Guiders or presides at their training.

"Many Companies and Packs throughout the country are being run by girls of 17 and 18 in the absence of older people. As long as District Commissioners themselves are willing to stand by and back up these young people, giving them the help and support they undoubtedly require and look for, the Movement stands to gain much from their youthful leadership. The new arrangements will prove yet once again our belief in the contribution which Youth is able to make today - a contribution which we older people cannot make - and will show that Guiding is indeed a Movement where the young are led by the young!"

E. E. MORAN
M. E. BUSH.

GUIDE OFFICE HOLIDAYS.

The Girl Guides Association Office will close from 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve until Monday, 25th January, 1943.

M. E. Bush.

M A T I L D A.

We regret that the printer's man-power problems have delayed the November issue.

L. BAKEWELL,
Editor.

THANK YOU, CHIEF.

"The suggested memorial to the Chief Scout, the late Lord Baden-Powell, is indeed an inspiring object for the efforts of Guides all over the world. We have inherited his great gift, the ideal of Service, Loyalty and Comradeship; it is for us to show how much we value it by the gift we are going in return to make to his memory, which will help the cause to which he devoted himself, to live on through future generations."—Mary.

These are the words by which our Royal President, commends to our consideration a world-wide effort to create a memorial to the Chief Scout.

"Captain, this is Ann, and she's ten and will you please tell her all about Guiding so that she can tell her Father because she wants to be a Guide." I wonder how many of us have had those breathless words said to us while "Ann" stands by, shining-eyed and speechless, waiting for the password that will admit her to this magic world—this magic world created for her by that great man of boundless vision—the Chief Scout. To the present generation of Guides, the man, the Founder, does not mean a great deal, but the game does, and that is how he would have it. But, on the other hand, those of us who knew him, and have in our memories a picture of his strong, rugged face and steady, gentle eyes, feel that somehow his memory should be perpetuated for the generations to come.

The Chief Commissioner, Mrs. St. John Atkinson, says, "What our memorial will be has not yet been decided, but it will require the most careful consideration, and we feel it almost impossible to reach a decision until we have some clear indication of the sum likely to be raised. One thing, however, I can promise you—that whatever form the memorial takes, it shall be something of lasting benefit to Guiding at home, in the Empire and throughout the world."

Now, the idea is that we shall give our money, or raise it in one of the mysterious and astonishing ways in which we DO raise it, and this money shall be lent to the Government in the form of National Savings, to be redeemed and used for our purpose when peace shall come again. What about it, Rangers, Guides and Brownies? What shall we aim at?—and then let us double our aim. Send me your ideas and suggestions so that they may be of help to others. For all of us, young and old, past and present, who have enjoyed this great game, let us say with joyous voice and vigorous action,

"THANK YOU, CHIEF!"

M. HOFFMEYER, Convenor.

INSTRUCTIONS.

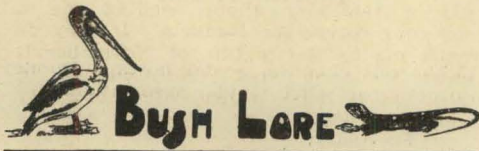
- 1.—Make out cheques, postal notes or money orders to:—Girl Guide Association.
- 2.—Address letters to:—
Secretary,
B-P Memorial Fund,
Girl Guide Association,
60 Market Street,
Melbourne, C.I.
- 3.—To save postage, receipts may be obtained at Headquarters on application or will be sent if a stamped and addressed envelope is forwarded.
- 4.—Contributions and progress totals will be acknowledged in Matilda each month.
- 5.—Please send money in round sums of pounds and shillings (not pence).
- 6.—You will receive a Give-Lend Voucher when your final amount comes in.



National security is the only thing worth buying. Other purchases are worthless unless Australia is safe.

By spending money on things you don't really require, you are letting your country down. That money should go towards supplying vital equipment to our fighting forces.

BUY £10
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WAR SAVINGS
CERTIFICATES



(Editor: Elsie Sydes).

Pleasure in Nature:

People, who have a reasonable amount of leisure, should have a habit and a capacity for spending it in a way that brings interest and pleasure, and this is a great factor in making life contented. . . . Books I would put first. By books I mean the power of taking pleasure in the best literature. But next to books I would put the capacity for finding pleasure in Outdoor Nature. There are two great advantages in it; two great qualities that belong to it. One is that it means a capacity for taking pleasure in common things. The beauty of the world and the interesting things in wild nature are there for everybody to enjoy, and the fact that one person enjoys them does not diminish the power of others to enjoy them provided only that everybody, who takes pleasure in Outdoor Nature, will observe the one simple rule, which is far too often broken, that you should take your pleasure in Outdoor Nature without destroying or disturbing.

