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Commando Courier

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Editorial

THAT NEW YEAR RESOLUTION!

New Year resolutions are often made and more often not kept. Such being the common fate of these high ideals what advice can be offered to our members on such a worthy but easily forgotten subject?

Remember when the fight was on the number of resolutions made then, to get out of it alive, to get a hearty meal and probably the only one carried out faithfully, to get a skin full of the amber fluid.

Difference in New Year resolutions made on Active Service and those made in peace time is that on Service the resolutions were of a fleeting character. Something that filled the want at that particular time such as a desire for a long cold lager or a nice roast dinner. You were not particularly concerned with the future as when you signed on the dotted line you largely left the future to look after itself and the needs of the present were paramount. Now with the donning of a civvy suit the future becomes omnipotent, all embracing and the present is not as important in your mind. Resolutions made in the cold blood of civvy street should be of a more solid character, more enduring and aimed at greater heights.

With the passing of time the memory is inclined to fade and it becomes increasingly difficult to cast the mind backwards occasionally for a momentary glimpse of those excellent friends that were yours when you were in uniform. These friendships were strong, and virile, sufficient enough to warrant the forming of an Association to give you and I a permanent link with one another.

This Association like all Associations casts certain obligations upon the individual to maintain it and keep it alive and active. Therefore it is incumbent upon you to make a few New Year resolutions with respect to your Association and stick to them. The ones the Association asks most of you are small and could with little effort be carried out by everyone. Such as attending the three main functions of the Association's calendar—the Annual Re-Union, the Commemoration Service and the Annual General Meeting—and, of course where possible, a monthly meeting or so. If you dwell in the country an odd letter to your Secretary to keep him abreast of your doings. If you make these resolutions and keep them you will also keep alive the ideals for which you fought and attain the objective of the Association—Friendship.

—K. HAYES.

West Australian Whisperings

Committee Comment

Two committee meetings have been held since last a "Courier" was printed and of course quite a bit has happened of interest to the Association. Both meetings were as usual well attended and much debate took place.

A report of the working bee at Mrs. Ludlow's residence was given by the secretary and it was decided to send a letter of appreciation to Mr. Pat O'Malley who so kindly supplied and worked the rotary hoe used to cultivate the area.

Final arrangements were completed for the Xmas Party.

It was resolved that the W.A. Branch approve of the affiliation with the 8th Division Council which is in Sydney and that this State's contribution be sent to the N.S.W. Branch which represents us on the Council.

The W.A. Branch has decided to accept the Jack Sipple Appeal which is being conducted by the N.S.W. Branch to assist Jack Sipple who was very badly injured when he was run down by a motor vehicle about two years ago and has done no work since. Further particulars of what is required of this Branch will be obtained from N.S.W.

The second committee meeting held early in January revealed that the Xmas Party had shown a profit of about £3 as a result of the Xmas Club conducted by the Association.

It was decided that next Xmas a Children's Xmas Tree be held and that the adults be catered for with a New Year's Eve Party.

Arrangements were made for the Annual Re-Union on similar lines as last year and also for the Commemoration Service to be held the following day.

A working bee in Kings Park was arranged for Sunday, February 17, to clean up the area.

It was resolved that the Association be represented at the Parade of Ex-Servicemen on the occasion of the Royal Visit on March 3, 1952. Further details of this will be given later.

Association Activities

The Xmas Party at Crawley Bay Tearooms was the sort of party we have hoped for for years and to date had eluded us but this time we hit the target plumb in the middle of the bull. The attendance was the best ever by quite a bit, the music extra good, the barbecue just right and the general swing of the evening just what it should have been. Our congratulations to all who had anything to do with it. If only we can reckon on parties like that all the time we will be socially in clover. Numerous faces we hadn't seen for some time plus a good sprinkling of country folk made it a really convivial night.

