

*M.H.*  
C.E. Blish

# Matilda

FEBRUARY, 1943



Supplement to MATILDA - February 1943.

S T O P       P R E S S .

THINKING DAY BROADCAST.

Through the courtesy of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, a Message will be broadcast by Miss M. Hoffmeyer, Convener of the Baden Powell Memorial Fund, in connection with Thinking Day and the Fund.

Listen - Watch - and Enquire for details about time and station.

M. E. Bush.

# "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.

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FEBRUARY, 1943.

No. 7.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE.  
MELBOURNE

It is with much pleasure that I send a message to our Guides again. That pleasure is also coupled with a great pride in addressing the Guides of this State. Since the beginning of the war you have all put your shoulder to the wheel and done a really magnificent job in the many branches of war work in which the Guides have been engaged.

It is always difficult to express adequate thanks for work well done, but I do want you all to know how proud we are of you and I know you have been the inspiration to many others to enlist in some form of war service.

Example is one of the great things to remember in Guiding and you have set a very high one indeed by your unselfish devotion to the duty that confronted you when the war clouds gathered around us.

I realise, none better, that you are facing greater difficulties than ever before in carrying out your Guide work, but as the Guide movement is so important to the whole Empire, I hope that you will continue with your guiding, overcoming all obstacles. If you do this, at the end of the war a magnificent record of service will be to your credit if you serve in the future as you have in the past.

State President.

Girl Guides Association, Victoria.

## LETTER FROM STATE COMMISSIONER.

This is "Matilda's" first appearance in 1943, and I want through her to send you all my best wishes for the coming year, and to wish you also good Guiding, with a particular thought for Guide Week, which is so close to us.

Last year was a difficult year. Apart from the anxieties that it brought to everyone, in Guiding we found that it brought to us in Victoria many war time problems, probably one of the greatest being a shortage of Com-

missioners and Guiders. Although, through illness, I was on leave of absence the larger part of the year, I heard much of the efforts you made to cope with these problems and to keep the companies going in spite of difficulties. Many of these efforts have had to be experimental, and I hope you will find they have an increasing success.

In Great Britain recently, the Guides have had the great pleasure of welcoming the Chief Guide home; and at once she started off on visits to her Guide "family." Some of these were to Guides hastily summoned together from the surrounding country to meet her—can't you imagine the excitement and pleasure, and all the bustle of collecting and transporting children at 24 hours notice in war time! Other visits were to a Ranger Conference in Kent—600 Rangers present; to an Area Conference at Bristol, and to 500 Guiders in conference in Scotland. Then there was a conference of County and Headquarters Commissioners in London, so even in her first month at home she had varied opportunities for summing up Guides and Guiding. And she said afterwards, in her own words in the "Guider"—"In spite of everything, we are 'going strong,' with a glorious spirit stirring through our ranks."

After I had read that, I thought, supposing that we were the lucky ones to have a visit from the Chief Guide. How we would enjoy welcoming her, and wouldn't we be proud if she felt she could say to us "You are coping well with your wartime difficulties. It is splendid to see the Guides so enthusiastic and so active"?

Well, we can't hope to have the happiness of seeing the Chief Guide at present, but as the New Year is the suitable time for good resolutions, what about this one—that however enthusiastic or however active our Guides already are, this year shall see them more enthusiastic, more active.

Any such resolve means, of course, greater demands on all Commissioners and Guiders—the enthusiasm and activity of our children depends so greatly on their leaders—but I think that this last year had shown us all that whoever is working for the benefit and training of children and young people is doing a great work for her country, and one that is much needed.

Again, my best wishes.

—SIBYL CHAUVEL.

## GUIDE WEEK 1943.

Have you all decided on your plans for Guide Week, and how you are going to carry them out?

Have you discovered somebody who would be more than grateful for a little help that you could give?

Let us make Guide week the beginning of a really grand effort to put our Third Law into practice, and once we have started, let us resolve to continue while the need is there. It is not so much the good beginning that matters — though that is important — but rather the carrying on and not giving up when the first enthusiasm wears off.

Many of you have been giving some special form of service for some time, and have done good work. Do you think you could extend it a little further now—even perhaps to do something entirely different.

At a time when there is so much destruction about, would it be possible for each of us to give some service that is really constructive?

Country companies, are you finding it difficult to make plans because your meetings do not commence till after Guide Week?

Perhaps you could have a Combined Court of Honour for your district, and plan one event for the whole district if you are unable to have separate company meetings.

Here are some Country Guiders' suggestions.

- 1.—In reference to "Construction". Each Guide should begin during Guide Week to make something, to be finished by Easter, Empire day, the Company's birthday — whichever date is most suitable, that by her construction she should be giving service to others.
- 2.—In order to foster the idea of finishing a thing that is once started perhaps each district could hold an exhibition of the completed things.
- 3.—That individually or in small groups—where it is not possible as a Company effort—we should undertake any jobs that are near at hand.
- 4.—That, as a contribution of service to our country, we should concentrate on bringing our morse to such a standard that we could be of assistance in an emergency (as the scouts of a northern Victorian town were when a plane was in difficulties some months ago).
- 5.—That as a means of developing service through resourcefulness Guides should be encouraged to camp and to enter for Pioneer and Hiker's badges.

Someone once said: "When we put on our Guide uniform we put on the sign of a great ideal—"to serve others". Let us in this Guide Week of 1943 set this ideal afresh before our Guides, and not be sparing in our efforts to help them attain it. —E.L.

## GUIDE WEEK — THINKING DAY.

Think of the Founder, the First Chief Scout; Think of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts through the word;

Think of the Chief Guide, who has come home again;

Think of ourselves in Australia—what is the great thing we are called to do?

I heard the Chief Guide speak a thought on "Thought." The word "Thought" comes from an old word that means "binding," "band" or "bandage."

Guides know how to use their bandages. Do they know so well how to use their thoughts?

Through Guiding, especially on Thinking Day, we are bound together, through Guide Week we may find power to bind the wounds of our neighbours, our sister Guides here, and as they are living through the world.

HOW can we do this? If only we had something big to do! What a lot of good deeds there must be when towns are bombed, when children are away from home, when refugees are landing.

