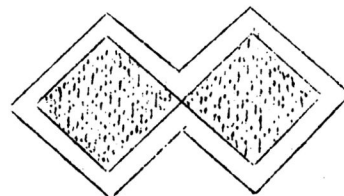


2/2  
Commando  
Association



Circular News  
Letter

No. 46.

23rd January, 1951.



It is a well worn axiom that a good Soldier never looks behind and of course if you haven't cleaned the back of the boots the excuse is quite feasible, but on entering a New Year such as we have just done, it is always a good idea to cast the mind back on what has gone before and make a few deductions.

As an Association we cannot complain too bitterly on the way we were treated by 1950. Our progress has been steady and the building processes have proved to be on honest foundations. Apart from all else the battle with various Governments for our honest dues while serving in Timor was successful and although payment will be made until 1951, at least the moral victory must go to the preceding year.

Socially the past year has been most refreshing, we have found our get togethers most amicable and enjoyable. The guest speakers at our various meetings have given us much in the way of education and delight and the innovation has been shown to be most worthwhile. Memberships have been maintained and if anything increased. Finances show a steady upward trend so all in all we can claim to have gained considerable stature as an organised body.

Speaking generally it can be said, that a general air of prosperity pervades most of this continent. Agricultural prices have reached new high levels. Wages have increased considerably. Most folk are managing to get their hands on a few of the luxuries of life and take them as the normal course. Possibly we are living in a house of cards as has been suggested by some politicians, but it must be admitted that most of us are still better off than at any other period of our existence. Cost of living has risen considerably that is granted, but still we manage to get by and most manage to save something for that rainy day and buy things for the home such that our fathers and mothers could never have dreamt of owning.

The one really major fly in the ointment is the ugly spectre of a third World War looming in the near future. The year just past has done nothing to abate our fears and quite a lot to give us grievous food for thought in the shape of the Korean Situation. The horrible thought of War is one that we all must lend our utmost efforts to avert in this year of grace so newly born.

Looking forward in this year 1951, we can only hope that all those good things we have had in the past can be maintained and all the nasty things will not crop up again. One thing though we must give thought to is what can we do to avert the ugly spectre of War. It is only wishful thinking to sit back and hope that it will all blow over. There is only one way to be certain and that is to be united and strong and in a position to meet aggression if it be forced upon us. A nation which has all its members ready,

willing and able to serve will meet threats of war calmly and efficiently, but God help us if we are not ready to meet trouble, This preparedness is a matter for everybody, not just a few stalwarts, but for the Nation as a whole. If all contribute their best to this countries preparedness then we need have no heart-burning as to the future.

The Newsletter wishes all its many readers the very best of good fortune in 1951, and hopes that those who have not had good fortune in 1950 will find their luck rectified in this New Year.

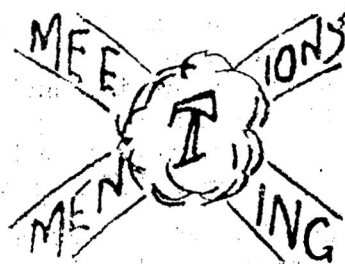
C.D. DOIG.  
E D I T O R



Your Committee has decided to take up with the Department of Army the matter of obtaining Timor Subsistence for next of kin of deceased members. This matter was brought forward by a father of one of our dead comrades, asking us to help, so now we can bring the topic before the Department in such a way as to hope for eventual success.

The Honour Avenue in Kings Park was discussed and it was decided to hold a working bee in the area on Sunday 18th February at 9-30a.m. All members who possibly can are asked to attend and bring along shovels, rakes, spades etc. and get this hallowed area into the shape it deserves.

Reunion, Olympic Year 1956, Melbourne was also discussed and I have been requested to ask that any person who has already made up his mind to go to this reunion to let me know as soon as possible. You will all readily understand that if the numbers were very large, accommodation difficulties might arise and it behoves us to be able to let our good Victorian friends have plenty of notice to arrange things as accommodation is going to be most awkward at this particular time.



Since the last Newsletter two functions have been held. Firstly the Xmas Party at Mr. Alf Walsh's residence. This was the most successful mixed party we have yet held. Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves immensely. A very good roll up of members and wives girl friends etc. took part and the evening went off with a bang. Our most earnest thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Walsh for their huge part in this most successful evening.

Secondly the January meeting on the 2nd. This was quite reasonably well attended considering that it falls in the middle of the holiday season. Mr Gordon Blythe who was introduced to the meeting by John Burrige gave a most interesting talk on the Air Beef Scheme in the Kimberleys. All present voted it a good talk and said they had learned much about this new economic venture in the Meat Industry.

