

2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Editorial

"ABSENT FRIENDS"

During the evening of the Annual Re-union one of the main toasts was to "Absent Friends". The speaker very aptly remarked that these "absent friends" could be divided into two classes.

Firstly there was the chap who could not, or does not, attend our functions through work, distance of travel, sickness, or any one of a number of private and personal reasons. These members are to be pitied as they are missing out on some really crackerjack turnouts. We only hope that in the future they will be able to make some arrangements to join us—if not for all of our dos then at least for some of the more important ones.

Of course there is always the member who just doesn't turn up for no reason whatsoever. This chap is the loser and the sooner he realises it and does something about rectifying his error the better he will be. When he does show up he is assured of a very warm welcome and we know that once he does attend he will come again and again.

In the second group we have those members of the Unit who, during the war years or afterwards, have passed on. Those members who died for the cause for which we all fought. Each and every one of us had his own personal idea of why we joined up and for what we were fighting, and in the back of our minds was the thought that one day we may receive our final pass and check in. You and I were the lucky ones that returned. Our mates died that we may live a life of our own making.

Anzac Day is the National Day of Remembrance for all men who fell during the two World Wars. Your Association has always been a proud participant in the local march and service held in Perth on that day—April 25. Again this year we will march as a Unit under our own flag and a record attendance is hoped for and expected. Like our own private Commemoration Day Service this Anzac Parade is a **must**. No excuses are expected. Be there and honor those mates of ours who we knew in years gone by. "We will remember them."

West Australian Whisperings

Committee Comment

The committee met on March 18th and for a number of reasons the attendance was below the usual number only eight members being able to attend.

A letter was to hand from the Military History section to say that as Colonel Treloar who was dealing with Unit Histories, had died, the matter had been passed on to another trustee who would get in touch with us at a later date. In consequence nothing further can be done in regard to Unit History.

The Annual Re-union was viewed in retrospect and it was unanimously agreed that at future functions a pianist was a necessity to make things go with a swing. All present were most pleased with the wonderful roll up of country folk.

A review of the Commemoration Day showed that this service also pleased the committee and once again the good attendance was remarked upon. It was resolved that a working bee at a later date be arranged to paint all the name plates and give them a brighter appearance. Discussion took place on the possibilities of guest speakers for future meetings and a tentative list of possible speakers was drawn up for guidance of the present and future committees.

Arrangements for Anzac Day were completed and these will be reviewed under Association Activities.

Heard This?

A couple of cocky young servicemen, having dined at a rather exclusive restaurant, told the steward that they liked their coffee like their women—hot and sweet.

The steward gravely nodded and enquired: "Black or white?"

Association Activities

Firstly, the Annual Re-union, held at Monash House on Saturday, February 23rd. This function again proved to be an excellent evening. Everyone seemed to have a really good time and the late revellers carried on until 4.30 a.m. Sunday morning. Approximately 70 rolled up including guests. Of this number 24 came from the country districts which is a marvellous response. Also we had many wires and telephone calls from country folk who could not make the do. Jack Denman rang from Geraldton to wish us a good evening from all the boys in that district and Bernie Langridge wired from Donnybrook, as did Norm Thornton and Geo. Smith from Denmark. The catering was again well carried out and the beer flowed liberally. Speeches were well delivered and excellently received and generally everybody had a good night. We would have liked to have seen a greater response from the city types who, after all, have only to catch a bus or a tram to get there but it was not to be.

Commemoration Sunday was once again well attended, nearly 40 of the Unit turning up with quite a gathering of friends and relations. In the absence of the president, John Burrridge, General Secretary Colin Doig conducted the service and gave what was described as a really good address. Gerry McKenzie mustered the parade in his usual efficient manner and arrangements went according to plan. This service is definitely gaining ground yearly and is proving to be an excellent commemoration. Dave Ritchie took over the duties of Warden of our trees in Kings Park for the ensuing twelve months relieving our original Warden, Geo. Boyland.

