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Organ of the Bookhams Social Service Bureau

No. 31

JUNE 1941

One Penny

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## Editorial

Whilst realising the importance of work of various kinds to ensure the fullest demands upon the national resources of man power and material for the prosecution of the present conflict, there are still requirements necessary as a supplement for the well-being and comfort of our fighting forces and all those engaged in industry. This it may be suggested falls within the scope of voluntary employment, and although the W.V.S. undertake certain arrangements for provision of canteen services and assist with billeting, the only agency for voluntary work may be said to be the Citizens Advice Bureau. It has been mentioned in the columns of the *Bulletin* that whilst the Bureau acts as a clearing house for government, county and local matters, it also undertakes as far as possible to help in getting suitable employment for those outside the operations of the Ministry of Labour, and certain kinds of voluntary work. On another page of this issue certain requirements for voluntary employment are set out.

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It is learnt that new allowances for dependants of men in the three

services have been granted. They affect only dependants other than wives, children, or unmarried "wives" of men in the forces. Many claims that have previously been rejected can now be admitted for mothers, sisters, fathers and other relations. Children of dependants can also be benefitted.

These new allowances are expected to relieve a good deal of hardship which admittedly has been the case in poor families through the absence of support from the bread-winner.

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Additional countries which now come within the operations of the Trading with the Enemy Act are: Bulgaria, Hungary, Roumania, Jugo-Slavia and Greece, and the British Red Cross Society have informed us that the Red Cross postal message scheme has been extended to these countries. For further information see Citizens Advice Bureau Notes.

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The Lord Lieutenant's Fund Emblem Day will be on Saturday 28th June. Help your Surrey County fighting forces by buying an emblem on that day.

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## Citizens Advice Bureau Leatherhead & District

From time to time there have been many broadcast talks upon particular aspects of the work of Bureaux throughout the country, and it can be said without fear of contradiction that the Leatherhead and District Bureau has been able to fulfill the needs of all those who have made enquiries upon a multitude of subjects. This Bureau is open to all, serving the needs of each individual case, advising and taking appropriate action where it is necessary.

A service which may not be generally known is that of tracing "missing" persons, in the matter of which the Bureau have been very successful, thus alleviating much anxiety for enquirers.

Red Cross Postal Messages.—This scheme has now been extended to Bulgaria, Hungary and Roumania; particulars regarding cost and any other information, can be obtained from the Bureau.

Telegrams to Service Men in the Middle East.—Special telegrams can be sent by next-of-kin to members of H.M. Forces serving in the Middle East, and those wishing to make application should write to the Officer i/c Records, writing in the top left-hand corner of the envelope "Cable," enclosing stamped addressed envelope.

We have been informed by the British Red Cross Society Prisoners of War Department that many parcels for dispatch to British prisoners in Germany have contained articles that are not allowed. Those in doubt as to what may be sent can get a full list of permitted articles from the Bureau.

If you require information of any kind, ask your Citizens Advice Bureau, Alnwick House, Church Street, Leatherhead; Telephone Leatherhead 3149.

Voluntary Employment.—One of the most important voluntary services functioning at the moment is the Citizens Advice Bureau, and a certain number of volunteers are required. Experience is not necessary, but a knowledge of typing is preferable. Application to be addressed as above.

Men and women ready to devote some time on one or more evenings a week to either Boys' or Girls' Clubs are urgently required. Apply to Mr. C. V. Brayne, Chairman of the Bookham Youth Organisation Committee, "Wolverly," Little Bookham. Phone Bookham 502.

Persons with a good knowledge of axemanship, a knowledge of the locality, cooking and needlework are required to act as examiners for Scouts and Guides. Apply to J. Oliver, Swofield, Keswick Rd., Great Bookham.

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## War Damage Act, 1941

It is now possible to give full information regarding the War Damage Act, 1941, although the full text cannot be reproduced in our columns, as the Act embraces 101 sections together with four schedules, an outline only can be given. At the same time, those wishing to make enquiries on some of the points can get information from the Citizens Advice Bureau.

The Act compels property owners to contribute in order to provide compensation for war damage. The person who pays the contributions (called the "direct contributor") is the person entitled to a "proprietary interest," that is, a fee simple, full freehold ownership, as contracted with a lease, or a long tenancy. Where there is more than one proprietary interest the person entitled to immediate possession on 1st January in any year pays the contribution for that year. The payment is assessed and collected by the Inland Revenue Commissioners. Certain persons such as landlords and tenants who are known as indirect contributors, and mortgagees in some cases pay part of the contributions. The amount payable will be in five annual installments beginning in July 1941 and ending in July 1945, each installment being 2s. in the £ on the net assessment to Schedule A, or where that assessment does not exist 2s. in the £ on the net annual value for rating purposes. In the case

of agricultural property the amount is 6d. in the £. The period of risk covered is Sept. 3rd, 1939, to 31st August, 1941. There are certain exemptions upon which the Advice Bureau can inform you.

