

SAINT

A job well done

The decontamination program at the Marrangaroo Army Depot is in its final stages and a most well managed and executed program it was too. Any early fears of the unknown came to nothing and the residents of Marrangaroo can sleep peacefully at night knowing there are no hidden nasties in their neighbourhood. But now we wonder what the government's intentions will be for the remainder of the site. The rehabilitation now nearing completion covered an area of some eight hectares but that's just a very small proportion of the total land area in the sprawling base. No doubt if the government feels the need there will be more decontamination programs in the future.

Meantime in the forest ..!

THEN there's the matter of the chemical warfare stocks that were machine gunned then burnt in the Newnes Forest area at the end of World War Two. That site is even shown on maps of the area. Months ago the Mercury reported on rumours that the Defence Department was seeking to purchase that area back from State Forests for some reason or other. We've heard nothing, either rumour or fact, since that time. Locals who regularly head into the bush on the Newnes Plateau have told the column that they're familiar with the site and the presence of the old rusting drums that once contained very unpleasant weapons of all out war.