

S.E.C.

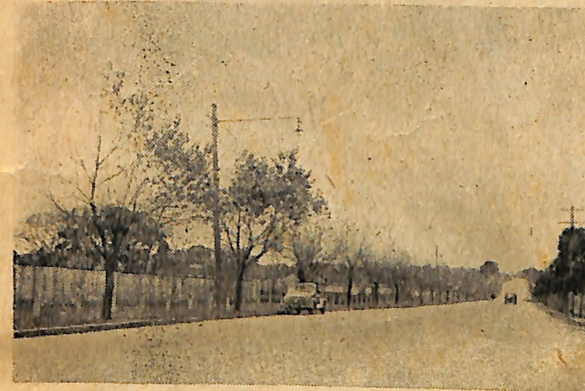


MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 31st, 1944.

How Street Lights Affect Trees

As is commonly known, the majority of deciduous trees with which all garden lovers are familiar lose their leaves in May, June and July, and are mostly quite bare by the middle of winter, but the very interesting fact has been observed that those trees which line many suburban streets retain their leaves longer when situated near street lamps than do those further from lamps or those growing in parks and gardens away from lights. This is even more sharply emphasised by the fact that leaves on the side of the trees nearest lamps stay on for some time after those on the opposite side have fallen. This does not mean, of course, that the period the trees are bare is shortened, as they sprout correspondingly later the following spring.



It is not certain whether this phenomenon, which occurs irrespective of the type of lamps near which trees are situated, is caused by the effects of light or heat, or a combination of both.

The accompanying photographs, which were taken by Mr. H. D. Kempson, Supt. District No. 7, Metropolitan Branch, shows a line of trees of the poplar variety in Smithfield Road, Flemington, and clearly illustrate the foregoing.

THE RESPONSE OF PLANTS TO LIGHT

By A. C. SANDOW, Rural Service Engineer.

The influence of light upon the growth and fruition of plant life has been for many years not merely the subject of general observation, but has been subjected to critical analysis by biologists in different parts of the world.

Recent research has shown that the growth, flowering and fruition of plants is controlled largely by the total number of hours of light experienced by those plants.

As early as the year 1920 Messrs. W. W. Garner and H. A. Allard, Physiologists to the United States Department of Agriculture, had, by reason of a series of tests, grouped plants into "long day" and "short day" categories.

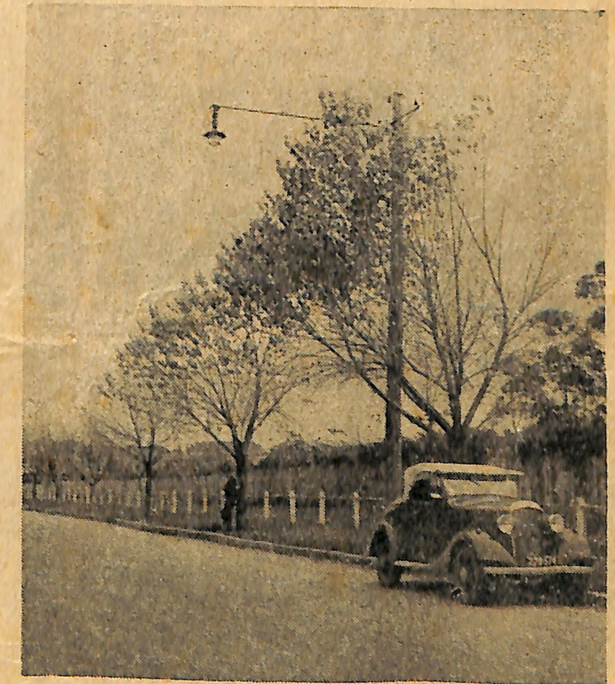
It is relevant to observe that plants which bloom in spring and autumn in Melbourne do so because in their natural environment they receive about 12 hours of effective daylight (they are in the "short day" class). Those which flower in mid-summer do so because they experience a total of 15 hours of effective daylight (they are in the "long day" class).

The findings of Garner and Allard (and others) were of considerable importance, since increasing the

the duration of the illumination period has consistently resulted in initiating or inhibiting the growth and reproduction of plants, depending upon whether the plants employed normally required long or short days for proper development.

Length-of-day experiments were conducted in Victoria as early as 1929, by the Department of Agriculture at the Werribee Research Farm, with the co-operation of the State Electricity Commission regarding equipment, the subjects of the tests being different varieties of wheat.

Several conclusions highly important to the work of plant breeding were reached, but the most important development, now practised as normal procedure at Werribee, is the adjustment of light to produce the annual seasonal variation over a shorter period, en-



abling the production of three or four generations in one year and greatly facilitating the work of the geneticist. Excellent results have been achieved with wheats, oats and barleys.

Later experiments conducted by the Electrical Development Division, and to which the advent of sterner duties put an end, have been devoted to the irradiation of roses and gladioli, the objective being the production of early blooms.

It is not possible to offer any conclusive judgments regarding the phenomena exhibited by the poplar trees in the very interesting photographs taken by Mr. Kempson.

It can, of course, be said that the essential growth reaction proceeding in a plant is made possible by the action of light (promoting a greater carbon dioxide assimilation) and the growth of a plant is largely determined by its light experience.

The sides of the trees adjacent to the lighting standard are, of course, subjected to illumination for 24 hours per day throughout the whole year.

Triumph for our Tramway Conductresses

FILL ALL PLACES IN "MOST POPULAR" COMPETITION

The most popular conductress competition on behalf of the Prisoners of War Fund, which began in April, concluded on 31st August in a veritable triumph for our representatives in Ballarat, Geelong and Bendigo, for they filled all the places in that order, and raised £7,055 of the total of £15,077 realised.

Hearty congratulations can be well bestowed, for each of the three candidates concerned scored a distinct personal triumph, and the result must have been just as pleasing to their colleagues, because the generous support the candidates received from the citizens of our provincial cities would not have been so readily and enthusiastically forthcoming had not our conductresses earned the goodwill of everyone by



Mrs. Sylvia Mitchell.

the courteous and efficient service they have given to the public since their appointment to our Tramways about two years ago.

To all in our service the achievement of the Commission's representatives was a source of very great pride, and in upholding so splendidly the prestige of our service they raised a very substantial sum of money for a cause near to all our hearts. We know that every reader of the "Magazine" will desire to add to the congratulations and good wishes which have been showered on the winner of the competition, Mrs. Sylvia Mitchell, of Ballarat. And more than a mere word of praise is due to each candidate's efficient, energetic and enterprising committee.

The results of the competition in round figures were as follow:-

Ballarat (Mrs. S. Mitchell)	£3,580
Geelong (Miss J. McCurdy)	1,750
Bendigo (Mrs. D. Rosewarne)	1,725
Kew	1,473
Camberwell	1,370
Central Bus	1,133



Miss J. McCurdy

Hanna Street	973
Preston	836
Brunswick	787
Malvern	787
Head Office (M.M.T.B.)	491
Port Melbourne	171

£15,076



Mrs. D. Rosewarne.

The beautiful frangipanni is the emblem of the Territory, and there is a saying that while it blooms all is well. In 1937 Rabaul suffered a very serious earthquake and volcanic eruption, and the entire population was evacuated to safer areas. The town was completely covered with pumice, and all vegetation either died or lost all its foliage through its covering of silica. However, the eruption ceased, the rains came, and the frangipanni bloomed again. Afterwards an annual frangipanni ball was held for the hospital as a thanksgiving for the town's deliver-



A typical plantation scene, Rabaul.

ance. In June, 1941, Matupi again erupted, and acting on the advice of volcanologists, the Government departments were actually in the process of being moved to Lae when the Japanese arrived.

