

2/2

the *Commando Courier*

51.

JULY, 1951

EDITORIAL . . .

COMRADESHIP

The spirit of pride which all so justly feel in our old Unit, my mind, the outward expression of that feeling of comradeship engendered during the War.

Born in the original camp at Foster and matured during the time of Timor, New Guinea and New Britain, it finally came to fruition with the formation of our present Association.

The whole essence of our Association is comradeship and, if we allow the Association to die, the spirit will inevitably die with it and that is something we cannot afford to lose. The main ideal behind the Association is to keep alive that spirit of comradeship and, by so doing, enable us to help each other.

We have all settled down to our post war jobs and there is no doubt we are living in prosperous times but we must remember that prosperity will not necessarily last and none of us are getting younger. The time will inevitably come when calls for assistance must become more frequent and in those times we must not be found wanting. Remember that **YOU** may be one requiring assistance!

Now is the time for us to build for the future. It is no good bemoaning the fact at some future date that we might have been more financial or more closely knit together. Your Committee has always worked hard for the good of the Association but it is not enough to elect a Committee and leave it to do all the work. Our Association is in a sound position but it must be made stronger and we must all do our bit to keep it so.

This does not mean the other chap—it means **YOU!!** It is not enough to pay your sub each year and come along to meetings occasionally. Help in every way you can. If you live in the metropolitan area, come along to every meeting and help in the running of your Association. If you live in the country, let us hear from you more often and send in your suggestions for improvements—rest assured you will receive the fullest consideration of your Committee.

Let me reiterate that the spirit of comradeship and the ideals it represents must not die and it is the duty of each and every one of us to keep it alive by keeping our Association foremost in our minds.

her,

—GEO. BOYLAND.

West Australian Whisperings

COMMITTEE COMMENT

The matter of the publication of the 'Commando Courier' loomed large in Committee this month and it was finally decided to have this publication published by 'The Swan Express' and distributed throughout Australia. The Committee think that this will help in the matter of solidarity and also will eventually prove to be much more economical than the present method of publication.

Disarmament took place on the 1st of August. Ladies' Night would take place on Tuesday 7th and finally a sub-committee has been asked to investigate the proposed entertainment.

Kirkwood who is our Vice President has been transferred to Kalgoolie and submitted his resignation at this meeting. The resignation was accepted with regret and a minute of appreciation was placed on the records of Ron's past work for the Association. The position of Vice President will be filled at the August meeting.

A further letter was received from the Minister for the Army in the matter of recompense for helpers and Creadoes in Timor. The Minister requested that we supply details of helpers and if possible names of anyone holding notes from us in lieu of payment for goods or services. Members are requested to notify the editor as soon as possible of the names of their Creadoes or helpers and the district or place from which they came. It is important to get on to this matter as soon as possible, so you are requested to attend to it with alacrity.

Peter Mantle who was present at the meeting then gave the Committee the benefit of some of his experiences in India.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

The July get together was the best attended meeting for years. The reason being that Kevin Curran was present from Victoria. Geo. Lewis from Lake Grace, in town and came along to help in renewing old acquaintances. Quite a large quantity of food was forced down, and a supper which made the evening of the most convivial.

The August meeting was on Tuesday 7th at 7.30 when Mr. Jerry Dolan was on football. Mr. Dolan is one of Australia's accepted experts on the Game of Football and one of the best speakers about the place, so if you want to have a good night then be at Monash Club on the evening of 7th of August.

PERSONALITIES

Peter Barden noticed in town for the Big Football. Peter tells me he is helping to run a small paper for the Harvey Sub-Branch R.S.L.

Tony Bowers was another in town to see Kev. Curran and looking particularly fit. Says the saw mill is still paying dividends.

Bill Cooper was present at the last monthly meeting. His face was particularly strange and we were pleased to see him come into the fold.

A face not seen for ages was that of Keith McEachern. Keith has been slaving at the lighthouse at Cape Naturaliste, but has given it away and is now working as a linesman with the P.M.G. in the city.

Another of our linesman types is Jerry Green. Gerry has had a very busy time building his own home at Belmont and I believe has now completed it or nearly so. Perhaps now the roof is over the head we may see a little more of the "Gig".

Reg Harrington was concerned in a very unkind piece of news this month. He, his brother

father-in-law and two other relatives, were fishing at the mouth of the Murchison River when a huge wave caught them and swept them off the rocks into the sea. Reg managed to escape as did one of the others, but unfortunately Reg's brother and father-in-law and one other were drowned. Reg told me of the great work done after the tragedy by Bill Drage and Bruss Fagg, who rushed to the scene as soon as he heard what had happened and rendered yeoman service. Reg wishes me to thank Bill and Bruss for their efforts. The Association most sincerely condoles with Reg in his sad loss and hopes that time will erase the poignant memories.