The other quality is that the best kind of pleasure in Outdoor Nature does not depend on novelty, but upon enjoying things which recur in the seasons of the year. Every season of the year brings its own aspects of beauty or its own subjects of interest.

If you wish to cultivate pleasure, there are three parts of it to be cultivated. One is anticipation, another realisation, and the third is retrospect. The word "consider" is used in the Bible in just the sense that applies to watching objects in Nature, the sense of giving attention in order to appreciate and admire.

—"Fallodon Papers"—Viscount Grey.

In a Country Garden.

Blue sky, far-away blue sea, blue misty mountains with an occasional gleam of white showing—the last of the snow—in this setting a country garden.

At my feet are daffodils, gentians richly blue, numerous dainty rock plants, primroses—millions of them—and a glorious bed of heath. Amongst the heath is a great rock, lichen-covered, "too big to dig out"—what a blessing, as it makes the right setting for the heath.

Above me is a lace-work of branches, oak, birch, maple, chestnut, making patterns on the blue—the pattern a little disarranged now by tiny leaves greeting the Spring. All this flooded with a cascade of sound—wind in the trees, cicadas, bird songs everywhere.

Across the lawn, daintily stepping, a mud-lark picks his way. Surely his ancestry is

French in his smart combination of black and white. A curious anomaly—himself so dainty, his voice so harsh. If you are not careful you will mistake him for his larger friend the magpie—there are two in a nearby tree. I think they are building. The tentative pipe of a yellow robin trills now and then and a wild little burst of song tells you that spinebills are busy. You will see one hovering strongly while its slender bill searches the heath for its treasure. A scarlet robin and his wife make a scene of conjugal bliss on a nearby post—but the lord of the manor is not much given to song, sweet though it is when the mood takes him. Tiny tits make bushes alive with their twittering and brilliant crimson rosellas sound their bell-like note in the forest. You might confuse the spinebills' song with the quick rushing notes of the blue wren—but your ear will learn to distinguish them. The minor trill of the bronze cuckoo gives one a sad moment, but, full and glorious, the thrushes announce their joy, calling to each other from tree to tree. The long drawn crack of the whip-bird is not far away and imitating it, but pervading the whole atmosphere, is the riotous song of the Golden whistler.

Silent, but gay, are the Painted Ladies and Australian Admirals—have you seen a butterfly walk? He is so full of ridiculous dignity. Kipling knew they could "stamp!"

And all this—in a country garden!

—M.H.

Motherly Love.

As you know, the Regent honeyeater is a shy bird and not easy to approach, but love gave one courage the other day. Walking along the street I noticed a commotion and there was a baby Regent on the ground. Its back and head were still a soft mousy-brown colour, but wings and tail were developing their lovely black and gold feathers. As I stooped to pick the baby up, fearing to leave it there because of stray dogs, the mother flew distressfully round my head. I put the baby into a bush over a fence and immediately the mother came to it. I would have liked to have seen what happened next but they had both suffered enough for one morning.

—M.H.

When You Chop The Wood—Borers and Their Enemy.

Wood chopping has its compensations! In our back yard it is very often a slow process, for the magpie insists on sitting almost on the chopping block and you have to aim straight, and then having missed the bird and split the wood and made sure you are not going to bowl him out with the flying pieces, you have to wait patiently while he devours the fat juicy morsels that roll out or are trying vainly to look as if they weren't in the exposed tunnels. These are the **Borer Grubs**—first favourite. I have dislodged other interesting specimens—a complete ant colony, eggs, ants with and without wings, a reddish colour and rather small. Then there was one log that seemed to have all the **longicorn beetles** that were ever born, in it. There

they were with their long feelers—light brown and cream coloured in the body—long and narrow to fit the tunnels. But one day one of them was darker in colour and he had two very short feelers which for the most part he kept tucked away. He was black and brown above, striped underneath and his legs were a nice brown with lovely combs on his feet. He had strong jaws and conspicuous black eyes. Two most interesting things about him were the way he folded his legs against himself and the front pair very neatly across his jaws, and that he was adept at walking backwards as well as forwards. Both these points were explained by what he is—a **Timber-borer Hunting Beetle**, the eggs being laid in the galleries or tunnels of the wood-borers.

