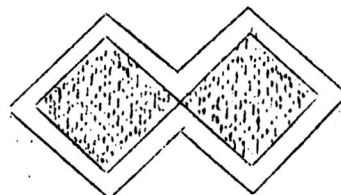


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# Commando Association



Circular News  
Letter No. 42.

13th September, 1950.



EDITORIAL

## ON GETTING OVER THINGS

"Oh, he'll get over it!"

How many times have you heard that said about a child sobbing his little heart out, maybe over his homework, maybe over some childish grief and disappointment?

And he does get over it, sure enough.

"Grief goes over" - or he goes over grief. Somehow there is in him a natural buoyancy that can

ride almost any storm.

The same thing happens, though, again and again in later life, when the failure is a much more serious matter than a sum in arithmetic that won't come out right. Probably then life itself won't come out right. Or some grief or disappointment, by no means childish, seems to have dealt a man a smashing and a final blow.

Yet, "down" though he is, he is not "out". Presently he will come out from his corner once again with a brave grin on his face. He has taken a lot of punishment, but he has got over that, and he is up again - to fight to a finish. A grand sight to see!

"His Majesty exceedingly loveth a courageous soul." So said St. Teresa. And I always feel that those who ought to be most sure of the love of God are the battered and scarred old warriors who have been badly hurt in life, but who still are undefeated. They are dead, but they won't lie down! God give me such a courage as that.

How is it that we get over things. It is partly, I think, that emotion spends itself until there is little left. Nobody can go on crying for weeks. There comes an end, and that end is an acceptance. We face life again and we forget.

It is partly also a change of focus. What looks to-day so terrible, so final, so decisive, looks rather different after a night's sleep, and very very different this time next year. In five years we may have forgotten the incident altogether.

Time often does that with us. It changes the focus. It reduces the monstrous troubles to nothing at all.

Yet the main factor is courage. There can be few triumphs in life so significant and so abiding as the triumphs of those who refuse to be daunted by a big handicap - such, for example, as infantile paralysis. And it is no accident that many of the great contributions to our human welfare have been made by invalids - men and women who were never really well, and who sometimes had not even enough to eat. Life works itself out that way.

So whatever your trouble is, you will get over it. Give it time. Pull yourself together. It will all look very different

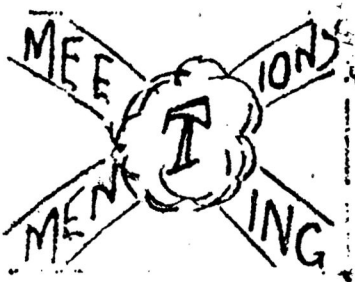
by next Christmas - if you will use your faith and fight back.

"Be sure we'll have some pleisand weather,  
When a'the clouds ha' blawn awa'."

--- The New Outlook on Motoring. ---



The Committee met on 15th August, 1950, and many subjects affecting the Association were discussed and plans for future development of the Association were formed. Your Committee is most keen on the idea of mutual assistance to members by means of working bees etc. To-date we have held three working bees to assist Charlie King and further bees are planned. Final arrangements for the Ladies Night were also made at this meeting. More about this night anon.



Our last meeting as you know was the Ladies Night held at the Patch Theatre and took the form of Two One Act Plays by the Patch Players and a social afterwards. It was an excellent night and all who attended voted it a huge success. Afraid the roll up was below our usual standard and those who missed out really are the losers. We have to thank Dave Ritchie who originally mooted the idea and did most towards seeing the night through, then the Patch Theatre for their marvelous co-operation.

Next meeting will be held at Monash Club on Tuesday 3rd October, and we intend firstly to have a short general meeting then later thanks to the West Australian Newspapers we are going to have a look at the Plant and Organisation of a Newspaper being printed. This should prove to be most interesting and educational to members so dont forget to roll up and be in it.



Have to record another couple of births to wives of members during the month. Jack Denman is once again a proud father. - Heartiest congrats Jack from all the gang. Must be the Wyalkatchem Air, that started things going again. Ross Shenn is the father of a Son - Our congrats to you too Ross keep up the good work.

I have to acknowledge another batch of subscriptions to the Jack O'Brien Memorial Appeal again this month and thank those who have so nobly responded to our Appeal. This month's list is as follows: J. Corney, R. Darrington, H. Sproxten, D. Ritchie, F. Freestone, M.L. Wheatley, R. McMahon, R. Palmer, T. Martin, E. Loud, S. Sadler, C. Sadler, E. Craghill, H. Burges, J. Penglase, K. Mackintosh, R. Smyth, G. Rowley, J. Gallagher, B.C. Landridge, T. Nisbet, G. Smith, N. Thornton, and M. Cash. I will make a point of acknowledging these donations in Newsletters until the Appeal closes.