Don Turton is once again a proud parent. This time a daughter which makes it two girls and a boy. Congrats. Don, from the gang.

Stan Sadler called in to see me the other day looking quite prosperous. Says the season at Wongans at present is a bit wet, but feed for stock is excellent. Stan has not seen any of the gang recently except Wendel Wilkie who he reports as being in the pink.

Roy Watson was one of the gang from Collie who came to town to see the football. Roy is coaching Railways at Collie this year and says he is still managing to get a kick or two in most games.

Don Hudson also came down from Collie. Don never seems to alter. Doesn't look a day older or a pound heavier.

Noticed "Johnno" Johnson about town. He was looking very fit and reports that he is doing alright at Koorda.

Tom Crouch called in on his way to Narrogin to pick up a car. Says the season at Manjimup is excellent this year and he has hopes of a bumper year.

Gerry McKenzie writes to say that his wife is still infanticipating. Gerry has applied to rejoin the Army and is awaiting his call-up at any old tick of the clock.

One of the lads who has been in the wilds since his return from the B.C.O.F. in Japan is "Pigeon" Pierce. "Pigeon" is now with the Main Roads Board at Tambellup.

Bill Howell is conducting a cement brick factory with his brother, at Mandurah, and reports good business. Bill looks extra fit and I can never remember him looking better even in our palmy days at Adelaide.

Had a letter from Alf Hillman to say that things were O.K. with him at Broomehill. Says he hasn't sighted any of the lads for an age except Alf Blundy who was at the Annual Diggers' Day at the local golf course.

As stated earlier Ron Kirkwood has been transferred in the Commonwealth Bank to Kalgoolie. Ron is a big loss to the Association and we much regret losing his services on the Executive of the Association.

News to hand that Ray Parry is now a Corporal in the 3rd Battalion in Korea and that Jack Stafford is a Sergeant. Ray and Jack are still O.K. and eagerly awaiting the outcome of the cease fire talks.

Herbie Thomas is one who was seen in town during the big football and looks as of yore. Bush life apparently agrees with Herbie.

Peter Mantle has returned from India and is on his way to Canberra to take up his duties with the Bureau of Information. Peter seems to have weathered the trials and tribulations of the Indian sojourn and looks in remarkably good form.

REMINDERS

The ever green subject of subscriptions and prompt payment looms up again. The treasurer has once again asked me to jog your memories about subscriptions.

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The meeting on 7th August looks like being a boomer. With Jerry Dolan in the saddle we are all set for a great evening, so boys, do your best by us and roll along.

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A further reminder to send in any particulars of creadoes and helpers in Timor with their place of origin if possible.

New South Wales News

In our first appearance in the new 'Commando Courier', I would like to begin by congratulating our friends in the West for initiating this very excellent little gazette. I wish the Courier a long and useful life of bringing to all members of our widespread fraternity news and views of particular mates and Association doings. The inauguration of an Australia wide newsletter is a long step forward for the Association, but the onus is upon every member to contribute towards its success. How can you do this? Well, your first step should be to become an active and financial member of your State Branch, thus ensuring that your friends are not bearing the cost of benefits which you are enjoying. Undoubtedly, you are interested to read news of the many mates you made when things were tough—well just remember that they would also like to know what you are doing, whether you're married or still happy, how many little accidents you've got running around your yard, whether you earn your living or work for the Government, in fact everything about you that will pass the censor. Give your State Secretaries and Federal Editorial Staff a fair go by dropping them a few lines occasionally, relay messages to particular mates if you wish, and you will find your efforts are repaid a hundredfold.

A very belated report on our Anzac Day activities—it was easily the best day we have had so far, with a very good roll up including some rare specimens, Tommy O'Brien, Sam Fulbrook, Ron Orr, Jackie Keenahan, the Newcastle Contingent Les Isenhood, Snow Turner, Eric Chapman and a 2/3rd chap and all the regulars who wouldn't miss the day for anything. A very big vote of thanks goes to Fred and Beryl Stewart for making their home available for the afternoon. We sat around on Fred's lawn and polished off ten dozen of the best, plus a large amount of good things to eat. After the show

folded up about eight of us continued the party at Frank and Betty O'Neill's charming flat at Lane Cove, Frank being too ill with the dog's disease to attend the march. Drip Hilliard and Merv Jones arrived just when everyone else was thinking of going home claiming they'd been walking for hours and been chased by blacks over Fig Tree Bridge. Johnny Rose, Merv, Drip and I stayed overnight and next morning ate everything edible in the place, but Betty took it like the grand little sport she is and made us very welcome.

