



2/2

Commando Courier

(Registered at the G.P.O. Perth, for transmission by post as a periodical)
Vol. 5. No. 54. OCTOBER, 1951 Price: 1d.

EDITORIAL . . .

AN IDEAL WORTH FIGHTING FOR

What is Truth? We may all ask what it is and yet not find the answer. From time immemorial the world has been seeking, searching and battling to establish it. We may search for it from a Christian or political philosophy, or a cold logical scientific angle—biological, or musical field and yet not find satisfaction in an ultimate answer.

There are many fields, and each and all a strength within themselves, to explore the angle of their beliefs.

Looking backwards into history we see how in each field, such searchings, whether they be per medium of Christianity, Science, Music or Political, the martyrdom—deaths and revilings have not deterred, but rather strengthened their endeavors, to further their beliefs. This has only been done by a strength and unity in a cause even after paying dearly.

An ideal such as our 2/2nd Organisation is also in search for a betterment and an understanding and help to all. It is again the battle or search for the ultimate. This cannot be done by half hearted measures and a strength and unity can only further the cause. We have been bound together by a common cause—Freedom. We fought together in times of stress and established a comradeship that would be hard to emulate in ordinary circumstances. Let us not forget what we have forged, but give wholeheartedly to a cause and an ideal such as our own—our 2/2nd Commando Association and battle in every possible way to foster it.

Tolerance is in itself a strength and a helpmate to understanding, so whatever view may be held personally—temper them with a tolerance and give wholeheartedly to an ideal as our Association and also give to it the fighting power, help and understanding as an ideal worthy of cause.

There are always a few who will carry the heavy burdens and count the cost as little, but it can become very tiresome and slowly may weaken.

Let this not happen. Give if you believe in an ideal—in a truth or in a betterment—or in a helpful way, all that is possible to further something that is trying to progress somewhere to an ultimate end.

This is not a plea, but a challenge, to give wholeheartedly to a worthy cause if you be an idealist to our 2/2nd Commando Association.

—D. RITCHIE.

West Australian Whisperings

Committee Comment

The usual committee meeting was held on 16th October, with the usual high attendance figure, only absentee your president, Mr. Burridge who was absent from the city on business. Roll ups to committee meetings are nothing short of amazing and it is most unusual to find an absentee. This most definitely shows that the members are most active on your behalf and are working strongly in your interests.

A further list of names of Timor Helpers was submitted and it was considered that the time has come to write the Minister for Army advising him of the names of Helpers in Timor, and further requesting him to take some action to show Australia's appreciation of their fine work during the Timor campaign.

Ladies' Night was reviewed and revealed quite a reasonable financial position, although a loss was incurred. The attendance was fair and committee members were at a loss to understand why more members don't take advantage of these nights. Suggestions for improving these functions were forthcoming from some members.

A report on the working bee at King's Park was presented by the secretary and sincere appreciation of Don Turton's efforts in this regard was moved.

The secretary reported that names of Next of Kin of Timor deceased had been obtained and that steps were being taken to see that they obtained Act of Grace payments.

The matter of having the Unit War History written and published was discussed and it was resolved that Mr. Dave Dexter's opinion on this matter be obtained.

A request from the Australian War Memorial for copies of all Couriers, Newsletters, etc., be sent to them for inclusion in the library of that institution was acceded to with pleasure.

The committee decided to arrange a Xmas Party at the Crawley

Bay Tea Rooms on Thursday, 20th December. This function will take similar form to the last Ladies' Night.

Affiliation with the Eighth Division Council was also discussed and the committee decided to take further steps in this direction.

A progress report on the sweep showed all signs of another successful financial result this year.

Association Activities

The Working Bee at King's Park was held as scheduled on 23rd September, and was attended by the usual crowd of willing workers, but it always amazes me why the work is always left to this handful. Surely it would not occasion members that much bother to spend an odd Sunday morning per year in keeping our area in King's Park in order. Don Turton made it all the way from Wandering complete with Landrover, harrows, rakes and superphosphate and his efforts were much appreciated by those present. The area was well raked over, harrowed and sown with couch grass seed and supered. Since the grass was sown it has rained quite considerably and we have every reason to feel sanguine of success in the grass germinating and eventually making a good covering of the whole area.

Now for Ladies' Night held at the Crawley Bay Tearooms on 2nd October. This was voted by all to be the best yet. The attendance, although average, could quite easily have been improved upon. Country visitors noted were Don Turton and Nida, Reg Harrington and Gordon Holmes, Joe Poynton who currently is working at Woomera Rocket Range was also among those present to enjoy the evening. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Alf Walsh who kindly played the piano for most of the evening. The barbecue supper was excellent and being favored as we were by excellent weather, the idea was an instant success.

