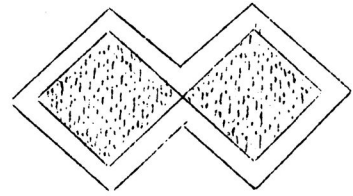


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Commando
Association



*Annual News
Letter* No.44.

10th November, 1950



EDITORIAL

This editorial will be in different style to the usual line in growls as it is a period of jubilation what with the Melbourne Cup and Christmas looming up in the near future.

The Association also has good reason for jubilation as the Melbourne Cup Sweep which has just been concluded was an outstanding success, and topped last years record gross figures of £200 by approximately £30. A profit of nearly £170 is anticipated.

The thanks of the Association go to all those who have contributed to the success of this venture. As you are probably aware by reading our Annual Balance Sheets that it is this sweep which keeps the Association solvent and allows us to keep Annual Subscription at a minimum. Therefore it follows that the greater the success of our Sweep the greater the degree of prosperity your Association enjoys and the better able it will be to build reserves against possible future needs if bad times fall upon us.

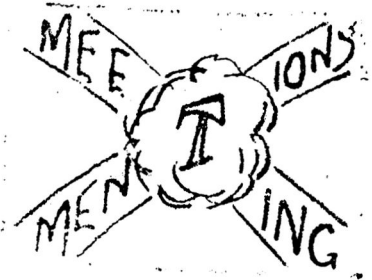
The co-operation of all sellers of tickets was greatly appreciated by your Committee and the task of conducting this Sweep is being made easier each year by your fine efforts. Of course some of you do a little better than others, but some are born ticket sellers and to others it is real hard work, so that when it all boils down the general effort is equal.

We have reason for further jubilation in that Mr. Jim Corney, who has been one of our real stalwarts from our earliest years, was the winner of the first Prize, thus keeping the cash in the ranks.

The Committee ask for your continued support to this and other ventures and if it is forthcoming in the same bountiful way your Association can view the future with Rose Coloured Glasses.



The months still bring there supply of work for your energetic committee and no stone is left unturned to further the welfare of the Association. Last Committee meeting took up the matter of food parcels for our two representatives in Korea, Ray Parry and Jack Stafford and we hope to be able to start immediately on this project. The Xmas party was also discussed but more of that anon. Finance as usual played quite a part in the evenings discussions and budgetary considerations for the rest of the year were submitted by the Treasurer and approved by the Committee.



Our last meeting was our second Annual Bucks Night held on Melbourne Cup Night, so that it found all those present in convivial humour. Once again a very good roll-up which shows that these nights are appreciated by the gang.

The next meeting will be held at Monash Club on 5th December and we have a guest speaker lined up who will be of interest to us all. He is Mr. Frank Hughes who has just returned from Whaling Operations at Pt. Cloates on our North West Coast and is a full

bottle on the activities and can give us a most interesting evening. So once again chaps, I appeal to you to be present and enjoy a good evening with the gang.

Then that Xmas Party. - This year it is to be held on Thursday 21st December, at the Residence of our Treasurer Mr. Alf Walsh 161 Loftus St. Leederville - To get there take any of the Scarborough Bus Services Buses except that going to Scarborough. That sounds a bit Irish, but it works out this way: All buses operated by the above Co. Pass Alf's place, but the one for Scarborough does not stop before Waneroo Road. If you debus at Bourke St, just beyond the Leederville Oval and walk on one Street and you cant go wrong. Bring along the wife or girl friend or your mother or somebody elses girl friend and have a good Xmas Party.



It is a tired and weary Stork again this month with a surfeit of babies branded with the Double Red Diamond on an Atebrin background. Ralf Finklestein is parading a man child, born early in October. Colin Hodson has a son and heir also a most proud poppa. Fred Aparksman has also come good with a boy to add to his family. If my memory serves me correctly that makes a pigeon pair for the Sparkmans. Last, but most certainly not least your good President John Burrridge is the exceedingly proud father of a

daughter. This follows two boys for the Burrridge duo so you can see the reason for Johnnie's high glee. Our congrats to them all and hopes that the night walking is at a minimum.

It did not take very long for our Representatives in the Korean Force to make their presence felt, or should I say his presence felt, as Ray Parry has been in Hospital at Heidelberg and has not joined the force as yet. The one referred to above is Jack Stafford. Jack is credited with having blown up an enemy tank by firing a Bren Gun at it from twenty yards and egniting the petrol and as if this wasn't enough, to have single handed, wiped out machine gun nest. Of course those that knew Jack will not be at all surprised by these feats as he was as game as they come and also one of the best shots with all eapons that the writer has seen.