Everyone was very disappointed not to see Chas Anderson at the smoko, but I met him in town next day and he was looking a very fit fourteen stone. Chas is not the drinking man he used to be because of stomach trouble and shuns grog parties as much as possible. He returned to Korea shortly afterwards and has been in the thick of it ever since. In his last letter to Curly he said Ray Parry was O.K., but made no mention of any of the other boys we have over there. Good luck, Charlie.

PERSONALITIES

Had a visit from Paddy Wilby a few weeks ago, and as he stayed overnight we had a good long ear-bash. Paddy is leading the Nomadic life of a travelling blacksmith not the farrier type, but in the engineering line. From his many stories I gather Paddy has been all over Australia since his discharge, including the Snowy River area, and was on his way up to Queensland in quest of further experience.

Ron Goodacre writes from Canowindra where he is in the painting game, and at grips with the home building problem. Many thanks for your trouble in searching for Norm Demmery, Ron; I've posted a screed to him at Upper Burrinjuck, but had no answer yet.

Neal Bray offers apologies to all for depriving us of his company on

Anzac Day, and explains that the Scottish 30th Battalion was more in need of his services, particularly at week-ends and at least three nights a week when he is hit with every course that the evil-doers at A.H.Q. ever devised. Neal says he crossed paths with Allan Stewart one Sunday whilst engaged upon the King's business. Thanks for your letter Neal and hope you will favor us with your presence at our next meeting. Watch those 'Z' blokes, particularly Rowan Waddy.

Les Isenhood wrote to say how much he enjoyed himself on Anzac Day, and makes special mention of the feeling of friendship pervading the gathering on Fred Stewart's lawn. Les enclosed a drawing of his idea for a proposed Association badge, a very thoughtful one too. What about a few more ideas boys? Thanks for your letter Les, and I hope we'll see a lot more of you in the future.

A welcome newcomer to my list of correspondents is Jim Hocking, making his first contact with the Association since Timor. Jim is in the butchering game at Bomaderry, and says he has met Bob Smith and Blue Beresford in Nowra thus learning of our existence. I have passed your forms on to D.F.O., Jim, and will write to you as soon as possible.

A very newsy letter from Col. Knight in Lismore, giving details of a recent visit to Brisbane. Col stayed with Col Cubis at Ascot and met Athol McQueen, Ron Host, Arthur Lilley and Bob Field on Anzac Day. They didn't make the march, but Fuzz Winter and Harry Handicot represented the company there. Col also met Bulla Tate in Brisbane, Bulla going north for the cane cutting season. Blue Taylor and Russ Blanch still in Lismore but unsighted for some time. Col has been married about twenty months, but hasn't made any mistakes yet. Built himself a home, but sold it again. The Association fee is ten bob a year, Col., and I'd certainly appreciate a bit of collect ing by you up there.

Ron Orr and his charming wife, were visitors to the big smoke in

April and kindly treated your secretary to a very nice dinner at the Carlton. Ron is training C.M.F. recruits in the Grafton area in his spare time and says it's a most exasperating task. One of the instructors told Ron about a most remarkable Bren gunner he'd met up with. He said this gunner was the only man he'd ever seen who could put a magazine on a Bren and open the ejection opening cover in one movement. His name, as if you couldn't guess, was Cecil Charles Anderson.

In the Hatch Column this time, we have a son to Norman Parker in March; a daughter to Alan Luby on the 20th June and I understand Bob Field has done it again. Congratulations to these three stalwarts and their respective spouses, but I'd better warn you, Bob, to stick to the coastline in your travels and don't go out West; they've got Myxomatosis out there and it's pretty fatal.

That unlucky man, Jack Sipple, has had another long sojourn in hospital with the leg injuries he recieved in an accident early last year. Jack was at the Jervis Bay Convalescent Home for a long time but had to return to hospital for further operations, and is now confined to his bed at home for an indefinite period—378 South Terrace, Bankstown, is the address for anyone able to visit him.

Frank O'Neill is still writing stories about blind snooker champions, Shakespearean actors, etc., for the Sunday Telegraph.

Jimmy Ward has given away driving corpse carriages, went to Melbourne for a while, but found it too cold and returned to sunny Sydney to try his luck in the hire car game; Micky Manix is now with the County Council; Tom Martin is still being paid a salary by the Registrar General; Bernie Weir making a pile with his poultry farm, and Alan Luby is still with the Campsie Ambulance Station. Alan expected to transfer to a better job at Geelong, but fortunately for the N.S.W. Branch the job fell through and our President is still with us.

