

2/2. COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

Circular Newsletter No. 31.

October '49.

This letter practically amounts to a Royal Show Issue coming as it does on the heels of the big event. Quite a few of the lads were in the city last week for the Show and the R.S.L. Congress. It is good to see the old faces from the Country every now and again and swap experiences Town for Country.

We held our usual Monthly Meeting on 4th October, and had quite a good roll up with a few of the Country Lads attending, notably Mal Herbert, Vince Swann and Bill Rowan-Robinson. It was decided to hold another Ladies Night at Xmas Time, at a time and place to be arranged - please keep an eye on the Newsletter for further particulars. Dave Ritchie was elected to the Committee to fill the vacancy caused by Arthur Smith's resignation. I would like to take this opportunity of extolling the excellent work that Arthur has put into the Association in his capacity as committeeman, he has been a tower of strength to us and we will miss his presence keenly.

Mr. Colin McDonald who was Correspondent for the "London Times" in China for twenty five years then gave a most interesting lecture on his experiences and impressions in that Country which was enjoyed to the full by all present. To show just how much enrapt all were he spoke for two hours and we still wanted more and he was the centre of a buzzing heap of questioner's after the meeting closed and we were imbibing in a few liquors. I have been asked by the President to thank Mr. McDonald for his talk and also to thank "Rocky" Williams who made his visit possible and introduced him to the Association.

These monthly meetings are getting to be great nights and anybody who misses out is definitely the loser.

The next meeting will be held on 1st November, 1949, (Melbourne Cup Night) so be in it and enjoy a really good night with your old mates. I can guarantee that once you start coming you wont miss from then on as that is the impression that has been given me by chaps who have started to make a practice of attending in recent months. Mr. Keith Chisholm who worked with the Polish Underground Movement during the war. From reports, we have had Mr. Chisholm has some hair raising adventures to recount and quite a number of impressions of Poland to pass on. Another crack - ajack evening is already assured.

Now for a matter of current importance The Sweep! Please get those butts into me by Friday the 21st and make my job of completing the draw and generally getting the business cleaned up a little easier. Butts have been rolling in well but there are still plenty outstanding so as soon as you get this newsletter return those butts to me - C/- Department of Labour & National Service, 9 Barrack Street, Perth.

As you already know the Annual Reunion is to be held on 25th February, 1950, this is a Saturday Night and should suit everybody's convenience as Country Chaps consider that February is a better month for then to get away from the various seasonal work. Anybody wishing to make advance subscriptions to the Dinner can do so by remitting 10/- to me at the above Address.

Have seen quite a few of the boys from the bush in Town recently. Geo Smith and Norm Thornton were down from Denmark. Geo tells me he is contemplating matrimony at Xmas time. Norm who is a building contractor says he has a ton of work ahead of him in the Denmark area. Lew Thompson is another who was in to see me the other day. Lew is carrying a holding out of the vergin bush up

future. Bill Rowan-Robinson was down in the City for the R.S.L. Congress as a delegate for Bridgetown. Robbie is going very well on his Dairy farm in that area. Freddy Sparkman was in Perth for the Footy Final and is looking 100%. He hopes to get his long service leave around about Xmas and intends to spend it at Albany. Mal Herbert was down for the Royal Show and assures me that he is going well. Mal has asked me to correct the impression I gave you that he is a married man. He says this is not a fact and that he can't get his lasso on a lass yet. Sighted "Wendel" Wilkerson at the Show but didn't have time to extract any details from him, but he looked very fit to me.