We realise that there is satisfaction in rising to meet demands, in knowing that one is used to the utmost of one's strength, and sometimes we may feel defrauded that greater demands have not been made on us. That way lies moral slackness and despair.

Our task is to see the demands that must be met, though they are not forced upon us, to raise our moral standard, to deepen spiritual life, to do our best to keep the Law, without the urgent impulse of warfare in our midst; to know as worth while the deed a day that is part of ordinary routine—the shopping, dusting, washing up, that may even keep us back from interesting jobs classed as "war effort"; the hard and harder work at lessons when to work at all is a definite choice among distractions.

A new way to work in Guide Week—

## IMAGINATION.

Imagine (take time to imagine truly) the life of Girl Guides of Europe—of Norway, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Finland, Greece, Roumania, France; imagine the meaning of Courtesy, Friendship, Courage through life in an occupied country, when nervous and physical strength is sapped—not warm enough, not fed enough, kept indoors from early evening, not knowing the truth about the war.

Guides of Australia, we have our task—to make and to keep, ready for these peoples, Guiding as we know it can be; so true, so strong, that waves of its influence can sweep the world.

We have our temptations to slackness; what of thriftiness, when money is being spent in millions, and there may be more in our hands than ever before? What of purity

of thought, when horrors are on every hand? Can we recognise them, and determine they shall not happen again, and keep from dwelling on them?

Guiding is something to be, and something to do, and the being is harder than the doing, yet must lead the doing to the gladness of the fuller life.

This week we have the call to be and to do in an inspiring cause; to be Guides in influence and example, to bring gifts in the name of the Founder that others may go as links between us, and again raise Guiding in the stricken nations, from the strong points that have so gallantly been held.

For Guiders, the most poignant part of the Chief Guide's message seems to me this: she speaks of "the turmoil of feelings which everyone suffers, who from force of circumstances watches the war from a distance."

The Chief has known it too; once again from her experience and sympathy she has spoken to us, she has shared with us our perplexities, she has said "Well done," and she bids us CARRY ON. —G.H.S.

**THE FOUNDER'S FUND.**

"Matilda" is having bother, just as you and I are, so we were able to give you no news of the Fund in January. Now here is THINKING DAY upon us, and Companies starting activities again after the summer recess. I expect that some of you have managed to get a camp, and so have experienced some of the best parts of the Chief's game of Guiding. We shall do a special lot of "thinking" this year about the Chief, and all the opportunities of fun and service he has given us.

It was one of the queerest coincidences that the birthdays of the two Chiefs should be on the same day—February 22—so while we shall be sending greetings to the Chief Guide, we shall keep in mind the old Chief. You know that the Chief Guide is in England again, after an adventurous journey, and some of the Guides in England will have the chance to give their greetings to her in person. What are you and I going to do about it?

THINKING DAY being part of Guide Week, it is our great opportunity to connect the idea of the Chief with service in its various forms, and with fun and pleasure in the doing of it. You will be doing special good turns all the week, and at Guides be sure to have a special Thinking Day meeting.

From the Painting Book you can cut and colour pictures of Guides and Brownies of many lands, and make the flag of the various countries, putting the two together in a relay race. The week before, you could arrange that each Patrol is to represent a country, and perhaps make a picture book with cuttings, stories, etc., and let two Guides come dressed as a Brownie and Guide of that country. Perhaps you might make up a poem or song about the country. It is very astonishing what Guides can achieve! And let some-

one be dressed in the new English Ranger uniform—it looks good in "The Guide." On that day they can bring in money that they have saved or earned during the recess, and see if it comes to enough for another War Savings Certificate for the Fund. Send it straight to the Secretary if it is. Our total is growing now.

**The Royal Australian Air Force.**

Would you like to focus your funds on Air Force necessities? Here is a list:—

Waistcoat Lifesaving Stoles . . .	£1 10 0
Suits, Flying, inner and outer garments . . . . .	8 0 0
Boots, Flying . . . . .	2 0 0
Caps, Flying . . . . .	0 15 0
Goggles, Flying . . . . .	1 0 0
Camera Aircraft . . . . .	40 0 0
Lamp, Aldis . . . . .	10 0 0
Splints, Knee . . . . .	0 19 0
Thermometer, 1/2m. . . . .	0 2 0
Basin, Kidney, 12in. . . . .	0 2 0
Thermometer, X-Ray . . . . .	0 7 6
Cushion, Air, 18in. . . . .	0 12 0
Bottles, Hot Water . . . . .	0 5 0
Trays, Medical Dressings . . . . .	0 2 6

So now, what about "Splints, Knee," for a start?

**Bright Ideas Syndicate.**

Have a party—asking your "Friends and relations," like Rabbit, entertaining them with a Dip, Sweets, Sideshows and Games. Guiders, what about 1/- for each year of Guiding? Bendigo Guides and Rangers, working with the P.O., delivered the Christmas parcels, and felt they were doing a national job as well as increasing the fund. I think the Chief would like his Fund to be got together in this way.

Have a War Savings Certificate Card, either per patrol or for the company. I know a Ranger Company that puts the stamps on the initials of the Ranger contributing.

Ask Mother if she would save her half-pennies for you.

**Contributions.**

The "Thank You's" are coming in. Watch "Matilda" for an acknowledgment of your contribution.

Miss Barfus . . . . .	£0 16 0
1st Heidelberg Company . . . . .	2 14 0
1942 Victorian Rangers Committee . . . . .	3 10 0
1st Casterton Guide Company . . . . .	4 0 0
3rd Bendigo Guide Company (Certs.) . . . . .	2 0 0
Miss M. Hoffmeyer(Certificates) . . . . .	5 0 0
Miss C. Lascelles . . . . .	1 0 0
1st Benalla Guide Co. (certs.) . . . . .	6 0 0
2nd Benalla Guide Co. (certs.) . . . . .	6 0 0
H.Q. War Savings Group . . . . .	0 16 0
1st Bendigo Company (certificates) . . . . .	2 0 0
2nd Melbourne Rangers (certs.) . . . . .	1 0 0
Miss M. Drury . . . . .	5 0 0
Miss V. Brett (certificates) . . . . .	2 0 0
Mrs. M. R. Fairbairn . . . . .	200 0 0

£241 16 0

**Instructions.**

- 1.—Make out cheques, postal notes or money orders to Girl Guides' Association.
- 2.—Address letters to—  
Secretary, B.P. Memorial Fund,  
Girl Guides' Association,  
60 Market Street, Melbourne,  
C.1.
- 3.—To save postage, receipts may be obtained at Headquarters on application, or will be sent if 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.  
Convener of Sub-Committee.