As for me, I'm no longer working in the city, but to use Curly O'Neill's description, I'm a bloated capitalist with a truck and stone quarry. The truth is I'm eking out an existence selling building stone while trying to build myself a stone house of about sixteen squares; five years hard labor, mine tinkit.

REMINDERS

August Meeting:

A general meeting has been arranged for the 24th August, at the Gallipoli Legion, 12-14 Loftus-st., at 7.30 p.m. The main business of the meeting will be to decide on how best to use the surplus money for the J. S. O'Brien Memorial Appeal. There will be grog available, so roll up chaps and let's put a bit of life back into the old Association.

Notices have been sent out by the Social Secretary in regard to a picnic we are having on Sunday, the 5th August. The R.V. is Liverpool Station between 10 and 10.30 a.m., where transport will be waiting to take you to the Woolwash at Campbelltown, or if the weather is uncertain to Hollywood Park where there is plenty of shelter. There will be plenty of beer, soft drinks and fruit provided, but bring enough foodstuffs for lunch and tea for your family and as many

friends as you wish. We'd appreciate it if you would ring Frank O'Neill at JB 3673 to say you are coming. In case of lousy weather ring Frank to see if there is a postponement.

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Subscriptions:

Just a reminder to unfinancial members that subs for 1951 are now due, and as we will have to meet our fair share of the Courier's expenses, we would be glad to receive your ten bobs.

O'BRIEN MEMORIAL APPEAL

We have now closed the appeal and I'm happy to report that it was oversubscribed by £68/4/4. The cost of the memorial was £79/6/8 so the required sum was nearly doubled, which is a fine indication of the esteem in which our dear old Bosun was held by all hands. We tender our grateful thanks to all who contributed to this worthy cause, and in particular we thank the Victorian and Westralian members who donated the generous sums of £22/5/- and £48/14/6 respectively.

Well, boys, this about ties it up for this issue; trust you all approve of the new Courier; don't forget the next meeting.

—John Hartley, Berowra.

The mistress had given the nursery-maid notice to leave. "So I'm a flirt, am I?" said the nurse.

"You are—and more!" answered her mistress.

"Well," replied the girl, "I just think you are jealous because I am better looking than you are—your husband told me so! And what is more, I can kiss better than you. Like to know who told me that?"

"Don't you dare suggest it was my husband," stormed the mistress

"I'm not suggesting anything," laughed the maid. "But if you want to know, it was your dentist"

Victorian Vapourings

COMRADESHIP

My humble apologies, fellows for such a long delay between bulletins—of necessity such a happening occurred. The Editor was over-run with commitments far and wide. This is a little plug on my own behalf, the above heading will, I hope, take shape in the succeeding paragraphs.

This word 'comradeship' is proving with the 1939-45 boys as it did with the 'Bow and Arrow' boys to be one that takes shape quite a few years after the cessation of a world war. The reconstruction period is of necessity a long one; men have to find in many cases a new niche in life, have to shoulder responsibilities of a home with tiny mouths to feed and generally rehabilitate themselves to civilian life again. The proof of this is in the various re-unions this year where, in most cases, record attendances were reported. The boys are finding time now to pay a little more attention to the unit of yester years—seek that very core which gave them inspiration and the will to carry on—COMRADESHIP.

Our own little show here in Victoria is going to carry the spirit of the text right into its midst by inviting our pals of the 2/1 Independent Company to come in with us and share our pleasures be they ever so brief. A goodly crowd of them were at our re-union and approached our President on this score; he thought the matter a champion one and immediately the idea was born it was adopted. They are very few, these boys, and most have an adventure above the ordinary locked in their memories. We welcome you, 2/1, to join us in our hours of COMRADESHIP to be accepted as one of us in all our loings. No invitation is needed—his is your show as much as ours. I'm sure old pals throughout Australia will be pleased to know that our original unit deems it fit to join its young brother unit and so once again live the hours of COMRADESHIP they once shared with pals beyond the vale.

We welcome you, 2/1, to the ranks of old friends and hope that in the years to come many a happy night or day will be yours in our periods devoted to COMRADESHIP.

GENERAL MEETING

Ere I proceed with the gleanings of topical news, I must draw attention to the need of a General Meeting of the 2/2 Commando Association (Victorian Branch) to discuss and put into operation quite a few matters appertaining to the general welfare of the aforesaid association. Notice of this meeting will be forwarded in due course. Please attend en masse as this means a lot to the future of the association.

