



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Editorial

WHAT WE WANT!

The writer of a sin book once said to me: "Plenty of sex, that's what we want; and violence, and action. You can't go wrong with a good fast kick in the stomach." In a gentlemanly sort of way of course, I said, glossing it over: "Like Siamese boxing?"

"No, no," he said testily, "with the boots on. You gotta be rough and tough. What we want," he said magnanimously, "is powerful words and action. You gotta pack a punch a paragraph. None of your careful, breathless, deathless, fragrant prose. Not for this market, boy. Action, that's what we want. Drama. Suspense. Thrills, and of course, sex."

It is significant, I think that I should commence my message to you like this; there are multiple reasons.

Firstly my memory of the lonely frightened days we spent as a Unit, brings back innumerable occasions of conversations which inevitably ended along the lines suggested by the writer of the sin book.

Secondly I wanted to draw your attention and retain it after the 'Courier' is forgotten.

Thirdly I am still a soldier and therefore have had greater opportunities to see what goes on in other units and be able to truthfully decide how lucky in its selection of team mates our old Unit was.

Finally, and most important to me, my West Australian mates saw fit recently to elect me their President.

I can assure you all that the active members here in W.A. agree with the sin book writer, regarding words and action.

Men with memories will never let our Association die—but a few only with memories is not enough.

History will record how good we were as a Unit, one thing we have always known as individuals, is that we would never ever let each other down.

Come then, fellows, scattered as you are all over the continent, answer the call of one who is prepared to spare time or effort to provide the keenness needed to further the work of our Association.

Selected scribes and lone members everywhere, send in your news and views.

You wise men from the East, masters of the sugar industry, owners of the big bridge and enjoyers of the damp weather—send in your editorials; the 'Courier' will welcome your news, views, wisdom, wit and style.

I urge you then gentlemen, of "our mob", don't let your Association and yourself down, don't put off writing that letter or editorial, don't forget to arrange your leave pass on meeting nights, become financial and remember that pretences are hollow worthless things.

Finally, I quote you Lawrence of Arabia, who said, "Each day some of us must pass, and the living know their taskmaster to be merciless, merciless, so long as our bruised feet can stagger forward on the road."

Let your duty to old comrades and our Association be your taskmaster.

—JERRY MCKENZIE.

West Australian Whisperings

Committee Comment

The usual monthly meeting was held on July 15 with the same good attendance as in the past. Many and varied were the subjects debated and late was the hour when the committee departed.

The President gave a report on the Working Bee at Kings Park and although most of the work planned was carried out he showed disappointment with the attendance and suggested certain ways in which it might be improved. He thought that possibly fathers of deceased members may be interested in assisting at these Working Bees and it was decided that another attempt be made to collate addresses of Next of Kin with this and other objects in view. Mr. Calcutt and Mr. Hayes volunteered to attempt to get a list of Next of Kin addresses. Anyone knowing the address of any of these people please contact the Editor.

A request from the R.S.L. for assistance to the "Parcels for Malaya and Korea Fund" was received and it was decided that a donation be made to this fund.

The General Secretary reported a poor response to the request for information about children so that the preliminary work on the Xmas Treat for kiddies could get under way. If you have not already done so, please get in touch with the Editor on this matter as it is most important.

It was resolved that the annual sweep on the Melbourne Cup be run again this year with prizes as for last year, namely £25 first prize £10 second and £5 third, with 5/- for drawers of horses. It was left to the General Secretary to arrange the distribution of books of tickets.

A suggestion by the President that a convention be held in a country centre was readily agreed to by the Committee. The venue for the first convention will be Bridgetown and Mr. Rowan-Robinson is to be asked to give the Committee his opinion of the best time to hold this convention. If

a success can be made of this function further such meetings will be held in other country centres in turn.

The appointment of Country Scribes for the 'Courier' was also endorsed by the Committee and it was left to the Editorial Committee to arrange suitable areas with representatives in each area.

A suggestion from the N.S.W. Branch for the formation of a Federal Provident Fund. This matter was debated at considerable length and owing to the lateness of the hour it was decided that this matter be carried over to the next Committee meeting in August and that all Committee members study the Rules and Constitution in the mean time to see how this State stands in the matter.

Association Activities

A most enjoyable night was spent at our last monthly meeting on July 1. This was a guest night and thanks to Slazengers we were able to show those present films on the 1951 Wimbledon Tournament and also that last Davis Cup Interzone Final and Challenge Round. These films were remarked on in glowing terms by all present and we are greatly indebted to Slazengers for making them available and also to Jerry McKenzie and his good lads from Northam Camp for bringing the projector and showing them. It is hoped to be able to show further films of this nature in the future.