M. HOFFMEYER,

### INTERNATIONAL SCOUT "AIR JAMBOREE."

Word has been received from the Broadcasting Commission that the British Broadcasting Commission is arranging to broadcast a special International Scout feature under the above title on Monday, 22nd February at 08.45 to 09.15 G.M.T. in the Pacific Service, and on Tuesday, 23rd, at 11.15 to 11.45 G.M.T. in the Eastern Service. The above times correspond with 7.45 p.m. and 10.15 p.m., Australian daylight summer time.

The transmission will include the recorded voice of our Founder, and contributions by Scouts from China, America, South Africa, Algeria, India, Canada, Malta, Australia and European refugee Scouts in Great Britain, also a message from the Chief Scout, Lord Somers.

This unique Scout Broadcast is being arranged to, in a small measure, keep alive the spirit of the International Jamboree which obviously cannot be held until the world once again returns to peace, and should be of interest to Guides as well as Scouts.

It will be re-broadcast from 3L.O. on 22nd February at 8.20 p.m., and from 3A.R. on 23rd February at 4.45 p.m.

### LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS.

It has been said that we are at the end of one age and the beginning of another. Perhaps it is true that we are on the threshold of a new era.

But what sort of era? Is it to be a more humane, more peaceful and better ordered society than the one that is passing? That depends upon you and me.

There is the possibility of a better world: of this there can be no doubt. The peoples have never been so world-conscious—con-

scious, that is, of the unity of the human race—as they are to-day.

This seems to be one ray of hope and light in a dark and tragic world. I do not despair if good men everywhere will stand together and seize every opportunity to build a new world order on the ruins of the old.

—QUO TAI-CHI, in "Free World."

## LONES

Minutes of meeting of the Lones Local Association held at 236 Kooyong Road, Toorak, on Tuesday, January 12th, at 3 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Fairbairn in the chair, Mesdames Hull, Jardine, Miss McWilliams and the hon. secretary.

Apologies were received from Mesdames Keble, Higgs and Harley.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Treasurer reported that the grant of 10/- to various new companies had been made as suggested by the meeting held on October 13th. The 2nd Lone Company had returned their 10/-, thanking the Lones L.A. but explaining that the Company was quite financial, and was also temporarily in recess.

Reports. The Treasurer reported a bank balance of £25/18/9, of which £8/11/5 belonged to the Ranger Camp Fund. The Equipment Secretary reported having issued 16 Tenderfoot badges, 3 two-year stars, 4 one-year stars.

On the motion of Mrs. Hull, seconded by Miss McWilliams, the following amounts were passed for payment: Commr.'s postage £1/16/3. Equipment Secretary £1; Warrant and duplicating 1/9. Total, £2/18/-.

Other Business.—In connection with Guide Week and the B.P. Memorial Fund, the Commissioner reported that at a recent Guiders' meeting there had been some discussion as to how Lone Guides might raise money for this fund. The Guiders were not very keen about the suggestion of giving each Guide a penny as a basis for her contribution. They thought that the burden of making the penny grow would fall on the parents.

This meeting favoured the idea of the penny, and thought that parents like to help the Guides, but suggested that Lones would need a month to raise the money instead of the week as suggested by the term "Guide Week." It was suggested that the Commissioner should send a letter to each Captain to put into the Budgets, explaining Guide Week and the B.P. Memorial Fund.

On the motion of Miss McWilliams, and seconded by Mrs. Hull, it was agreed that a suggestion be passed on to the next Guiders' meeting, that this committee would like to give each Guide one penny to see how much she could make from it. This was, of course,

subject to the Guiders' approval.

Mrs. Jardine moved, and Mrs. Hull seconded, the motion that this association donate \$5 to the B.P. Memorial Fund, as a first instalment.

Mrs. Fairbairn paid in 15/- as the result of sales of goods.

The next meeting will be held at Guide Headquarters on Tuesday, April 13th, at 2 p.m.

The meeting then adjourned for afternoon tea.

After tea the members examined the vegetable garden, and picked lavender, for which the sum of 2/6 was paid.



At the last Brownie Conference, the "Matilda" page was discussed, and two helpful suggestions brought forward. One suggestion was to call for contributions from Divisions in rotation, so that every Division would have a chance to fill the Brownie page for one month. This scheme will be carried out when the details have all been arranged.

The second suggestion called for some of the useful bits from old "Matildas." B.O., Brownie page began to appear regularly about 1929, and for a while was devoted largely to notices and reports. Then the articles, games, ceremonies, handcraft suggestions and stories appeared till the peak period, for this wealth of material was reached in the nineteen thirties. Anyone at a loss for a new idea should delve into these pages, and she will be sure of finding something to help her. A Prayer, a Ceremony, a Game and a Handcraft are reprinted here.

Prayer from "Matilda," December, 1934.

"Oh God, help us and all other Brownies to keep the Brownie Promise; help us to remember the Brownie Smile and to be kind and helpful, so that we may make other people happy. — Amen."

Ceremony from "Matilda," May, 1934.

Enrolment.—Brownies are all hiding. B.O., T.O. and Pack-Leader stand in centre of room by Totem. B.O. calls "Tu whit, tu whoo!" and all the Brownies except those to be enrolled run into the centre of the room and form a Fairy Ring.

B.O.: "Are all my Elves here?"

Elves: "Yes, Brown Owl."

B.O.: "Are all my Pixies here?"

Pixies: "Yes, Brown Owl."

B.O.: "Are all my Fairies here?"

Fairies: "No, Brown Owl."

B.O.:

"You must go and search o'er land and sea, Till you find them all, then bring them to me."

Fairies then hunt round the room until they find the recruits to be enrolled, placing them in the middle of them, they bring them back to Fairy Ring.

Fairies:—

"We've searched the whole world over  
To find them and bring them to you.  
They want to be Brownies here,  
And make the Promise true."

B.O.: "Do they know everything a Brownie should know?"

Fairies: "Yes, Brown Owl."