The March meeting on the 4th saw a recession of attendance, probably accounted for by its proximity to the Annual Re-union. It took the form of a darts evening and we finished up playing the

Committee of the Perth Sub-Branch R.S.L., who, I'm sorry to relate, proved a bit too hot for us, showing that they had had a lot of mis-spent evenings by their prowess on the dart board.

Anzac Day (Friday, April 25th) is swiftly looming up and arrangements are well in hand. We will parade as usual near Pier Street at 10 o'clock and take part in the march. Afterwards our usual function on the Esplanade is out owing to the new liquor laws forbidding drinking in public parks. Thanks to the good offices of Tom Nisbet we will be able to meet after the parade at the 16th Battalion Drill Hall, Bazaar Terrace, and imbibe in a few snorts as usual. The drill will be to march off to approximately the Repatriation Building then back through Government Gardens to the Esplanade and thence to the Drill Hall.

The April monthly meeting takes place on 1st (April Fool's Day) at Monash Club and the committee is in the process of lining up somebody really good to give us a talk. At the time of writing this para. the name of the actual person was not available but we can be sure that whoever is teed up will merit your attendance. To give the speaker a feeling of confidence a good roll up is essential as talking to empty seats is no fun. So, boys, do your best to be at Monash Club on April 1st and hear something to your advantage.

The Annual General Meeting will take place on June 3rd and now is the time to start looking around for new blood to give your Association a new lease of life. There is nothing quite like an infusion of new blood to make an organisation such as ours take added impetus as the old committee members and executives slowly run out of ideas and a few new committee members or executives will bring new minds to the problems which beset us. So then, chaps, look around and find a few new men to elect to your governing body in June.

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Personalities

As stated earlier we saw a big influx of country visitors for the Annual Re-union and here are some of the lads we met.

Ernie Denwoodie down from Kalgoorlie, and appeared to be in great spirits. Believe the Denwoodie has changed his domicile to Collie giving the gold away for the black diamonds. Anyhow, Ernie, good luck to you in your change of occupation.

Dick Darrington was in town from Quairading and said he felt fine and enjoyed himself thoroughly at the Re-union. Said things were a bit dry up Quairading way but as a baker the season didn't worry him as much as the cockies.

As usual Jack Hasson made the trip from Ballidu and was among the last to give the party away. It wouldn't be a Re-union without the Hasson's smiling visage and great desire to box on after every one else had had his chips. Jack reports a good season and big hopes for the future in the farming venture at Ballidu.

Saw Ernie Bingham and he looked in the pink, practically fighting fit. He extracted all the enjoyment he possibly could out of the night and we can only hope that he can be among the regulars at our Re-unions.

Of course Jack Fowler was there and enjoying himself no end. Jack has yet to miss a Re-union and says they are the event of the year for him.

Another regular was Gordon Holmes all the way from Cranbrook. Gordon appears to be very well in health and says work is not hard to get down Cranbrook way. Gave us quite a rap up for the 'Courier'. Says it is a wonderful contribution to the friendship of all the boys.

Down from Collie were Don Hudson and Ray Watson. Don't tell me they didn't have a good time! They played on to the wee small

hours of the morning and appeared to have a wonderful time. Both Roy and "Huddy" looked extra well and the bracing air of the coal fields must have something to recommend it after seeing this husky pair.

Alf Hillman made the trip from Broomehill and said that he never enjoyed himself more. He hopes to make it an annual as he met so many of his mates for the first time for an age. Alf looks extra well and reports a good season in the farming business at Broomehill. He specially asked me to pass on his regards to all his mates in 3 Section, wherever they be.

Bert Burgess was down and made it a case of business and pleasure as he brought down his patent rotary wool winding table for a demonstration to Elder Smith and Co. By the way you wool cockies this is a great idea as it will save you miles of walking during shearing and if you are interested get in touch with Bert Burgess at Broomehill and he will give you further particulars. Bert seemed to be pleased with the way the Association is shaping and came to light with quite a few good ideas which I hope to be able to put to you all at a later date.

A most welcome visitor was Don Murray who came down from York for the occasion. Don ably proposed the toast of 'Absent Friends', stepping into the breach at a moment's notice and really treated the subject well. Don is as lean as a lathe but says he was never better in his life and can thoroughly recommend the land to any of the boys who are interested.

