

27th June, 1950.

Editorial

Timor Subsistence

The battle for Subsistence payment while the Unit operated in Timor is still well and truly on and we are now reaching a fully conclusive stage of a definite yes or no to our demands. You have probably noticed in the Press recently that a Board comprising Mr. Justice Dixon, Lieut General Sir Stanley Savidge and Major W.G. Fisher has been appointed by the Federal Government to enquire into subsistence payments to ex.P.O.Ws. This Board is now meeting in Sydney and representations on behalf of our Association were made to it by Mr. Jack Hartley and Mr. Alan Tuby for our case to be heard in conjunction. The Board declined to hear our case as they did not consider that it came within the terms of reference.

To overcome the above impasse we are now approaching members of Parliament to have the Terms of Reference broadened to include such cases as ours. With a promise of assistance from such organisations as the Eighth Division Association and Ex.P.O.W and Relatives Association we hope to eventually gain our aims and have subsistence paid to members for the period they served in Timor.

Having already battled our case to the bitter end with the previous Federal Government to no avail our hopes rest entirely on the present Government, as if they say nay, we can consider the fight lost. But we have only just begun to work on the present occupants of the Treasury Benches and we can consider that our chances of eventual success to be quite good.

If a payment of subsistence is made to ex P.O.Ws. then our case should be strengthened considerably as we fought on and the subsistence of a fighting unit should be of even greater importance than the subsistence of P.O.W.

Members can rest assured that all that can be done is being done to bring this matter to a successful conclusion. We have most able representation in Sydney, where the matter is being thrashed out, in Jack Harley who has the case well in hand. We in W.A. have already approached the Treasurer Hon. A.W. Fadden and Mr. L. Hamilton M.H.R. and as we cannot be heard personally it is our intention to approach Mrs L. Riches, president of W.A. P.O.W. and Relatives Association to work on our case as well as her own.

The near future should tell us whether this very just claim is to be met or whether we will have to abandon the fight as hopeless.

(C.D. Doig).
Hon. Editor.

Meeting Mentions

The Annual General Meeting was held at Monash Club on 4th June, and a very respectable roll up occurred. In the absence of your President Mr. J.C. Burridge who is still in Singapore, Mr. Don Murray occupied the chair. The Presentation of Reports and the Financial Statement show the Association to be in a thriving position and much progress was made during the year. These reports are included in this Newsletter so they will save me a recapitulation of their contents.

The Election of Officers for the ensuing year took place and the following were elected. President Mr. J.C. Burridge. Vice President Mr. G. Boyland, General Secretary Mr. C.D. Doig. State Secretary Mr. R. Kirkwood, Treasurer Mr. A. Walsh, Auditors:- Messrs. J. Carey and J. Haire, Committee: Messrs. W. Epps, H. Calcutt, K. Hayes, D. Ritchie, F. Napier, D. Murray and F. Freestone. I think you will agree that your affairs are in good hands for the ensuing year.

Two matters have been referred to the R.S.L. for consideration. The first being the Sale of Lottery Tickets. The meeting considered that this should be done by incapacitated Soldiers or Civilians and that the present licences should be withdrawn and reissued to these particular types. The second matter concerned housing and the withdrawal by the Housing Commission of their Draughtsman and Inspectors of their services to War Service Homes, thus forcing people to go to Architects and pay 6% of the contract price for this service when it could be done much more cheaply by the Commissions staff.

The Annual Meeting did your Editor, Mr. Doig the signal honour of electing him their first life member.

The next meeting will be held at Monash Club on 4th July, and Mr. Bob Holmes has been teed up to speak to us. Mr. Holmes was a Wing Commander in the R.A.F. and served for some time in the Russian Sphere of Activities, his talk should be most interesting and enlightening as that spere is a closed book to most of us. Roll up lads and hear a good speaker on an interesting subject.

Committee Comment The Committee met under its reconstitution and many matters affecting the future of the Association were discussed. Four sub-committees within the Committee were formed to ease the burden of work on individuals and also to expedite business. These comprise: Finance Messrs. Burrige, Walsh and Calcutt. Social: Messrs. Kirkwood, Napier and Ritchie. Editorial: Messrs. Doig Epps and Hayes. Meetings and Agenda: Messrs. Burrige, Boyland and Kirkwood.

It was decided to run a Sweep on the Melbourne Cup along similar lines to last year and tickets will be issued with the July Newsletter.

Ways and means of pruning expenditure were discussed and members can be assured that the committee is fully alive to the necessity to conserve funds.

The committee is trying to devise ways and means to increase attendances at meetings and it was decided to appeal to all the chaps who attend regularly to try to bring along another member who has not been in the habit of attending regularly. In this matter I appeal to all members to try and get along to meetings and show your interest in the Association. If you know of anyone who has not been to a meeting for sometime take him by the hand and bring him along, in this way we will increase our attendances to something like their true proportion.

Stork Stakes Can only record one birth since the last Newsletter. Tony Bowers is the proud papa of a bouncing girl. Congratulations Tony.