B.O.: "Then let them enter the Fairy Ring."

Enrolment.

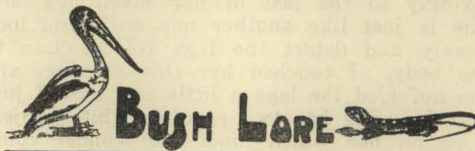
Game from "Matilda," November, 1935.

Hopping Game, Tune: Jingle Bells.

"Hop along, hop along,  
Hopping in and out,  
Turn and face your partner,  
And swing yourselves about."

Brownies in circle. One Brownie starts hopping in and out of circle. At third line of song faces a partner and swings with her. Song commences again, and the partner leads and swings with another Brownie, who in turn leads until all the Brownies are in a line. Handcraft from "Matilda," July, 1935.

Draw the outline of a doll as simply as possible on the cover of an exercise book. Let the Brownies cut this out and draw in the face and hair, and paste a strip of cardboard on the back for a stand. This doll may then be dressed as a Brownie, with a frock on brown paper hung on the shoulders by tabs. Tie, belt and badge and stars may be coloured on or cut out and pasted on. A hat may be cut out and slipped on the head by means of a slit, of course, the doll, may be given other sets of clothes and given away. —V.A.T.



(Editor: Elsie Sydes)

Spider Land Once More.

In the December "Matilda," I told you about my pet harmless "trapdoor" spider, and I said I had concluded that my larger friend was NOT a Wolf spider. On re-reading "Spider Wonders of Australia" I find that it is a Wolf spider, and that she comes forth from the burrow or tunnel one evening and spins her egg-sac out-of-doors. This is because she first spins a silken carpet, upon which she spins the egg-sac, which will then hold and protect the eggs. This sac she carries home with her, and never more lets it from her grasp, until the young are hatched. My pet is still in her hole, but I have not seen her about outdoors; in fact, she is a real stay-at-home.

Spider Eggs for Beads.

How does this appeal to you as an austerity hint? And thereby hangs a tale! Several weeks ago, Cup time, I think it was, we had a very wild and woolly Saturday, and the most unusual part about the weather here was that the rain beat very hard upon the east

windows and wall. We have deep eaves, so that it is very rare for the rain to fall with sufficient drive to do this, and also such heavy rain is unusual from the South-east. That evening a snail hunt, and there upon the garden a string of "beads," very like some sort of seed pods or burrs caught my eye. At first I scorned to pick them up, but on having a second look I decided it was worth while to investigate. So I found the "beads" were joined with spider web, so obviously were spider eggsacs. They were a dark color, almost black, with little spikes on them, and a general rough appearance, and were 13 in number. What spider did they belong to, and how did they come there?

#### Sequel, or a Tale Completed.

One morning, about a week later, feeling energetic, I cleaned the windows and was perched high upon the ladder clinging to the edge of the frame, when my fingers felt spider-web. I quickly looked and there, in some untidy threads, hung seven more "beads," more fresh and shiny than the ones from the garden. But still no owner! Each day I looked, and there at last was an eighth "bead." But was this one a bead? It was the owner herself, and she has been there motionless ever since to my knowledge. She is the **Bird-dropping spider**, and is renowned for her immobility and her camouflage. She remains in full view, but depends on her close resemblance to a bird-dropping to save her from her enemies. My specimen is hanging lovingly to the last of her seven egg-sacs. She is just like another one until you look closely and detect the legs folded close to the body. I touched her this evening, and she unfolded the legs a little and moved just a trifle. She has two peculiar white projections on her which made me wonder could they be spinnerets. She is a dusky colour, slightly paler than her sacs, her legs are dully banded black and white, and she has little spikes on her like the sacs. My spider book says seven is the usual number of eggs, but that on rare occasions a spider has spun as many as a dozen, so my lady must have been a very busy bee indeed. I imagine the 13 I found on the garden were last season's washed down by the rain. They had small holes pierced in them, and were empty.

Eggs! Eggs!! Eggs!!!

Do you try to grow cabbages, or have you lost the fight? I'm still in the battle, but a few neglectful days, and I was almost out of it. If you do grow cabbages you will know all about these eggs! They, of course, are laid by the cabbage-white butterfly, and are stuck on very tightly to the outer leaves of the cabbages for the most part. They are creamy in colour, and go more orange as they hatch, and are cylindrical in shape. They are laid singly or in small groups of separate eggs, never stuck together, well distributed

over the leaves. I think that when the caterpillar hatches, the firm hold the egg has must give it a firm start on the slippery leaf. But here we have eggs much the same shape and color but they are on long stalks, not stuck directly to the leaf as the previous egg is. These stalks are thin like a hair, and about a quarter of an inch long, and are rare compared with the cabbage-white eggs.

#### A Chrysalis too.

On my egg-removing rounds the other day I found evidence that an early egg had escaped destruction, for there was a beautiful pale pale green chrysalis fixed to a leaf by a thread of silk. These lovely things, the chrysalis a butterfly makes or rather changes into want to be seen, as a description would be quite inadequate to convey any idea of the beauty or shape of the creature. So keep your eyes open.

#### A Good Friend.

On the 19th November I watched a bronze cuckoo on the grape vine. He is a slender, graceful bird, something like the restless fly-catcher in build, plain-looking unless you get a really close view. While I watched he made many attacks from the fence into the foliage, each time returning to the fence to smash the victim upon it. In this way he despatched seven grape-vine caterpillars.

#### Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo.

He is the Horsfield bronze cuckoo, for the abdomen is not very distinctly barred, as the bars are only on the sides thereof. Above I could see his bronze-green color, and there seemed to be a light eyebrow marking. The outer tail feather markings were distinct, too. Do you know the sad, thin whistle of this bird?

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#### DISTRICT NEWS.

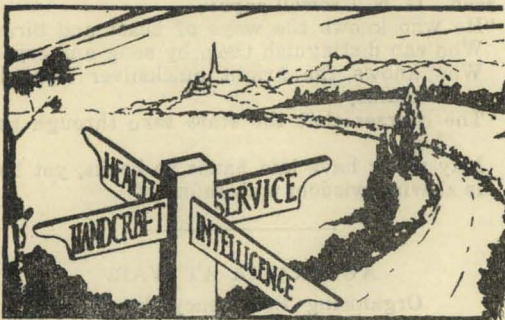
Ballarat Girl Guides sent 769 lbs. cleaning rags to the Defence forces. Money has been collected for H.M.A.S. Sydney replacement fund, Prisoners of War, Guide House and 365 war savings stamps were sold. A cycle corps is flourishing, and Guides hope to camp locally in Burrumbeet Park this summer.