And my latest find was some interesting little "bees" in a tunnel and such jaws on them too! Do you chop the wood—try it!

LONES

Dear Guiders,—Although you have received some time ago your minutes of the Lone Guiders' Meeting and Conference held at Headquarters on Saturday, October 3rd, and have, I hope, studied them well, and acted upon their suggestions, there were a few things that came up I think worth while to repeat here.

Firstly it was agreed that Guiders should send one page of each month's Budget to the Exchange Bureau, so that their ideas may be pooled for the benefit of others. In case some of you have forgotten about the Exchange Bureau—for practically no one makes use of it either by contributing or borrowing—I will explain it once more. It is a collection of papers on all sections of Guide training by correspondence, and is available to any Guider on application. The only conditions are the payment of postage both ways, and a gift of some item in exchange. I know you all put a great deal of thought into the compiling of your Budgets, and it is a pity if some of your bright ideas cannot benefit other Companies besides your own. Surely it is not too much to ask you to do one extra copy of one page—preferably on test work—so that some day it will help some other Guider!

The next subject I wanted to bring to your notice is (and I quote from the Minutes) "The question was raised as to who should keep the Budget in cases where only one was sent to each patrol. It was pointed out that the Budget belongs to the patrol, and should be returned to the Leader by the last girl to receive it. On resigning the Leader hands it over to her successor." Definitely I think the Leader should keep the Patrol Budget. It is one of her privileges and responsibilities. Lieut. should of course also have a copy of each Budget. It is impossible for her to keep in touch with the work of the Company otherwise.

Lastly—a reminder about sending me a copy of your November Budgets. If they do not reach me by the middle of November it will mean I cannot "visit" that Company in December, as it takes a little time to study each one individually, and to make suitable comments, so that the girls can feel Commissioner is taking a personal interest in them.

Still discussing the Guiders' Meeting—during the afternoon I endeavoured to demonstrate the use of a "Herbert's Composition Roll." I am afraid I explained it rather badly to judge by the questions that were fired at me! It is a duplicator which can be used for either handwriting or typing, by means of special ink or carbon paper. The roll costs 13/6, the bottle of ink 1/6 and the carbon paper 3d. a sheet. The special heavy absorbent paper costs 4/9 for 500 sheets. The surface of the Roll is damped as required, and the master sheet is pressed on to it, from which as many copies as are needed are taken.

The Conference which followed the meeting was of interest to everyone. Miss Alston gave an interesting address on the subject of games, which had been prepared by Miss Foott. This was followed by a discussion and an interchange of ideas on how to adapt games to suit Lones and Posts.

Miss Barfus then gave a talk on the H.E.S. and pointed out that the War called for something more vital and constructive from Rangers than hitherto. It is just as important for Guide Guiders to understand this change in the Ranger Test, so that they can prepare and enthuse their Guides to move up when the time arrives.

After tea Miss Paling gave a talk on how to introduce singing to the Lones. Because of the copyright law no manuscript or duplicated copies of music can be included in the Budgets. However, she suggested that each Company could buy a copy of the Campfire leaflets from the Shop, marking certain songs for the Guides to learn. It was felt that most children have access to a piano, either at home or at school.

The Conference was attended by the Misses Luke and Shaw, of the Posts, in addition to the Lone Guiders. We are grateful to the three speakers, Misses Alston, Paling and Barfus for giving up their time to attend and help us with our problems.

—M.R.F.

LONES LOCAL ASSOCIATION.

Meeting held at G.H.Q. on Tuesday, October 13th.

Present.—Mrs. Fairbairn, in chair; Mesdames Keble, Hull, Harley, Jardine, Higgs, Miss McWilliams and Hon. Secretary.

Badge Work.—Mrs. Fairbairn reported that Barbara Garton had been tested and passed for the Booklover's Badge.

Reports.—Treasurer reported a bank balance of £24/9/9. Of this amount £8/11/5 was the Ranger Fund. Sale of gifts at annual meeting had netted sum of £7/9/6.

Equipment secretary reported having issued two one-year service stars, and five Tender-foot badges.