All through New Britain the Roman Catholic, Methodist and Seventh Day Adventist Churches ran Missions, most of them working profitable plantations, surrounded by fine buildings and grounds.

After leaving Rabaul, one drove along the coast bordered by palm-fringed beaches piled with white and tinted coral, to Vulcan, a dormant volcano, which in 1937 rose out of the sea to a height of 900 feet in 36 hours. The road had to be cut through towering masses of pumice and has been likened by many to Death Valley in Arizona.

Nineteen miles down the coast, at the entrance to the harbour, lay Kokopo, one-time German capital Herbertshohe, the centre of the main plantation district, which extended all over Gazelle Peninsula, and inland for some miles.

Kokopo, though small in itself, was the heart of a very busy community and the outlet for the agricultural products. The unofficial headquarters of this settlement was the Kokopo club, where the district met every Saturday and Sunday at least for social gatherings. The men of the 2/22nd Battalion will remember the splendid hospitality extended to them at the Kokopo Club during their stay in 1941.

Not far from here one came to the Vunapope Mission, whose headquarters incidentally were in Germany, though its Bishop was Polish. From here onwards lay the plantations, and as far as the eye could see were miles and miles of coconut palms. These plantations were expropriated from the Germans after the 1914-1918 war, and their owners returned to Germany adequately compensated. They were then sold to Australian returned soldiers, who gave up good positions down south, and put, not only their capital, but the best years of their lives in developing the Territory.

The term "indentured labour" is a mystery to many and has been either ignorantly or wilfully misconstrued so that it is only fair to make some explanation here. When a "white master" needed boys for his



This was called the "black-out." It was four o'clock in the afternoon.

labour line he contacted a recruiter who was approved by the Government. This man approached "luluais," or head men of villages, and with their consent engaged boys for work, all expenses being paid by the prospective employer. Before being signed on, each boy was medically examined at a native hospital to ensure that he was physically fit and over the age of 14. He was then taken to the district office and of his own free will signed on for a two or three years contract. He was then given a blanket, eating bowl, spoon, lap lap and a wooden box with hinge and

[Concluded on page 41.]

Staff Hobbies

How to become a MAGICIAN No. 48

By C. J. White.

His art and his personality have made Mr. Gordon Pontin, of Building Department, Richmond, one of Melbourne's best known and most popular amateur entertainers. He has given lavishly of his services wherever there are sick people to be diverted or good

have been known to a few, who have jealously guarded them, knowing that the more closely they concealed the clues to their mysteries the more would those mysteries be valued. However, there is hardly a trick performed on the stage which the amateur may not do. I have seen most of the masters of magic in action at our Melbourne theatres, and have learned quite a lot from them.

"A magician on a concert programme, or even at a social evening, can often convert into a bright show what threatened to develop into a dull one. I recollect once being asked to a house party to aid church funds. The evening opened with the usual recitations and singing—all most conventional and dull. In an endeavour to introduce some animation into the proceedings, someone suggested that I might give an item. All I could get was a pack of cards and some writing paper and envelopes. After doing a few card tricks, I handed round pieces of paper and envelopes to various persons, asking them to write a question



No. 1.

causes to be helped, and as he indulges in his art purely as a hobby, I felt a sense of great gratification when he consented to tell the readers of the "Magazine" just how it is done. I am quite sure many will be following in his footsteps after studying his "lesson in magic":—

"Probably most people regard conjuring as a profession, but in my case it is purely a hobby, and a fascinating one, too. One of my first shows was at the age of 15 years, in the old Base Hospital, St. Kilda Road, during the last war. Since then I have appeared with numerous concert parties at various charitable institutions and hospitals.

"I had a good start as a magician, for my father was one before me. But anyone can become a magician—and a good one—if he is prepared to practise thoroughly and assiduously. Still, the same 'if' applies wherever skill in any art is to be achieved. Should I seem to labour the necessity for practice, it is simply because its importance cannot be stressed too much.

"The most important secrets of the art of magic



No. 2.

on the paper and then seal it in the envelope. I then gathered them on a tray, and holding them up one at a time, not only stated the questions they contained, but also answered these questions without opening the envelopes. The item gave the evening a new impetus, and I mention the incident to show how

interesting simple feats of magic can be, even where the space is small and the facilities meagre.

"There is a vast difference between telling how a trick is done and doing it. However, the beginner may rest assured that if he closely follows the instructions



No. 3.

given with the tricks he buys, and practises diligently, he will be able, in due time, not merely to astonish his friends, but to be quite a useful and popular figure at evenings and concerts, etc. He will be able to do tricks with coins, packs of cards, compel chosen cards to rise spontaneously from the pack, produce articles from handkerchiefs and get eggs by the dozen from hats or boxes, and execute all those wonders which he has hitherto deemed the exclusive property of the real masters of magic. A wizard is not to be made in a day, and he who would attain excellence must be content to proceed as he would with music, drawing or any other accomplishment; he must begin at the beginning, and practise until he attains the coveted dexterity.

"The conjurer's first rule is never to tell the audience beforehand what he intends to do. If he does so, he at once gives their vigilance the direction which it is most necessary to avoid, and thus increase tenfold the chances of detection. Here is an illustration: There is a very good trick in which the performer, after borrowing a handkerchief, gives it to someone to hold. When it is returned, it proves to be torn into small pieces. It is again handed to the holder, who is instructed, in order to restore it, to rub it in a particular manner. When again unfolded, it is found to be in a long strip. These effects are produced by successive adroit substitutions, and the whole magic of the trick

consists in the concealment of the particular moment at which each substitution is effected. Now, if you were to announce to the audience beforehand that you were about to cause the handkerchief to appear in several pieces, or in a long strip, they would at once conjecture that the trick depended on an exchange, and their whole vigilance being directed to discover the moment of that exchange, you would find it all but impossible to perform the trick without detection. If, on the other hand, you merely roll up the handkerchief and ask someone to hold it, the audience, not knowing what you are about to do, has no reason to suspect that you have handed him a substitute; and when the transformation is exhibited, the opportunity of detection will have passed away.

"And now with the aid of the accompanying photographs, I shall explain some of my tricks:—

"No. 1.—Shows quite a number of my tricks, and it might be just as well to mention that the 'Z' on my apparatus means 'Zellverno,' my stage name.

"No. 2.—The opening of umbrella trick; the umbrella is rolled up in a piece of brown paper.

"No. 3.—A small box is opened, showing it empty. Afterwards the cover is produced from the box.



No. 4.

"No. 4.—A cardboard cylinder, a glass and seven coloured silks. Silks are placed in the glass and covered with the cylinder; then cylinder is removed finding glass and silks gone.

"No. 5.—The trick is completed. The umbrella is pulled out of the brown paper, minus the cover, but in its place are the seven coloured silks tied to the ribs. This is quite a startling trick, and I'll give an idea of how it is done. There are various substitutions.



The brown paper — not as innocent as it looks — really contains a substitute umbrella. The box has a secret holder for the cover. The glass holding the silks disappears into a servante on the table. To complete the trick, the substitute is pulled from the brown paper with the silks tied to the ribs.

"No. 6.—Chinese linking rings. Each ring being linked and unlinked at will.

"Nos. 7 and 8.—Introduces the production box and eggs.

"No. 7.—Shows the box open and empty and then closed.

"No. 8.—On opening the box again, I get a few dozen eggs which are handed one at a time to a small girl, who in turn passes them to a boy. Of course, by the time he tries to hold a dozen or so, they start to fall on the floor. This trick causes quite a lot of laughter. Eggs are too rare and expensive these days for such a trick.

"Nos. 9. and 10.—Introduces the well-known rope trick. Two ends of the rope are tied making a circle. Then cutting the rope in the centre, it again is tied, making two pieces of rope and two knots. At the request of someone in the audience either the left or right hand knot is untied, leaving a knot in the centre of the rope. Taking a pair of scissors, the ends of the knot are trimmed until the rope is one long piece again.