Our next meeting is the February meeting to be held as usual at Monash Club on the 6th. Mr. McDonald who lectured us over twelve months ago on China, is to be the guest speaker and with China such headlines at the moment and Mr. McDonald with 25 years of experience of the Asian Continent we should be able to extract a ton of good meat from his talk

Now for the two big events of our Calendar The Annual Reunion to be held at Monash House, Cnr. Hay and King Sts., on Saturday 24th February. This evening is always something to look forward to and you are asked to make every effort to attend. Arrangements will be similar to previous years. Starting time 7 p.m. Dinner at 8p.m. and then in the lap of the Gods! Boys make this the best ever. If you live in the Country try and arrange a car load to come down. If you are a car owner try and pick up some of your less fortunate mates and bring them down for this "Once a Year Party".

The Annual Commemorative Service will be held at our Avenue in Kings Park on Sunday 25th February, Last year the attendance

at this Service was far below what should have been expected, so this year make it a must to attend this service to commemorate your fallen mates. Owners of cars are asked to meet at the Perth Railway Station by 2.45p.m. or at the Edith Cowan Memorial Clock by 3p.m. If those desiring to go to the service meet at these points then the cars will take them to the assembly point in Kings Park. The service will be conducted by your President Mr. Burridge. I appeal to all members not to miss this service.



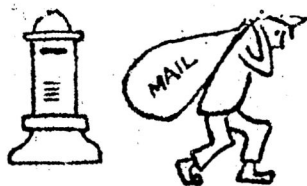
**STORK  
STAKES!**

Don't tell me that that special Stork who looks after the 2/2 types isn't a lean and hungry type after his work of the last month. Here is the list and boy what a list :

Pere Hancock a daughter on 11th December, 1950.  
Ron Dook a daughter on 19th December, 1950.  
Neil Scott a Son on 28th December, 1950. Reg Tatan a Son on 2nd January, 51. Stan Sadler a daughter on 5th January, 51. Jack Hasson a daughter on 11th January, 51. Charlie Sadler a boy some time in December, and Ron Neuzerling a Son. I got writers cramp writing that list down, it was so long. Must have been something in the air. Well all of you lucky people our hearty congrats and hopes for a happy parenthood.

The old Wendel Wilkie has taken unto himself a bride, I'm told, so he is also in line for our congratulations.

Gordon Barnes had the sad misfortune to lose his wife last June, Our sincere condolences Gordon on your bereavement. "Scotty" Wares lost his father early this year also. Our condolences to you also Scotty.



**CORRESPONDENCE  
CHRONICLES**

With the return of Timor Subsistence Forms I expected oceans of correspondence, but afraid that is not the case. Have had a few letters, but in the main most forms have come in minus a letter. Mick Morgan writes regretting his inability to attend meetings and hopes things will fall out in such a way to enable him to go to a few in the New Year. Mick had a letter from Paddy Kenneally who is now in Wellington, New Zealand. and doing very well. Arthur Marshall writes from Harvey, says he has been away wheat carting and doing quite well. Hasn't had a chance to get stuck into the cricket yet. Arthur is desirous of buying a second hand truck, about a four tonner with a tip on it, but not necessarily a body. If any reader knows of one going for about £500 let me know and I'll pass the news on to "Marsh". Steve Rogers is one who I haven't heard of for an age and this week I got a most interesting letter from him. He has left Wiluna as that place was declining too rapidly for his fancy and is now domiciled at Brunswick. Steve as you know is a baker and now conducts the Brunswick Bakery. Steve says, Brunswick is seething with New Australians, but once in awhile you do hear good old Aussie as she is spoke. Steve mentions seeing Blue Wilks at Brunswick, says if you can imagine somebody with Fred Napier's chassis weighing about 19stone with red hair, thats Blue. I passed your letter to J.C.B. Steve and he will be answering personally. Bert Burges is among my correspondents says had quite a bit of rain at Broomehill, reckons he will have to give away Harvest and start fallowing. Alf Brady is now Railway ganger at Kulja likes the life and wishes all and sundry the best for the New Year. Brass Fagg writes from Northampton to say all is well with him, Hopes to see us at the Annual Reunion. Rip McMahon is now at the Busselton Hotel, Busselton as Barman likes the place too. Is playing a little cricket and met Bob Palmer when Bussleton played Cowaramup. Stan Sadler sent me the news of Wendel Wilkies marriage also that the harvest in his area was a bumper. Sends his regards to the gang. Don Turton says he has been having a bit of rain in his area at West Pingelly and took the opportunity to drop a line to wish all the gang well for the New Year. Paddy Doyle writes from Kalgoorlie to say that Xmas was a bit hectic, ran in with Ernie Hoffman who was looking particularly well. Herbie Thomas wrote from Dowerin, Haven't heard of Tommo since the year dot. He has been up round Darwin, Alice Springs and places distant, Is now working for a cockie at Dowerin. Arthur Smith is another who regrets his inability to be a regular at meetings, but says he has high hopes for this year. Jack Fowler says he is still battling with the Harvest, Had eleven

hundred acres to take off with one 10ft. machine and had to sandwich water carting in between so has been as busy as the proverbial one armed paper hanger. Says the heavy country is a bit disappointing, but the light land has come right, into its own this year. Clarrie Furner adds his congratulations to all the others for the Committee's efforts with the Timor Subsistence. Thanks Clarrie.