The Sadler Bros., Charlie and Stan, were among the gathering, renewing old acquaintances in a big way. Both look well and prosperous and report good doings on the land except for the inroads of Artie Fadden and his minions. As usual I was calling Stan, Charlie; and Charlie, Stan, but eventually got the personalities sorted out.

Jim Gallagher, who recently has been doing the Rural School at Harvey, was among those present,

and must say looked a picture of health. Jim is hopeful of getting a War Service Farm ere long and join the bloated band of wool cockies. Can assure you it is not all beer and turkey Jim, but the dough is good at the moment. Jim would like to be remembered to Bill Coker and Joe Garland, and "Swede" Rowley, very fondly. Says a few noggins with the above would be a bit good.

Vince Swann was our longest traveller coming all the way from Salmon Gums. His visit had a dual purpose as he brought his wife to hospital and she presented him with an offspring. Sorry we can't remember the sex but nevertheless our congratulations 'Swanny'. Vince hasn't put on much weight since army days but looks very well.

"Doc" Wheatley, looking as skinny as a rake handle but admitting that he could still shoot the eye out of a kangaroo at 500 yards, was also present. "Doc" is among our regulars at these functions and never fails to have a good time. He says the market garden is still going well and that he is building up a nice asset at Byford.

The irrepressible Wendel Wilkie was seen also, with a whimsical gleam in the eye and done up like a sore toe. Nobody could accuse the Wendel of not having a good time as that is his forte where ever he be. He admits to being in the best of health and says the farming game is treating him kindly. He sends his best wishes to all the gang wherever they be.

"Robbie" Rowan-Robinson, who had been in the city for the previous fortnight, was present at the Re-union and we promptly co-opted him for a toast. That of the President and Executive, and the nice things he said about them had them absolutely blushing. Thanks for your fine compliments, Robbie, we try to do our best.

Freddy Griffiths of lead mining fame, was among the assemblage and enjoying the show to the utmost. Fred is heading back North to the lead mine any tick of the

clock now so he was probably having a final splurge.

Must not forget that old regular Lew Thompson. Lew never fails to turn up to an Annual Re-union and he gets around meeting old mates and fights all the Timor campaign over again and generally has a wow of a time. The passing of the years appears to be treating Lew very lightly as he does not seem to have aged a day. He is most anxious that his best regards be passed on to all the old gang.

Of course a Re-union would not be complete if Don Turton wasn't present. Don tells me he is contemplating a trip East soon to get a bit of the tiredness out of his system as he has been going like the proverbial scalded cat for quite a while now. Now is one of our successful farmers and when I say successful I mean that his modern methods are the envy of all his district. He is really showing them how. Don wishes to be remembered to the gang, especially Bernie Callanan.

A notable absentee was Mick Morgan who had the misfortune to lose his mother a day previously and naturally could not make the Re-union. Our sincere condolences Mick, and we hope to see you again Anzac Day.

Johnny Burridge was also unable to be present owing to business reasons having to go down the south-west on urgent apple business. He sent us a wire wishing us a very pleasant evening. Joe has been a very busy man of late and finds it increasingly difficult to give his time to Association affairs.

In Johnnie's absence, Bill Epps chaired the dinner and did a wonderful job.

Must congratulate Jack Carey on his wonderful speech in which he proposed the toast of Allied Services. It was a real gem and showed that Jack had given the matter a lot of thought.

In reply to the above toast our old friend Dave Ross was at his

witty best. It is always a pleasure to have Dave present at our functions as he enjoys himself to the limit. Dave looks little different to when we knew him in Dilli.

Saw quite a few of the city folk for the first time for an age, notably Charlie King, who is now looking very well and contented and likes his job as scale attendant at Cannington. Alby Friend, who likes that "area of the future", Kwinana, reports that he is fit and well and doing alright. "Blossom" Lawrence also present as big as a house and his smile in proportion. "Dusty" Studdy, whose vocal eccentricities had the mob in convulsions, was in top form.