Correspondence.—Commissioner reported that Mrs. Jones now has Captain's Warrant. This is second warrant obtained by correspondence course.

Invitation received to Annual Meeting, 23rd October.

Letter from Miss Cameron re assistance to H.Q. funds.

Letter containing donation of £1/1/- from Carnegie Co. being part of profits from a Pedlar's Pack Fair.

From Miss Bush, enclosing sum of £1/9/- which was handed to H.Q. by Yarck L.A. when it disbanded, with a request that it be made available to Lones if possible.

All reports bracketed and adopted on motion of Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mrs. Keble.

Business.—Mrs. Fairbairn reported that at a recent Guiders' Meeting it had been decided to raise Guides' subscriptions to 5d. a month, in order to make accounts balance. It costs about 12/- to equip a new Company. As they would find it almost impossible to catch up on this initial outlay it had been suggested that if the L.A. wanted to help, as had been discussed at the Annual Meeting, they could perhaps make a donation to each new Company.

On the motion of Mrs. Shugg, seconded by Mrs. Higgs, it was decided that this L.A. would make a grant of 10/- to each new Company formed since the inauguration of the L.L.A., to put the said Company on a sound financial basis. Carried.

The following amounts were passed for payment on the motion of Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mrs. Harley. Commissioner's postage £3/7/6. Equipment Sec. 10/, grants to five new Companies £2/10/-.

Next Meeting.—Next meeting will be held on January 12th, at 3 p.m., at 236 Kooyong Rd., Toorak, by courtesy of Mrs. Fairbairn. All members will please bring something for afternoon tea.

Meeting then closed.

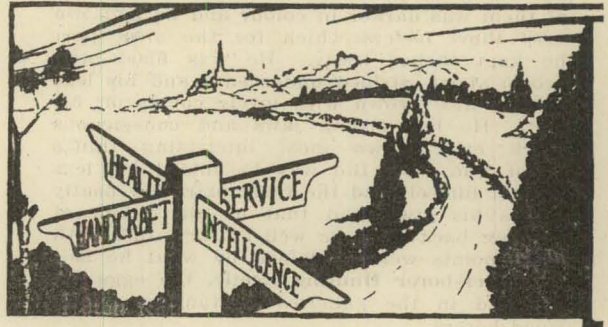
GUIDE HOUSE GARDEN CLUB.

Moral support has been given to the work at the Guide House Garden with working bees, etc., but now the financial problem calls for aid.

The Garden Club was begun to provide this assistance, and so we ask that as soon as possible you leave your 2/6 subscription at H.Q. addressed to the Guide House Treasurer, or post it direct to Miss Margaret Shaw, 30 Parslow Street, Malvern, S.E.4.

Further subscriptions have been received from Mesdames Crabb, McDonald, Springthorpe, Gray, Grant, McSheedy, Willoby, Scott, Nicholl and Northrop, all of the Oakleigh-Murrumbena L.A., and from the Carnegie-Murrumbena Guide Company. —M.S.

The Sign Post



Editor: MARJORIE NICHOLSON.

THRIFT.

Do your Guides find it difficult to realise the meaning of the word "Thrift?"

It is sometimes fun to have a patrol competition to see in how many practical ways one can be thrifty. Below is a chapter (taken from Hints on the 1st class test) which I thought might be helpful.

"Understand the meaning of thrift and show that she has endeavoured to prevent waste in six practical ways—three with regard to her own property and three with regard to that of other people."

I wonder what you thought Thrift meant when you learnt the Guide law before you were enrolled. It is often explained as "saving all the money you can and putting it into the bank;" but although the habit of saving money is very excellent, the prevention of waste is equally important, also making the best of all available resources. Thrift and generosity are not in any way opposed to each other, and it is most necessary for you to realise that thrift should never be allowed to develop into meanness.

The following are a few suggestions of the kind of waste which may be prevented:—

The mis-use of school books (often the property of the Education authority).

The ruin of coats through lack of tags by which to hang them.

The waste of garments through the lack of stitch in time.

Waste of food through leaving scraps on plates.

Throwing out of usable left-over food through lack of knowledge of what to do with it (although the frequent practice of persuading people to eat more than they want in order to use up the remains might well be considered waste of health).

Taps dripping through carelessness or worn out washers.

Leaving of soap in water.
Allowing wet brushes to lie with bristles uppermost.

Waste of electric light (especially in club-room or school).

Waste of gas under kettle already boiling.