Correspondence continues to roll in, mostly as a result of the sweep. Had a long and most amusing letter from Ray Aitken who is the local "Dominie" at Onslow. Ray is giving the fish whato! and reckons he is among the top Anglers now. He gave a most amusing account of the Local Race Meeting where he acted as Time Keeper. The main race was won by a steed named PRIMUS ridden by a cove named STOVE Ray says he backed the winner not because of the Association of ideas but because this Stove bloke seemed to be the cove to carry the Aitken millions owing to his ability to get away with manslaughter with the approbation of the Stewards. Ray is hopeful of moving to Carnarvon next year teaching school at the "Abo" mission conducted by the Church of Christ. Ray should be a full bottle on the various Biblical teachings after serving at Carnarvon especially as it comes hard on the heels of his previous efforts with the Salvation Army at Gosnells. Had a letter from Dick Pepper who conducts the local store cum Post Office at Moonyoonooka. Dick says it is quite a large business and keeps him very busy. Dick wishes to be remembered to all the gang. Joe Brand who has a block under the Soldier Settlement Scheme at Ogilvie, writes to say that he is going very well, is running over 1,000 sheep and had 400 acres under wheat this year. Says he saw Jack Spencer at the Northampton Show and Jack has a lead show about twenty miles from Northampton. Charlie Sadler writes from Wongan Hills to say that they were anxiously awaiting rain to top off the season up their way, I hope that ere this the moisture has found its way inland. Charlie Hopes to make the Reunion in February. Keith McEachern who is on the Light House at Cape Naturaliste suggests that we get a badge for the Association something like Crossed Tommy Guns over a Double Diamond and if that is a bit warlike a shark swallowing the Hammer and Sickle. The latter sounds interesting to me Keith. Keith has been down to the City to buy a car he tells me he will have to get something to shake himself out of the doldrums brought about by the work on a Light House.

Scotty Taylor writes from Bristol England to pass on his regards to all the gang and to say how much he appreciates the Newsletters and all the gossip about his old mates. Scotty is doing well in the Sports Business at Bristol and has to date avoided matrimonial entanglements. He and a friend just did a tour of the continent in a sports car, 2,000 miles in all (where did you get the juice Scotty?) taking in NICE CANES, MONTE CARLO Italy and the Alps. Says living in Europe is very dear and he wonders how the average "Frog" or "Itie" working bloke gets by. Scotty says there has not been a great deal of rebuilding of war damaged places in Bristol as yet, in fact the main Shopping Centre is still non-existent most of the shops being in the Suburban area. England has experienced a very mild Summer much along the Australian pattern according to Scotty and he says he is lapping it up. Thanks very much for your letter Scotty. Dont be afraid to drop me a line any time as I know the boys are always interested to hear of our overseas mates.

Here seems to be a good opportunity to put in a little plug about Subs. If you have not already remitted same, please send that "Oxford" in to either Alf Walsh or myself as soon as possible as we want to keep up our excellent result of previous years.

I will try and give you a few more Personalities to keep you abreast of your pals.

BAGLEY, L.A. Married man Address: 60 View Street, North Perth. Lew is a trainee Compositor with West Australian Newspapers and says he enjoys the work very much. Lew has filled out considerably since Army days, but looks very fit.

BOYLAND, G. Married man - with 1 child a girl. Address: 4 Eton Flats, Fairway, Nedlands. Geo is an Employment Officer with the Commonwealth Employment Service, at Fremantle. Geo is one of the Auditors for the Association this year.

CROSSING, W.A. better known as "Wack" still single. Address: 30 Thelma Street, South Perth. Still training as a Woolclasser. "Wack" has made a number of trips north with shearing teams to assist his training in Woolclassing and has done a bit of shearing to fill in the gaps.

DRAGE, W. Married - Address : Northampton. One of our big time farmers and Sheep breeders in which line he has had considerable success in show ring and sale yard. Bill has not enjoyed the best of health since he was demobbed but latest reports indicate a big improvement in that line.

FINKLESTEIN, Ralph. Married - Address : 232 Charles St., North Perth. Ralph has his own Furniture Factory at Tuart Hill on Corner of Wanneroo Road and Royal St., and is doing very well. Just recently a suite of furniture was sold by Foys for £480 which was made by "Finky".

HARDING J.F. Single - Address : C/- Hollywood Hospital, "Pop" is an orderly at Hollywood and has been there some considerable time now. He is as big as a bullock and looking extra well.

MERRITT G. Married (only recently to a Melbourne Lass) Address: "The Ranch" Balingup. Geo is another of the Dairy Farmers and reports reasonable progress. He was looking very well the last time I saw him and says he still plays an odd game of footy and cricket.

Well enough for now, so I will draw this epistle to a close. As usual a few reminders. - Don't forget next meeting on 1st November at Monash Club. Send in your Subs as soon as you can.

Cheerio for now,

(C.D. DOIG)
Hon. Editor.

P.S. SWEEP BUTTS - SEND IMMEDIATELY.