Les Glasson was down from Kalgoorlie recently and reports most of the gang are going well up there. Says Tony Davidson is as big as a horse and doing extra well in the fruit and vegetable game.

Rod Dhu has gone East on a trip and hopes to contact quite a few of the gang while away, both in Melbourne and Sydney. So look out you Eastern Staters!

Jim Ritchie and Warwick Crossing have started out on their shearing runs already and we will probably see them in six or nine months time with large cheques and larger thirsts. Hope you both have good seasons Jim and "Wack".

Back from South Australia to work on the land at Quindanning is "Barney" Barnes. Gordon looks a picture of health and says there is plenty of work in S.A. He brings news of Alan Hollow who is now in the building trade and doing quite well. Dud Tapper is also in the building trade as a bricklayer and has his own gang. "Barney" also met Freddy Gowns in Adelaide and reports him to be doing quite well.

By the way Dud Tapper, if this should meet your eye could you by any chance get me the addresses of Bob Williamson, Jimmy Veal, Ron Gurr, Dignum, Litchfield and that chap at Snowtown whose name I've forgotten?

Random Harvest

Had a most welcome letter from Bill Tomasetti who is with the Department of Territories in New Ireland being stationed at Kavieng as Assistant District Officer. The old "Tomato Soupee" had been down to Sydney and did the School of Pacific Administration and is now well and truly on the job. While at the school he obtained four credits out of five subjects. Being A.D.O. helps a lot says Bill. He recently completed a patrol of the Tabar Isles. He says the "famous whiteman's bur-

den" is not very heavy up there. His wife and family are with him which includes two daughters, one aged five and the other two and a half. All thriving.

Bill promises to write more fully in the near future and give us some account of his doings in New Ireland. If you address any correspondence to C. D. Doig, 9 Barrack-st., Perth; or to Jack Hartley, Berowra, Waters-rd., Berowra, N.S.W., it will smartly be seized upon for inclusion in future 'Couriers', Bill.




Reminders

The ever present problem of unpaid subscriptions arises once again. Quite a few are still in the wilderness of debt to the Association so boys do the correct thing and send on your 5/- to bring you up to date.

Don't forget the April meeting on the 1st. We can guarantee a good night out for you and all you have to do is roll along.

Anzac Day is a must for all who can make it. It is amazing that those who come once rarely stay away in the future as it is always a day to be remembered.



New South Wales News

Sorry I haven't got much in the way of news this month boys—not being in the city very much these days I have to depend on letters for this State's contribution to the 'Courier', so it's up to you fellows to see that some mail other than black snakes comes my way. Actually, the one and only letter of the month is from Russ Symons, who recently did a tour of the north coast. Russ reports having had a wonderful trip up and back from Canungra. He stayed at Canungra for some time and says its still the same old place we all remember, only the beer situation is something we all dream of—it's on from 10 to 10, or after if you are still on deck; no standing up to swill either plenty of stools, etc., to sit and drink in comfort. Russ had a very enjoyable session there with Eddy Rowe, who is doing very nicely out at Pine Creek and sends his regards to all the boys. Thanks for the donation, Eddie. Russ also had a day in Brisbane with Kel Carthew. Kel has moved into a new home in Kedron with his family and Russ

says it's the goods. Col Cubis was also on Russ's visiting list and they had a few beers together. Col still has the shop at Ascot, plus another on the other side of town, alongside a rubbidy-dub. Thanks for the three subs Russ and I'll see about that address for you. Heard a rumor from a real estate acquaintance of mine that Micky Devlin has been house hunting up my way.

ANZAC DAY

We'll be following our usual practice of putting a wreath on the Cenotaph at eight in the morning, and then forming up near the Edward the Seventh Statue near the Conservatorium. After the march we'll pile onto my truck and adjourn to Alan Luby's home for lunch and a few grogs, after which the Arncliffe R.S.L. Clubrooms will be open house for anyone wanting to bend the elbow further. Roll up lads and let's make it an even better day than last year.

—JACK HARTLEY.

Heard This?

