

March, 1950.

Editorial:

The question of nomination and election of the Executive Committee of our Association is a difficult one. Originally the method was to call for nominations from all members throughout the State and a State-wide ballot was then held for the election.

For two reasons this system was found to be impracticable and the method now used is for the nomination and election of all candidates to be made at the Annual General Meeting. The two reasons which prompted this alteration in procedure are these:-

Firstly, it was found that country members would, more often than not, nominate a member who for various reasons found he was unable to accept his nomination. This obviously caused endless difficulties which could not be overcome.

Secondly, and this is most important, it turned out that after the enormous clerical difficulties which are necessitous to a State-wide ballot, the response from country members was exceedingly poor. In other words, it is felt that the very small number of country members who wish to exercise their prerogative to vote is not commensurate with the amount of cumbersome detail involved.

The purpose of this Editorial is to emphasise to country members and those who are unable to attend meetings, that it is not intended in any way to interfere with any member's democratic right to vote, but rather to point out the difficulties entailed in any other system than the one suggested.

Any system however which prohibits a 100% vote is distasteful to us all, and perhaps the best way to overcome this contentious point would be for a state-wide ballot to be held to determine the best manner in which elections are to be held in the future.

Opinions are asked for from all members, so all of you who hold definite views please write in to the Secretary, or make certain to attend an Annual Meeting (General) which this year is to be held on Tuesday 6th June.

(J.C. BURRIDGE).

Annual Reunion:

This function was held as scheduled on 25th February, and a really good roll-up of over 80 took part in what has been described by those present as one of the best Reunions to date. The country folk came along in improving numbers and from parts as far distant as Northampton, Denmark and Salmon Gums, so you will see the country folk travelled great distances to be in the "Swim thro Manash House". Keoghs did their usual excellent job in catering and our thanks are due to them for their continued good efforts. The Souvenir Menus again attracted great attention and generally you will see the function proved to be all that was asked of it. Noticed among the country visitors were Bill Drage and Bruss Fagg from Northampton, Ted Monk from Latham, Jack Fowler from Wongan Hills, Jack Denman from Wyalkatchem, Reg Harrington from Wyening, Lew Thompson from Mooliabeenie, Don Hudson from Collie, Bert Burges from Broomehill, Norm Thornton and Geo Smith from Denmark, Vince Swann from Salmon Gums, Tom Crouch from Manjimup and Don Turton from West Pingelly. Also present were our three

honourary members - Tom Murray, Harry Foster and Fred Gardiner, Mr. McMaugh and Mr. Campbell representing 2/16 Battalion, Mr. Harry Holder Secretary, Perth Sub-Branch R.S.E., Doug Burton Photographer of Daily News, who took the Flashlight of those present and our old friend Dave Ross of Dilly fame. The party continued on the Esplanade until about 5.30a.m. so all had a good time, I hope!!

Commemoration Service :

The Service was held on Sunday 26th February, at our memorial Trees in Kings Park, and I am sorry to say the roll up was far below expectations, only about 30 members and a similar number of relatives were present and I must take this opportunity of castigating those who did not make the effort to be present. After all this service was inaugurated to give Unit Members a chance once a year to honour their war dead and it is asking very little of you to give part of one Sunday Afternoon a year to do homage to the men of your unit who gave their lives.

The service was brief but impressive, Mr. Burridge gave a very fine address then called for two minutes silence while he read the names of the fallen, then those assembled marched through the Avenue at eyes right after which the parade was broken off. We can only hope that next year a muster equal to the significance of the occasion is at Kings Park to pay their respects.

Honour Roll:

Thanks to the efforts of Arthur Smith the original Proposer, Colin Hodson who drew the plan, Don Murray who sold the idea to his employer Mr. Laurie Duffy of the Premier Engineering Works, the Honour Roll is now an accomplished fact and what a job!! Words fail me to describe the standard of workmanship displayed in this unique plaque. Sufficient to say that it is executed in Statue Bronze with raised lettering and would bear comparison with any similar job any where in the world. Our Sincere thanks are extended to all who have had anything to do with the provision of our Honour Roll. The Roll will hang in Monash Club where our monthly meetings are now held.

Meetings:

The March meeting was held as usual at Monash Club on the 7th. The guest speaker for the evening was Mr. F.W.E. Tydeman Engineer in charge of Harbours and Rivers in W.A. Mr. Tydeman was Engineer in Charge of Bombay Harbour during the war when a Ship carrying a huge tonnage of Explosives blew up and completely devastated all other shipping in the harbour and annihilated the waterside itself. Mr. Tydeman told us of the wreckage that took place and also the terrific job of salvage and rebuilding required to refit the harbour for use again. The task was completed in 6 months. I would need the superlatives of a Hollywood picture publicist to do justice to the subject so sufficient to say that those present were amazed at the facts, figures and the general magnitude of the task as it was unfolded to us. Those who missed really dipped out on a great talk.

The April Meeting will be held at Monash Club on 4th and again we have someone lined up to give you a talk. No decision has been made yet as to who will be speaking but I can assure you that a really good talk will be put on so you are asked to roll up in large numbers to hear this speaker.