The November meeting to be held on the 6th (Melbourne Cup night) will take the form of a Bucks' Night at which you are at liberty to invite a friend to come along and partake of our hospitality. It has been arranged for Major Burnett of the Ghuka Rifles to be present and give us some side-lights on the anti-guerrilla campaign in Malaya. This is most topical news at the moment and should prove to be of interest to those present. The rest of the evening will be spent in games, etc., so if you have a set of darts bring them along with you and so help the night to go with a swing.

Personalities

A brief note from Keith Beaucham who is at Boulder these days, returning his sweep butts and wishing to be remembered to all his old mates.

Three hearty cheers for Curly Bowden for his good efforts in supplying such excellent meat for the supper at our barbecue. Curly must be on the very best of terms with his butcher as the meat was something to rave about.

Alf Brady who is a railway gangster at Kulja, writes to say 'Hello' to the gang and say if anybody wants a days really hard work, apply to him and he will supply the "banjo", etc.

Brother Neil Brady has put up a remarkable performance with sweep tickets this year, says his children have been on the job to advantage. Neil has been off work on compensation, but hopes to return very soon.

Alf Blundy writes from Kataning, says he hasn't sighted any of the lads for some time except Bert Burges. Alf says they are planning to get a car load of chaps from his area to come down for the next Annual Re-union.

Saw "Sapper" Browne the other day. He is now living in the City of Cottesloe and says that the years are catching up on him. He still retains a marvellous memory for events in Timor.

A brief note from Bert Burges to wish us luck with the sweep and also to tell us that he is due to take delivery of a new Holden utility.

"Merv" Cash writes from Augusta, firstly to castigate me for mis-reporting that he had taken over a cafe at Augusta. No sir, it is no common hash house that the Cash's are interested in, it is a most high class Private Guest House and they would be most keen to shake hands with any of our wool barons who might be interested in a holiday at Augusta. Merv says any of the gang who want to have a holiday couldn't do better than go to Augusta and they would definitely get first preference in bookings. Anyhow, boys, Merv has an advertisement in this issue of the 'Courier'. Merv wishes to be remembered to all the gang.

Jim Corney writes briefly to say that he has been on the sick list with a dose of 'flu and still feels a bit shaky. We wish you a speedy recovery, Jim.

Pat Doyle sends in his annual letter with his sweep butts. He is still in the mining game at Kalgoorlie, he says most of our lads up that way seem to be doing alright.

Jim Gallagher who is still down Kojonup way, says he is busy shearing at the moment, but found time to send in his subscription and sweep butts. He wants to be affectionately remembered to the lads.

On show in the city at the moment is a suite of furniture made by Ralf Finklestein, a most magnificent bedroom set priced at the terrific figure of 1,000 guineas. A trifle outside my income group. Now if it had been the bare £1,000 I may have been interested, but a 1,000 guineas—gentlemen I ask you? This is the second time in recent months that "Finky" has has figured in the news as the manufacturer of high class, high priced bedroom suites, and he bids fair to become the West Australian big timer for this class of furniture. Good luck to your future enterprise, Ralf.

Jack Hasson writes from Ballidu to say that the season has not been too kind to him this year.

Jack saw John George Roffey up his way a week or so ago, enjoying a few beers. Jack sends his best to the boys. Thanks for the information regarding your creado, Jack.

Gordon Holmes noticed in the Big Smoke recently. Gordon is farm laboring in the Cranbrook area and says there is no scarcity of jobs, in fact he has to keep the cockies at bay with a stick.

Sid Jarvis writes from Gosnells to say that he is a busy man at the moment playing Foster Mother to about 500 chickens, in preparation for his poultry farm in that area.

A very brief note from "Johnno" Johnson from Koorda to send in his sweep butts and wish everybody the best of everything for the future.

Had a letter from Stan King who is farming at Pingaring and he reports a good season but says the blow flies are giving him plenty of strife. I received your sub. OK Stan, and you should have the receipt ere this. The trouble with receipts nowadays Stan, is that it costs threepence to post them as we can't send them out with the 'Courier' as we used to with the Newsletter.

Ning McCraig has had another session in Hollywood, and is now convalescing at Edward Millen Home, Victoria Park. Ning says he is OK and hopes to be out of hospital in four or five weeks.

