

July, 1950.



"A Friend in Need ---- "

When you reluctantly shed the warm blankets this cold weather and stagger bleary eyed to the bathroom to perform the morning ablutions, have you stopped to think how well off you are? Have you ever given a thought to the fact that you possess a healthy, well fed body with the usual three meals a day and the aforesaid warm bed?

Then again have you ever spared a thought for the less fortunate of your friends who are not so well off as you are? Have you ever gotten around to thinking how can I, who have so much in life give a helping hand to my friends who are not so fortunately placed?

If you have never posed these questions to yourself, then what about the next time you look at that handsome visage in the shaving mirror asking yourself the foregoing questions and trying to provide the answers.

In an Association such as ours, the "Friend in need is a Friend indeed" can be used to great advantage to assist chaps who are less advantageously placed than perhaps you or I. A development of the Cooperative theme is an essential prerequisite of success.

We stuck together through thick and thin during the war years and now the same ability to stick by your friends and lend the helping hand where necessary, is still highly desirable.

The Association has members who are not so well placed either physically or financially as some others, and we can if we think cooperatively assist these chaps in quite a number of ways.

If you have knowledge of anybody who is in trouble then let the Association know the details and then we can start the ball rolling to render assistance. //

We are a very diverse bunch as far as vocations go, having Carpenters, Bricklayers, Plumbers, and the whole gammit of the various trades represented, so you will see if we proceed to club together, there are not any hurdles we cannot negotiate when it comes to lending the helping hand to any deserving case.

If you earnestly give the foregoing your consideration you will see how much is to be gained by all of us in our endeavours.

From time to time calls will go out for help to some of our members and if you think along the lines suggested, I dont think you will be backward in coming to our aid.

(C.D.DOIG).



Meetings seem to come and go and they mostly provide something of note to remember. At our July Meeting, held on the "Glorious Fourth" Mr. Bob Holmes gave a most interesting talk of his experiences in Russia during the War. Mr. Holmes was attached to a special R.A.F. Force sent to Northern Russia to cover a large convoy bound for Murmansk. His story of this episode, plus his sidelights on the Russians he met, made most interesting listening.

Next meeting will be held on 1st August at Monash Club when a chap from S.R.D. (Z force to you and I) will give us a talk on some of the activities of this Hush Hush Unit during the War. Turn up and hear a most interesting lecture.

September Meeting on the 5th will be our 2nd Annual Ladies Night and the Committee are in the throes of organising something of note for your entertainment. Book up the wife or girl friend immediately for this evening details of which will be given in the August Newsletter.

Charlie Gorton and wife are the proud parents of a son. Congrats Charlie. The Stork seems to be having an easy time as far as members are concerned, but rumour has it that the bird is hovering about and that a crop of new arrivals are scheduled for the end of the year.



Members seem to be in the wars of late, the latest being Ray Parry who was involved in a collision with a milk truck in the early hours of the morning of 10th of July. Ray suffered abrasions and cuts to the face and powdered glass from the wind screen in his left eye. He was admitted to Hospital, but latest reports indicate he is progressing OK.

Dave Ritchie is still hobbling around on crutches awaiting further advice from his Quacks. Charlie King is about again and is remarkably cheerful despite his lost right arm. Charlie lives at Wilfred St. Canningvale and if any of you live in that direction hop over and cheer him up and possibly give a hand at any thing that can be done.

A letter from "Blue" Pendergrast who is now at Miling. Blue says - he has sighted Tom Martin on a couple of occasions also Herbie Thomas who is now in the Miling Area. Has not seen Reg Harrington for an age, but believes he is OK.



A Brief note from Gerry McKenzie to say he is flat out with work and deploring the fact that he has to sell frozen meat from the Government freezers in Fremantle and Queensland. The Annual Sub is only 5/- Gerry which was fixed up for you. Your copies of the Smalles Poems are on their way to you, you should have them ere this.

Georgee Smith writes to say he and Norm Thornton are going well. Norm was married on Saturday 8th July. Congratulations Norm from all the gang. George was saying that someone from Denmark sighted Paddy Kenneally cut in the middle of the Nullabor Plain, heading for Hobart. Georgie now basks in the appellation of Hamilton - Smith as there are about 29 Smith families at Denmark including 4 G. Smiths. Good idea "Geordie" and most refined.

A little bird tells me that the Brooker has changed his occupation from Tram Conductor to What do you think? - Keeper at the Zoo!! Be careful when you take the youngsters to the Zoo that they dont give "Brook" any peanuts as I believe he is very touchy on the point as yet. Dont you worry "Brook" there are quite a few of us who wouldn't mistake you for the Orang Otang.