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At the Executive meeting of the Carnegie, Murrumbeena and Oakleigh District, held at the home of the President, Mrs. J. J. McSheedy, a very happy ceremony was performed. The Divisional Commissioner, Mrs. J. W. Springthorpe, on behalf of the Committee, presented Mrs. McSheedy with a "Thanks Badge," and expressed appreciation and thanks for all she has done for the Association since its inception 18 years ago.



## THE SIGN POST



### THE SECOND CLASS TEST.

(Taken from "The Guider")

by Hether Kay, Welsh Assistant to the  
Commissioner for Training.

#### The Seeing Eye.

Quite often one hears a wail—"My company is so small, it does so cramp our style!" When it comes, however, to the Nature section of the Second Class Test small companies are at a very great advantage, one reason being that in a crowd it is impossible to be still and look and listen, another—that the Guider in a large Company has of necessity less time for the individual Guide. It is really important for us not to be too busy to notice a discovery when it is made. More often than not, when other things are calling for our attention, an excited voice will say—"Oh, Captain, look!" If we have no time to pause and share what she has found with her, we have damped the flicker of the seeing eye that we want her to cultivate.

Those fortunate Guiders who are really good at Nature have much to give their companies, yet sometimes they must put on the curb rein, remembering that nothing is so thrilling as the discovery that a Guide makes herself. Guiders sometimes say:—

"Well, but my Guides never see the exciting things unless I point them out."

This is often true, but there are ways in which we can teach them to look! If one remembers that woman is the most curious of beings the mistaken kindness of always being the one to point things out can be avoided. Try this way—You have only to stop short in your tracks, if necessary getting down to it on the ground, and gaze in frozen anticipation at whatever you want the Guides to see—in a moment or two you will be joined by a Guide who asks what you are looking at . . . you can murmur something to the effect of:—

"Look! and see if you can guess." Quickly other Guides will join in, until one of them ejaculates—

"Look, Captain! Look, look!"—All is well, then; it is her discovery, not yours.

The Guide goes out to discover something

she has not known before. Even if our own knowledge of Nature is scanty, we Guiders need have no fear, there can be no happier comings than that in which a Guider learns with her Guides. At home and at school, of necessity youth is shown and taught—therefore it is perfectly lovely for her if she can make her discoveries at Guide meetings with her Guider, or even better if she can find something Captain herself did not know! Questions will be asked us, if we answer incorrectly or circumnavigate them we shall most certainly be found out sooner or later, and our word no longer trusted. "I don't know; let's look it up!" is the best way of tackling things. We do not lose prestige in this way—rather we gain it—our Guides will never let us down if we trust them.

A large measure of the success of this test depends on the Guider's capability of showing enthusiasm in the Guide's discoveries, and of encouraging her to make further effort if the observations she has made are not considered to merit a pass. We must be sure, too, that it is personal observation, and not gleaned from a book or hearsay—if there is doubt as to this, judicious questioning should reveal all! Wherever possible, it is a great thing if the examiner can actually be shown the living thing itself. This is sometimes too much to hope, however, where the performance of an antic by a bird, animal or insect has attracted the Guide's notice.

Methods of Testing can be many and varied; these are only a few; drawn at random:—

1. The Guide discovers and takes Tester to see discovery.

2. The Guide goes out with Tester to discover.

3. The Guide having made her discoveries, other than at the meeting, reports what she has found and where—Examiner shows great interest—and keenness to be shown anything accessible.

4. Spotting the Way of It. Guides are asked a question and discover the correct answer before the next meeting.

5. Patrol Charts.—A patrol chart of something every member of the patrol has seen.

6. A Test for Patrols.—Patrols set off as a search party for a limited time, five or ten minutes. They return and give in their report of the discoveries they have made, the company votes for the best—in smaller companies Guides can go out separately to discover the most interesting thing they can find about any living thing. (When this test was tried out one patrol was missing after all the descriptions were ended. They had found a grasshopper and brought it to show the way it jumped, and the strangely beautiful colour on the side of its body. Having described it first they had let it go, but they were still following its movements, as it jumped further and further away so they gradually were going also, crawling along the hillside, quite oblivious of anything else.)

7. **A Nature Riddle Book.** Such a book may be composed, anyone finding a good question may enter and sign it—answers given at the end of the book. (A good question is one that everyone ought to know but by a lack of observation may not.) The Guide's question should be tried out on the company first—e.g., (a) name four animals with eyes in front like ours; (b) Does a cat have its eyes open or shut when it drinks? (c) How many eyelids has a chicken? (d) What is the difference between the beaks of a robin and a sparrow?

8. **A Month of Discoveries.** Issue a challenge. Guides make discoveries each week and report them. The Guider keeps a careful record. This method of testing has been done without the Guides ever knowing that a Guide is going in for her test until the good moment when she hears that she has passed.

9. **Things We Have Seen.** Each Guide in the patrol brings to the meeting a picture of a living thing (e.g., drawn by herself or newspaper cutting, etc.) with two discoveries that she herself has made about it; these are stuck on to the patrol chart. The following two weeks each Guide in the patrol makes two new discoveries about two more subjects on the patrol chart. (One subject a week.) Each discovery that is written on the chart should be signed by the Guide who made it. The Patrol Leader is responsible that the discoveries are genuine. She reports to the Court of Honour when the test is complete.

10. **Exploring Expeditions.** When the Guider may go with a patrol. No set test is arranged, but all are hunting. When the Guide, ready for her Second Class Nature Test, shows marked skill in the things she observes, she is told that she has passed her Nature Test.

After Guides have passed their Nature Test an "unexpected challenge" is a useful method by which their Nature observation can be kept alive. In a company where the habit of suddenly springing such tests has been a regular custom a small Guide once said, in a voice piping with excitement:—

"I know there are no stars to-night, I know the tracks your car tyres make, I know the way a cow gets up, I know the way the wind is blowing. I know everything! There isn't anything at all left that you could possibly ask that I have not discovered."