During the evening the President took the opportunity to make a presentation of an electric razor to the General Secretary, Col. Doig for his work over the past years, and in a happy speech eulogised the work of Mr. Doig. Mr. Doig in reply was for once caught short of words with the unexpectedness of the gift and could only stutter a few words of thanks.

The February meeting will be held as usual on the 5th and we have arranged for Mr. Jack Richmond who for years now has been Captain of the "Kybra" to give us a talk on his experiences as coastal skipper. Capt. Richmond was hero of the famous tow of the "Papachristidos Vassilios" which broke down off Carnarvon a couple of years ago. Also we hope to welcome as many as possible of the "York Hides" which brought the unit off Timor. Quite a few of these lads are now resident in W.A. and we hope to give them a night out. All in all it adds up to a good night so boys what about it?

Next is the Annual Re-Union on Saturday, February 23, at Monash House, cr. Hay and King Streets, Perth. This will be conducted along similar lines to previous years and as all previous Re-Unions have been extra good this one should be no exception. Proceedings will open at 7.30 p.m. and carry on till finished. The cater-

ing is in capable hands and generally it will only take a decent roll up to assure the success of the evening. If you live in the country try and arrange a car load of your Unit mates and come down for the night and the next day.

Then the Commemoration Service at King's Park on Sunday, 24th. This Service was well attended last year but it was still not as good as should be expected. This is the one day in the year when we pay homage to our War Dead in our particular portion of God's Acre and it behoves us all to make every effort to be present at the ceremony which will be conducted by your President, Mr. Burridge. All persons with cars are asked to assemble at Perth Railway Station by 2.45 p.m. and assist in transporting those not so fortunately placed. The Service will commence at 3 p.m.

A working bee will be held Sunday, February 17, at 9.30 a.m., at Kings Park to put our area in apple pie order for the following week. A large roll up is asked for as many hands make light work and we should be able to get the whole area cleaned up in about an hour and a half. If you can make it come along as we will have plenty of rakes to accommodate you all.

The Association ran a small Xmas Club in connection with the Xmas Party and this proved to be a great success. The five who won prizes were: John, c/- Nedlands Hotel, sold by C. Doig; John, c/- Nedlands Hotel, sold by C. Doig; D. Honey, Bassendean, sold by J. Wicks; 279, Mrs. E. F. DuBoulay, Northam, sold by A. R. Burns; 966, J. Harrison, Northam, sold by R. Dook. Any who have not collected their prizes should contact either Mick Calcutt or Colin Doig.

Personalities

Ray Aitken seen in town for the Xmas vacation and looking tip top. Ray says he likes Nyabing quite well and will be staying there at least another year. He is residing at the University Hostel while in

the city and says the manager is an old "Yerk Hides" type who really knows how to run an hostel. Of course Ray is giving the races a punishing managing to pick enough winners to make the game pay.

Another of the country folk sighted in the big smoke for Xmas was Tony Bowers taking a well earned spell from his timber mill. Tony reports another good year and has big hopes for the future. Says the labor question is his biggest bother as good timber men are very scarce. Tony is looking extra well. He wishes to be remembered to all the gang.

Joe Poynton has given away the Woomera Range at last. Says he has enjoyed himself there but thinks three years is enough for anybody. Joe looks a ball of muscle and his sojourn in the wilds of Centralia doesn't seem to have done him any harm.

Peter Campbell has also been in town for a while from Southern Hills leaving his station to get along without him for a while. Matrimony seems to have agreed with Peter in a big way as he looks extra fit. Peter reports a good year and says the progress that has been made on the station is very good.

Taking a "cure" at Hollywood Hospital is Don Hudson who has had recurrence of his particular type of "dermo". For a hospital type he looks a bit well and it says a bit for the fodder at Hollywood. Don is still in the coal mining game at Collie.

Seen about town for some time now is Rod Dhu. Rod has just had all his teeth extracted and resembles a gummy ewe somewhat at the moment. He is going down to Kojonup to visit Tony Bowers shortly so look out you Kojonup lads, don't say I didn't warn you!