Have had quite a batch of letters and callers this month and it is most heartening to be able to give you all some extracts from their writings. A brief note from Ken Mackintosh who is with Elder Smith's at Wagin. - Ken finds the Newsletters quite interesting. Dick Dorrington is another who is pleased with our efforts. Dick is at Bridgetown in the Bread game and says he sees Geo Merritt quite frequently and Geo is going very well. Jim Corney who has been up the Bush for some time is now back in the "Big Smoke" again and hopes to be able to get to a few meetings. Bernie Langridge writes from Bridgetown to congratulate the Association on the way things are going. Bernie is a pretty busy man these days as he is President of the Donnybrook Zone of the Potato growers Association, also

Vice President of Farmers Union in Donnybrook, and President of the Country and Democratic League in that area as well. All adds up to plenty of work to me plus the usual work a day toil, should imagine you were like the proverbial Gin's Dog Bernie. The season for the fruit growers and Potato people was not so good, last year and Bernie says it gets smartly reflected in the Bank Balance. Bernie sends his regards to all the gang. A brief Note from Jim Gallagher to say all is well with him at Kojonup. A really long letter from Jim Smalles at Kalgoorlie.- Thanks a on for the sentiments expressed Jim. Jim is making excellent progress with his studies at the School of Mines, taking 9 subjects this year and todate has handled two Term Examinations to advantage and has high hopes to pass his second year studies in about ten weeks time. Jim has one more year to go with his Mining Diploma course. Jim brings news of Jack Sheehan who is an expectant poppa again in November. Jack Penglase writes from Kenwick to say all is well with him and that he saw Ted Monk a week or so ago and had a few noggins. Tom Martin is another of my correspondents was cursing the lack of rain at the time. Hope you have had your share of what has been going down this way. Tom sees "Blue" Pendergrast quite frequently and Blue seems to be going well in Miling. Tom brings news of Mal Herbert and says that Mal is now engaged to be married. Our congrats Mal on the timely thought. Tommy is playing that game "Glorified Emu Bobbing" called Golf in the City. Ted Loud writes to say that he is still in the Forestry Department down South, says he saw Alec Thomson about a month ago, and that Alec is now the proud parent of a daughter about 6 weeks old. Ted is thinking seriously of rejoining the Army. My advice for what its worth is don't! at least not yet! Johnny Moore from Dwellingup writes to say he is falling timber for the State Mill at that centre and finding the going a bit tough as timber is getting scarce and generally hard to come by. Johnny wishes to be remembered to all the gang, especially "Bing". Gordon Rowley sends news from Manjimup to say he is well in health, but in strife trying to get enough wire netting for his dairy farm. - Have been using up my influence on your behalf Gordon, but to date no dice. Gordon's letter is a bit of "There aint no Joy in our 'ouse' as he is experiencing quite a bit of trouble losing live stock. Anyhow Gordon its a long road that got no Pubs in it so you'll come good eventually. Bert Burges sent a note to send his regards to the gang and tell us to carry on the good work with the Newsletters. A "Scrawl" from Bob Palmer, this may be absolutely full of news, but as I could only make out a word here and there, am afraid, I can give you the details. Bob seems to be quite happy with the Newsletter and reckons it keeps the country folk abreast of Association doings. Bob is the proud parent of Two Boys and a girl the last son born in April. Gerry Edwards wrote from out in the Blue. Hadn't heard of Gerry for an age and it is pleasing to hear from the old hands again. Gerry is the parent of a couple of children a boy 2½ years and girl just born. Like most of us Gerry has housing problems. Scorry Gerry have no address on "Tex" Richards - If anybody can oblige would be only too happy to pass it on. Stan Sadler called in to say cheerio and asked me to pass on his best to the gang. Stan and Charlie and Ron are in partnership in a farm at Wongan Hills and doing very well. Stan said he meets "Wendell Wilkie" quite frequently. The Wendell is now on his own place at Konongorring and from what Stan says finds the Allee Roots quite a paying sideline and a good grog ticket.



Bill Coker was a visitor from N.S.W. during the month. Bill is in the Electric Light fitting game and going well. Bill came overland by Bus and voted it quite an enjoyable trip. He went down to Manjimup to see Gordon Rowley and thoroughly enjoyed himself. Bob Field is over in the West once again but to date have not met him.

Had a letter from Arch Campbell to say all was well with him in Victoria and that the Association was progressing favourably.

Jack Hartley sent along a long letter and most interesting too! Jack is now in business on his own account having given away the long daily travel to Sydney. Jacks new address "Berowra", Waters Road, BEROWRA. Jack says the O'Brien Appeal is going well in N.S.W. and that the goal is definitely in sight, Jack brings good news of our possibilities in regard to Timor Subsistence. Says we have a second to none chance of getting something, as all the people that matter have given favourable comment. Some of the boys have been having a bad trot. Jack Sipple is in Hospital with a badly smashed leg, hip and pelvis as result of an accident when run down by a truck. Tony Adams is now with the Union Bank at Toowoomba.

As you know your President has just recently returned from a trip to Singapore and Malaya and I thought it would be a good idea to get him to give us his impressions of that troubled area. Here they are :-

Singapore and Malaya

Before the War, Australians showed very little interest in what was then known as the Straits Settlements and the Malay States. The average person thought it was a faraway place where tough, tall, lean, men shot tigers and grew rubber on plantations. Most of us also associated with it, that mysterious disease "malaria" and perhaps crocodiles and swamps.