Unnecessary amount of paper and firewood used to light household fire.

Enormous hike fire to boil small billy-can.

Cutting of string and throwing away of useful paper.

Waste of notepaper and envelopes—especially those belonging to the "firm."

Unnecessary stoking of office or other fire towards closing time.

Waste of time (particularly employer's time).

Doubtless you will be able to think yourself of many more ways in which you can give practical help in the economical running of your home, or place of work.

Thrift is not inherent in our national character, so it is up to the First Class Guide to correct that defect, and so make a real contribution to the country's well-being.

RANGERS

WHAT ?

"What do we expect of Rangers? What sort of a person do we want a Ranger to be? I asked a young crew of Sea Rangers, and after much pencil-sucking, the following ideas were produced:—

A Ranger should, they said—

"Be prepared to serve her King and Country to the best of her ability at any time, to be calm in any emergency, and to put others before herself. Be faithful to God and remember Him always.

Always be punctual and attend meetings regularly.

Be responsible in a friendly way.

Not boastful of accomplishments.

Be enthusiastic.

She should be sympathetic and honest.

Have an average intelligence (!)

Be cheerful.

Be smart in uniform and obey orders.

Be prepared to face all dangers.

Be able to stand on her own legs without having to run around and consult other people.

Be strong in her own beliefs and never afraid to stick up for the Guide Movement to those who run it down.

Be a 'thorough Ranger,' not just at meetings, but all the time and everywhere."

These are the opinions of twelve Rangers, some of whom are just up from Guides, and some who have never been Guides.

Now what of the deeper issues? Don't get so deep, you're swamped; but, don't we want a Ranger to be—above all—a woman? Rangering is not a phantasy life, a way of escape from reality, but a training for girls, to fit them to take their place in the world of reality."

—Anne Hopkins, "The Guider," June, 1942.

GOOD DEEDS.

If I can cheer somebody's way,

If I can brighten one short day,

If I can make somebody glad,

Somebody who before was sad.

If I can lift somebody's load,

And send along life's weary road

Some traveller, who may richer be

Just because of knowing me.

If I can banish care away,

If I can smile throughout the day,

If I can ease somebody's pain,

Then my life has not been in vain.

"A.V.O." (Lillian Elliott).

Heading:

"Luck is really the chance of getting something good, or doing something great. The thing is to look out for every chance and seize it. Opportunity is a tramcar which has very few stopping places."

—The Chief.

Ending:

"I just love work. I could sit for days watching other people doing it."

—Anon.

VICTORIAN EX-GUIDE WINS GEORGE MEDAL.

Staff Nurse Margaret (Madge) Anderson, who has been awarded the George Medal for bravery and devotion to duty in attending the wounded on the motor vessel "Empire Star" during bombing and machine-gun attacks by Japanese aircraft on February 12th, was a Guide in 4th Malvern Company, now 4th East Malvern Company.

Victorian Guides are very proud of their first ex-Guide to win this honour.

"One makes one's own happiness only by taking care of the happiness of others."

—Bernardin de Saint-Pierre.

TRAINING and CAMPING

(Elaine Moran).

Guiders' Summer Training.

Applications will close on 23rd November, for the combined Training Week and Campcraft Training. Any Guider nominated by her District Commissioner may apply. Guiders should be not less than 17 years. Fee between 22/6 and 30/-.

The Training will be held at the Brownie Cottage, and surrounding paddocks from 9th to the 16th January, 1942. Please note the changed dates. The committee is sorry for the change, but it had to be done to fit other camps in before the end of the school holidays.

Guiders specially recommended by their Commissioners will be tested for the Campers' Licence.

This course is specially arranged for new Guiders; Guiders who feel they need a refresher; and Guiders desiring Campcraft experience. Both Guide and Brownie work will be covered.

Application forms are available from Miss B. Macartney, Hon. Training Secretary, at the Guide Office. Please send a stamped addressed envelope. Completed applications, accompanied by deposit of 5/-, should reach Miss Macartney by 23rd November.

Land Work Camps.

A Camp is being arranged for harvesting, fruit picking, or whatever else is necessary, open to members of the Guide Movement who are 15 years and over and who are physically fit. At the time of writing, it is still too early for definite plans, as the crops are not far enough advanced. Anyone interested in helping for all or part of January should write to Miss V. Harrison, 126 High Street, Glen Iris, S.E.6. Please give the following information: Name, Age, Company, Camping Experience, if you own a bicycle, if you own or can borrow a hike tent. Please apply at once.