"There is another trick which has quite a brilliant effect. A canary is taken out of a cage and placed in a paper bag, which in turn is burnt. Then, removing a cover that had been placed over the cage we find the bird safe and sound back in the cage. Another trick which I have performed with great success is as follows: Three rings are borrowed from the audience and are smashed to pieces with a hammer. The pieces are then placed in a bag and disappear. Then a box which has been in full view from the beginning of my performance is picked up and opened, and a second box taken out, and also opened. The second box contains a third box, in which the three rings are found, each with a posy of flowers attached. The three boxes used in this trick can be seen in No. 1 photo.

"I feel I must say something about 'illusions,' which, of course, are performed on stage.

"1. *Sawing Through Lady.*—A lady is tied hands and feet, then placed in a box which is closed. The performer, with a cross-cut saw, saws through the box. The two halves are then pushed apart, the head of the lady protruding from one half and her feet from the other. The box is then pushed together, and on being opened, the lady steps out safe and sound.

"2. *The Disappearing Lady.*—Lady reclines on a table and is covered with a black cloth. Upon command, the lady rises above the head of the magician, who then passes a white hoop over her body and, taking hold of the black cloth, pulls it away, only to find the lady has disappeared.

"3. *Shooting Through Lady.*—The performer fires a gun at a lady and from the gun comes a bullet with ribbon attached which passes through the lady into a target at her back.

"These are very startling illusions and are quite entertaining.

"No article on magic would be complete without some reference to the much-discussed Indian rope-trick, reputed to be performed by Hindu magicians on street corners. In this supposed trick, the magician

throws a long rope into the air and a boy climbs up and disappears. It may come as a surprise to my readers to learn that this is nothing more than a tale, for such a trick has never been performed in India. I have met people who say they have seen it performed, but they have never been able to substantiate their statements. I have learned that magicians have offered large sums of money for the trick, but have never been able to see it even. Magicians have their own version which, of course, is quite different from the supposed Indian rope-trick.

"I was once asked by a friend of mine to witness a young lad do his first conjuring performance. After seeing the lad, I gave him a few points, and wished him well. Sometime afterwards I met my friend, and asked him how the young magician was getting on. My friend laughed, and said: 'Magician's right; he went in for it in a big way. First, he made the firm's funds disappear, and then disappeared himself.'

"In conclusion, I would like to thank Mr. Charlie White for the opportunity of contributing this article. He is to be congratulated on taking such an interest in employees' hobbies, and it is because of the interest I have found in the hobbies of others that I have been encouraged to describe mine. I think he is doing a wonderful job for us all. So with the few words I say when I complete my performance, 'That concludes my experiments; I hope you have enjoyed them; I thank you.'

Rabaul —(concluded).

padlock in which to keep his personal belongings. It is very noticeable after about three months how much better plantation boys are physically and mentally than when they first came from the villages, and the fact that most of them made new contracts with the same master time and time again of their own free will proved that they were happy and well-treated. Though their wages appear small by a white man's standards, it is not generally known that, apart from actual cash, the boys were issued with all their food, living quarters, lap laps, medical supplies and treatment, tobacco, matches and soap, weekly. In addition, they were allowed a plot of land where they grew natives' foods, which they sold at prevailing prices, and raised pigs, so that at the end of a contract they returned to their home village on three months' furlough (also part of the contract) many pounds to the good.

The main commodities of New Britain were copra, cocoa and rubber. Very excellent coffee was grown and used locally, also tobacco, kapok and peanuts, besides all varieties of tropical fruits. Rice would grow along the river flats, and tea would most probably do well on the hillsides.

As part of the "New Order" in Australia perhaps the importance of the Islands and the needs of the planters will be more fully recognised.

One so often reads the catch phrase, "exploitation of the natives" by certain members of the community, and so little is known of the undoubted exploitation of the planters — returned men of the last war. Many of these have lost their lives, and others are in Japanese prison camps, their wives in Australia without any allowance while thousands of pounds are still owing to them on copra sold to the compulsory copra pool in 1941.

Well may they wonder if the frangipanni will ever bloom again.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE ~ News of our Fighting Men

LETTERS TO OUR CHAIRMAN

Sgt. S. T. Hannan (Yallourn), AIF, tells the Chairman (Mr. Jobbins) how much the "Magazine" is appreciated, not only by Commission men, but also by others to whom it is passed on as part of the reading matter available. Sgt. Hannan also thanks the Commission for the regular grant of War Savings Certificates, for which he is sure every member of the personnel on service is extremely grateful. Sgt. Hannan desires to be remembered to old associates at Yallourn and elsewhere.

In an airmail letter to Mr. Jobbins, and dated from London on 15/9/44, F/Sgt. H. G. Sullivan (Stores, Flinders Street), acknowledges the receipt of the "Magazine" which makes interesting reading to those who are far away from their friends in the Commission. He had been in England when he wrote for some months, after a wonderful trip across the United States, following graduation in Australia. Recently he did a flying revision course, and it was quite a thrill to be flying again, after a lengthy period on the ground. He was waiting, very comfortably, at a camp in Sussex, for posting to A.F.H. and O.T.H.

Sgt. N. L. Lamande (Services, Metro.), RAAF, renders his sincere thanks to the Chairman and Commissioners for the splendid interest they are showing in the doings and whereabouts of the boys and girls in the Services. That this interest was so practical and searching was shown by the way in which track was kept of those on service, so that they should receive official communications, as well as Christmas and New Year greetings, the "Magazine" and F.U.P.S. new sheets and canteen orders. He found the March issue of the "Magazine" more than usually interesting, and had been particularly impressed by the supplement containing the articles by Geo. Johnston, as reprinted from "The Argus." He continues: "I can see the Victoria of the future as envisaged by Mr. Johnston as being far more probable than many may think. During my thirteen months' sojourn in Canada I have found to be truly amazing the interest displayed by so many people, both here and in the U.S.A., in our country and its post-war development and prospects. In both Canada and the United States the development almost entirely upon the power available, whether it be oil or electricity."

FROM HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

Spr. R. Gill (Bendigo), RAE, AIF, writes to us to tell us how appreciative he is of the "Magazine" and "Pals' News." Returning home from Lae some months ago he had enjoyed a good leave. At present he was up North doing intensive training. Proximity of camp to the beach and a regular vehicular service to a nearby town were among the amenities they were enjoying, so they were "not doing too badly." Like many others, he is looking forward to settling down in his old position with the S.E.C.

Sgt. Geo. L. Wadeson (Yarraville), RAAF, looks forward eagerly to the "Magazine." He also expresses his appreciation of the Commission's goodness in extending its grant of War Savings Certificates. He hopes it won't be long before he returns to his old job with the S.E.C., and thanks those in the P.P.D. for canteen orders.

Sgt. W. P. Burt (Con. Engr's Branch), AIF, after thanking the Commission for its continued grant of War Savings Certificates, states that while in New Guinea he has met a number of S.E.C. men, and all have, in one way or another, told him how greatly they appreciate all the Commission is doing for those in the Forces. While on leave recently he had had the pleasure of visiting the Newport Power Station, and of meeting old friends in the Construction Branch. He hopes it won't be long before he is with them again.

Spr. J. J. Harkin (Kiewa), AIF, acknowledges with pleasure the receipt of the "Magazine," and hopes to be in the position of receiving it regularly in the future.

AB G. M. Wright (Kiewa), HMAS "Kookaburra," sends greetings, and looks forward to the regular receipt of the "Magazine" while on service.