Have heard of Bernie Langridge from a couple of sources in the last month. Firstly, Joe Burridge who was down Donnybrook way, brought news of him to say he looked really well and wished to be remembered to all the gang. Then "Robbie" Rowan-Robinson said the "Bernie" and his wife had been to visit him at Bridgetown.

Kev Millington and wife have been blessed with a daughter in the last month. Congratulations, Kev, from the gang.

Johnny Moore dropped me a line this month to report all well with him at Dwellingup. Says selling sweep tickets down his way is no sinecure. Yes, Johnny, I received your sub. OK, and your receipt is on its way to you.

"Robbie" Rowan-Robinson sends in news of a new arrival, a girl, making two boys and two girls. Congratulations "Robbie". "Robbie" seems to be a very busy man in the Bridgetown area, being president of the R.S.L. which makes for plenty of meetings, etc. He is also on the Local Recruiting Committee, Progress Association, Farmers Union, Fruitgrowers' Association, Councillor in the Agricultural Society and a local director of Westralian Farmers Ltd., making a most imposing tally of work all for one man to do. "Robbie" says he sees "Sparky" quite often holding up the traffic at the level crossing in Bridgetown while performing shunt ing operations.

Stan Sadler writes from Wongan Hills to say the season has been about average, but the wool clip extra good. Stan and his wife called on Wendel Wilkie recently for an afternoon. Wendel reports a poor season. Stan says "Sully" Sullivan is driving a bulldozer for the local road board up his way and looks really well.

Gerry McKenzie has been accepted back into the army and expects a posting any tick of the clock. He goes back with the rank of Honorary Major.

Geo Merritt has entered the ranks of the Advertising Agents and is in business with a friend in town. Geo has had a bad spin as far as health goes recently and we all wish him a speedy return to his former good health.

Mal Herbert was among those competing in the Kings Prize Shoot at Swanbourne and although he says he put up better scores than last year, he couldn't get within coo-ee of the crack field assembled for this years "Kings". He said the scores were nothing short of phenomenal and that a point dropped meant everything.

Chairlie King I reported previously as working at a garage at Fremantle which was incorrect. Charlie is weighbridge attendant at Cannington and likes the job

"Blue" Pendergrast is now conducting his own plumbing business at Miling and is doing very well. He reports more work than he can cope with in the area.

Reminders

Those sweep butts are urgently required. Please have them in my hands by the 26th to enable us to draw the sweep and get result sheets out to all the gang before the Cup is run.

Don't forget the "Bucks" Night, 6th November and bring along a friend and have a good night with the gang.

If you haven't paid your sub. for this year we will be most pleased to get your 5/- to make you financial.

We are still awaiting news of Timor Creados and Helpers from quite a few of you. Please attend to this matter with alacrity and enable your committee to put up a good case to the Minister.

Keep the date of the Xmas Party Thursday, 20th December, in mind also the venue, Crawley Bay Tea-rooms.

FISHING
BOATING
SHOOTING
SWIMMING

AUGUSTA

will cater for you
and

"Dingle Dell"
Guest House

will cater for your accommodation

If you prefer a Self Contained Flat then that is also available

All mod. cons.: E. Light, H. & C. Water, Septic System, etc.

Boats For Hire

Write or Ring:

"DINGLE DELL"

AUGUSTA

Phone 7

M. C. CASH, Prop.

Random Harvest

News to hand this month from Dudley Tapper in South Australia, he reports a letter from Paddy Kennelly, who has been to Ireland (or should I say Eire) and who was talking of returning to New Zealand. Dudley is quite happy in the Service and sends his regards to the boys.

* * * *

Next on the Random list is Alan Cardy. Right out of the blue the other day I got a letter from Alan to wish us good luck with the 'Courier' and say how much he appreciated it.

Allan is in charge of a Cadet Training Battalion at Young, in New South Wales, and has Tommy Pullane with him as a Corporal. Young is 250 miles from Sydney and therefore Alan does not see many of the lads, nor have a chance to attend many of the shows that the Unit puts on.

He says that he met Doc McNerny at Hay recently where he was relieving the Flying Doctor in that

area, but he believes that he has returned to New Guinea again now.

If any of you wealthy wool barons are thinking of visiting England in the future, Alan says he has a good clue for you. His cousin keeps a pub in the South of England and the mere mention of Alan's name is enough for him to welcome you with open arms (That's Alan's story). His name—John Berther and his pub—the George Inn at St. Mary's Bourne in Hampshire. So you cashed up types, what with Scotty Taylor and Alan's cousin you shouldn't fear for a welcome in the Old Dart.

Alan mentions that Jack Fox is Adjutant of a C.M.F. Battalion in Victoria.

