

Germans halted in Stalingrad, 1942/43

Nov. 2, 1942, Australians retake Kokoda



In 1942/43, German troops were unable to obtain victory in Stalingrad and eventually they were forced to surrender. In New Guinea, Australian troops had stopped the Japanese from taking New Guinea.

Bambi was the number 1 film in 1942. The most popular song in Australia was White Christmas.

1942-43 George P. Hibberd

People in Australia felt it was only time before victory would come. It was also the year George P Hibberd took the reins to become President of our Club.

Despite rumours at the time that meetings would change to fortnightly because of the War, President Hibberd held firm and kept the meetings to weekly. He felt that weekly meetings would ensure members remained close-knit.

During the year, membership grew from 48 to 53. Overall, there were fifty luncheons held. Despite the War, traditions such as members adopting the 4-way test in their business dealings and individual members fined at meetings if it was their birthday, continued.

It is interesting to note that when a member retired from the workforce, the Board could ask them to resign as they were no longer fulfilling their given classification in Rotary.



Given everyone felt confident the War would eventually end, President Hibberd held special monthly night meetings for members. The purpose of such meetings was to look at how the current social problems the community now experienced could be immediately addressed when the post war reconstruction begins.

During the year, President Hibberd had encouraged members to speak about their vocation at Club meetings and how the War was affecting their business.

Despite petrol rationing, the Club made every effort to ensure sick members received a visit from a member. President Hibberd even extended support to Apex by inviting members of the service club, to join our meetings given they had become so short on numbers because of the War. Those living in the Benevolent Home also received a visit and received tobacco - which was in short supply during the War years.



Internationally, letters to Rotarians overseas experiencing bombing continued. Likewise, the three Prisoners of War Fund continued with a donation of 156 pounds. Funds for the prisoners came from a Card Night which replaced the annual Xmas function.

The Essay Competition in schools continued: the topic this year was The Miracles of the Mediterranean. A new initiative, a Folio Competition, began during the year with the help of the Australian American Cooperation Movement. The first prize was 2 Pounds for the best Folio. The Club provided another two prizes of 1 Guinea. One small rural school was thrilled when awarded with one of the prizes.

Members ensured the annual party at the Toddler's Home continued. Furthermore, the shoe program for every child requiring shoes. At St Aiden's Orphanage, the Musical Program continued with the support of members.



Owen Williams, the enthusiastic chair of Community Service, functioned as Santa at State Schools and Hospitals during Xmas.

In all, members had raised 208 pounds for charities. Apart from the Prisoners of War Fund, local charities also benefited. Just a sample of recipients were the Mayor's Chinese Appeal, Bendigo Base Hospital and for Xmas Hampers.