A Newsletter to hand from Jack Hartley in N.S.W. giving details of activities in that State. Alan Luby has been elected President to replace our beloved Bosum and the mantle has fallen on most fitting shoulders. Our Congratulations to you Allan and may your stay in office be a most happy one. Bob Field has joined the Committee and once again a most worthy representative has been found. N.S.W. Branch is levying its members 10/- a head towards the headstone for Jack O'Brien and is asking Interstate members to



assist with donations. As mentioned in the last newsletter, I will be only too willing to pass on to Jack Hartley any donations you may care to send me. Nothing is too big or too small. A House Party was to be held at the House of Alan Luby to augment funds for the branch, and heres hoping it was a great success. Jack brings news of a great crop of babies in N.S.W. including Fred Stewart - a Son, Fred Otway - a daughter, Geo Paterson - a Son, Jim Smith - a Son, Snow Perkins a Child (Sex unknown). and Russ Symons - a Son. A very tasty crop if I may say so.

Johnny Rose is now in his own business selling something or other and also has sole agency, for Fleuorescent Lighting from Sydney to Palm Beach. Bill Boker in partnership with his brother in a business manufacturing light fittings and Metal Polishing. Charlie Anderson on the square and hog tied to Sydney seems there is a lass in the back ground. Ron Trengrove and Eric Herd at Stacks in the Car Business. Sid Hilliard (Drip or Drop?) is newly married and off work with a bad back! Curley O'Neil still churning out stories for the "Telegraph", Jim Dent at Murrumburrah is married man with a couple of Kiddies. Ron McArthur is busy clearing his own property on the North Coast, Harry Fredericks is at Condoblin in the painting trade. Bluey Jones is a cocky at Edgeroi with 650 Acres of wheat in this year, has a new M.G. Sports. Angus Evans known to the Local Yokels as Money Bags, Evans is rushing around in a Buick Straight Eight.

Arch Campbell sends on another Newsletter from Victoria where things are going along well. Gerry Maley has been on a trip to Sydney on business connected with the Bosun's Death. Bert Tobin reports the birth of a 9 lb Son - Congrats Toby. Ken Monk doing well at Poowong East in the Dairy Business. Max Davies is still with State Savings Bank at Preston. "Darby" Munro a real stalwart to the ranks of the Association in Victoria.

Peter Mantle again to the fore with a letter from Bombay. Peter says the Monsoon was upon them at the time of writing and had cooled the steamy weather down considerably and given some relief from the prickly heat. Apparently the change of status in India from Dominion to Republic is bringing about a few changes in customs, plural marriages quite common in the past are now barred. Crook on the old tuners who left all the work to their wives. Peter says his term in India is coming to a close and that he will be pleased to leave if only because of the exorbitant cost of living which makes it impossible to make ends meet. Peter sends his regards to the gang.

Keith Hayes had a most interesting letter from the Australian Consul at Dilli. This brings news of the Timor of today. Apparently the rebuilding of Dilli is a farce to a point of tragedy. The first post-war Governor (his term expires in three weeks) was determined to build something new and so, soon after his arrival, chose a site for Nova Dili. The site is at 2,500 feet, directly behind Dili, ten miles away by road and about four as the crow flies. You would know enough about the state of Timor roads during the "wet" to imagine the difficulties of transporting building materials. Actually, the difficulty was never encountered because after four years no materials have been transported, although during each "dry" hundreds of natives have been employed on the road. Now at last Lisbon had vetoed the project. As a result Dili consists only of palapa houses and a few patched-up ruins from pre-war.

The 1950 budget, however, made provision for the expenditure of 2,000,000 patacas for the reconstruction of Dili. With nearly half of the year gone a building site has been begged out and the tool-sheds built. But at least the light-house has been reconditioned and has not yet broken down after twelve months operation. The main trouble is not lack of funds but the manner of spending them. As an illustration, a palapa house, next to the Consulate, cost 30,000 patacas and took six months to build.

It must be admitted though, that Dili is the worst example. Baucau is quite an attractive little village with a swimming pool and a tennis court which are never used. In fact the interior abounds with show-pieces. Ossu has a magnificent girls' school (the roof leaks) with the Governor's name in three-foot letters, but it has no teachers and no girls. Ainaro has a hospital without a doctor. The hospital commenced in Baucau in 1932 was completed last year. This is quite an attractive building and has a doctor in attendance quite an attractive building and has a doctor in attendance sometimes. At Baucau there is also an "International" aerodrome. The plan is magnificent but will probably never be achieved. All administrators (there are ten now compared with the prewar six) have good houses: the one at Los Palos has fourteen rooms. The Baucau administrator has two houses, each of ten rooms, but one has only been inaugurated but not used.

The colony now has an air transport service, Transportes Aereos de Timor, consisting of three Ansons, One Dragon, Three Tiger Moths and Three Pilots, one of whom doesn't like flying. It also has a 250 ton motor vessel fifty years old and never serviceable. Really impressive is the Radio Station also on the Baucau plateau built almost single handed and in spite of the Portuguese, by an Englishman from the Marconi Company.

Quite a number of new roads have been built but these are all impassable during the "wet". Also one bridge in a place you probably know: it crosses the river MOTA-HARI at the bottom of the hill from Naisuta and a few miles this side of Railaco. Lest I do less than justice, I must mention, too, the brick and tile factory at Railaco and the rebuilt baths for the sulphur springs of Marobo.