Cpl. E. J. Doolan (Stores, Richmond), AIF, in expressing thanks for the "Magazine," states that he finds in it much entertaining reading. It was like meeting him in the flesh to see Mr. Chris. Syle's grin peeping over the top of his desk. While in Melbourne in May last, after 17 months in New Guinea (during which he had participated in the Wau-Mubo-Salamau and Ramu Valley campaigns) he had called in at the office, and had met Messrs. Syle, Mann, Dan Treacey and Reg. Grey, as well as other members of the staff. In May he was introduced to his brand new daughter, Terry Loreta, born while he was in action. It was some reunion, so it was decided that a four weeks'

holiday at Lakes Entrance was the order, "so we up goods and chattels, and off." Now he was in the blue, so to speak, doing intensive training to pit their might against the foe again. The final issue was not in doubt, but just how long it would take to defeat the enemy was the problem. Still, peace might be just round the corner, and he for one sincerely hoped so. He sends his regards to all friends in the S.E.C.

F/Sgt. Myer Blake (H.O.) writes to Mr. L. ("Goldie") Hains from the Middle East. He had just spent his leave in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Five days in Tel Aviv were rather restful, with plenty of sleep, swimming and sunbaking. He had seen the Holy City on a two-day tour, "which is the best way to sight-see. Nearing the city is a hill on the summit of which stands a modern church, with a striking statue of the Virgin holding the Infant Jesus in Her arms. We drove first to Mt. Scopus, from which a view of both the old and new cities is to be had. We then descended to the old city, and entered through its walls by means of one of its ancient gateways. Here we followed the way to Calvary, tracing the steps of Christ when He bore the cross, each station of rest being marked by plaques. Upon the site of the crucifixion now stands a very beautiful church, which is jointly owned by half a dozen different Christian sects. In the Roman Catholic chapel is a pure golden image of the Virgin. This image, plus rosaries and sacred ornaments, is encased, and represents a total value of three million pounds.



Myer Blake.

Taken on the foreshore at Haifa with the slopes of Mt. Carmel in the background.

"Paid a visit to the Arab shopping centre, and found it to be full of dirty natives, sitting in the squalor of goat refuse and rotting fruit, which they try to sell. The city might be holy, but it certainly smells—worse even than Cairo, and you know how bad that is. I finished the day by going out to Bethlehem, to see the place where Christ was born. The second day saw us off to Jericho, River Jordan, and the Dead Sea. The drop from Jerusalem is 5,000 feet, for the Dead Sea is 2,000 ft. below sea level, and, boy, is it hot down there! Some of the party went swimming in the Dead Sea, and it was amusing to see how their bodies refused to sink in the highly-mineralised water. This brought us to the end of our tour and our leave.

"Haven't been doing much flying lately, although I guess the headaches we gave Jerry will keep him quiet for a while. We're on a course of lectures now—doing a bit of work on the ground for a change.

"Thought you might like to see your 'cake-eater's' ugly mug again, so am enclosing a snap taken on the foreshore at Haifa, with the slopes of Mt. Carmel in the background. Give my regards to all, and let's hope we'll be back in the near future."

Sgt. A. J. M. Scott (Sub E., P.P.D.), RAAF, is one of those whose address we have been seeking, so that he may receive in a "Magazine" received by Sgt. Frank Thetford (formerly Consumers' A/cs., Metro. Branch), who is the only Commission man in his unit. Frank had just returned from a couple of jobs, one in New Guinea, and the other in Australia's far north. Sgt. Scott noticed the name of Ron Dawson, formerly of Yallourn, among those whose addresses are missing. He would appreciate any information concerning Ron's whereabouts, as he had not received a reply to a letter he had written to him 18 months ago. Sgt. Scott went on to state that he himself had been on the move continuously during the past twelve months, the first six in other six in the far north of Queensland, and the other writing it looked as if there would be little or no further travelling to do. The month of May was spent on leave, the first week in making preparations to be married, the second week honeymooning in Launceston, and the remainder of the time back in Melbourne.

A.C.I G. Fullgrave (Footscray Store), RAAF, writes from Adelaide, which is to be compared with Melbourne. The people are quite sociable, and go out of their way to help strange service members. He hopes all members of the S.E.C. personnel are enjoying good health, and wishes them all the best of luck.

O/A R. Monger (Eastern Metro.), RAN, states that they paid another visit to the Japs a while ago, at Morotai, near Halmahera, which place, incidentally, is 1,000 miles nearer Tokyo than it is to Sydney. Too far from home for his liking. The native children are very interesting, and one appears ashore wearing a pair of shorts and carrying a pair of swimming trunks, he is surrounded by a jabbering horde which try to annex the trunks. They don't seem to understand why one should require two pairs of "pants."

Sgt. G. P. McMaster (Newport), AIF, was with Army Canteen Services in New Guinea when he wrote to the Secretary (Mr. W. J. Price) on 8th September, 1944, to express his thanks for the "Magazine" and the Commission's consideration in other directions for those on service. He sincerely hopes it will not be long before he is back on his old job with old comrades at the Newport Power Station.

Sgt. L. Nelson (Kiewa), AIF, writing to the Secretary (Mr. W. J. Price), in acknowledgment of the continued grant of War Savings Certificates, has some interesting things to relate. He states: "I have had the pleasure of meeting quite a number of Commission employees on active service, and I feel sure one and all appreciate the generous gesture made to them by the leaders of the great organisation to which we belong. Among those I have met are Sgt. Max New Guinea, and he is at present camped only a few hundred yards away. I also met Len Lawrence, of Bogong, I met my own son, Jack, who is here also. The climate here (Dutch Island) is much better than in N.G., and it seems remarkable that the nights can be so cold so close to the equator. The days are fairly hot, and we have a lot of rain. We are on a coral island, and the material makes beautiful roads. This is the place to see equipment—dozers, tractors, etc., in hundreds. The Americans have no shortage of these things. We are under their command, and fare pretty well. . . . We are all one in the wish brighter. The Japs are certainly getting it warm here, but they are persistent and seem to want to fight it out when by slave labour by the crudest of methods, and they treated the natives very cruelly."

Similarly appreciative letters in regard to War Savings Certificates have been received from the following:—

F/Sgt. Chester Fox (Fuel Sales), RAAF; Sgt. F. J. Rankin (H.O.), AIF; F/O. Margery Cader (H.O.), RAAF; Lieut. J. C. Malins (Chief Elec. Insp. Staff), AIF; Cpl. L. G. Boyes (South West), 5 AARD; LAC Geo. Broadfoot (Footscray Store), RAAF; Cpl. J. A. Pincher (Yallourn), AIF; L/Sgt. J. W. Fraser (Yallourn), AIF; SPO F. R. Hall (Geelong), AMAS; Sgt. E. C. Henshaw (Kiewa), RAAF; Dvr. R. Humphries (Yallourn), AIF; LAC R. F. James (Kiewa), RAAF; Cpl. K. D. Bissett (Gippsland), AIF; L. J. Longmuir (E.S.D.), AIF; Spr. C. E. Murdoch (Yallourn), AIF; Lieut. R. K. McKinnon (Bendigo), AIF; Spr. R. Pryke (Yallourn), AIF; LAC B. G. Shoemith (Rubicon), RAAF; W.O.II. H. Smith (Fuel Sales), AIF; Dvr. N. Spaul (Gippsland), AIF; Cpl. Albert Donald (Chief Constr. Eng.), RAAF (who enclosed a set of Japanese money used by the enemy on a small island off the Dutch New Guinea Coast); Cpl. E. J. Gardner (Yallourn), RAE,

AIF; Cpl. S. M. Rodda (E. Metro.), RAE, AIF; Pte. A. J. Symons (Bendigo), AIF; Sgt. S. J. Moreland (Geelong), RAE, AIF; Lieut. A. Wilson (E.S.D., Metro.), AIF; Cpl. G. M. Moreley (E. Metro.), AEEM, AIF; Spr. F. B. Anderson (Geelong), Landing Craft Co., RAE, AIF; Gnr. L. E. Hilditch (Yallourn), AIF; Pte. J. W. Williams (O.M.E.), AIF; SBA East), R.A.A.F.; Cpl. E. J. Williams (U.M.E., H.O.), AIF; Gnr. H. A. Macfarlane (Yallourn), RAAF; LAC A. Chapman (Adm. Yallourn), RAAF; LAC W. F. Russell (Distn., E.S.D.), RAAF; (Elec. P/P.), AIF; Lieut. F. N. Pollard (Metro., E.S.D.), AIF; Lieut. E. C. C. Norris (E. Metro.), AIF; Lieut. A. A. Eberach (Stores, Metro.), Landing Craft Co., RAE, AIF; S/Sgt. R. E. Fisher (Geelong), AIF; F/O. G. Schroder (Adm., Metro.), RAE.