HAVE A DAY-CAMP!

If you are not able to arrange for your Company to Camp this year, why not have a DAY-CAMP? You do everything exactly the same as you would in Camp except that the Guides go home to sleep. You do not need any equipment that you can not borrow from parents and friends.

This scheme will appeal particularly to country Guiders. It has been used a great deal in Great Britain but seldom here. In U.S.A. the Girl Scouts' Association has organised successful Day-Camps in industrial and closely-populated areas. Here the big public parks are used as Camp sites.

What I have in mind for Victoria is a Camp site in the corner of your (or Commissioner's

or a Local Association member's or a friend's) paddock, where there is shade, and if possible, water—for you won't want to cart water far. The nicer the site the better, but you can "make do" in a lot of ways in a Day-Camp that would be impossible in a proper Camp if you cannot find the perfect site.

If you have not got tents, and cannot borrow them locally, do not worry, let each Patrol make their own shelter or hut, directions are to be found on pages 93-94 of "SCOUTING FOR BOYS," and pages 218-221 "CAMPCRAFT FOR GIRL GUIDES."

To simplify quartermastering, let the Patrols store and cook their own food. (HIKING AND LIGHTWEIGHT CAMPING, Pages 42-44).

Take special precautions with FIRES, according to local regulations. Most authorities are satisfied if sheets or corrugated iron are fixed upright with the long side along the ground, making a three-sided fence round the fire, with the opening to the prevailing wind. The distance the iron is from the actual trench is about three feet at the sides and about 1ft. at the end. Always have fire buckets and beaters near the fires and round the Camp.

Remember to make arrangements with a qualified life-saver if you are planning any swimming. Read P.O.R. supplement for the Rules that apply in Victoria. Be prepared too, for First Aid emergencies.

For sanitation read the appropriate chapters in CAMPCRAFT FOR GIRL GUIDES and pages 45-46 of HIKING AND LIGHTWEIGHT CAMPING. I would suggest a small latrine for each Patrol, but this would depend on the site.

Run the Camp exactly as you would a normal Camp except for sleeping there, see that the Guides arrive in time to prepare breakfast. For your programme read the Chapter, "Life in Camp," page 92, of CAMPCRAFT FOR GIRL GUIDES and adapt to your needs.

For Scouting Games see SCOUTING FOR BOYS.

For adaptations of this Day-Camp scheme, think of doing it for two or three days, or a week-end if a whole week is quite impossible. Or, go once a week during the holidays if consecutive days can not be arranged. If you cannot go yourself, read the Patrol Leader's Page in this issue, and see if your Leaders could not each take their Patrols for a few days Day-Camp. It would probably work best if they went to quite different sites. In any case, talk all these ideas over with the Leaders and get them to discuss them with the Patrols before things are decided.

There is **nothing** in the Guide programme that comes up to a week's Company Camp. If circumstances make a normal Camp out of the question, let us do our best to see that the Company has the next best thing!

—ELAINE MORAN.

Patrol Leaders' Page

The summer holidays will be here before very long now and I wonder how many of you P.L.'s have started to make plans for them? Plans I mean that will concern your Patrols and their activities during those weeks. If you have not thought about it yet, why not get busy on the job straight away?

Some of you are going to camp and that in itself will give you and your Guides more than enough to do. Set to work at once and help them with their preparations, go through the kit list, explain to them the advantages of a ruck-sack and show them how to pack it. Let them really do it, and Mary will then realise how uncomfortable a pair of shoes or a ball of string can be placed in the back of the pack where it will stick into her own back. Then she won't put it there when she really sets off with her pack on her back! Then there is the method of camp bed-making to be learnt. It is much better to know all about it beforehand rather than to learn the first night in camp when there is so much else to be done. If you are not quite sure of it yourself get Captain to go through it with you and then demonstrate to your Patrol.

Then there is the actual second-class work to be revised and kept thoroughly up-to-date. A tent does not stand by faith, it needs knots to keep it firm and secure through the strongest gales. Knots too that may have to be tied and tightened on a dark night. Set to work on that too, and make sure that your Guides can tie them quickly and efficiently with their eyes shut! Some of these things you will be able to do during your Patrol Time, and the rest you could fit in at special Patrol Meetings arranged at your home or in someone else's garden during the early part of the holidays.

