

Girls Life Brigade in Moree

By Captain Rita Birkett

"Click go the shears boys, click! click! click!" This sounds interesting, let us look in and see what is going on. Why! It's the First Moree (Aboriginal) Company of the Girls Life Brigade doing their physical training and enjoying it! The Girls Life Brigade meets every Monday night in the Church of England Parish Hall, and how smart they look in their uniforms!

For those who do not know, this is an interesting organization with headquarters in London. The Brigade motto is "To Save Life". How the girls look forward to this evening each week.

Let us look in at one evening programme.

The whistle blows calling the girls to attention, ready to fall in, in sections, with their own section leaders ready for roll call and inspection. Then follows figure marching, folk dancing and rhythmic.

Now for something less strenuous as there are badges to be earned. We separate into groups for badge work. At present we are doing badges for hygiene, knitting and needlework.



First Moree Girls Life Brigade being inspected by Mr. Preston Walker, conducted by Captain Franklin, of Gunnedah



Three Life Brigade Privates after the Church Parade

Then after a time of games which prove to be very exacting, the girls settle down for 15 minutes devotions before the Company again falls in and is dismissed.

There is keen competition as a pennant is presented each month to the section with the most points, and a shield at the end of the year.

The "Pioneers" are training to become Lance Corporals and a special training class is held for them each month.

Recently we were very privileged to have a visit from the girls and their leaders of the First Gunnedah Girls Life Brigade. These soon made themselves at home when they were billeted in the Scouts Hall for the weekend.

On the Saturday night Gunnedah gave a very fine display in the Methodist Memorial Hall, Moree, and joined with the First Moree Girls in competitive ball games which were more than thrilling! All combined at the Church on the Aborigines' Station on the Sunday morning for a Church Parade, and it was good to see the Church full on this occasion. To complete the weekend, the two Companies were inspected by the Board's Welfare Officer, Mr. Preston Walker, and later the parents of the Aboriginal girls provided morning tea in the Hall for everyone.