F/Sgt. J. G. H. Barfoot (Geelong), RAAF (now in Canada); Major I. D. McCallum (Accounts, H.O.), AIF; Leading Seaman G. J. Bell (Metro. E.S.D.), HMAT "Quiberon", LAC D. W. Billings (Construction), RAAF; S/Sgt. F. C. Edmondson (Metro. E.S.D.), AIF; LAC H. J. Lochland (Cfn. K. Skewes (Richmond, E.S.D.), FOD, AIF; Cpl. W. L. C. Tipple (Geelong), AIF; Cfn. J. F. Vincent (Yallourn), B. Wing, Rear Details; Bdr. J. O'Keefe (Fuel Sales, Geelong), AIF; Sig. F. J. Holmes (Consumers' A/cs. Metro.), AIF; Tpr. H. McMillan (Cons. A/cs., Metro.), AIF; P/O. R. Monger (Richmond), HMAS "Australia"; Cpl. R. D. Harrison (Fuel Sales), 2/7 AGH; Pte. F. S. Rainbow (Yallourn), AIF; Dvr. G. Benton (Richmond), AIF; Pte. K. L. Coghlan (Yallourn), AMF; Cpl. H. L. Kronk (Footscray), RAAF; Cpl. N. Ladner (E.S.D., Metro.), RAAF; LAC H. Berndt (Kiewa), RAAF; Sgt. A. J. M. Scott (Sub-E., P.P.D.), RAAF; Sgt. M. R. Hall (Overhead Mains), AIF; O/S. Bruce Rawson (Yallourn), HMAS "Korowa."

PURCHASING BRANCH MEMBERS

Lieut. Murray Anderson (AIF), from a vehicle centre in a Norhern State, sends regards to friends with the Commission. On the day before leaving Melbourne for this new posting he received a visit from Malcolm M-Iver, who had just arrived home on leave. This was their first meeting for 3½ years, and consequently they had lots to talk about. Murray suggests that the first day back after the show is over will need time off for talking. Presumably the Australian Army still marches on its stomach, as Murray stopped writing when lunch-time came.

Sgt. Jack Morrison (AIF), of ack ack fame, visited the office while on short leave from a Sydney school. He was to set out on a tour of Northern camps on return, instructing teams in that area. He is looking forward to the tour, and intends to keep a weather eye open for other members of the staff who may be located in those places where instruction is being given.

Cpl. Jack Shepherdson (AIF) writes that he is located in a place which, before the war, was a well-patronised tourist resort. He is taking the opportunity of visiting as many of the attractions as possible. He has been busy; still, camp life becomes monotonous at times.

A/B. Noel Isaacs (RAN) called when on leave from HMAS "Nepal," which recently returned to Australia after service in the Indian Ocean. He has had many experiences, and has seen some great places, but mainly he talks of the fine comradeship between members of the crew. He made some good friends in South Africa. Dress while in the tropics consisted of shorts and sandals. On the way home, the changing climate necessitated an extra garment daily, until finally all that could be found were used. In the tropics it was too hot to sleep in hammocks, and consequently it became customary to sleep on deck in all kinds of places and in all kinds of positions.

LAC Bob Murray (RAAF) writes from South Australia, to which State he has gone after being 18 months at Geelong. He has been posted in South Australia before, and consequently looks forward to another move in the near future. We learn that Mrs. Murray has presented her Air Force husband with son No. 2, so Bob will be pushing a one-manpower pram when he comes home on leave. This will be quite a change from the "umpteenth" H.P. aeroplanes on which he has been working from day to day.

LAC Colin Kerr (RAAF) was recently home on leave from N.S.W., but working around the house was too much for him. He became ill and was sent to hospital for a fortnight. However, he seemed to have fully recovered, and will, no doubt, now be back on the job.

N.E. BRANCH MEMBERS

A.C.I J. Patterson is now a flight-mechanic in the RAAF. His colleagues in the North-Eastern Branch have had several visits from "Jock," who is in a nearby camp. On his visits he is always kept busy renewing his many friendships, yet

he finds time to assist at entertainments with his banjo and mouth organ, for which he is so well remembered in his pre-enlistment days.

Sgt. L. Lee (AIF) spent part of his leave in Benalla, and was given a warm welcome. Before returning to the Islands Les was for some time in N. Queensland where he had good surfing. Subsequently he went further north on the mainland, where sharks and coral reefs made surfing much more dangerous. The rivers offered little better scope, because of crocodiles, it being necessary for one man to stand guard with a rifle while another had a dip. However, torrential rains provide more water than enough for physical comfort, although it doesn't dampen the boys' spirits. Nightly picture shows, out in the open, with seating accommodation on the side of a hill, are held, rain or fine, the slope allowing the rain to get away quickly. No one would dream of leaving just because of a deluge. Les, on leave and in his letters, gave us more interesting accounts of his experiences. While up North he had met Cpl. Arthur Gourley, who had since made a call on N.E. colleagues during leave.

RICHMOND MEMBERS

Works Division received visits from the RAAF in the persons of Pat Delahenty (Stores Dept.), Don Male (Works Clerical), Harold Gross (Meter Records Section) and Les. Yarnott (Meter and Tests Dept.). Les Harcourt (AIF), previously Works Clerical, called to see the office staff on the first day of his 24 days' leave.

METROPOLITAN BRANCH MEMBERS

Congratulations are offered to the following personnel on their recent promotions:—

LAC J. F. Hanson (Cons. A/cs.), RAAF, England, to Pilot Officer.
P/O. L. A. Jonas (Dist. Division), RAAF, S. Africa, to Flying Officer.
Flt/Sgt. A. J. Crowe (Cons. A/cs.), RAAF, Aust., to Pilot Officer.
LAC H. S. Da Costa (Collections), RAAF, Aust., to Pilot Officer.
Lieut. J. S. Kerr (Acctg. Dept.), 2nd AIF, Aust., to Captain. Captain Kerr was mentioned in despatches recently for service in N.G.
Flt/Sgt. D. G. Tointon (Acctg. Dept.), RAAF, England, to Pilot Officer.
Flying Officer A. E. Dick (Field Clerks), RAAF, Aust., to Flight Lieutenant.
Section Officer (Miss) A. E. Allen (Cons. Eng. Divn.), WAAAF, to Acting Flight Officer.

The following are copies of letters received by Mr. A. E. Hingeley, of Metro. Branch, from P/O. C. A. Gregory, RAAF, Canada, and Capt. A. H. Martin, 2nd AIF, Aust.:—

From P/O. Gregory.

