

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION.

CIRCULAR NEWSLETTER NO. 35.

February, 1950.

I suppose all and sundry are back at the dull grind again after the Xmas and New Year holidays. I hope that the conviviality of the Festive Season did not make it too tough for you all to get back into harness and do the right thing by the Boss. One thing nobody can complain that the cold weather ruined their thirst as old King Sol has been doing his damndest to turn this fair land into a Sahara.

Well its a case of cut the cackle and get down to cases as there is quite a bit to chronicle since last letter. Firstly it is with regret we have to tell of the death of one of our members in the person of Jim Waller who was killed by accident at Wyalkatchem on 27th January. I am afraid I have no particulars of how the accident happened, but our very sincere condolences go out to the widow and child of our bereaved member.

There has been quite an influx of country people in town lately mostly as a result of Country Week Cricket. Bob Palmer and Arthur Marshall were both at our last meeting and Alf Hillman was at the Send-Off to Arch Campbell. Peter Barden was also down and I believe Wendel Wilkie has been sighted. We are always pleased to see any of our country members when they come to town and it is extra good when they can make it for a meeting.

Taking things in sequence the first of the functions held by the Associations since last month was a welcome - cum-send-off to Arch Campbell who has been holidaying back in the Golden West. This was a hastily arranged function as we did not know till the last minute when Arch would be in the City, but quite a good roll up eventuated and although I wasn't able to be present I believe a good time was had by all. It is rumoured that your President was in top form with the "Dits".

Next function was the usual monthly meeting on the 7th February, when Mr. Frank Payne showed colour films of his recent tour of England and the Continent. These films which ran for approximately one and a Half hours were excellent and believe me most educational. Our sincere thanks to Mr. Payne and his Assistant Mr. Ward for coming along and giving us a really good evenings entertainment. We had practically a record roll up of 35. This meeting was also in the nature of a send off to Ron Dook who is leaving the State to take up Hostel Management among the Migrant Workers. Ron is firstly to do a school in Sydney where he will be staying with Ray Cole, then just were he will be domiciled is in the lap of the Gods. Mr. Burfidge in a bright little speech eulogized the work of Ron since he came to Perth and said how sorry we all were to be losing his competent services. We all wish Ron success in his new sphere of activities.

We have a couple of our members in hospital at the moment, Sid Jarvis and Mal Herbert, so if any of you have an hour to spare slip out to Hollywood and add to the cheer up society. Jerry Haire and Jack Spencer are the official visiting party for this month.

The Annual Reunion on Saturday the 25th February is looming up rapidly and looks like being the best ever. Answers to the questionnaire have been rolling in quite well although there are still quite a number to come forward. But whether you have sent in your answer or not don't be afraid to roll-up and make this the best Reunion yet. The arrangements are all in hand and no stone is being left unturned to make the evening a cracker jack. Don't forget the Venue Monash House Cnr. King and Hay Sts. Perth, Kegs will be tapped at 7p.m. so come early and avoid the rush.

Don't forget the Units first Commemoration Day on Sunday 26th February at our Memorial Drive at a Spot Marked by the Unit Flag at 3p.m. and then march to a position where a short service conducted by our President will be held and then march through the Memorial Trees and back to the assembly point. You are all asked to make a special effort to be in attendance on this day which is immediately following the Reunion.

The March meeting will be held as usual at Monash Club on the 7th. We have arranged for Mr. F.W.E. Tydeman to give an address to us that evening. People who have heard this address say that it is one out of the bag. Mr. Tydeman who is a harbour Engineer was in Bombay during the War when the Harbour was completely wrecked by the blowing up of several Ammunition Ships and his experiences in rescue and getting the Harbour working again make a great story and as he is a most accomplished speaker you will be in for a treat if you attend.

The Smailes Poem after many vicissitudes, has at a long last come to hand and those who have made advance subscriptions for same, should get their copies in a few days. This publication is really well done and a credit to the Printer. The Poem will be on sale at the Reunion and anyone desiring a copy may obtain one there if you can't make the Reunion just send in that Slip I sent out with the last Newsletter and your 2/- per copy. and I will send you one as soon as possible. Advance Sales have been quite heavy so send in early if you wish to avoid disappointment.

As mentioned earlier some of our members have been down to Country Week and Arthur Marshall and Bob Palmer have met with quite a bit of success. "Marsh" is playing with Harvey-Brunswick and leads their aggregate and averages with the bat and has obtained a lot of wickets. Arthur was picked to represent Country versus Town and made a most attractive 13 runs. Bob Palmer was a Century maker one day, playing for Busselton and has made handy scores in all games. It is good to see that some of our members can still hold their own in their chosen sport. By the way if any of you country folk are in town and are keen on tennis, contact Dave Ritchie at the Don Clothing Co. in William Street, and he will see you fixed for a game at his club.

The Treasurer has asked me to tell you that quite a few Subscriptions are outstanding for this year and he would appreciate it greatly if you could remit same at an early date.

Have only had a few letters in the last month but all is grist to the Mill. Kev. Curran writes from Victoria to say that he is nicely settled in his home and going quite well. He still harbours hopes of playing big footy again next year as his jaw is mending nicely. We all hope to see Kev in W.A. again one of these days. Dick Geere writes from Adelaide where he is in the Union Bank. Dick has not been enjoying the best of health having developed some heart trouble as result of war service and has been off work for a spell. Dick just completed a tour of the Gulf Country in S.A. and thoroughly recommends this trip to anyone who is in a position to take it. Dud Tapper writes from S.A. and wishes to be remembered to all the gang. Dud's Address is: Cnr. Collingwood and Cedar Aves., Flinders Park. S.A. Dud is a bricklayer nowadays and says there is no shortage of work in his line. Dud's letter comprised a brief resume of the various crimes now rampant in S.A.

Bill Drage sends a brief note too, says he will be down to the Reunion with Bruss Fagg and reckons that anybody who gets two drinks to his one will be going some. Carrie Turner says he will not be able to make the Reunion this year as the Horse Stud business keeps him particularly busy at this time of the year. Clarrie has met a few of the lads who have been down his way, including Alf Hillman, Mal Nichols and his wife and Mick Morgan and his wife. Reg Harrington sends a brief note to say he hopes to make the dinner, but it will be a bit of a race with the Stork. Reg has apparently had a good crop and had pulled

off about 4,000 bags with still 200 acres to harvest. Not bad pickings Reg, at the present price of wheat.

That completes the correspondence for this month, so toll plenty into me for next Newsletter. This correspondence from members is the meat for circulation as all the gang are keen to hear of their mates.

The usual few reminders just to complete this Newsletter - Don't forget the Reunion on 25th February (Saturday), at Monash House. and the Commemoration on Sunday on 26th Feb. at Kings Park. Come to the March meeting on 7th and hear Mr. Lydeman speak and drag along any of unit that you run into. Lastly if you want a Poem, write in immediately.

Cheerio to next month.

(C.D. DOIG.)  
Hon. Editor.