

Soldiers and Sailors

CURRENT TOPICS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Collie fallen soldiers' memorial, which recently was unveiled by Sir Francis Newdegate, is an obelisk of dignified design. The Honor Roll has no fewer than 102 names inscribed on it, and more have to be added.

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Those country diggers who have not been issued with medals and paybooks are reminded that if in town during show week these may be collected at the military offices, Francis-street. The offices will be open every day, excepting on the afternoon of the main day of the show on the Wednesday.

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At the last meeting of the Fremantle sub-branch it was decided that a letter of thanks be forwarded to Mr. Simper, for his humane action in conveying a sick ex-soldier from Bibra Lake to the Fremantle hospital. At the time the man was taken ill there was no suitable conveyance at Bibra Lake for such a mission, and when apprised of the circumstances, Mr. Simper undertook the task unhesitatingly and without charge.

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Mr. Geoff Montgomery, who is studying medicine at University College, London, writing to his parents, says: "Last Thursday week we went to the Abbey where Mr. Hughes was having

"Last Thursday week we went to the Abbey, where Mr. Hughes was laying the Perth soldiers' wreath on the grave of the unknown warrior. The wreath was wonderfully fresh. The little bird flowers from the North-West were especially attractive. It was much admired, and the link that it denotes between units of the Empire has been made stronger than ever. Mr. Hughes was quite overcome, and when asked to speak could not collect himself for quite a time. There were a number of Australians present, and many returned soldiers' badges."

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While on active service a whole legion of diggers came to light with inventions of more or less utility for war purposes. Some were dinkum; others were camouflaged schemes for leave. At least one returned man, however, has developed his inventive streak since discharge, and has patented a device that seems likely to revolutionise the carrying trade of perishables. His invention has been favorably considered by a local firm, which is providing funds to give it a practical trial. Further details at this stage would be inadvisable, but "The Sunday Times" has reason to believe that experts are considerably impressed, and that the digger's patent will prove of incalculable benefit to exporters of fruit especially.

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Some months ago certain adverse criticism, was made on Major Margolin, which was promptly refuted by brother officers, who knew him well, so that news of the ex-West Australian's present doings will be of interest. Writing to a Collie friend, under date, April 4, the Major (he is now a Lieut. Col., by the way), says that he expects

Col., by the way), says that he expects to be relieved of his civil position as Governor of Jerusalem and return to the army. A Palestine Defence Force is being formed, a mixture of Jews, Christians and Mohammedans, all of Palestine. There will be two battalions, and the former Collie man will command one. Lieut.-Colonel Margolan says he is still a loyal Australian, but expects it will be two or three years before he returns here. In acknowledging receipt of his 1914-15 star, he says: "I should be very proud of an Australian decoration if it is possible to have one. My commission dates from September, 1914, and I was on active service till March, 1921, which probably is a record for an Australian."



Regarding the wreaths of Australian flowers recently sent to London by the Perth sub-branch of the R.S.L. to be placed on the grave of the unknown soldier at Westminster, the London "Times" says: "A ceremony, touching in its simplicity, was the laying of wreaths on the Cenotaph and the grave of the unknown warrior' by Mr. Hughes, the Australian Prime Minister. The wreaths were of Australian flowers which, frozen in a block of ice, had been conveyed to this country from the Commonwealth. The Dean expressed the gratitude of the British people for an act in which were expressed the feelings of the great people of Australia. Mr. Hughes replied in an eloquent little speech: 'As he looked at that wreath, the flowers for which had been gathered 12,000 miles away, and came there as fresh and as fragrant as they were on the day they were plucked, he saw something of that spirit which had animated the men of both