In 1948 it seemed there was a chance for the Colony when two oil companies carried out geological surveys here. Unfortunately, they both gave up.

Herewith is the Porto account of the doings -

The Rebirth of Timor.

Three years have passed since the liberation of Timor. The fertile soil, unsuitable for war, which the Japanese occupation has rendered unproductive and impotent, has been made again to germinate with abundance and excess with the most varied products.

The fields are fully cultivated, and the trees become bent with the weight of their fruits. From the ruins of its houses, there have now emerged as by a miracle, new and magnificent dwellings; from its roads submerged by debris, other new roads have arisen and are better and more perfect in their ultra-modern lay-out. New bridges have replaced the ones destroyed; air and over-land traffic modernized, churches and public buildings repaired, thus maintaining intact the sovereignty and prestige of Portugal.

The gigantic works effected in Timor in such a short space of time, give the world an exact and concrete idea of the pertinacious spirit and skill of our people; at the same time, it brings into evidence the virtues of the Portuguese Government.

It is impossible to forget also in the brilliance and magnitude of this extraordinary economic and social recuperation, the rivalry in diligence of the Colonials who sacrifice patriotically their health and wealth for the benefit of their country.

They, together with the natives, gave a fervid example of exalted patriotism working exhaustively day and night so that Timor may return once more to its former splendour.

On the 28th May, 1948, in commemorating the anniversary of the National Revolution and in accordance with the express wish of the people and of the Governor of the Colony, Senhor Capitao Oscar Ruas, the following buildings and roads were inaugurated as complement of a well elaborated plan for a series of important tasks: At Lautem, the residences of the Chefe de Posto, the Nurse, and of the Sanitary Post were inaugurated; in Tutuala, the residence of Chefe de Posto beside the magnificent road "Lospalos-Luro-Iliomar", were also inaugurated; at Viqueque, where a multitude offered an enthusiastic reception to Captain Oscar Ruas, various and imposing ceremonies were held for the inauguration of the emergency air strip, the office of Administration and the local urbanization.

At Venilale, the Residence of Chefe de Posto and Sanitary Post were inaugurated. At Vila Salazar, (Baucau) the Radio Station and Homing Beacon of the Carmona Aerodrome, the new hospital buildings including three splendid dwellings, the Exposition Fair, the Bathing Pool and the Sports ground which in its kind, is of the most modern and perfect type, were afterwards inaugurated. At Laleia the residence of Chefe de Posto and the Laclubar-Soibada road were then inaugurated; at the Hangar in Dili, the ceremony of the unveiling of the photograph of Professor Marcelo Caetano and the christening of a new aircraft took place. At Aileu, the residence of Chefe de Posto and the office were inaugurated amidst great enthusiasm. At Maubisse, an identical ceremony took place which was preceded by the inauguration of the important road to Turiscai and afterwards, the road from Flecha-Hato-Builico, the residence of a public servant at Ainaro, and the administrative post and residence of the nurse at Oe-Silo were also inaugurated.

The simple details of these important works by themselves make any further comment superfluous. Moreover, there is to be distinguished without dishonour to anyone, the brilliant work rendered by the Governor of Timor who knew how to interpret fully and with rare interest and distinction, the directives established by the Government of Salazar, placing once more on high level the perfection of the system of Portuguese colonization.

The usual reminders --

The meeting for 1st August, should excite your attention so be there and bring along any of the members who have not been in the habit of attending.

If you desire to donate to the Jack O'Brien memorial fund, send your contributions in to me as soon as possible.

Subs. for the new year are now due and we will be pleased to receive same at your earliest convenience.

Still have a few Smailes Poems and Photos of the Annual Reunion available which you can purchase at 2/- and 3/- respectively.

Dont forget to arrange with the wife or Girl Friend for the 5th of September, which is Ladies Night.



The scene was in a Suburban Train one evening with a crowd of usuals in the same carriage. The subject was silhouettes cast on the blinds of Bedroom Windows as result of the Electric Light. Poor old Smithy, not renowned for his brain power and also a bit slow on the uptake, wouldn't agree. One of the chaps said that the Smith Household could be seen going to bed every night, as he lived in the neighbourhood. Smithy contested this statement hotly. The other chap said "I'll prove it. You and your wife undressed and got into bed at exactly 10.30p.m. last Thursday Night". Smithy thought slowly for awhile, then a smile lit his countenance and he said "That cant be right, as I went to the bush travelling on Wednesday and didn't return to Saturday Morning !"

P.S.

I have been asked by the Committee to urge all members to make some Contribution, however large or small to the Jack O'Brien Memorial Appeal. This Appeal has the complete backing of your committee and they are anxious that a considerable sum is contributed from W.A. towards the Appeal. Your Committee feel that contributions from individuals who held Jack in such high esteem would have much more of a personal flavour about them than lump sum contributions by Associations.