As stated earlier the Working Bee was held at Kings Park on Sunday, July 6, when a roll up of 10 of the lads completed the work commenced the previous month. This included cleaning up the area, cleaning and painting the plagues and planting poinsettias between the trees. Those present managed to achieve a tremendous amount of work but this could have been lightened considerably with a larger attendance. Surely it is not asking too much of metropolitan members to give up an odd Sunday

morning to keep this area in the condition that it warrants.

The next monthly meeting will be held at Monash Club on Tuesday, August 5, when Mr. John Fitzharding will speak on his experiences as a prisoner of war in Italy and the many attempts at escape. Mr. Fitzharding has given this address to other organisations and it has been highly lauded in the press. It is a good subject in most able hands as Mr. Fitzharding is a very good speaker so this should be a most interesting evening. Roll along vast numbers and give the speaker a good audience.

Personalities

Gordon Barnes has once again changed his domicile, this time back to his old pre-war stamping grounds at Manjimup. He has a job down there and says he is quite pleased to be back. "Barney" certainly gets around.

Saw Tom Bateman at our last meeting. He is a clerk with the Australian Whaling Commission and at the moment with the whaling season in full swing is a most busy man. Tom in his spare time is becoming a chicken farmer and is riding herd on a large number of chickens with a view of satisfying the Xmas appetites of the city populace.

Ernie Bingham has been enjoying a brief spell in the city and has now returned to his job of employment with Don Turton. "Bing" looks a picture of health and the life in the bush seems to agree with him. He has just acquired himself another "new" second-hand vehicle

"Bobbie" Burns writes from Northam to say he has changed his employment and is now with another Stock Firm which has started up in opposition to the "Big Four". He says he is quite happy in the service and sends his regards to all the gang.

John Burrige by now is probably lapping up vast quantities of "Nassi Gori" and Long Soup in Singapore where he has gone on a business trip for his firm. John was hopeful of visiting Timor en

route but as arrangements could not be made to fly there he had to scrap this idea. Seems the only reliable way of getting to Timor is by raft! Anyhow we wish Johnny lots of success with his business in Malaya and hope he manages to avoid the "Bad Men".

"Pop" Harding has been on a holiday to the East and returned to the Golden West by bus over the Eyre Highway. "Pop" is still working at Hollywood Hospital and looks a picture of rude health.

One of the country visitors to our last meeting was Jack Hasson, down from Ballidu. Jack says the season has not treated him too kindly as yet but he was living in hopes. He says he has no regrets of returning to the land and giving the taxi game away. Perhaps you just got out in time, Jack, with all those murders etc., over East.

Another country face not seen for an age was Johnny Moore. Johnny had filled out so much I didn't know him. He is with the Forestry Department at Dwellingup and apparently the open air life must agree with him judging by the amount of weight he has put on.

Saw Fred Humfreys in town the other day and he too was looking extra fit. He is a baker by trade at Pinjarra and says he likes the locality very much. He hopes to be in Perth for our re-union in February.

"Rip" McMahon has given away the bartending for a while and is now with the State Electricity Commission. Reckons it is a good job out in the open and most healthy. "Rip" never seems to alter, does not appear to be a day different to when in Timor.

Jim Ritchie is out of hospital but is far from cured yet. He has made an amazing recovery from a really bad accident but it will take some time yet before he is fit to work at his trade as a shearer. We all wish Jim a speedy recovery and a comfortable convalescence.

Saw Kev Waddington at the last meeting and he too was looking a lot better than I'd seen him for a long time. Kev is still battling along as a clerk with the W.A.G.R. and I believe living at Wembley.

Was speaking to Harry Foster on the street the other day and he

wishes to be remembered to all the mob. He says that Tommy is still going well at Anama in South Australia but couldn't be regarded as the world's outstanding correspondent, a statement we readily agree with. Harry is still with the Commonwealth Bank as Property Surveyor and looks really well.

Bert Matthews has big hopes of getting his own home in the near future at Bedford Park and after six years of flat life says he will be extra pleased. Bert is working with Metters Ltd. and was until recently also doing night shift at a dairy. A real hog for punishment.