The tragic part played by Singapore and the Malayan Peninsula during the war, naturally focussed our eyes more in this direction, but even now most people, apart from realising vaguely that Malayan Affairs are having a bigger influence on our daily lives, still know very little about this country or its background.

A rough history of this area is necessary to appreciate Malayan problems today and their effect upon ourselves. The outstanding incident in Malayan history was the landing of Sir Stamford Raffles on the island of Singapore in 1819. For a thousand years prior to this the whole area was sparsely (not thickly) populated with Malays whose culture was unchanging and primitive. In 1819 the population of Singapore was 150, today it is nearly a million.

The other great happening was the introduction of rubber planting and tin-mining and these two industries play a very important part in Malayan affairs today :-

Before the war this whole area was divided into three parts:-

- (a) The Straits Settlements which was a British Colony, only Europeans being employed in the upper Civil Service. This Colony comprised the island of Singapore and Penang and also Malacca which was part of the mainland.
- (b) Federated States of Malaya comprising four separate states where administration was largely carried out by British Officials though nominally through the Sultans.
- (c) The Unfederated States of Malaya comprising the remaining six states where government by the Sultans was more direct.

The future of Malaya as regards self-government is a very difficult problem, perhaps the biggest difficulty being its mixed population. In 1947 census the following figures emerged :-

|                  | <u>Total</u> | <u>Malays</u> | <u>Chinese</u> | <u>Indians</u> | <u>Others</u> |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| <u>Singapore</u> | 938,079      | 114654        | 727,863        | 71289          | 24273         |
| <u>Malaya</u>    | 4908,086     | 2427834       | 1884534        | 530638         | 65086         |

With this tangle of races you can see that the question of self-government is not an easy one, particularly as the Chinese and Malays although courteous to each other on the surface are actually jealous of each others claims. The Malays claim original ownership - The Chinese claim is based on their "Opening up" the country by trade etc. and their large population.

As the first small approach towards self-government after the war, the British Government persuaded the Sultans to forgo their sovereignty and formed a Malayan Union - with Singapore as a separate Colony. The Malayan Union had one administration instead of the original 10. The idea of this was to give the Chinese political rights which they had never previously possessed.

This idea was short-lived, reactions being as follows:-

- 1) The Malays didn't like it - preferring autonomous States.
- 2) The Chinese didn't like the separation of the mainland from Singapore as it disturbed their trading rights.
- 3) The Indians couldn't care less. They had no opinion and weren't asked anyway!
- 4) The Chinese Communists didn't like the idea as they said it perpetuated Colonial status in Malaya.

Poor old Britain certainly has a headache.

You can see from the foregoing that it is just not possible to formulate a plan of self-government in Malaya in the same fashion as India, Pakistan and Ceylon as there is no clearly defined body with whom to work.

The Malayan Union has now been re-transformed once again, into a Federation with no advance towards the goal of self-government and no solution to the ever-increasing difficulty of race relationship.

The foregoing is a very sketchy outline of the position in Malaya and Singapore today. No reference has been made to Education, Economics, Trade, Health etc. as these subjects would take up too much space in our newsletter. There is food for thought, however, in these few observations and queries:-

- 1) Malaya earns 20% of Britains dollars by her export of rubber to America.
- 2) It is the international crossroads between Asia and Australia.
- 3) Trade between Australia and Malaya is continually increasing.
- 4) The adjacent islands forming Indonesia now have self government.
- 5) What is going on in the adjacent countries of Burma, Thailand and Indo-China?  
and finally -
- 6) Can the unrest caused by the Chinese Communist Guerillas be quelled before the now officially communist China decides to lend a hand?

Next meeting is on Tuesday 3rd October, and includes the visit to the "West Australian" Office so don't forget be in it for a good night.



If you have sold your sweep tickets bring them into me as soon as you can, as it will save a ton of confusion in the later stages. If you require further books I'll be only too pleased to supply. Don't forget the dead line for return of butts is 27th October, 1950.

Your subscription, if you haven't already paid same, will be most welcome so send along that "Oxford Scholar" to me and I'll remit it to Alf Walsh.

The O'Brien Memorial Appeal is still open and I'll gladly accept any donations you feel disposed to send and send them on to Jack Hartley.



Little Becky, aged seven, lived on a farm since she was born. Each morning when it was summer, she'd go behind the house where a stream ran - take off her clothes, and go paddling in the nude. One day her mother told her some friends from the city were coming for the week-end and they were bringing along a little boy for her to play with, by the name of Isaac, and to treat him nicely and not fight with him.

In due time the company arrived, and on the next morning Becky asked Isaac if he'd like to go paddling. Isaac replied that he would, so both kids ran off to the stream. Isaac was there first - taking off his clothes, he was in the water - back towards Becky, just as she was taking off her last garment. Now Isaac had never seen a girl in the nuddy before and as he turned around and saw Becky, his mouth opened in astonishment and he exclaimed: "Yei! Yei! What a Rabbi that was!"