"You certainly are doing a grand job with your Administrative Section letter service. It's swell to hear all the news and receive copies of letters from the lads on the 4th floor, and from all accounts they all seem to be receiving their share of the fun. Herb. Martin has, I see, at last got his chance, and no doubt Lindsay Synnott will soon be on the job, while, of course, Schroder continues on his merry way. There will be a host of tales to tell when we all get back, and the Lord forbid that mine should all relate to fun and games while instructing. As you say, my main 'beef' is the same thing, and I have now reached the prayerful state—the chief instructor here will soon have to post me for some peace and quietness.

"I was sorry to learn that Mr. Meakin's son was reported missing, but perhaps some good news has come ere this. So many of the lads have gone their way in this show and still it seems hard to realise that you won't be able to have a drink with them or a game of tennis. At present I am still operating from the same station and adding a little more experience at odd times. Had a structural failure at night, and had to do a crash landing—luck was with me again, and the students and myself hopped out without a scratch. This place is the windiest spot on earth, and trying to taxi a three-ton aircraft around in a 60-70 m.p.h. wind is no fun.

"Still, the life here has its compensations, and I have just returned from two weeks' leave in the States, having, as usual a really grand time. My pal and I flew down, via Salt Lake City, to San Francisco, spending a week there, then on to Los Angeles and Hollywood. Salt Lake City, the Mormon centre, is really a beautiful city and was, I believe, laid out by the same surveyor as Melbourne—no doubt that accounts for it!! San Francisco is still my pick of cities throughout my travels, even if this time I left quite a little for the beautification of the local race track, which, incidentally, needs it to come up to Flemington standards.

"Los Angeles was a disappointment, but that was probably due to my expecting a city of golden streets and fabulous buildings. Actually it is straggly and with many spots even more congested and crowded than Sydney, although

several of the spots are really beautiful. Most of our time was spent around Hollywood visiting the many publicised spots, namely, Radio City, Earl Carroll's, The Chinese Theatre (with its imprints of 'stars' in concrete), and many other such spots. We were fortunate in getting on to the sets of R.K.O. studios, seeing a few shots being made. One must hand it to the Americans; they certainly have this fake business and advertising down to a fine art, and apparently it gets results. To see a picture in the making makes it hard to believe that they could ever achieve the finished product of such reality. While there I met Cary Grant, Dick Powell, and quite a few of the feminine leads, and was candidly surprised to note that they are, quite often, more attractive off the screen than on it.

"Afraid that's about all the news for the moment—your suggestion about papers is more than well received, and I would certainly appreciate an odd Melbourne 'Sun' now and then. I hope that you finally get around to seeing my wife, Jess, and the baby; the youngster seems to get cuter each snap I receive.

"My kind regards to all at the office."

From Captain Martin.

"No cracks about this being overdue. I really believe I answered your note with the Schroder/Gregory enclosures some months ago.

"Synnott said he intended dropping you a line. I haven't seen him for some two months; unfortunately, I can't remember his address; he has a habit of changing units frequently.

"Had a note from Matthews of E.S.D. last night—we missed each other by two days. He told me Tonkin is stationed 20 miles away. Whilst speaking with an Air Force cove to-day he told me Tonkin may be pushing off on leave to-morrow.

"We are now 'out,' and training again with quite a fair amount of sport thrown in. Just to keep our form we turn out at least one night a week, cover 10 miles or so on foot before breakfast, and then do the normal day.

"Don't know what the future holds in this Island—the idea appears to be to let them starve out—much cheaper in manpower.

"Life is really pleasant, and we are now eating in regal style—the best since I've been in the Army; very little M. & V., bully, etc., these days.

"Hope Schroder gets a chance to visit home soon—he has had a long session away. Should imagine the Vic. golf links are now at their best. So far I haven't had a chance to gather any golf balls. Believe there is a nine-hole course at Moresby, so must make a point of visiting that place some day.

"Must turn in and have a few hours' sleep before our hike.

"Please give my kind regards to Mrs. Hingeley and all at 238."

The following is a copy of a letter from P/O. J. F. Hansen, who is serving in the RAAF in England, to the Manager, Metro. Branch:—

"I am now in receipt of the letter of the 31st March, and would sincerely like to thank you and my colleagues at Flinders Street for your kind congratulations on obtaining my commission.

"It gives me great pleasure to receive a letter from you, because it is nearly five years since I left our organisation, and I'm afraid, during that time, I have drifted greatly away from you all. Can only join you in hoping that it will not be long before I am able to return home to my former duties.

"My category is a navigator bomb-aimer, and I am waiting at the moment for a posting to a unit; I think it will be on to heavy bombers.

"The people over here treat us magnificently, and still maintain great spirit even after such a long strain. I have found that we are welcome all over this country.

"Hoping to see you all within a short time."

Further interesting letters from Metropolitan members and some notes on some who have returned to duty with the Commission arrived too late for this issue, and will appear in our next.

Letters written in July are to hand from Trooper R. A. Henderson, thanking F.U.P.S. for canteen orders, and from LAC J. C. Cookson, who also thanks F.U.P.S. for canteen orders. The latter expresses his regret that, having so much to do, he was not able to see his friends at Meter and Tests, Richmond, during a recent short period of leave. He is most appreciative of the kindness of those who help to keep him supplied with books.

"PALS' NEWS"

Our Two-Monthly Review

Since our August issue the following letters have appeared in "Pals' News," the monthly publication of the Electricity Supply Magazine Club. All writers express appreciation of the "S.E.C. Magazine" and the "News," and of the manner in which the needs of those on service are catered for.

Cpl. B. D. Browne (19/6/44), Ballarat, after stating how much he enjoys reading the letters which appear in the "News," extends a greeting to all his fellow employees of the Ballarat Branch on active service. "It seems many years now since I last saw some of them, but I am hoping that it will not be long now before the long-awaited re-union will take place in dear old Ballarat."

L/Cpl. J. Pearmine (22/5/44), Richmond, thinks the work that is being done for those on service "must be in elephantine proportions with a touch of the octopus whose tentacles reach out to everyone. Thanks for everything, and excuse the simile."

Pte. I. Grove (27/5/44), Metro., states that since leaving Melbourne in November last he has not had much news of the old crowd now scattered all over the globe, so it was particularly interesting to him to read the letters in the "News." Jack Miller (Services) and Ron Webster (Benalla) He had spent several evenings with Jack, while Ron was in his own unit.

Sgt. S. J. Moreland (16/6/44), Geelong, received quite a thrill lately when half a dozen "Pals' News" and "Fups" overtook him after chasing him all over Australia since last October. One of the letters he read in the "News" was from a workmate in the Geelong Tramways, while another the latter was now in the writer's own unit and carrying the rank of corporal. The Christmas and New Year Greetings from Mr. Jobbins and the S.E.C. Patriotic Fund had put him in great heart, in showing that those on service were by no means forgotten.

W.O.I G. Reid (17/5/44), Gippsland, had been on a walk-about since last writing. His crowd had covered quite a lot of country on a "conducted tour" (not one of Cook's). They had walked for days in water up to their armpits in swamps, and had crossed rivers in native boats (prows) and other sorts of craft. They didn't find what they were looking for, so it was back home again, when he had his first close-up of a crocodile, as the rivers contain quite a few of them, as well as sharks. The latter are very cheeky and approach the river banks to a depth of 6 ft., hence very little swimming is done until a prow turns turtle. On his return the good news was awaiting him that he had become a "daddy."

Cfn. K. Skewes (17/6/44), Richmond, expresses his gratitude for the "News," and comments that last week was quite an eventful one for their unit. A parade was held to celebrate the first birthday of the 2/7th; the old flag of the 2/1st (original unit) was handed over to the colonel with all due ceremony.

LAC E. J. Lowe (16/6/44), Metro., acknowledges with thanks the receipt of "Pals' News" Nos. 25 and 26. It is interesting to note from his letter that such entertainments as picture shows every night and darts and football competitions are arranged for the forces.