A young couple woke up the Justice of the Peace in the middle of the night to marry them. After the knot was tied he went out on the verandah to see them off. The young couple started a terrific argument, much to the dismay of the kindly Justice. He listened in shocked silence for a time, and then went to them and told them reprovingly that it wasn't nice to argue like that right after they had just been married.

"Why, you act like a couple that had been married for many years."

"She's so unreasonable," said the husband.

"He's the one who's unreasonable," retorted the bride.

The Justice asked them to tell him what the trouble was; probably he could advise them and help

them settle the matter. The young husband looked angrily at his wife and grumbled: "She wants to eat."

The following were extracts which came from newspapers . . . just as well our printer is infallible (?).

"The engineer put on full steam, dashed against the cow, and literally cut her into calves."

"The stateman and a party of fiends are here to shoot pheasants."

"As Mr. Blank mounted the platform to open the flower show, all eyes were fixed on the large red nose he displayed. Only years of patient cultivation could have produced an object of such brilliance."

"We respectfully advise that Mr. Smith's body was taken to Hell (Hull) for internment, where repose the remains of other members of his family."

Victorian Vocal Venturings

Once again I am writing the scant news which seems to be typical of Victoria these days, so hope you will glean a little news out of the text. Take it from here, Col! Quoting Dick Bentley?

One thing is essential to start our news. Editor, please convey to Ray Parry our hearty congratulations on his winning an M.M.—it was a grand effort for Ray has had a long fight on the road to health. Personal congrats. Ray, for after our chat prior to your leaving Victoria I thought you still looked a sick man. Great recovery and grand effort old pal.

Maybe all will be interested to know that "Double Diamond", the Association bulletin produced in Victoria, is devoted mostly to 2/2 activities during the war. "Baldy" is writing a short history of Timor—believe it is tip top. This will please our patron, Major Love, who has been very keen for this story to be told in full. The old chap will get a kick with "Baldy" doing it. This Association is keen to do a job of work and has got its teeth well into all activities. Will get some copies forwarded as I am sure they will prove of interest to all in the West.

News has just come that Carlton has been chosen as the Olympic site and that the Commonwealth, State Government and the Melbourne City Council have decided to share the expense of over half a million pounds. Now we can go ahead and plan our final Re-union that will bring us all back to the fold for the great occasion. We definitely intend to hold this great venture and with co-operation from all States expect it to be a huge success.

Congratulations to George Robinson and his good lady on the arrival of a son, this being the third of the Robinson children. Thought being a postie would walk off what it takes to turn out a real plumbing job.

Another in the "stork stakes" is the elusive and little seen Gordon "Blue" Stanley. To him a daughter, the second. A dark

horse is "Blue"—reading that looks a bit of an anomaly! "Blue" would welcome anyone passing through Dandenong. See him at the exchange, men. We will see you Anzac Day, Gordon!

Kevin Curran has laid the foundation for a good business by gaining a clearance from Hawthorn and we all wish him well on the eve of his new venture.

Must appeal for a big muster on Anzac Day, news of whereabouts, etc., to appear in time for the "March and Do". Also, men, would like a little news of your doings to pass on to "Maestro" Doig for inclusion in the 'Courier', some old friend may be extremely interested, so—Do it NOW!

So, my good friends throughout Australia, on behalf of the "Invisible Men" of Victoria, I send you cordial greetings and wishes for good health and happiness. Now grab your pockets!

Cheerio, amigos.
ARCH CAMPBELL.

Heard This?

This joke comes from American "Judge":—

The psychiatrist was interviewing a rosy-cheeked young draftee.

"What," he asked, "do you like to do best, Mortimer?"

"Shoot Japs," answered the youth.

"And what do you like to do next best?"

"Make slingshots to shoot Japs with."

The psychiatrist frowned, made notations on Mortimer's file sheet.

"Well, what do you like next best?"

Mortimer hung his head, mumbled: "Steal little girls' bloomers off them."

The psych, removed his glasses, stared hard over his nose, cleared his throat and asked sweetly: "And then what do you like to do?"

"Take the elastic out of the bloomers to make more slingshots to shoot more Japs with."