

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION.

Circular Newsletter,
No. 11.

14th February, 1948.

Your untiring, hardworking news editor, Col. Doig, has at last "taken the knock" this month. How he manages to combine his work as General Secretary, member of two committees and General Unit Factotum and, at the same time, continue to keep his letters cheery and breezy, beats me. However, Col. we all appreciate your unselfish energy.

Our February meeting found another good turn-up of 27 members. Jack Denman was absent on a country audit for his firm - the Vacuum Oil Co. Mick Calcutt was missing too - Also something to do with books I understand! Main business of the evening was discussion on the welfare aspect of our association. Your General Committee had had a prior meeting and lughashed each other for over four hours. Their ideas were collated and placed before the meeting. A lively discussion followed, which resulted in the following being adopted -

A Committee of four be appointed, to be known as the Welfare Committee, their job being to deal with legatee and general welfare activities. The first two members so appointed hold office for 6 years, the second two for three years. Every 3 years two new members are appointed, the reason for this being that on every committee there will always be two old members from the previous committee. Retiring members are to be eligible for re-election.

In this connection, chaps, you will find enclosed a ballot paper. Please make a point of voting and returning your paper immediately to Col. Doig, McNeil Chambers, Barrack Street, Perth. As our future activities will undoubtedly be largely devoted to welfare and legatee work this is really important. Please therefore show your interest in what concerns us all by marking your paper in order of preference, i.e. place the figure 1. in front of your first choice, 2 in front of your second, etc. Please do not sign the ballot paper. Do it now - as soon as you finish this letter.

SYDNEY CUP SWEEP.

Hope you haven't forgotten this. Get stuck smartly into your cobbors and get the sheets filled and returned to - well you know who. They must be sent in by the 18th March. If you think you can fill another sheet don't hesitate to ask for one!

NEXT MEETING.

Will be held on 3rd March. It has been decided to move from our usual meeting place as we now clash with some weekly dance and bun fight which is hardly conducive to clear thinking and earnest debate! Although it has not yet been fixed you can easily find out our next rendezvous by enquiring from one of the committee members. Make it a good roll up, chaps. Attendances are not yet satisfactory. Remember it is your Association and the extent of your interest will determine its success or otherwise. Country members may perhaps feel that there is little they can do to help maintain interest - but there is. Send us a letter with news of yourselves and cobbors and general happenings in your area. Better still, send down suggestions on how you reckon this Association should be run. I repeat - it is your Association - and whether you are a metropolitan member or the sole representative in the Turkey Creek area, your news, views and suggestions are equally important to your executive here in Perth.

In town this month were Wendol Wilkie. Tom Crouch and Boyo Hewitt. Wendol graced the last meeting with his presence and appears to be as large and cheerful as ever. I have not

seen Tom personally but Doigie tells me he is looking very fit a doing well on his property at Manjimup. He is actually in town on business in connection with the Farmer's Union Conference. Boyo Hewitt is looking rather the lean, whippet type. He's practically a teetotaler now and can count his average daily consumption in quarts instead of gallons. He has invested his considerable fortune in a fourteen year old nag which, unfortunately, has as yet to win a race. Keep trying Boyo.

The combined efforts of all married members this month has resulted in only one addition to Australia's woefully insufficient population. To Mr. and Mrs. Reg. Harrington - a son. Congratulations, Reg - may his future be as bright as his father's beard was once black!

A very interesting letter was received this month from the Australian Consul in Dilli, Mr. H.D. White. The main points in his letter are as follows - Our Unit is very kindly remembered in Timor and contact has been made with many ex "criados" but afraid they don't remember names very well. If members are desirous of contacting ex criados it is advisable to supply the name they were known by their "criados" village and districts frequented during campaign.

The payment of head tax by individuals is not encouraged. However gifts to individuals would be appreciated. This angle has already been explored by Department of Army, but it is very hard to discriminate between deserving and undeserving cases. Tourists would be welcomed but accommodation is limited to Hotel Dilli (10 rooms), and Hotel Baucan (4 rooms), but administration has played ball and helped out any persons who have gone to Timor. Dilli of course is still wrecked. Transport is limited to R.A.A.F. Catalina for which permit is required from Air Board. Shipping is also bad, only one ship every three months. However there is a Tri-weekly Dutch Trader plying between Macassar, Koepany and Dilli. Any members returning would be well met by many staunch friends among both Portuguese and Natives. All graves of our members have been removed to Aust. War Cemetery Ambon.

Individual letters and State newsletters from the East are being regularly received. Lack of space does not permit detailed reports of their doings. Suffice it is to say that interest over there is keen, the boys are sticking together well, and they look forward to our newsletters, copies of which are sent to each State.

That's all for this month fellows. Come along, if you can, to the next meeting, fill your sweepshots and return your ballot papers pronto.

Cheerio all!

(JOE BURRIDGE).