Hors de Combat Charlie King met with a nasty accident near Williams. Apparently he ran into or was run into by a truck capsising his car and severing his arm. He was rushed to the Narrogin District Hospital and latest reports are favourable.

Dave Ritchie is still hobbling around on crutches and does not yet know the outcome of his Smashed Ankle. At present he is out of hospital, but it is still possible that he may have to return there again.

Gordon Holmes is in Hollywood for a general check up of his nervous system and would like any visitors he can, to see him.

Correspondents' Chronicles A letter from Stan Payne to say he now has a farm at Nukarni under Soldier Settlement and going along quite well. Thanks Stan for the Donation. Bert Burges writes to

say that he appreciates all that is being done in the City for the Association. Bert has just about finished seeding and says the season at Broomehill has opened up well. Alf Hillman is another correspondent and a very worthy one too, as the letter included a fat donation for the Association's funds. Alf has been in the throes of building a new Golf Course at Broomehill and has had the satisfaction of being made a life member of the club for which he has done so much. Thanks a million for the donation Alf. Jim Smailes wrote a long letter from Kalgoorlie to say that he is progressing more than favourably with his course in Mining. He won a small scholarship last year and is generally doing well in his course. Jim says Jack Sheeham still going OK. also Les. Glasson.

Tony Bowers was in town during the month and reports progress with his Timber Mill at Kojonup. Says its hard graft but the results to date are excellent and he hopes to be among the Timber Barons in the near future. Geo Merritt was also a visitor he is a very proud poppa and says the dairy business at Balingup is very nice thank you. He was in town to try and get a new car.

Interstate Items: A letter from Jack Hartley telling of the passing of our Dear Old Bosun Jack O'Brien. Jack had been a patient sufferer for some time and Jack says his courage to the end was typical of Jack O'Brien. Jack Hartley informs me that they are erecting a Headstone to his memory and asks if we would like to assist in this matter. I don't think that any person in our Unit did not love Jack O'Brien and he certainly was the greatest personality that I had the pleasure to know during the war. I would be most pleased to pass on to Jack Hartley any donations anyone cares to send me for this work. I appeal to you all to send in some small amount to make this a truly representative memorial to one of natures worthiest gentlemen. Jack also gave quite a bit of the information that is contained in the Editorial on Timor Subsistence.

Had a long letter and a Newsletter from Arch Campbell. Arch is really putting life into the Association in Victoria and I'm sure results will come of it in the very near future. They had a really strong roll up to the Anzac Day celebrations in Victoria. Rolf Baldwin was unable to make the trip as he had to take the parade at Geelong College. Some new faces were there including Geo. Veitch, G. Humphrey, Ken Monk, W. Mountford, Ten Mulcahy, Gerry O'Toole, Terry Paull, D. Nolan, W. Roger-Davidson, W. Tucker, W. Sharp, W. Weppner, H. Bacho, J. Briggs, J. Benson, Theo Adams, Geo Coulson, J. Ellwood and G. Robinson, so you will see the gang are rallying around. Don Thomas is Secretary of the Fern Tree Gully Cycling Club good on you "Combined Ops"!

Arch is hopeful of many such gatherings before the year is out.

Had a letter from Kev Curran telling me of all his strife this year at Hawthorn Football Club. He thanks the crowd for rallying round him in such solid fashion and says he was the victim of a false evidence in his first case and the umpire took a sitting shot at him. Never mind Kev you have a lot of football in front of you yet and you will win through in the end. Thank you for your good wishes to all the gang.

Have not heard from my Bombay Correspondent for a couple of months. Peter Mantle must be pretty busy with his job in Bombay.

Your subs for the current year are now due and I will be only too pleased to receive them on behalf of the Treasurer.

Paste this in your Hat

That next meeting at Monash Club on the Glorious Fourth of July is going to be a crackerjack, be in it, it will do you good.

If you have any addresses of next to kin of deceased Comrades, I would be only too glad to get them as we are compiling a list of same.

Dont forget if you can afford a small donation to the Jack O'Brien Memorial Appeal doesn't matter how small I'll be pleased to pass it to Jack Hartley on your behalf.

City members are asked to do their very best to bring along those recalcitrant members to meetings and start them forming a habit of attending.

That Sweep is looming up again, start looking around to see where you can place an extra book of tickets and so swell our funds.

This Months Best

A young Lieut joined an Indian Regiment and went to meet his Colonel.

"Whats your name?" Asks the Colonel.

"Cholmondley Sir" Answers the Lieut.

"Any relation of Cholmondley of the 62nd".

"Son, Sir".

"Delightful, Married Cholmondley?"

"Yes Sir, my wife was a Miss Falkingham".

"Oh indeed - Falkingham - any relation of Falkingham of the 65th?"

"Daughter, Sir".

"Splendid. Have you brought your wife with you to India".

"Yes Sir, but just now she's in her bedroom with cramp."

"What NOT Cramp of the 73rd"!!

P.S. - Sorry that this letter has not the usual embellishments, but our technical man K. Hayes is at Kalgoorlie and we have to revert to the old form for this month.