We want to keep Guides on their tiptoes wondering "Whatever next." They will then be alert with their powers of observation developing. They will be eager to be able to answer the unexpected challenge. To begin to observe Nature is to begin building around them a source of undying interest. We are opening their eyes to see beauty in form and line, in light and shade, in stillness and in motion, and in all the colours of the Universe. This may seem a very small and insignificant beginning, but who is to say which of our Guides, once a spark of interest is aroused, may not find

that a tiny discovery opens a door. So many of us let things of lasting value pass by us unseen. G. N. Crowell says:—

"He who knows the ways of beast and birds,  
Who can distinguish them by song and cry,  
Who knows the bright quicksilver light in  
streams,

The courses that the stars take through the  
sky,

May never have laid hands to books, yet he  
Is sharing wisdom with Infinity."

## AUSTRALIA AT WAR.

### Organising Emergency Supplies.

To build up and maintain supplies of essential foodstuffs and other commodities for the civilian population in the event of an emergency, the Commonwealth Government has instituted a two-fold plan under the National Security (Emergency Supplies) Regulations.

The working of the plan has been an example of close and effective co-operation between State and Commonwealth authorities.

Valuable co-operation has been given by merchants, while thousands of retailers throughout Australia have willingly accepted the added work and responsibilities involved.

The plan covers what are known as primary stores and secondary stores. The primary stores are goods in the hands of the trader, sold in the usual way to the public, the aim being to establish and maintain reserves beyond stocks usually carried by traders.

Organisation details vary in the respective States according to local requirements and practices, and each State works under rules enacted by its own Government. Broadly, however, it may be said that wholesalers are registered as suppliers, and retailers as receivers of emergency supply goods. Where necessary the trader is assisted financially by the two Governments to carry extra stocks, the Governments meeting interest on overdrafts, cost of insurance, extra storage, etc.

Goods are sold from reserves continually to ensure freshness and the duty of immediately replenishing his stocks devolves upon the registered receiver. He is assisted by the Emergency Supplies organisation where supply or shipping space become difficult. Commodities coming within the scope of the primary emergency scheme are: baking powder, bi-carbonate of soda, biscuits, bread improver, yeast, candles, condensed and powdered milk, cream of tartar, flour, honey, infants' food, invalid foods, jam, dried fruits, canned fruits, salt, self-raising flour, sugar, tea, cheese, oatmeal, pearl barley, rice split peas, bacon, butter, ham, lighting kerosene, soap, matches. (In Western Australia only, tinned vegetables.)

Although the Emergency Supplies scheme is primarily a Commonwealth activity, details of organisation are carried out by committees appointed by State Governments in five States. In New South Wales the scheme

is administered and operated by the Director of Emergency Supply, a State official.

Already the scheme has proved of value in meeting local emergencies which have arisen because of transport difficulties or temporary shortage of certain commodities, by permitting traders to pass into consumption portions of their reserves; these are built up again as rapidly as possible after the contingency has passed.

The secondary stores form an extension of the original scheme. In this case goods are purchased outright by the Commonwealth Government and placed in depots under the care and supervision of officials appointed by the States. A very considerable sum is being spent by the Commonwealth in this direction, its object being to supplement stocks carried by traders, and to have large stocks of essential foodstuffs readily available in widely dispersed areas throughout Australia in case of need. The States bear cost of storage, supervision, etc.

More than 60 of such depots have been established, their locations being dictated by strategical considerations, distribution of population, accessibility by normal transport facilities, etc.

A wide range of essential commodities is being stored, covering canned meats, fruits and vegetables of many varieties, powdered and condensed milk, infant and invalid foods, tea, sugar, cocoa, dried fruits, jam, honey, golden syrup, baking powder, mustard, pepper, salt, matches, candles, soap, etc.

Wheat and flour are readily available in most parts of Australia, but in districts or States where this is not so large stocks have also been accumulated.

Types of food stored have been chosen to form a varied emergency ration, but perishable goods have necessarily been avoided as far as possible. Goods likely to deteriorate with long storage are withdrawn and disposed of before that stage is reached, and are replaced with fresh goods, so that waste is avoided, and reserves will always be in good condition.

Although goods in secondary stores are all paid for by the Commonwealth and are, for the most part, purchased by officials, where orders can be placed to advantage by State authorities, this course is followed. Unnecessary haulage is avoided where possible by buying in the States where storage is intended. (Department of Information)

## Training and Camping

Elaine Moran.

### Training Classes.

If applications warrant it, classes will be held at the Guide Office as follows:—

**Brownie Guiders**—at 7.45 p.m. on Wednesday evenings, for six classes and one Outdoor Day, commencing 17th February. Fee for course, 1/6.

**Captains**—For unwarranted and prospec-

tive Captains. At 7.45 p.m. on Tuesday evenings, for 12 classes and 3 outdoor days—commencing 9th February. Fee for Course, 4/.

**Lieutenants**.—For Lieutenants only, at 7.45 p.m. on Tuesday evenings, for 12 classes and 3 outdoor days, commencing 9th February. Fee for course 4/-.

These two classes will combine for games and drill.

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

Applications must be sent to Miss Macartney at the Guide Office not later than 1st February, 1943. Special enrolment forms are available at the Guide Office after 25th January, or by post from Miss Macartney if a stamped addressed envelope is sent. Guiders attending classes must be at least 17 years of age.

### Training Week-End.

A Training Week-End for all Guiders will be held under canvas at "Gipton," Frankston—13th-14th March, 1943. Fee 7/-, plus fare 3/-. Applications, accompanied by deposit of 3/6, should be sent to Miss Macartney at the Guide Office by 21st February. Guiders attending must be at least 17 years of age, and all Guiders not previously nominated by their Commissioners for training should send the signed nomination with application.

### Correspondence Training Refresher.

This Course is open to country Guiders, warranted or otherwise, who have been running Companies for some time and feel they need some new ideas. The fee is 5/- for the Course and the trainers' postage. Guiders and Commissioners should apply to Miss A. Sides at the Guide Office, stating previous training and experience.