Looking stronger, bigger and fitter than ever at our Xmas Party was Jack Denman down from Geraldton for his annual leave. Jack says he likes Geraldton and enjoys his work in that district. He wishes to be remembered to all the gang wherever they be.

Bill Epps has been using the annual holidays to start building his new home at the foot of Greenmount. He reports good progress

to date with the walls erected and the roof about to be pitched, then of course that age long wait for roofing tiles before much more can be done. Best of luck to you, Bill, in your efforts.

Len Bagley was at our Xmas Party. This is the first time we have had the pleasure of Len's company at one of our functions for a long time. He works quite a bit of night shift at "West Australian Newspapers" and finds it very difficult to get to meetings. Len has filled out more than considerably since army days but nevertheless looks in the pink.

Jim Corney was another at the Xmas Party and enjoying a well earned spell from toil. Jim is foreman carpenter with Dept. of Works and Housing and gets quite a bit of country work during the year. He sends his best wishes to all the gang especially "Baldy".

A change of occupation has been decided upon by Eddie Craghill who is now driving buses for the North Beach Bus Co. Eddie had previously been a welder with the Tramways Dept., but said the night work was getting him down. He looks the better for the change already.

Back in the West after three or four years sojourn in South Australia is Dick Geere. Dick is living at Queens Park I believe, but have not seen enough of him yet to report too fully. We hope to see a little of Dick at meetings in the near future.

Freddy Griffiths has decided to have a holiday from the lead mine out from Onslow over Xmas. Fred always looks a bit sallow in the complexion after a tour of duty at Onslow and the rest away from the lead, heat and flies and a bit of home cooking will do him good.

Everybody seems to be having their holidays now. Ron Kirkwood is down from Kalgoorlie for three weeks and has been lucky enough to solve the accommodation problem by taking over his sister-in-law's home while they are holidaying elsewhere. Ron says he is enjoying Kalgoorlie very much and took to the "Hannans" like a duck to water. He now has quite a comfortable home on the "Fields" so

everything in the garden is rosy.

Saw Bernie Giles the other day, he also has been on holidays from Geraldton. "Boomer" ran into a heap of strife with his car while on leave and it cost him a small fortune in repairs and put quite a blanket on his holiday. He went down to Pemberton and while there saw Ted Loud and Alex Thomson who he reports to be in great spirits and looking extra well. Bernie is well on with his course of carpentry at Geraldton and also does a bit of operating for the local picture show.

Ron Johnson seen briefly in the city at Xmas. "Johnno" as lean as ever but still manages to keep the merry twinkle in the eye. Had a lass with him who looked most attached so it is a case of watch this space for future developments.

Reg Harrington is in the news again this time to chronicle the birth of a son. I think this now makes the Harrington family into three children. Anyhow, Reg. our congratulations.

Another of the gang in the Stork Stakes is Royce Wilkerson, better known to you all as Wendell Wilkie. He is the poppa of a daughter. Once again Wendell accept our sincere congratulations.

Ron Sprigg popped in to see me recently and looked to be in good health. Ron is a conductor with the W.A.G.R. stationed at Albany and works the trains to Narrogin and back to Albany. Says he is getting a bit sick of the away from home work and intends going into the goods shed at Albany as a checker which will be an 8 to 5 job and give him some time at home. Ron wishes me to send his regards to the gang.

Jack Stafford and Ray Parry have both returned from Korea and, although I have not seen Ray Parry, Jack Stafford is looking really well. Jack says the couple of months he had instructing in Japan allowed him to put on quite a bit of weight. Apparently the going in Korea is terrific and Jack reports that Ray Parry had done a really remarkable job as an Acting Platoon Commander.