Advances may be made on value payments in needy cases to restore businesses and residences. Temporary works payments may also be made.

The Act also provides a compulsory scheme of insurance against war damage, called the Business scheme, for chattels owned in the course of business, the premium payable will be 30s. per cent. Policies will be issued on behalf of the Board of Trade by the Insurance Companies and by Lloyds, and compensation will be equivalent to the full value of what is destroyed, though the amount recoverable in the case of farmers will be calculated differently.

This new scheme supplements the scheme of insurance for commodities and ships and cargoes already in existence.

The private chattels scheme is a voluntary one against damage of private furniture and other goods. Householders are to be given free insurance up to £200 in the case of a single person, and £300 for married persons with an additional £25 for each child under the age of 16. The rates of premium apart from these allowances will be 1 per cent. up to £2000, 1½ per cent. for the next £1000, and 2 per cent. for the remaining £7000 up to £10000. Policies will be annual,

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**War Damage Act—cont.**

operating from date of issue, and no policy will be required for the free insurance.

Compensation, whether for land buildings, or goods is paid only where war damage has occurred, and is classified under three main headings.

It will be appreciated that lack of space in the *Bulletin* will not permit a full and comprehensive survey of the War Damage Act, but information is always available as previously mentioned above.

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**News from the Channel Islands**

Much anxiety has been expressed because of the lack of news and information and replies to communications of the Red Cross postal messages to the Channel Islands. In order to allay anxiety we publish the following authentic extracts from reports in the possession of the Editor.

"Between four and five hundred messages have been received from earliest enquiries in answer to the message sent."

"The messages from Jersey are in the handwriting of the islander, whilst those from Guernsey are typewritten and signed by their name."

"The general tenor of messages received in answer to enquiries is cheerful, and typical examples are: 'all well,' 'don't worry' 'only anxious about you,' 'all well and cheerful here.'"

"All the messages are dated between the last week of December 1940 and the last week of January 1941, and some mention 'having had a happy time at Christmas with friends.'"

It can be said that food is strictly rationed though not scarce, and the German troops appear to be behaving with considerable discretion and do not interfere with the civilian population.

The British Red Cross organisation have been able to arrange with the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva for supplies of medical stores to be sent to the Channel Islands.

## Sundry Reflections

Nature is peculiar, inasmuch as it is the human race apart from birds and animals in which the female is considered to be the better-looking. It may be that our values in this respect are all wrong and just the opposite is actually the case. Nothing is good or evil but thinking makes it so, said Shakespeare.

Years ago it was considered necessary for the majority of men to have beards, and in mid-nineteenth century pictures can be seen those vulcan-like heads of which this country at that time seemed to be so proud. Eventually the clean-shaven craze arrived and this was helped in two ways, firstly by a newspaper effort to make people believe that a man was too old for work at 40, and secondly by the street urchin's cry of "beaver" whenever he saw a man with a beard. So the mere male tended towards effeminacy until the 1914-18 war arrived and then there was a small reaction in the same manner as that taking place at the present time, chiefly owing to the fighting forces, especially the Navy, having to undergo long spells of duty without getting any opportunity to shave.

As to the woman here she has leaned towards masculinity in dress via bloomers, pyjamas and slacks, with sometimes the idea that if she aped the wildest women of darkest Africa in make-up she would still remain an Englishwoman.

"I dress to please myself" is what a woman will say when her costume is criticised, and this means that if she appears a "guy" to others (as she probably does) that pleases her. The rear view of a *tout ensemble* consisting of a lightish coloured coat, dark blue slacks and brown shoes, seems altogether wrong especially if the newness has worn off somewhat. It makes one think that the cloth garments were never intended to be combined. There is not that finished touch about them when compared with man's clothes. A reason given for wearing slacks is that they are better for garden work: the best breeks for that job are those worn by the land girls as such trousers never become 'ankle flappers.' It has also been urged that women wear slacks to preserve their 'boyish' figure. We are, however dependent upon nature for our shape, and when one sees the preservation state reached in boyish figures of some women of fifty and upwards in slacks, it is patent that dame nature's hand originally was to say the least somewhat indefinite. Another idea expressed is that slacks are much warmer than other clothes. That may be true—I don't know—but why in the cold weather do women wear skirts and no stockings and contrariwise wear slacks on a hot summer's day?

