

2/2 COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

Circular Newsletter - No.34.

January, 1950.

In the words of Fitzpatrick of Travelogue fame "It is with regret we say farewell to 1949" and with feelings of expectancy we greet 1950. We have every reason to look forward to another year of progress within the Association and hope that we can continue to render effective service to members as the years roll by. I think that 1949 will be a year we will look back upon with pride and say to ourselves that that was the year in which we left the swaddling stage and first placed our foot on the ladder of progress in every sphere of our activities.

Our Xmas party at Mr. Tom Murray's home passed off most pleasantly after we had straightened out the beer position which was made a trifle awkward by the Brewery Short delivering to the tune of 20 gallons. Approximately 80 persons attended and voted it an excellent evening as usual Keoghs supplied a tasty supper and the musicians who were teed up by Mick Morgan did a marvelous job and our thanks go out to them for their efforts. Mr. Burrige thanked Mr. Murray for his hospitality and presented him with a propelling pencil suitably inscribed for his efforts over a long period on behalf of the Association.

The January meeting was held as usual on 3rd and although attendance was slightly less owing to holidays a good roll up under the circumstances was present and we listened intently while Mr. Max Shean gave us his experiences in Midget Submarines during the war. This talk was again most enlightening and interesting and we have to thank Mr. Shean for coming along and also Keith Hayes for introducing him to the Association. The Committee of the Perth Sub-Branch R.S.L. were also present and their President Mr. Mitchell thanked the Association for their kindness for inviting them to be present.

Don't forget the February meeting to be held at Monash Club on 7th. This promises to be a most interesting meeting as we are endeavouring to arrange for Mr. F.A. PAYNE, who has recently toured England and the Continent, to address us on his experiences while touring these interesting areas, Mr. Payne has taken a large amount of coloured film of his trip and these will be shown in conjunction with the address. We are indebted to Fred Napier for introducing Mr. Payne to the Association. I ask you to make a special effort to attend this meeting and so make a respectable crowd to listen to this address.

Now for a matter which should be starting to excite your attention about now. The Annual Reunion to be held Monash House Saturday 25th February, 1950. Having changed the date from Royal Show week to fit in with country requests and arranging for the function to be held on a Saturday Night in a Central location, we anticipate a vastly increased attendance this year. To try and establish a figure on which to cater, a questionnaire is included in this Newsletter which you are requested to fill in and return to me C/- Department of Labour and National Service, 9 Barrack Street as soon as possible. In fact, you should know by now whether it is your intention of attending, so fill it in and return it by return mail and give us poor hard working souls who have to arrange all these matters a break for once. If you wish to make an advance subscription send it in with this questionnaire. You are asked to make all possible efforts to attend and made this Reunion the best ever.

Another matter which has been outstanding for a long while has at last reached finality and that is the Smailes Poem. Copies will be on sale at the Annual Reunion and anyone desiring a copy are requested to fill in the other portion of the questionnaire enclosed with this letter. All persons who have already ordered

poems will have them forwarded to their addresses as soon as possible. The price is two shillings including postage. The publication will be really good and is suitably illustrated with small cartoons and printed on good quality paper and will provide a really nice souvenir. We have to apologise for the delay in producing this publication but believe me some of the obstacles took a considerable amount of overcoming.

Have to record a couple of Births for the month and it is the Sapper Section which have completed the Derby. Jerry Green is the proud father of a boy and Bill also the owner of a boy. Congrats to you both. We toasted Bill at the last meeting, Gerry its a pity you weren't there too as we could have wet the lads head in good style.

Did not notice many of the country folk in town over the holiday period but did see Ernie Dinwoodie who has been holidaying in the South West and Great Southern from Kalgoorlie Ernie is looking really well but says being a married man with 3 children youngest 5½ months keeps him tied down. Jack Denman, who is now Vacuum Oil Co. representative at Wyalkatchem, was also in town, says he sees quite a bit of Wendel Wilkie who is doing very well on the land up his way. Jack had just been for a tour of the South West, but says he did not see any of the lads apart from Merv Cash and Gerry McKenzie. Merv is still battling along on the Cow Farm and Gerry is the successful butcher type at Margaret River. Don Turton was in town over Xmas and says the season has not treated him too badly, incidentally Ernie Bingham is now working with Don at West Pingelly. Arch Campbell has arrived in W.A. from Victoria. I saw him when he arrived and he is looking extra fit and as usual leaping out of his skin. Arch is over here till about the end of the month and I hope to see more of him and give you further news of Victoria in the next news letter.

There has been a general exodus of city folk to the various holiday resorts during the holiday season. Jerry Haire and wife are at Garden Island. Col. Hodson went visiting Ernie Bingham at West Pingelly and Joe Poynton weekendng at Yanchip.

Had a brief note from Bert Tobin in Victoria in which he tells me of the recent get together in that State. A new set of office bearers were elected and the enthusiasm augurs well for the future. Bernie Callinan is President Jack Servante and Bruce McLaren vice Presidents Arch Campbell, Secretary. Bert Tobin, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer. A very nice line up if I may say so. Our best wishes to our Victorian comrades for a successful year.

Another long newsletter from Jack Hartley in N.S.W. Jack continues to turn out the news to all the Walers with regularity. The N.S.W. branch have just had their reunion and from what Jack says it was a really good turn with plenty of the fluid that cheers. Unfortunately Jack O'Brien could not attend having been hospitalised the previous day with a re-occurrence of his old complaint. Our hopes for a speedy recovery Jack. The roll up included Gerry Maley, Bob Field, Ray Cole, Allan Tuby, Allan Stewart, Johnny Went, Tom Martin, Bill Coker, Keith Wilson, "Drop" Hilliard, Curly O'Neill, Charley Anderson, Ron Trengrove, Eric Herd, Doc Gallard, Bill Bennett, Micky Mannix, Jack Iles, Mal Lindsay and Dutchy Holland who is in Canberra doing a Rehabilitation Course in painting and who says he often runs in to Dave Dexter and Arthur Hirst. Dave is in the Department of External Affairs which means he is a diplomat who has not yet won his spats. The Dexter is a chronic sufferer from writers cramp (at least I conclude that is the trouble, as I haven't had a letter for an age.)

Jack Hartley says that Allan Stewart has now fully recovered from his broken leg and was recently married. Micky Devlin is another who has entered the bonds recently. "Icky" Iles is doing a plumbing course and in his spare time building himself a home at Sutherland. Ron Trengrove switching his

vocation from Bricklayer to Commercial Traveller. Curly O'Neill doing well with his reporting and having quite a few feature articles printed. Andy Beveridge was in Sydney recently and looking as big as the side of a house. Ross Smith who is in the Maitland Area, says he was a bit lucky in the recent floods leaving only a foot of water in his house, and didn't lose any furniture. Charlie Anderson qualifies as the champion beer drinker after his effort at the Reunion, polishing off the last jug at one draught. I believe the after effects were quite musical. That about completes the N.S.W. news for which I duly thank you Jack keep it coming as I know the lads in the West are eager and anxious to receive news of all the gang in your neck of the Woods.

Had a letter from Reg Harrington to wish everybody the best for the Festive Season. Reg says he was wearing a couple of shiners which he acquired keeping wickets at cricket, at least that is his story and I believe it!!!

That concludes my news for this month and I will be with you next month with all the News and Views in the meantime fill in those questionnaires and bring them back to me as soon as you can and please make every effort to be present at the February meeting on the 7th.

Cheerio,

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