Had a letter from Ray Parry which was written just before he

left for Aussie. He also said how tough things were in Korea and how the casualties were in some of the tougher shows. Both Jack and Ray pay high regard to the Chinese artillery fire which they say is very accurate and consistently so. Ray says the rockets are a most frightening business and definitely make for intensive digging in to "great depth". Ray vouches for the fact that quite a few of the Chinese attacks are led by females and that they are good and tough babies. Ray reports meeting Ted Loud's young brother in Korea and says he is much like Ted but not built on such generous lines as the "Swede".

Jack Stafford is hopeful of being posted to a training post in W.A. and fighting out the rest of the war in this State. We're all for it Jack, you've done more than your corner.

Reports to hand indicate that Jack Spencer is recovering quite well from his smash up, but that it will be some time before he can get around actively once again.

Alf Hillman writes from Katanning to say he is a certainty to make the Re-Union this year and will be bringing his car. Bert Burges will be coming with him. Any other in the Katanning-Kojonup area who wishes to come should contact Alf at Broome Hill.

Saw Jack Hanson at the Xmas Party thoroughly enjoying himself and looking extra well. Jack is still in the motor trimming business and says he is doing quite well.

Bob Smyth is back in town after a lengthy trip right up through Tennants Creek to Mt. Isa and back through Darwin down the coast to Perth. Bob says he did not see any of the lads up North.

Colin Hodson and wife have been touring the South West during Xmas. Colin met Bob Palmer at Cowaramup but did not see any of the other lads except Henry Sproston who also was touring the South West in his car.

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Reminders

Firstly February meeting on 5th at Monash Club. Come along and join your pals in what promises to be an excellent evening.

Then the Annual Re-Union on Saturday, 23rd. This will be a cracker-jack night, so boys make a certainty of being present and meet a lot of your mates whom you haven't seen for an age. Venue is **Monash House** from 7.30 onwards.

An absolute **must** for every member who can possibly make it is the Commemoration Service at Kings Park on Sunday, 24th, at 3 p.m. Cars will meet outside the station at 2.45 p.m. so if you haven't transport meet at the station and you will be picked up. We don't accept excuses about this Service as we feel you owe it to yourself to be there if it is humanly possible.

We look forward to a good roll up to the working bee at Kings Park on Sunday, February 17, at 9.30 a.m., to get our area into good shape.

The Unit will be parading on March 3 for the Royal Review so please keep this date in mind.

Heard This?

A benevolent old gentleman employed his spare time giving addresses to inmates of mental hospitals. On one occasion, in pursuit of his hobby, he was giving a talk on a popular subject to the saner section of one of these institutions. Right in the middle of his address one of the inmates rose up, and addressing the Governor, who was in the chair, asked, "Are we obliged to listen to this drivel?"

The lecturer stopped instantly, and, addressing the chairman, said, "Shall I go on?" "You may proceed," said the latter. "That poor fellow only has one lucid interval every twelve months, and so he is not likely to interrupt again."

Random Harvest

Had two most interesting letters from Major Love who is Patron of our Victorian Branch. He wishes to be remembered kindly to all the old Foster habitues and says he is going along very well.

Major Love is most anxious to have the story of Timor published and has to some extent made a lot of moves in the direction of having this brought about. This matter is being dealt with at the moment by the West Australian Committee and you will hear more of it anon.

The Major's letter brings news of Brig. Michael Calvert, and Lt.-Col. Spencer Chapman. Firstly Michael Calvert has apparently finished in Malaya and is now back in England and really not too happy in the way things shaped in the jungles of Malaya. The same old story of frustration from above. Michael has written a book on the Burma Campaign titled "Prisoners of Hope", which is due for publication shortly by Jonathan Cape of London and we await its arrival on the market with intense interest.

Colonel Chapman is headmaster of Prince Alfred School at Plon in Selleswig-Holstein a co-ed boarding school of about 600 children of the occupation forces in Germany. He is particularly happy in the job though both he and his wife are keen to return to the Far East. They have three children, all boys, aged 5½, 3 and 1 year respectively.