### Camping Week-Ends, 1943.

If any Guider not holding the necessary qualifications would like to take her Guides to "Gipton" (Frankston), for a Week-End Camp, she is invited to write to the Hon. Camping Secretary, Miss Harrison, 126 High Street, Glen Iris, S.E.6, The Camping Committee will then try to arrange an Open Week-End. Please apply as early as possible, as "Gipton" gets booked up for months ahead very quickly.

### "MATILDA" CONTRIBUTIONS

"Matilda" will be going to press at a different time in the month from now on.

Would contributors send the Editor their material by 26th of each month instead of 16th?

## The Rangers' Page.

### RANGER PRISONER OF WAR FUND.

At the 1942 Ranger Conference it was decided that the Ranger Branch would continue to support the Prisoner of War Fund during the coming year, but that 3rd Melbourne should be responsible to the Victorian Ranger Committee. It is felt that at this juncture we must thank 3rd Melbourne for their untiring efforts with regard to this.

Is YOUR subscription up to date? If not, would you kindly send it to Miss Beryl McNee, 481 George Street, Fitzroy, N.6?

PLEASE NOTE that on and after 1st February, 1943, no further receipts will be posted unless a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed. Lists of Companies for whom receipts are being held will be printed monthly in "Matilda."

Greta Roach, Secretary,  
Victorian Ranger Committee.

### PADDLE YOUR OWN CANOE.

(From "Guider," Sept., 1942.)

What is this mysterious thing that makes a Guide Company? It is the will and the ability to be prepared for anything. Every Guide Company should constantly ask themselves what they are prepared for, and I hope you will never find that the answer is, "We have prepared ourselves to have everything we want in the way of uniform, money, camp equipment, etc." Sometimes it is a very good idea to refer to the Bible, and here we find the word, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." "These things" may well mean uniform, money, etc., to a Guide Company, but to most of us nowadays they will not be given until after the war. The Chief Scout tells us that a Guide Company should go on its way happy, self contained and independent, helping other people and asking nothing in return. It often worried him a little that Guides had very often ceased to seek and find their own Patrol meeting places out of doors, and that they no longer made their own equipment with odd scraps, etc. Also, that they relied so tremendously upon grown-up people to organise and carry through their entertainments, camps, rallies, etc. He felt, even before the war, that this was all a great mistake. Now is our chance to get back our independence, and it is up to every Guide Company not to miss this chance.

There is a great river along which many craft are being steered by the many Youth Movements that exist to-day. Guiding is the little canoe, a small craft fashioned by the hand of that Master Boat Builder, the Chief Scout. He never meant it to be a great liner—anyone can be a passenger in a liner, but

to be a passenger in a canoe you have got to be almost as skilled as the man who is paddling; and of all that craft that go upon the water, only a canoe can shoot the rapids. The policy of independence which must exist throughout all the organisation of the Guide Movement must be the policy of paddling your own canoe. When we reach the rapids we must not suddenly swamp the canoe by accepting help from many other people from other craft, under the mistaken impression that they will be able to help us through all the difficulties and dangers that lie ahead. Every Commissioner and Guider, everyone, in fact, who has a hand on the paddle, must keep a steady eye, a cool brain, a stout heart on the job in hand. At the end, after the rapids are passed, there may not be so many in the boat, but the brave little craft will still be there, fashioned by the Chief Scout, brave and beautiful for all the world to see—the Guide Movement, which has come through the greatest stress of all time because it had learnt to listen to the Chief when he said, "Paddle Your Own Canoe."

### SECRETARY OF THE WARDROBE.

At Benalla Local Association annual meeting last November we evolved a good scheme for handling secondhand uniforms, and thought you might like to know about it for "Matilda" for others to copy.

One of the Guides' mothers has agreed to be "Secretary of the Wardrobe."

She has an empty cupboard in her home in which she will keep all the secondhand Guide and Brownie uniforms and hats.

All ex-Guides and Brownies will receive a printed note asking for old uniforms to be sent there. And when a child ceases to attend Company or Pack meetings, the Guider is to give her name and address to the "Wardrobe Secretary," who sends a printed note to the mother asking for the belt and badge to be returned, and asking if she will send the uniform and hat to the "wardrobe" for sale, as they are now unprocurable new.

The name and address of the owner is then pinned on the uniform in the cupboard. Guiders send all new recruits to the "wardrobe" on a certain day of the week to be fitted out, and they pay a deposit and have their name written on the uniform, then they receive it if they have paid up fully within a certain time. Then the owner is notified, and comes and gets her money and signs a receipt.

Thus everyone should know exactly where and when to take their old uniforms, and the Guiders will be saved the worry of trying to fit up recruits, we hope! —Ydonea Bakewell.

## Patrol Leaders' Page.

"She should be passed by the Court of Honour for . . . her neat personal appearance."

Outsiders will, to a large extent, judge any organisation by the appearance and behaviour of individual members. We, each and every one of us, are responsible for the good name of the Guide Movement. We are proud of our movement, and proud to belong to it, so let us show our pride by our appearance! There are many uniforms to be seen in the streets to-day worn with a similar pride. Let us be sure that ours takes its rightful place among them. In the past we have sometimes seen Guide uniforms which looked rather as though the owner might have slept in them!—crushed and spotted, with unpolished belt and badge! Let us start the New Year by taking stock of our appearance, and that of our Patrol. Remember, though, that we must pull ourselves together before we criticise others.

Perhaps you think that with clothes rationing, coupons, and shortage of goods, this is a funny time to start talking correctness of uniform and neatness of appearance. Not a bit of it! Our uniforms may be secondhand, old and patched, but they can still be neat, ironed and washed regularly, and dyed if faded. This is the time, too, when, with new ones unobtainable, care and regular attention are needed to prolong the lives of old ones. As the year progresses we will find more uniforms and more of their accessories missing from our midst, but while we have all the "bits and pieces" they should be worn correctly and in good condition.

Hat should be well brushed and ribbon sewn on neatly.

Overall clean and well pressed. Buttons sewn on firmly, and all done up.

Tie. Raw edges should be hemmed. Knot should be two inches deep and neatly tied. Guides should arrange regulation length for ties of whole company to give uniform appearance, fastened at back of neck with reef. Tie is for use as well as appearance, so use it as a bandage and wash and iron it before the next meeting.

Emblem sewn on above left hand top pocket.