Many a decent woman in order to follow the craze has adopted a make-up so liberally bestowed that her friends have scarcely recognised her at a little distance, whilst others of her sex have used the word 'woman' upon her as mercilessly as only a woman can.—R. A.

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## Air Training Corps

A local squadron of the A.T.C. has been started in this district and a Bookham Flight has been formed; there is still room for more cadets. Those between 16 and 18 are eligible, though boys under 16 will be enrolled subject to a few restrictions.

No actual flying training will be provided, but instruction in aeroplane construction, aero-engines, model aeroplane making and other ground work will be given, and visits paid to R.A.F. stations to see them operating under active service conditions. Membership of the A.T.C. does not mean that cadets will join the R.A.F., Navy or Fleet Air Arm at any earlier date than they would be normally called up under the National Service (Armed Forces) Act 1939.

Naturally boys who join the corps will have greater opportunities of advancement on being called up for service, as already much of the elementary instruction will have been received, and if the war should happily end before that time then they will have learned both the spirit of a great tradition and equipped themselves by the very nature of their training for positions of responsibility.

Uniforms will be provided free and will be akin to that of the R.A.F. and which it is hoped will impart something of the same spirit to its wearers.

Regular instructional courses have already been commenced and

grading of cadets is in progress, and once this is completed full admission and issue of uniform may not be possible except after a period of waiting.

Further information and enrolment cards may be obtained from H. R. Fortescue, Esq., Pond Meadow, Preston Cross, Great Bookham, Acting Adjutant No. 1129 Squadron Air Tr'ning Corps.

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## A War Relief Measure

The Liabilities "War Time Adjustment" Bill now passing through Parliament, may not inaptly be described as a Debtor's Charter.

For every County Court district the Lord Chancellor is to appoint at least one Liabilities Adjustment Officer, to whom any person in serious financial difficulties by reason of the war may apply for advice and assistance. Where no scheme of arrangement has been made between a debtor and his creditors the debtor may apply to the Court—and specified creditors may also apply—for "adjustment and settlement" of the debtor's affairs if by reason of the war he

1 Cannot pay his debts and meet future liabilities as they fall due on obligations already incurred, or

2 Would be unable to carry on his business or lose the means of recovering his business or his means of livelihood if he were required to pay his debts and to meet recurring liabilities.

Upon that application the Court may make a protection order. The effect would be to stay all proceedings pending against the debtor and to prevent the commencement of any other proceedings against him without the leave of the Court.

Lack of space forbids any further details being given here, but we may be able to enlarge upon this matter in a future issue.

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## Local Organisations and Secretaries

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Mr. John Oliver, Scout Hut

Bookham Youth Club

Bookham Youth Organizations Cm'ttee  
Mr. C. V. Brayne, C.M.G.  
Wolverley, L. Bookham Tel. 502

Bowling Club  
Mr. Andrews, Five Beeches,  
Dorking Road. Tel. 201

Boys' Brigade  
Mr. D. Cook, Flushing Farm House

Boys' Brigade and Life Boys  
Mr. L. S. Kay, Lingfield, Nutcroft  
Grove, Fetcham

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Hon. Sec. Mrs. D. I. Wootten,  
1 New Parade, Leatherhead Road.  
Tel. Bookham 575

Garden Society  
Mr. C. Saunders, Charlwood,  
Leatherhead Road

Girls' Club  
Miss Joce, The Spinney, Eastwick  
Drive Tel. 84

Girls' Life Brigade  
Mrs. W. Shipley, Garlands, Rookery  
Close, Fetcham Pk. L'head 2420

## Guides

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Chetwode, Eastwick Drive

Hospital Sewings Association  
Mrs. Bull, Waverley, Dowlans Rd.

Ladies' Snoolball Club  
Mrs. A. C. Martin,  
Omira, Leatherhead Road

Leatherhead Hospital Linen Guild  
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Mrs. Westondarp  
Hawkwood, Guildford Rd. Tel. 38

Little Bookham Girls' Club

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Wolverley, L. Bookham. Tel. 502

Life Boys  
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Mrs. Pontin, The Anchorage, Sole  
Farm Road. Tel. 131

Literary & Dramatic Society  
Mrs. Bowen, Sunnycot, Lower Rd.

N.S.P.C.C. District Correspondent  
Mrs. Stanley Russell,  
Elmcroft, Bookham Tel. 13

N.S.P.C.A.  
Mrs. Wootten, 1 New Parade,  
Leatherhead Rd. Tel. 575

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Lower Road. Tel. 80

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