Then there are those people who are not going to camp this year. If several of you will be home why not arrange some Patrol Meetings during that time? Does your Company or District own a tent? If so, you might be able to do the next best thing to really going to Camp, that is, pitch the tent and live in it for a day. Ask Captain about the possibilities of this idea. She will probably know an L.A. member or friend who would allow you to use their paddock for this purpose. You would have to talk it over with the Patrol beforehand and arrange your day's programme, allowing plenty of time to pitch the tent, strike it again and have everything neat and tidy at the end of the day. Have a few scouting games ready, and don't forget rest hour. The day will be spoilt if everyone is completely tired out at the end of it. Another thing to remember is a let-

ter of thanks to the kind friend who lent the paddock.

Another idea is a series of Patrol Meetings during the summer when you can play wide games and practise your test work. It is a splendid opportunity, for instance, for starting on the First Class "knowledge of the neighbourhood." You could all work together and draw out your area on a large sheet of cardboard, and then go over it thoroughly marking in all letter boxes, telephones, fire alarms, etc.

Have you ever tried to carry dispatches through the enemy lines? One team has the dispatch which they can tear into as many pieces as they like and hide on their persons. Each girl in this team has a small piece of some brightly coloured ribbon pinned on to her tie. They start off from a spot about half a mile to a mile away from the base to which they are carrying the dispatch. The other side tries to capture the message, but must not go within a given distance of the base. The messengers can be caught by the opposing side calling their name and colour of their ribbon. They then stand still and allow themselves to be searched while counting 50. If the message is not found in that time they are free, and cannot be caught again by the same person until that person has caught someone else in between. It is a good idea to make a strict rule forbidding any running on the road. This is an exciting game to play, and one where a knowledge of the neighbourhood and of lanes and short cuts is a great advantage.

Then you can challenge each other to get a message through in the shortest time. For this you would work in two teams, each starting at a given spot at a set time. The idea is to get your message through to the spot where your opponents started from. You add a point to your side for every opponent you see en route. Don't forget to synchronise your watches before starting and to take the time when the last member of your team gets to the goal.

Then there is the Patrol where you are all scattered and only one or two are left at home. Couldn't those one or two set to work by themselves? Probably you will all be swimming, why not concentrate on learning to cover the 50 yards required for the First Class Badge? It doesn't matter a bit if your Patrol are all only just enrolled. That is the time to make a start with First Class. And what about a lifeline? That takes lots of patient practice, so get busy and start with it now. You will all be outside a lot so keep your eyes open and watch the birds, insects and plants around you; you will soon become

fascinated with their behaviour and habits, and your Tenderfoots will become thrilled with the Nature section of the Second Class, and will have passed the test before they realise it.

And what about those people with Proficiency Badges? Are they just a decoration on your arm, or have you used your knowledge since you gained the badge? During the year you may not have much time, but here is your chance. Perhaps the Child Nurse people could mind the little boy next door for a few hours some afternoons and let his mother have a short spell. The Cyclists could do the messages once a week for the old lady round the corner. The Cooks could give their own mothers a holiday, and the gardeners help father with the vegetable plot. Think it over carefully and decide now how much time you can give and what you are willing to do. Remember though that once you have offered to do the job you are in honour bound to carry it out, and to carry it out to the best of your ability, even if you do get the offer of an exciting picnic or a day at the beach a few hours later.

Talk all this over with your Patrols, Leaders, and then write to me and let me know of your plans and decisions. We will all be interested to hear what you are doing and how you get on.

—“Tul-Kara.”



RUBBER STILL WANTED.

It is still vital to save every scrap of rubber for salvage. Following are some figures that explain why. More than 1200 pounds of rubber is used in the bullet proof tanks of Flying Fortresses; 90 pounds is used in the bullet proof tank of a P.40 plane; the pneumatic raft carried by aeroplanes for emergency landings takes 29 pounds; tyres for aeroplanes 35-96 pounds each; a 75 millimetre gun carriage 190 pounds; troop carrier 332 pounds; scout car 339 pounds; ten ton pontoon bridge 3,200 pounds; 25 ton tank (medium) 1750 pounds; 2½ ton truck 525 pounds; 35,000 ton battleship 150,000 pounds.

SHELTER

It is easy enough to take cover when it rains—if you happen to be near cover.

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