Capt. W. J. Fraser (21/6/44), Metro., although kept very busy, finds time to write to "Fups" in order to thank them for their splendid work in caring for the employees in the services. The two main items of interest in his letter were a trip by air to Cairns (on duty, of course), and promotion to captain.

L/Bdr. S. J. Evans (22/6/44), Metro., apologises for not writing before to state his appreciation of everything, but confesses to having been "trespassing about the countryside" at present he is in the Heidelberg Hospital with a touch of dermatitis, but is hopeful of leave shortly.

A/B. J. C. Cook (22/5/44), Metro., congratulates the editor of the "S.E.C. Magazine" for including Geo. Johnston's articles as a supplement. The articles by this "Argus" writer were very interesting and informative, and he suggested that consideration be given to further supplements about other phases of S.E.C. work.

Pte. Sexton (14/5/44), Metro., describes his trip through Sydney, Brisbane and still further North. "Brisbane is a great place, much cleaner than Sydney, with wider streets that do not follow the old cattletracks. This, I should imagine, should be sufficient to start an argument with any New South Welshman!" He mentions that Ray Maynard, from Ballarat, Norm. McDonald, from Metro. Branch, and Bill Goodall, of Costing Section fame, are all located near him. "Many thanks for the News, the S.E.C.O.A. News

Bulletins, and also the 'Magazine,' all of which are regularly sent to me."

P/O. J. Hansen (2/6/44), Metro., complains that he has only seen the sun twice since arrival in England, and adds, "I believe that represented the summer." The hospitality of the Scottish people is excellent. This opinion was formed after an enjoyable seven days' leave in Scotland.

P/O. C. Gregory (7/4/44), Metro., had spent two weeks in the States visiting Salt Lake City, San Francisco and Los Angeles. His letter appears fully elsewhere.

Cpl. Macklan (North Eastern), presents as a good explanation for the scarcity of his letters that he will be "bringing a touch of the old country (England) back with him," as he has been married almost twelve months now to an English lass.

Pte. R. J. Griffin (8/6/44), Metro., very vividly gives us a picture of Darwin—traditionally called Australia's back door. "I gained the impression that it must have been rather a pretty place in times of peace. With its tropical characteristics which are not to be found in any other capital city in Australia, with the possible exception of Brisbane, to which it may possibly bear some resemblance. The Darwin botanical gardens are a renowned beauty spot. On the plains there are buffaloes, kangaroos, brolgas and scrub turkeys, with geese and ducks on the swamps—just point of interest is the wild life in the locality. Another profusion in the creeks and ponds. The two main shades are white and pale blue, but there are a few red lilies in certain places." How many readers know that the most vulnerable part of a buffalo is along its spine? Hence, when hunting, you ride into a herd of buffaloes and get alongside a beast, place the gun on its back, pull the trigger, and the job is done. (Easy, isn't it?)

Sgt. A. W. Glennon (12/6/44), Richmond, sends thanks for regular literature. He keeps in touch with W/O. Nimon, Sgt. Murnane, Alec Rogers and LAC Stansfield, although they are all widely separated.

Lieut. O. V. Dimmit (21/6/44), Metro., enjoys very much reading the letters of old acquaintances, and finds particularly interesting those from the chaps who have travelled through Canada and the United States and are now serving in England. The old saying used to go "Join the Navy and see the world," but in this war that caption applies more to the Air Force. "It is interesting to look back over the past year and note the progress that has been made in this theatre of war. When I first came up right out of it and the advance seems to be gaining momentum, so perhaps it won't be long before we are all back at our old posts."

Cpl. R. C. Cranston (4/6/44), Metro., has spent nearly eleven months at Warburton and is experiencing his second winter, so a change would be much relished. He appreciates and offers thanks for Pals' News, S.E.C. Magazine and Fups' canteen orders.

Cpl. S. J. Clarke (2/8/44), Metro.: Since his last letter he has arrived at a new location approximately 600 miles north-west in British New Guinea. British New Guinea is actually a different type of country from Papua, in that the jungle denseness is beyond imagination, with swamp and boggy undergrowth. Wogs are not so troublesome; personally he does not think they could live in the place. Good wishes are sent to his friends in the Fitting Shop at Richmond Power Station.

F/Sgt. A. R. Hopkins (19/7/44), Metro., some time ago enjoyed a holiday in South Wales in a large old mansion surrounded by beautiful green parklands. There were a considerable number of deer (not deer!) roaming round, as they used to be kept for sport in peace-time.

Spr. A. Martin (1/3/44), Bendigo, writes: "To-morrow we start training for the coming 7th Division march, which is to take place in Brisbane on the 8th August. According to reports, it will be the biggest public parade of Australia's fighting men of this war yet seen in any capital city, as we will be marching six abreast and over 10,000 strong. It will be the first time almost a complete AIF Division of this war has been on display." He concludes by expressing his thanks for the S.E.C. Magazine and Pals' News.

Sig. K. Woff (22/7/44), Geelong, is attached to a unit which garrisons a large Prisoners-of-War and Internment Camp. Needless to say, he cannot give any details about the camp, except perhaps to say that the prisoners are engaged in farming work, and are quite keen about it. They also do most of the general duties about the camp. The outstanding characteristic of the country is its flatness. There are absolutely no hills or even little rises. There are on the Murrumbidgee River, which is quite picturesque. The town itself is a very nice place with a population of about 3,000. It boasts some very beautiful gardens, a Town Hall, one picture theatre, and about eight hotels.

There are plenty of 'roos about, and emus, while foxes and wild pigs are not uncommon. The industries are chiefly primary, of course, and the country round about is used extensively for sheep-farming. A special cheerio for Geelong friends.

Cfn. P. Bennett (4/8/44), Bendigo, tells us that his present camp is situated within a short distance of the W.A. capital city. "There is ample leave, and what I haven't seen of the city isn't worth seeing. The weather is warming up, and I have hopes of getting in a lot of swimming ere we vacate the area. The various competitions are starting soon. I go in for soccer, and have had two games, and boy, am I stiff in the joints."

Cpl. P. Moncur (27/7/44), Yallourn, gives a short resume of his career since leaving the Commission. It is now two and a quarter years since he enlisted, and during that time he has shifted about quite a bit. He went first to Ballarat, where he spent three or four months on what, he feels sure, must be the coldest spot on earth—bar none! After leaving Ballarat, he spent two short but enjoyable periods at Ascot Vale, Melbourne, and Bradfield Park, Sydney, and then proceeded on to Townsville, Queensland. Townsville has taken to itself the name of "Queen City of the North," but our friend's opinion of it, at least under war time conditions, did not by any means justify that claim. Ten of the most boring and depressing months of his career were spent here, and he has no desire at all for a repeat performance. He then proceeded to the world-renowned tropical paradise of New Guinea, and has been there now for about twelve months, and finds life bearable.

Spr. W. McCombie (26/7/44), Metro., thanks the Committee for Pals' News. Since last writing he has had another trip to hospital with the malaria bug, but has fully recovered again and going strong once more.

Cfn. R. G. McFauli (10/8/44), Metro., expresses his gratitude for Pals' News and offers congratulations on the progress made by F.U.P.S. since its single type-written sheet days. In passing, he mentions having taken part in the 7th Division march through Brisbane, which was, he believes, a fine spectacle for the onlookers. He thought the reception was a little half-hearted, due, perhaps, to the fact that these Northern folk have had nothing but parades since the war started. Jack Ansell and Lieut. Dimsey are two S.E.C. chaps he has met.

Bdr. H. J. Holland (23/8/44), Metro., is impatiently waiting to be posted, but since damaging his ankle in an accident on a 25-pounder, he has been kept back from his mates in New Guinea. After so long in the services, he finds there are only two places—right in or right out. Henry hopes to be married on his next leave.