Gordon Barnes writes from 32 Albert Street, Prospect, S.A. and sends his best wishes to his old mates. Gordon as mentioned earlier has not been having the best of luck. He has a good job with a firm of Express Carriers and gets around Adelaide quite considerably. He has seen Allan Hollow, Dudley Tapper, Ron Neuzerling, Lew Marchant and Dig Dighy and says the boys had an evening at Dud Tappers place. Barny has just become the proud owner of a 1939 baby Fiat and has done a Tour through S.E. South Australia and on to Portland in Victoria. Says it was a crackerjack Holiday.

Ron Neuzerling is another from S.A. to write. He is a conductor on the Trams, but says although you would think he would meet all the old gang on that job, in point of fact he has met very few. Says that with shortage of Staff on the Trams in Adelaide, they are working thirteen days a fortnight says the overtime makes the pay check quite considerable. Ron is the proud parent of 3 children - Two Girls and a boy.

A brief note from Alby Martin with his Subsistence Form and saying many thanks for our efforts. His regards to all the Team.

My International Correspondent - Peter Mantle with a bundle of news from Bombay. Peter as yet does not know if he will be returning to Australia when his three year term is complete. Says that one thing about India you solve the servant problem, but reckons his wife will be able to cope with domestic problems, if they return to Aussie in the usual approved form of good Australian Housewives. Peter mentioned the fact that Lord Lovat is due in Australia to judge Poll Shorthorn Cattle at the Royal Jubilee Show, Sydney. Says we ought to try and get him to give us a lecture. Lord Lovat was founder of the famous Lovat Scouts of which we heard so much from F. Spencer Chapman at Foster. Peter says the new Prohibition laws in India are touching a few of the hardened old "Two bottles a day" birds on the raw. You apparently can only get it for medicinal purposes. I'll bet the old snake bite is getting a hammering. Peter and his wife went to a Swimming Gala at Beach Candy, says the standard of swimming, very low, reckons any secondary school team of swimmers in Aust. would have cleaned up the whole programme. Talking of high prices, Peter says his wife payed the equivalent of 3/- for a pound of flour and not even good grade flour at that. Apparently labour is one thing that is cheap as he had an Electric Plug fitted in his flat for 6/- including the cost of Plug (3/-) Peter wishes all the boys the very best for 1951.

Have a long list of reminders for this month:

Send those Timor Subsistence Forms into me, C/- Box 1273. G.P.O. Perth as soon as possible.

Anybody who hasn't completed a form for War Gratuity should obtain one from the nearest Post Office. as soon as possible, and send it to the War Gratuity Officer, Swan Barracks, Perth.

That February meeting on the 6th, is calling you, come along and hear Mr. McDonald give a really good talk.

The Annual Reunion, Saturday February 24th at Monash House, Cnr. Hay and King Street, is next for your attention - Make this the bumper year.

Commemoration Sunday, 25th February, is a must for all members. Remember we meet at Perth Railway Station or the Edith Cowan Memorial at 2.45p.m. Service at 3.30p.m. at our Honour Avenue. Bring your relatives with you please.

If you have already given some thought to the Olympic Reunion 1956, in Melbourne, write and tell me your intentions so that our Victorian friends can be put into the picture.

If anybody found a bangle at the Ladies Night at Alf Walsh's, same belongs to Mrs. Frank Freestone, a 156 Adelaide Terrace, Perth, who is most keen to recover it.

Last but not least that Working Bee at Kings Park on 18th February, 1951, at 9-30. Bring along your Rakes, Shovels etc. and give us a hand to clean up our area.



Mr. and Mrs. were expecting a new addition to the family, and the daughter aged ten was sent away to the grandmother's in the country, while Ken, aged six, stayed at home.

After the baby arrived, the father sent a long telegram to the daughter, telling her of the new arrival, which awaited her return home. He gave Ken 4/- to send the wire.

When Ken returned from the Post Office, he handed his father 2/6d. change.

Looking at the money the boy handed him, and remembering the number of words in the telegram, the father stated; "Hm-m-m, the Post Office has made another mistake?"

"Oh, no, Dad," said the boy. "I thought the telegram was too long, so I cut it down a bit to save money."

"What the deuce did you say?" queried the father.

"Oh, I just said: "I win; it's a girl. Ken."

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