Thanks Alan for the information of your creado, it has been included with the rest of the names we already have. Hope that one day you do find your way West and I can vouch for the red carpet, etc.

The Cardy is keen to have me pass on his best regards to all the folk in West Aust.

Victorian Vocal Venturings

Here is the old news and views from the land of the Gum Suckers (not just suckers, I'll have you know). Your editor has been flat out what with work and the forthcoming Legacy Demonstration.

• First big news is the general meeting which has come and gone. We have every reason to be pleased with the success of the past year, both from a financial and social viewpoint.

Office bearers for the ensuing year were elected at the meeting and include the new office of Patron which we have asked Major Stuart Love to occupy and he has graciously consented to accept the office. We feel a tinge of pride in having such a grand gentleman to occupy this office in our Branch and the flavor of our training days at dear old Foster will carry on with Major Love's name on our list of office bearers. I know other States will re-echo my feelings in this matter as the gallant Major was beloved of us all and a great asset to the 2/2nd Commando Squadron.

Bernie Calinan is once again president and once again we are most happy to have his services in this office, as anything that Bernie does he does without stint and with great ability.

Arch Campbell (Yours Truly), is again secretary with Gerry Maley as assistant secretary.

Bert Tobin is treasurer once again and are we lucky to have such a chap on our executive. He has done a whale of a job by the Association in the past, a real tower of strength is the old Tobin.

The Committee is the same as last year, and we can really look forward to a good job of work from these lads in the year ahead, if their efforts in the past are any criterion.

The attendance at the meeting was thirty odd, and here is one for you Tardy Cityites who didn't make it for one reason or another. "Smash" Hodgson and Key. Monk hired a car and came down from the bush to be present and kept the driver waiting to take them

back home again. That is what I call an effort and a half. "Smash" also deposited a couple of pounds in the Provident Fund as he reckons times are good, a gesture for which we sincerely thank him.

The lads from the 2/1 Independent Coy. were made associate members and will now be included in the 'Courier' mailing list and incidentally will be liable for the jolly old dollar a year sub.

The meeting voted a straight out donation of £15 to be sent to Alan Luby, the New South Wales President, for use in the Jack Sipple Fund. It is suggested by this Branch that we take this matter up on an Australia wide basis and really get the works moving.

Heard This?

The manager of a large organisation called in eight department executives for a confidential discussion.

"I understand," he said, "that all of you have been dating Miss Trudy, the receptionist. I want the truth. How many of you have been taking her out?"

Seven of the execs. raised their hands and looked sheepish. Mr. Manager glared at the eighth man and intoned: "Are you SURE that you are telling the truth?"

"Yes, I am," was the reply.

"All right then," came the order, "You fire her."

Personalities

Rolfe Balwin writes from Geelong with the usual Baldy Gusto, and included a cheque for the Provident Fund. Sends his regards to all the boys, wherever they be. Reckons he does not fancy himself along the Geelong road after a meeting! The new beer price is building a buyer resistance to beer a little so he is sticking to Gin or growing a Tuaka Tree (that's an

ideal). Baldy thinks the 'Courier' is par excellent.

Letters from Jack Fenwick who is Cabarlah with the 101 Wireless Regt. He ran into Tony Adams and Freddy Powell up that way and that Bill Gilchrist was doing a Marconi School of wireless at Bourke.

Jack Benson writes from Warrandyte where he is butchering and keeping well—sent a "fiver" to add to the funds. Thanks Jack, it is a very decent gesture.

Jim Robinson reports that Keith Beer is in business with his father and trips around the countryside a bit.

Cam Rodd called in the other day to see me and looks a ball of muscle and working hard at Traralgon with APM—he is going to try and make the next re-union. Sends his kind regards to all the boys throughout Australia. Is the proud father of two children and does not look a day older.

Well, boys, enough for now, but don't forget to send me in a note or two of your doings so that our effort in the 'Courier' remains up to standard. Just tell me how your chickens are laying, how the family gets bigger and brighter, etc.

Cheerio—ARCH CAMPBELL.