Thank you Major Love for your news of our two beloved instructors and I believe this will be read with interest by all concerned.

Second person to come under our Random category this month is one Gordon Hart, ex-Captain in No. 4 Coy. Gordon was passing through Fremantle on his way back to India and was kind enough to ring me and ask me to remember him to any of the old gang who knew him. Gordon is with Printers India Ltd., at Madras, India, and has been in India for four years, been home on five months' leave, and is now returning for another four years. A real hog for punishment, I reckon.

Heard This?

Did you hear the one about the man who had a talking racehorse?

Well this horse was looking very down in the mouth, so the owner said, "Why are you looking so sad?" and the horse replied, "I'm just bored stiff, you keep me caged up in this stall from day to day and you know horses have feelings too. What I want is a cobbler, or better still, something in the filly line."

Having been young once himself the owner understood, so he resolved to do what he could in the way of getting a nice little girlfriend for his horse. Well he scouted around and went everywhere, but it appeared that fillies seemed to be at a premium that day and he couldn't find anything that would interest his friend. Finally, in desperation, he asked the people at the zoo, but they couldn't

help him in the 'horse sense'. The best they could do was to offer him a lady zebra, young, desirable and lonely also.

Back home he led the zebra into the stable. "Here you are," he called, "Here's your playmate."

Evening drew on. Night fell with a bang and the owner tucked himself into bed and slept with a clear conscience. He had done his good deed for the day.

In the morning, after breakfast, he strolled down to the stables. In the corner cowered the zebra. In the other stood the horse, red of eye and stamping angrily on the floor.

"What in the name of Phar Lap is the trouble?" asked the owner. "Didn't you have a pleasant time?"

The horse sighed. "Pleasant time!" he said sarcastically. "I can't even get her to take her pyjamas off."

Victorian Vocal Venturings

May I take this opportunity of wishing you boys and the boys from all other States, the brightest and best of New Years and may 1952 bring prosperity to all, good health to the sick and suffering and a continuance of same to the hale. May the bonds of brotherhood burn bright in their intensity of purpose, may we stretch the hand of friendship to all who need it be they near or far away, give of our widow's mite if it can bring joy to some person in less fortunate circumstances than ourselves, and above all, remain loyal to all our pals that have paid the supreme sacrifice that we might enjoy life to its full. Good luck to all 2/2 lads throughout Australia from the boys of Victoria.

Have news from Bern Callinan who is at the moment on his way to Brisbane—no doubt he will drop in on some of the haunts of yore! He sends his best wishes to all the lads in Victoria and to those in all other States for a bumper 1952.

Our Xmas Re-Union was held in the premises of Bruce McLaren's Dad and although it was not attended with gusto by our members, it was successful in the fact that it enabled a few of us to have a small one for the festive season. Ample grog was provided and the eats were a tribute to Bruce and Toby. Many thanks Bruce for the generosity of your Dad—please convey our thanks to him. Gerry Maley was in grand form and kept the party regaled in jokes reminiscent of the great C.D. at his best. Peter Krause, complete with leave pass, tried hard to muster a choir but the response was poor so Peter reverted to his job of dispensing with greater gusto in the hope that the tonsils would be loosened. He had partial success with Morry Smith, who, incidentally, is no Caruso!! Morry is however one of our most ardent supporters and really gets into the spirit of things at every show. Do not take this as a back handed compliment M.A.M. With numbers so few we were able to supply the boys with a drop of the doings for their Xmas parties.

Sam Fullbrook was sighted by Toby in Melbourne prior to Xmas looking for a studio in which to carry on his art. He reckons that buyers are all too few for his excellent paintings. His address at that time was 12 Parliament Place, Melbourne, but at the time of writing I cannot say with confidence whether this would find him. Toby could tell you of a type he met when trying to track down Sam for the Re-Union—sorry I waited in the car.

Gerry O'Toole is looking fit and well and is having the time of his life in this fair city. He has not changed one iota and sends his regards to all the boys, particularly "Dookie" and Mick Calcut. He was tickled pink with Mick's editorial.