Brownie Wings if won are sewn on above emblem.

Stars. Service stars are worn on flap of left hand top pocket, Brownie star on edge nearest tie, Guide star next to it. Don't forget to polish your stars, but not on your overall. Take them off each time.

Shoulder Knot stitched at centre of left sleeve on shoulder seam, darkest colour worn on outside.

Title Tape stitched all round over junction

of shoulder knot and sleeve seam.

State Badge worn on shoulder just above title tape, crown is nearest to neck.

Belt. Swivels should be used or else taken off or hooked up. Boot or furniture polish greatly improves the appearance of the belt and also prolongs its life.

First and Second Class Badges. First class should be one inch below the ends of the shoulder knot, second class badge sewn neatly in the centre (second class is worn in same position as first class until you gain the latter.)

Proficiency Badges. Worn in pairs on right arm starting at shoulder, Little House Badge at top of right sleeve. Emergency Helper, Sick Nurse, Ambulance and Child Nurse are worn on left sleeves either in pairs half an inch below the First Class Badge or three retained in a triangle and the fourth added to form a diamond.

Stockings or Socks. Cotton or woollen, not silk; black or brown as decided by the Company.

Hair Ribbon, navy or black; long hair should be plaited.

Knickers navy or black.

Tenderfoot Badge worn in centre of tie in line with pocket buttons. Polish both sides, but be sure not to leave any surplus polish in the star or on the sides of the stalk. The use of a brush will prevent this. New badges can be burnt in a candle flame and then the black rubbed off and polished in the usual way; this removes the lacquer which they have on them when made.

SECONDS. Lanyards should be washed after each wearing. Slip the small loop through the ring in your whistle, and pull tight. The neck loop should be well under your collar at the back, over your tie in front (not twisted round it), and the right swivel is attached to the ring of the whistle.

Stripe. Tape half an inch wide worn down centre of left top pocket.

PATROL LEADERS. Lanyard as for Seconds.

Stripes. Two stripes of half an inch wide tape worn one inch apart down left hand top pocket.

Hat Badge worn in centre front of hat above hat ribbon.

N.B.—Petticoats, jewellery or coloured hair slides should not be worn in uniform.

I was very pleased to receive a letter from one P.L. containing several suggestions. Read this page next month, Rona, and we will publish some of the indoor games you asked for. As regards your suggested alterations to the uniform, I am afraid that

is beyond the scope of this Page. The way to deal with that is to talk it over very thoroughly with your Court of Honour, then, if the others agree with you, send in the suggestions to your Commissioner. Think of all the points against a change when you discuss it, as well as those in favour of an alteration. Here are a couple to begin with:

Rona suggested triangular scarves for hikes as being cooler and keeping a tie clean for Company meetings, but remember that ties can and should be washed regularly! You say the colour of the scarves could be chosen by the Company, so were the ties, although in an old Company it would be before the days of any of its present members. The other suggestion was that on gaining the Little House emblem the six Proficiency Badges required for it should no longer be worn. Working on that theory, would you also suggest that a First Class Guide no longer wears Cook, Child Nurse or Needlewoman's Badges?

I'm glad to hear, too, that Rona found the holiday ideas useful. I wonder if anyone else has used them? Best Wishes, P.L.s., and good Guiding in 1943.

"Tul-Kara."

#### CAMOUFLAGE NETS.

I hope that 1943 is going to bring forth renewed energy in the making of camouflage nets. Before we closed down for Christmas the number in the little black book at Headquarters had almost reached 1000. I am sure that if every net made through the Association had been entered we would be well over that number, but I think some people either forgot to enter them, or have sent them in through other channels and depots.

Anyhow, 1000 in well under a year is good work, and we are tremendously grateful for the support everyone has given to this vital war work.

Have you heard of the new aerial rope nets that the Defence is asking for now? They are for dropping supplies by parachutes from aeroplanes to the men in the jungle. They are made from rope, and are 6 feet by 4 feet. They are netted, and take a couple of hours only to make.

When one reads of such experiences as the commandoes in Timor have endured, and of the difficulties of carrying supplies through the jungle to forward areas, one is thrilled to think that we have the opportunity of so actively assisting in alleviating their burdens.

Although they are tough to do, and rough on the hands—gloves are recommended as long as they last!—one is buoyed up with this thought, and inspired to continue as long as they are needed.

I shall be pleased to show anyone—by appointment—who feels the urge to help in this way. It is not a ladylike occupation like netting; it requires plenty of determination

(and an unlimited supply of old gloves as I said before!) All the same I would like to hear what our men say of our efforts when they receive their precious bundles delivered by this method.

I do not want you to think that camouflage nets are no longer wanted. They are, for the Army seems to be able to absorb as many as we can turn out, so please do not curtail your energies in this direction. This is only one other way in which we can "serve who only stand and wait."

—M. R. Fairbairn.

#### "MATILDA" SUBSCRIBERS.

Receipts are held at Headquarters for the following subscriptions:—

September—Miss P. Barrett; 1st Curlwaa Company.

October—Hopetoun Local Association; Miss V. Harrison. —F. V. Barfus.

Nothing could be more dangerous than a national notion that victory is about to be won.

We face a long ordeal, and it is imperative that we devote every resource to the relentless crusade just started. The situation demands confidence and determination far beyond anything ever before demanded of the people.

Recent news from the combat area is encouraging; but I am disturbed by the rapidity in the change from speculative pessimism to undue optimism regarding the course of the war.

—U.S. Army Chief of Staff  
(General Marshall)

#### CHIEF COMMISSIONER.

The Chief Commissioner, Lady Somers, has sent a cable to Lady Chauvel thanking us for our message of congratulation on her appointment, and conveying good wishes for good guiding in the coming year.

#### MISS HAYMAN.

Miss Dell Hayman, whose interesting article on Guiding in India appeared in the last issue of "Matilda," has just returned safely from India. We are looking forward to hearing of her experiences.

#### GUIDERS' LIBRARY.

When the Guiders' Library at Guide Headquarters awoke, like Sleeping Beauty, from her long sleep, she found that many of her precious, and now unobtainable, volumes were missing. Will YOU look carefully through YOUR bookshelves to see whether the wicked fairy has "planted" any of them there? A list of missing books is in the Library.