In Hospital:

During the month quite a few of the lads have been in hospital. Mal Herbert is still in Hollywood with a bad shoulder which is responding slowly to treatment and he expects to be in

hospital for a few more weeks yet. Frank Freestone was in Hollywood for a couple of weeks, but has now been discharged and we hope has completely recovered his health. Roy Watson has been an inmate of Collie Hospital with a broken collar bone and I believe is progressing favourably.

Births:

The stork has been on his rounds again, and have to record births to : Mr and Mrs. Geo. Merritt a son, in January. and to Reg and Mrs. Harrington a girl early in February. Our congratulations to both our proud poppas.

Smailes Poem:

We still have quite a few Poems on hand and if you desire one please send your 2/- to me as soon as possible as we wish to clean them up, and balance the books. I think there should be plenty to go around, but you are advised to get in early and so avoid being disappointed.

Photos of Annual Reunion:

If you desire a Photo of the Annual "Do" we have a few of these at 3/- each so send in the dough and I'll do my best to oblige.

Unit Flag:

Somebody kindly souvenered this from the Annual Reunion. Anybody having any clues to it's whereabouts are kindly asked to let me know as we will be requiring same for Anzac Day, and it's early return would be appreciated.

Anzac Day:

You are asked to keep this day in mind and be in the March with the lads. The usual small celebration will take place after the march so try and make this year's muster a bumper.

Correspondence:

Only a few letters this month from local sources so will deal with those first. Bobby Burns writes from Carlisle regretting missing the Annual Reunion also says that he wishes he could make the Monthly meetings, but working at Midland Sale-yards make this impossible. Bob Smyth writes from Kellerberrin where he has been representing Vacuum Oil Co. Bob intends leaving Vacuum and he and a friend are starting out on their own representing sundry firms in the North West. He is firstly going to Melbourne to make further contacts and try and arrange further agencies for his new firm. We wish him all the success possible in his new venture. Ron Sprigg writes from Albany also regretting his inability to attend the Reunion, but apparently he just couldn't work the roster to suit him this year. Said he saw Stan King at Narrogin the other day on his way back to Lake Grace. Fred Sparkman has been spending his Long Service Leave at Albany and Ron says he hasn't changed any by all accounts. That completes the local mail so whip me in a bit more for next month.

Interstate News:

Alex Boast writes from Clayton in Victoria to say he has just moved into a new home (Lucky Man) and also that he is the proud parent of a Son, born 9th January. Alex says he hasn't sighted many of the lads in Victoria, but did see Ron Eastick one day but didn't have time for any light conversation. A nice long letter from Jack O'Brien from Sydney. Jack has been doing it tough in the health stakes and has been off the daily toil for about 6 months. Jack says the next big "do" in N.S.W. is planned for Anzac Day and he has high hopes of something out of the ordinary this year. "The Bosun" tells me that the Armoured Divvy's Club is taking shape gradually and will be a double blessing when

in working order as the grog position in Sydney is disgusting and membership of a Club is a prerequisite of getting a few drinks at a reasonable hour. Jack says our N.S.W. Secretary, Jack Hartley has embarked on a long range plan of home building at Berowra about 30 miles from Sydney and is at present domiciled in a tent, and Jack is assisting him with the Secretarial duties. "The Bosun" wishes to be kindly remembered to all the gang and we wish him the speediest of recoveries and hope one of these fine days we will see his happy face over here in the Golden West.

Had a newsletter from Arch Campbell in Victoria. Glad to see Arch and Co. are on the job with Newsletters again, as they are a great source of news to the gang. Arch was in the throes of organising a small get-together to welcome Barry Lawrence to Victoria. Barry was over at Seymour doing an Army School. Here is some news of the lads in Victoria: "Smash" Hodgson was in Heidelberg suffering from a trifle of overwork which knowing "Smash" i can quite understand. Terry Paull is with the Railway at Spencer St. Bert King now resident at Northcote. "Boy" Coates in Sea Lake working as Telephone Linesman. Jack Servante had been on a business trip to Sydney. Gerry Maley now living in Melbourne Alf Harper at Geelong, Harry Bickerton at Travalgon and both were down in Melbourne for their Annual Meeting as was Ken Monk from Poowong West.

Peter Mantle our Bombay Correspondent sends his regards to the gang and suggests we try out the new Government for the Timor Subsistence. Believe me Peter we are well into them already. Peter tells of a shopping expedition at the Fruit Section of the Crawford Market where he says fruit is amazingly dear especially imported Australian Apples and such like. Peter's story of the month: Chap was telling a friend " I had a terrible fight with my wife last night, but in the end she came crawling to me on her hands and knees --- saying 'come out from under that bed you damned coward'".

Jack Stafford has been in Perth on a trip from Sydney and has fallen away from a spring cart to a waggon. Jack was in the "Bung" business for quite awhile but has given it away and having a holiday now.

Enough for now, so cheerio till next month with the reminder to be present at Monash Club on 4th April, and don't forget to order those Poems and Photos if you want same.

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