New South Wales News

Personalities

My little whinge of last month brought forth only a small amount of correspondence, but what it lacked in quantity was made up in quality. First and foremost came a letter from an old hand whom we haven't seen for years, Noel Buckman, who is now domiciled in Lake St., Laurieton. Greetings, Buck, but I sincerely hope you will keep in touch in future and perhaps put in an appearance next Anzac Day. Buck says he has been married four years and has one little daughter of three, but can't seem to strike the jackpot again. Most of the blokes I know are trying to avoid ringing the bell, Buck, so I would not growl about it if I were you, think of the H.C.L. Buck has only seen three of the boys over the years, Billy Walsh, Slim Thorpe and Alec Vovedin who has just landed another daughter. Buck has a pretty good job with the P.W.D. at Port Macquarie and works three rivers, Camden, Haven, Hastings, and what is probably meant to be Macquarie Bay. His work is apparently on the breakwaters and at present he is in charge of a job at Port Macquarie. He sends regards and best wishes to all.

Next on the list was that old

pill pusher, Harry Fredericks, who is still swinging a paint brush out at Condoblin and says there is plenty of work in his line out there. Harry enjoys reading the 'Courier' and says it really gets to the heart of things. He is still a member of the Bachelors' Club, but thinks it is time to start looking around for a mate. Sorry I can't put you on to anything, Harry, I'm in the same boat myself but am too busy to do anything about it. There may be something on late in December, Harry, but suggest you ring me at Berowra 326, or Curly O'Neil at JB 3673, or Alan Luby at LF 3188, or LW 1007, as soon as you hit town and some of us will bend the elbow with you.

There is always a spare bed in my humble abode Harry, and you are welcome to make use of it anytime. Thanks for the fiddle, Harry, it arrived today. Harry sends his regards to all and hopes to see a few of his old cobbles at Xmas time.

Another old hand making with the pen is Merv Clarke who has been swinging the lead in bed with a dose of chicken-pox. During the last footie season Merv played on the wing for the Manly Omnibus Depot team and received a few mentions, also a trophy for the most improved player. Nice work, Merv.

Last year Merv took up rock fishing and became a real rock hopping crank until a few weeks ago when he almost met his Waterloo at Curl-Curl. He and his brother-in-law were washed in a very wild spot and were bashed up and down an alley of rocks about ten feet higher than water level. When they were finally hauled out Merv swore he would never go near another rock again unless it was on top of a hill. Merv says the stories in the papers were all a lot of bull. If a certain well known scribe covered the story I'm not a bit surprised. When he recovers from his fowl disease Merv will be making a start on a new home at Harbord. Good luck to you Merv, and thanks for all the news and the particulars about your old Creado which I'll pass on to Col.

Jack Sipple and his good wife have asked me to record their deep appreciation of the assistance rendered them by the Association and thank all members for same. Jack was up from the Convalescent Home at Jervis Bay a couple of weeks ago for more X-rays and expects to have to undergo another operation for a bone graft. If this proves to be so it will mean another six months or so in hospital. This will bring Jack's tally of hospitalisation up to about two years, which is a mighty long time. You have all our sympathy Jack.

ample beer. Each man to cater for himself, and those who don't wish to play will be able to sit under shady trees, watch, and drink beer.

The Rendezvous: Liverpool Station between 10 and 10.30 a.m.

Timor Subsistence Money

If anyone knows of a deceased member who was on Timor, apart from Des Lilya and Jack O'Brien, will you please let me know as soon as possible so that we can see that their next-of-kin gets the money due to them. Also I would appreciate it if you chaps who are entitled to the money would let me know whether you have been paid or not.

Subs.

There are still many subs outstanding for 1951 and as it is getting near the end of the year and we will soon be getting an account for our share of costs for the 'Courier' we will beg lad of a few more ten bobs in the mail.

Creados

Remember that you might not be here today had it not been for the wonderful loyalty of those grand kids. Now is your chance to show your appreciation by sending their names and village names or areas in to me so we can endeavor to obtain some recompense or recognition for them.

Keep those letters rolling in. They help me immensely.

Cheers—JACK HARTLEY.

Reminders

Cricket Match

This will be over before you get your 'Courier', but it may interest the country lads to know of our social activities. On Sunday, October 21st, we are holding a cricket match at Moorebank Camp. Last time we went out we suffered a bleak day in a desolate place. We managed to bear it—with the help of beer. This, however, was cold comfort to the ladies we took along. This time we have decided to be self-sacrificing and leave the ladies at Home. October 21st will be a Bucks day.

Alan Stewart has assured us

Heard This?

The desk sergeant picked up the insistently ringing telephone and answered: "Police headquarters."

A lad's voice came over the wire: "This is Willie. Come quick. Ma just hit Pa over the head with the rolling pin and now he's chasing Ma all over the kitchen with a butcher's knife."

"What's your other name, son?"

"Oh," replied Willie, "That's what they're arguing about."

(Printed for the publisher by "The Swan Express", 10 Helena Street, Midland Junction, W.A.)