We were all terribly sorry to hear of Tony Adams had luck in losing a child and we send to the old "Basher" and his wife our very deepest sympathy in such a loss. Chin up old man, hope 1952 brings you all you desire.

Have not heard from old "Baldy" of late but guess the old maestro is gadding about Victoria on his holidays—whacko for the Bowyangs—on some unknown track in this fair country. Although now the owner of an A40 Austin I guess the old "Baldy" will find time to discover an aged pub somewhere and have a noggin' or two with the locals and render that fine old air "Steamboat Bill".

—Arch Campbell.

Heard This?

Mrs. H.: So your husband was lost at sea?

Mrs. R.: Yes, a bathing beauty got him.

"Did the Doc. really mean it when he said you wouldn't live a week if you didn't stop chasing women?"

"I'll say he meant it. I've been chasing his wife.

New South Wales News

Dirtiest Trick of the Month Section

Just as I was putting the paper in this infernal machine and racking my grey matter sorting out the various tasty bits and pieces, Eric Herd and fiancée and Curly and Betty O'Neill drove up in Eric's red buggy and announced that they were going fishing. It's a beautiful day and I'd love to go too, but this chore is a week late already. O'Neill was supposed to do the job for me this month, but like me I guess he'd rather go fishing. I hope they have better luck than I did last Saturday—the only bites I could get were from a million savage mossies—serves me right for wasting time on selfish pleasure.

Does anyone know of a house, flat or any sort of accommodation that would suit a young couple? Eric and Heather are only waiting till they can find somewhere to live before they go into double harness and Eric would be most grateful for any information which may lead to an empty stable.

Personalities

One of our most colorful characters, bitten by the wanderbug since the war but now reputedly bitten by another type of bug, the one which is associated with rose covered cottages and the patter of little feet, has come home to roost. Kenneally is the name and he's just back from the Shamrock Isle where according to reports our Patrick had himself a wonderful time. Our social secretary, Curly V. T. O'Neill received a visit from Paddy a few days ago and reports him as looking well and contemplating marriage in the near future.

Jack Stafford has been home from Korea for a few weeks now but to date has only been seen once by Curly so really don't have much news of him. Bluey Jones was in town recently on a flying visit from his sheep station. Angus and Jean Evans also were in the big smoke on their honeymoon. Joe Garland was another recent visitor

and spent a little time with Bill Coker, but haven't seen Bill to get a full report on our "Q" bloke. We had a little shindig out at Alan Luby's place to celebrate Christmas and it was good to see a few faces not quite so familiar as the regular trusty few. There was Harry Fredericks who has been spending a bit of time on an extended holiday in Sydney and up the coast and the old Doc is looking particularly well. Sid Hilliard was having a well earned break away from the pits at Broken Hill. Sid and Phil don't like the hard life at the Hill much but it has its pecuniary compensations, so they put up with it. Sid has lost a lot of weight and looks more like a human being now, instead of a beer-barrel with legs on like his fat brother. It was really funny to see the look of amazement come over Drop's face as he recognised a hefty young fellow in the crowd as the skinny little runt we used to call the Menace. Dick Crossing and his charming wife Norma were having a few days in Sydney after a nice holiday trip across from Perth on the Strathaird. It was grand to see the Menace again, especially as he came to light with a few bottles of Emu Bitter. A glorious concoction, enough to make a teetotaler migrate to the West. It was a darned good party and a vote of thanks goes to Alan and Edie for making their home available.

CRICKET MATCH

We've been challenged to play Arncliffe R.S.L. Club on the 17th February at Barton Oval, and anyone who misses out on such a day isn't right in the head. Ring Alan, Curly or me for fuller information.

—Jack Hartley.

Heard This?

"Peter told me I was the handsomest woman on earth."

"Peter told me that last year."

"That may be—Peter did not know me then."