AUSTRALIA WIDE CO-OPERATION

A long cherished dream by many of us has not yet eventuated—that of the 2/2 Commando Association having all active States working in unison to further aims as laid down by a constitution embodying all States. We could become a very live organisation throughout Australia, quite on a par with anything of its kind. With delegates meeting in conference at specified times to discuss progress and armed with further constructive ideas from each State to smooth out into an operative plan for success and development.

Sounds quite ambitious, I know, but it can become a reality and be a positive move in helping our own indigent personnel over the style, or in some way playing an unselfish part to the benefit of the community at large.

Worth some thought, interstaters?

What about some criticism, severe or otherwise, on this dream yet to be realised.

They were talking in the club about marriage.

"Yours was a leap-year marriage, wasn't it, Warner?" asked the first man, after a long pause.

"It was," replied Warner sadly, and everybody laughed, while Warner went on to relate what had happened.

"My wife said, 'Will you marry me? Have you any objections?' So you see, no matter what I said she had me."

"Why didn't you keep silent, then?" asked a youth brightly.

"I did," declared the much married man. "But she said, 'Silence gives consent.'"

VICTORIAN VOCAL VENTURES

Letters from many people—good to see it, lads. George Veitch at Sanbury with a donation for the Provident Fund and good news of the market gardening and poultry. George has had a trying time, but is on the right road now. Smash Hodgson again to the fore with a bundle of news re the bush fire menace. He had a busy time but all is O.K. now with his plot of mud. Typical is this paragraph: "In the midst of this fiery action and chain reaction did come a very efficient detective and, my stars, he has dampened more fires and fire lighting enthusiasm than ever you did see. His tally is three culprits so far, and only the edge off his appetite yet. It's got that way we are all furtive of lighting a smoke."

Thanks for the donation for the Provident Fund, Smash, you are way out in front as far as goodness goes. Good luck, Smasho, we all hope to see you soon.

Ken Monk writes and he has a run of outs—his "mortgage lifters" as Smash called the cows, are not so, said Ken, hardly enough water to live, let alone lift a mortgage. Things at the time of writing would be in reverse as there has been plenty of rain. You had a time all right, Ken, what with fires and cows. Grand to see you at the Anzac Day show.

A script from Baldy, and he is a ball of muscle.. Regrets very muchly his inability to attend the Anzac Re-union; his little Army at the college keeps him at bay. Thanks for the Provident donation Baldy, it is a grand gesture. Thought you would like Smash. I his letter re the fires. Baldy sends his best, Smash, and says you are welcome at any time you stroll in, with or without boots!!! Rolf is leading a gentler life, he explains it adequately. A nudge is more in my line now than the old head on collision style. Afraid we are all getting that way.

Baldy's P.S. read: "During the holidays I saw a joker in a flannel shirt and bowyangs!!" Good luck

Baldy, we all hope to see you one day when that Head is not looking.

Correspondence from Bluey Bone at Carlisle River, enclosing a donation to the unit. Thanks, Blue, good to hear from you and congrats. on that footballer son of years. Kevin Curran is quaking already. Sorry you could not make the Anzac March. Tom Coyle also writes with news of a new born babe which he has been busy re-suscitating. He almost drowned it with a head wetting campaign at Tarralgon with Cam Rod—what about a line or two, Cam, old chap? Harry Bickerton, Blue Sergeant and Ted Mulcahy. Cam Rodd is reputed to have a par excellent grog supply. What about an invitation, Cam?

Alf Grachan wrote to say the injury list had caught up with him in the form of a dislocated shoulder. Happy thoughts of a chap I knew with a "dickie" shoulder!!

The Anzac March and Reunion was a whizzer, well over 50 attended. Grand to see old friends of 2/4 who, of course, have been with us since the inception. Mac Walker, Charlie Murphy and Bob Flemming—they were very welcome indeed. It was a grand surprise to see the boys of 2/1 in attendance—what a great kick we got, and how welcome they were is now history. Hope it is only a forerunner of many happy Anzac Days. Those present were Vin (Doc.) Bristow, Bob Burns, John Murphy, Les Dowsley, Des Williams, Jack Mackie, V. Wells, Dick Ellam, H. Roberts, R. Webster, D. McLean and L. Courtin. Bert Callinan, our President, was absolutely aglow with enthusiasm and kept things moving from start to finish. He gave the few toasts simply and fervently and generally was responsible for the esprit-de-corp so apparent among 2/1, 2/2 and 2/4.

Must pay warm tribute to all who contributed to the night's success, particularly Bert Tobin, to whom this association owes a deep debt of gratitude. All the committee did a noble job on the night and helped make the night a great success.

Arch Campbell.