Lieut. J. D. Swann (12/8/44), H.O., regards mail as a God-send, and particularly so when one can read of the doings of so many chaps from the S.E.C. brigade in all theatres of operations. Hasn't seen rain for nigh on six months now, but from all accounts understands that Melbourne's issue makes up for all they miss. There are plenty of buffaloes, crocs., and Aussie wild life to be seen for the looking, and similarly plenty of mosses, lizards, sandflies, etc., which do not need to be looked for, but make their presence felt in their own peculiar ways—and how!

F/O. G. Schroder (22/7/44), Metro., has been indulging in a ten days' leave spent up in the hills near Kandy. Spot reminded him very much of Warburton. Wizard golf course, but balls are the difficulty, especially when your caddie thievs them, and later tries to sell them back to you for a couple of chips.

F/O. B. C. Lauritz (19/7/44), Metro., has something interesting to write about, as he has just spent a week at Oxford University on a week's course. These courses have been in operation for about nine months or so and serve a double purpose. First an opportunity is provided of listening to the cream of English lectures without the prospect of an examination, and secondly, they are a common meeting ground for all ranks of the Allied Services. There were about seventy on this course, and all ranks from private to colonel were represented, as well as Poles, Belgians, Canadians, Americans, Australians, English and Scots. "We were billeted in Balliol College and lived, I should imagine, much the same way as the students do. Actually, the lectures took up the least part of our time—two hours a day to be precise—and the rest of the day was spent in more pleasurable occupations. For example, one day we were fortunate enough to hear Lord David Cecil speak on The Elizabethan Stage, in the morning, then to go out to the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-on-Avon the same afternoon and witness an Elizabethan play—Ben Johnson's Volpone. Stratford is a delightful town. I had flown over it a couple of times before, and registered a vow that I would visit there. There was a carnival atmosphere about the place the day we were there—boating on the river, people sunning themselves on the lawns at the side of the river, and crowds in the streets. There are altogether I think twenty-one different colleges in Oxford, and we saw over a few of them one afternoon. Some of the chapels

are really beautiful, as good as you'll see anywhere in England, and that's saying something." Ben desires it known that he has not acquired the Oxford accent.

Sgt. R. E. Mainard (16/7/44), pays tribute to the men who fought and died to regain lost territory in New Guinea and make Australia safe. You have probably read volumes on the subject, seen innumerable photographs and pictures, and also viewed moving pictures of it. However, you cannot, even partially, appreciate the courage and endurance of those men unless you see the country over which they fought. The rugged, mist-enshrouded mountains, nearly four times as high as any he had seen previously; the dark, hot, steamy jungles and racing streams. You have to see them, feel the heat and oppression and the discomfort of it all, and experience the malaria and dengue-carrying mosquitoes, combined with all sorts of flying and crawling things to make lives as unhappy as possible. Spiders, snakes, lizards and scorpions of every colour, size, shape, etc., are the main items on the debit side of insect life. The corresponding credit items (flora and fauna) include beautiful butterflies, moths, beetles, trees, birds, flowers, etc., and all these are vividly depicted in Sgt. Mainard's letter. The natives seem to be a very fine people, clean, sturdy, intelligent and friendly. The development of N.T. after the war is emphasised by our writer, who admits, "I wouldn't mind returning there after the war," as he prefers N.T. to New Guinea and Queensland.

Sgt. K. W. Blundell (13/8/44), Metro., is fortunate in having his wife residing only a couple of hours' journey away from his camp (Richmond, N.S.W.). They have taken every opportunity to explore the beauty spots around Sydney, and recently had a great week at Katoomba, climbing up and down and around the mighty cliffs, wandering around cascades and through quiet forests and ferny glades, or standing on the cliff-tops to survey the rugged grandeur of the valleys. All he wants now is a trip back to good old Melbourne.

Spr. F. B. Anderson (25/7/44), Geelong, states: "One week-end I had the opportunity of seeing a native dance in one of the villages only a few miles from camp (New Guinea). All the men were painted in red paint and clay on the face and body plus strange hats made of bamboo and ledger paper, and the women in long cactus dress with flowers in their hair and dresses. They all danced and sang to the tune of their drums, but unfortunately I had to leave just before dark." Sincere wishes are extended to all, especially to members of the Geelong Branch.

Similarly appreciative letters have been received by "Pals" from the following:—

Cpl. H. A. Quake, Richmond; Tpr. V. Connaughton, East. Metro.; Sgt. L. J. Laughton, Metro.; Cfn. A. Smirk, Metro.; Cpl. D. C. Smith, Metro.; Pte. L. A. Hoare, Ballarat; Pte. A. D. Johnston, Ballarat; LAC H. O. Doeherly, North Eastern; "Frank" Hassall (WRAN), North Eastern; Cpl. R. J. Walker, North Eastern; S/Sgt. A. J. Kilbey, Metropolitan; Lieut. K. R. Macgregor; Bdr. E. C. Ralston; Gnr. D. F. Horsburgh; Cpl. G. Watson; Cfn. A. Kincaid; Cpl. J. H. Brown; Sgt. F. E. Burke; Gnr. W. Knight; LAC V. W. Curtis; P/O. A. Heagney; Cpl. I. Cass; Cpl. R. J. Walker (N/E.); F/Sgt. C. M. Fox (H.O.); LAC K. Patterson (N/E.); Lieut. W. Bravington (M.); and LAC T. K. Griffiths (Bend.).

Sgt. L. J. Laughton, Metro.; LAC C. Hanrahan, North East.; Dvr. W. J. Lowe, Metro.; Stoker P. O. Hall, F.R., Geelong; Cfn. K. Skewes, Metro.; Cpl. D. C. Smith, Metro.; Pte. L. A. Hoare, Ballarat; Sgt. H. V. Rose, Metro.; Cpl. J. Norris, East. Metro.; Pte. S. R. Curtis, Metro.; Spr. R. W. Allan, Metro.; Bdr. A. R. Longmuir, Metro.; Cpl. J. W. Graham, H.O.; LAC G. R. Carter, Metro.; P/O. A. D. Windmill, Metro.; LAC H. G. Stevenson, Ballarat; Cpl. D. T. Gunnell, Bendigo; Lieut. V. M. Jones, South West.; Gnr. L. Elliott, Geelong; Spr. H. Riley, Geelong; LAC W. L. Taylor, Richmond; Cpl. H. V. Smith, North East.; F/O. J. G. Sullivan, Metro.; Gnr. L. N. Mawson, Geelong; F/Sgt. A. R. Hopkins; Spr. W. McCombie; Cfn. R. G. McFauli; Sgt. K. W. Blundell; F/Sgt. R. J. Letten; F/O. C. Gregory; Sgt. N. L. Lamande; L/Bdr. M. Kuhn; Spr. W. Ingham; Cfn. A. Smirk; S/Sgt. H. L. Holt; Pte. F. D. Goodall; Gnr. J. A. Willumson; WO2 A. L. Bellion; Cpl. E. J. Clarke; Cpl. P. G. Niquet; L/Sgt. A. J. Kilbey; Sgt. A. D. Shaw; LAC A. C. Davis; Cpl. M. Dowler; Sgt. P. Reid; WO2 L. V. Donchi; Gnr. A. J. Winzar; Pte. R. T. Lynch; Cpl. N. Ladner; Pte. K. T. Badrock; LAC L. Reynolds; F/Sgt. P. V. Brett; F/O. L. A. Jonas.

After a night of heavy "Blitz" an official of a London Bank found the charwoman washing the steps of the building early in the morning as usual. "Well, did you get any sleep last night?" he asked. "'Course I did," she replied. "I asked the Lord to look after me, and went to bed, an' it wasn't any use both of us staying awake, was it?"