There are still a few acknowledgements for the Jack O'Brien Appeal for this month namely, J. Denman, N. Wallace. R. Watson, and G. Merritt. As we wish to finalise this Appeal any person wishing to donate should do so immediately and thus save us the minimum of inconvenience.

A matter which will concern most of you is that of War Gratuity which is to be paid next March. If you have changed your address since leaving the Army it will be necessary to inform the appropriate authorities of such change. To do so get the proper form from any Post Office or Bank and fill it in and post it to the War Gratuities Officer, Swan Barracks Perth. This is a very simple form and is self explanatory and if you fill it in immediately it will save you the possibility of inconvenience at a later date.



Naturally with the Sweep concluding late in October correspondence is particularly heavy this month, and I thank you all for managing to pen a few lines when returning your Butts. Roy Watson writes from Collie where he has just acquired a new War Service Home very pleased with it, but was a bit rocked by the price. Roy says he enjoys the Newsletters and also says he hopes to make it for the Reunion in February. Dick Barton is now at Quairading working on a farm. Dick sends his regards

to the boys. The old Bobby Burns has turned Cockie and has a small holding at

Mandagalup on the Peel Estate. Don May is now a city dweller having been transferred in the Railway from Clackline to Perth. Don has hopes of making a meeting or two now he is in the Metropolis. Merv Ryan wrote a brief note to say he was going along alright in his new home at Bicton, but regrets owing to working so much night shift on the Wharf he is unable to see us at meetings very often. Les Glasson says he was in Perth recently, but couldn't fit in a visit to yours truly as he was in a mad rush the whole time. A very brief note from Bill Drage to say that crops and feed are excellent up at Northampton and to say he was well and feeling very proud of his recent addition to the family. Ray Aitken writes from Onslow to say he hopes to see us all soon and sends his regards to all. Charlie Sadler is another farmer who is pleased with the season and has hopes of it breaking all records at Wongan Hills. Another Letter from Rod Dhu from Broome says, the luggers have just returned to lay up and had a few pearls to show for their efforts. The wet has set in in the Kimberleys and it looked like starting at Broome any tick of the clock. A short letter from Nip Cunningham with a couple of tips for the Caulfield Cup just as well it arrived after the Cup was run Nip, or I might have done my dough. Norm Thornton and Bob Palmer both wish to be remembered to the gang. Dick Pepper also, hopes everybody is doing well. Dick promises to write at a later date and give all the news from Moonyoonooka. Ted Monk and Alf Blundy sent in their Sweep books and ask me to remember them to all the crowd. Pat Doyle is still in the mines at Kalgoorlie and doing O.K. Ning McCaig wishes you all the best of luck. Ning is now enjoying quite good health and is I believe in the Lawn Mowing business at Kalgoorlie. Clarrie Turner is a very busy man as he is hand milking a big herd of cows and that plus the Horse Stud is keeping him extra quiet. Geo Merritt is another of those busy chaps reckons his fowls must be ornamental as they are on the roost when he leaves home and still there when he gets back. Too much work and not enough play makes Jack a dull boy you know Geo. Bill O'Connor writes from Marybrook, to send in his sweep butts and wishes to be remembered to all his mates. Alf Hillman writes most interestingly from Broomehill where he met most of the gang from that way recently Struck Bob Palmer, Charlie Sadler, Ken Mackintosh and Bert Burges at an off shears sale with bad results as far as the grog went. Alf is going well with the golf is down to a 7 handicap. The season is also pretty good down his way too. Had a brief note from The Brooker so he couldn't have taken umbrage at my references to his new job after all! Brook has been on the sick list recently and as a result hasn't been about much. Norm Wallace is another who has not been too well recently. Says selling tickets at Jarrahwood is as tough as its name suggests. Bill Rowan-Robinson says he is not too popular at Bridgetown with raffles, sweeps etc. as he is always on their backs. Never mind Robbie its all for a good cause. Dick Dorrington has made a change and is now at Quairading in the Baking Business, reckons it is not a bad place either. Bert Burges, Blue Pendergrast and Blue Wilkes sent in brief notes with their Sweep Butts and apparently all going well. Jack Denman has moved to Geraldton with Vacuum Oil Co. bit tasty to be leaving Wyalkatchem during Summer eh, Jack? Eric Weller says he has given up footy at last as he hurt his back in one of the early games of the season and it failed to respond to treatment for a long while. He is very much a home man, and finds his week-ends well and truly occupied around the garden etc. Johnny Moore writes from Dwellingup and is another who finds the going tough with tickets. Don Young who is now on a Station in the Murchison says they want rain badly as feed is scarce for the 7000 head of cattle they are carrying. Don says, its a very lonely life with nothing but cows as company. Says Beer is 1/3 a Schooner. If I can dig up any books I'll do my best to keep you supplied Don. Well that completes the local mail bag, and believe me its a real pleasure to have so many answers.



Kevin Curran sends his regards to all the folk in the West. Kev says he was not sorry to see the end of the footy season, as he had a real bad luck season. Kev has had a good offer to coach at Ararat next season, but intends to play at least another season with Hawthorn. Kev sent Alister as a strong tip for both Derbies and the Cup. I pinched the market Kev, but afraid he struck one a bit too good on the day in Comic Court.

Syd McKinley who is with the Shell Co. at Darwin writes to give a little news of that centre. Syd struck Bob Smyth on the Plane going North bound for Darwin. Syd appreciates the Newsletter very much as in that remote area they keep him posted of everyones doings. The job with the Shell Co. he says is a good one and pays well. The Wet has set in and that of course precludes swimming in the Ocean, but with a couple of fresh water Springs about

40 miles out and a mate with a motor car the swimming problem is solved. Syd says Artie Cullen and "Goodie" are both at Darwin. Goodie is still in the Army. Yes Syd, I "watched" Comic Court in the Cup, wish I had taken your tip and backed it instead!

Alby Martin writes from Melbourne and sends his regards to everyone. We included a couple of books in the draw for you Alby, but afraid you weren't lucky enough to draw a horse. Sorry to see Melbourne in the throes of another train strike as you say it makes inter-com. a bit tough.

Tommy Foster who is still on the Station at Anama to send a donation to the O'Brien appeal - Thanks muchly Tommy. I received your previous letter Tom and it was acknowledged in the April Newsletter, so if you keep your copies by any mischance you will see for yourself. Tom says, he is still breeding Australia's best Sheep Dogs.

Peter Mantle sends in his usual contribution again this month. - Sorry I wasn't able to fit in your previous two screeds Pete, but don't think they are not appreciated as they are and I only wish I had another couple of dozen like you. Pete's wife has just returned from Hospital and says she met with a terrific reception from the servants, being greeted with garlands of flowers and a flower teara on her head. Says his wife was most touched. Peter said the cooks in India are inclined to lay it on with a lavish hand and as a consequence the girth is expanding alarmingly. They got a parcel the other day from Foys and he says its wonderful to have a few Australian things again, such as, Golden Syrup at 10d. a tin instead of the Indian price of 7/5d. Even bully beef is a treat after the stinking meat they get there.



The Treasurer informs me that there are still quite a number of subs outstanding, so boys, do the right thing and bring your subscriptions up to date.

That next Meeting on 5th December, is calling you, so do your best to be there. Then of course the Xmas Party, Thursday 21st at - 161 Loftus St. book-up that date with the wife or girl friend and have a most enjoyable evening.

Anyone with Sweep books which they have not returned please remit them to me as soon as possible as we require same for Audit purposes.

Wit and Wisdom



Three elderly gentlemen where seated before the window of their club where they could watch the pretty girls go by. Two of them were more chirpy than usual and the reason for which was soon forthcoming.

"Gentlemen", said the first, "I'm seventy-five to-day, and last month my wife presented me with a baby daughter. The drinks are on me."

"Good business," said the second, "and the next drink's on me. I'll be eighty next month and last Saturday a little son was born to my bride. Eight pounds and the living image of his mother."

The third gentleman smiled musingly, Then he said; "I'm just on eighty-five and I'm reminded of an experience I had earlier in the year. I was walking along a country road when a rabbit came bounding out of the gorse on the side of the road. I raised my cane as if it were a gun, took aim, and cried 'BANG!' - and over rolled the rabbit. A few minutes later I saw another rabbit and again I simulated the rifle with my cane, and cried 'BANG!' again the rabbit rolled over dead! What magic, I thought. What strange spell is this. Then, Gentlemen, I glanced behind me. Partly hidden in the gorse on the side of the road was a young man with a real rifle !!!