See Joe Poynton quite frequently. Joe is doing various jobs of carpentry about the place. He is still playing rugby union with Nedlands and I notice the team is managing to win a game or two lately. Joe says he had heard from Paddy Kenneally recently and that the wild Irishman was expecting his fiancée to arrive in Aussie very shortly. Paddy will have to pull the head in when he teams up in double harness or will he!

My thanks to Mrs. Jack Wicks for information of her family. You were the exception that proved the rule, Mrs. Wicks, as yours was the only response. It seems that requests for information through the 'Courier' only meet with a wall of silence.

While on the subject of personalities there are one or two lads whose addresses we have never been able to obtain and I will publish some each month. This month I would like to hear from anyone who knows the whereabouts of Charlie Vernede, Dick Doran or "Tex" Richards. These three have

been in the wilds ever since we have been sending out publications and we have never been able to obtain their addresses. If anyone can oblige I would be really thankful.

Reminders

We are still as keen as ever to get knowledge of your families, especially ages and sex to get the preliminary work for our Xmas Treat in hand. So do the right thing and send this information to the Editor as soon as possible.

A tip top roll up to the August meeting on Tuesday 5th is specially desired as our speaker, Mr. Fitzhardinge, is used to handling quite large gatherings and we don't want to let him down. This should be a really excellent night so be in it.

If you know any member who is not receiving the 'Courier' send his address on and we will make certain he is added to the mailing list.

Remember your subscription is always welcome and our list of arrears is getting to be alarmingly large, take the first opportunity to make yourself financial.

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

A high aim calls out the inherent mobility of the mind.

An Address You May Want

C. D. DOIG,
Box R 1273,
G.P.O. Perth, W.A.

Random Harvest

About 6ft. 2ins. and 15 stone of fairheaded manhood walked into the office the other day and said: "You don't remember me?" and I didn't. It was "Lofty" Timcke and has he filled out. I last remembered him as a tall scrawny bloke all shoulder blades and collar bones but now he is well padded everywhere. "Lofty" comes from S.A.

where he did a course of wool classing and now follows his calling throughout the remote stations. He had recently done a clip at Eucla and decided to catch the bus and come West for a short holiday and renew old acquaintances. He travelled on the same bus as "Pop" Harding. He had not met many of the gang in S.A. recently

but he still corresponds with 'Slim' Thorpe and was able to give me 'Slim's' address. 'Lofty' was able to meet quite a few of the boys during his stay and talk of old times.

Had two letters during the month from our Victorian Patron, Major Love, who once again brought news of Freddy Chapman. The first letter told of a possible move by our old friend "Chappie" from Prince Alfred School in Germany to Pakistan, but the latest letter said the move was now off and that Freddy will be staying in Germany for another term and then going to take a breather by touring Africa (or part thereof) in a Land Rover. How typically Chapman never to do anything the easy way if there is a hard way to do it. Thank you, Major, for your information on Freddy Chapman, he is such an interesting character full of the unexpected that we are always keen to know just what next he has put his head into. Major Love says that "Chappie" is publishing this autumn (English) a series of 25 broadcasts entitled "Living Dangerously" and who is better qualified if you ask me. Major Love has sold his old home at Heyington Place which he built 28 years ago and has brought another smaller place at 31 Irving-road, Toorak. Thanks very much for your donation to the 'Courier', Major. All amounts are very acceptable.

Extra pleased to receive a letter this month from Norm Tillett who is still at Mildura. Thanks for the bouquets in respect of the 'Courier', we do all we can to keep the old gang together. Norm says he rarely sees any of the old gang and that the 'Courier' helps very much to keep the old gang well in mind. He says he has been unfortunate in usually being in Melbourne just before or just after any meetings but hopes to strike it lucky one day. He saw Kev Curran at Bendigo recently in his newly acquired hotel and had a few beers and a good natter on old times. Norm is one who is looking forward to the Olympic Games in Melbourne in 1956 and has hopes of seeing as many of

the gang as possible there. I can assure him that the W.A. contingent will be quite strong. Norm said that getting started again after the war was no easy task and occasioned a few grey hairs but that things are going easier now. His son is at Ballarat Grammar School and has been for three years, and his daughter fills the place at home. Norm played cricket until last year but gave away the footy after the war. He is now playing golf and "has the bug" in a big way. He is secretary of the golf club and president of the cricket association which shows his still keen interest in sport. Thanks Norm for the letter, I hope it will only presage more from you as time goes by. Norm wishes to be remembered to all the old gang.

Peter Mantle came good this month with quite a screed. Peter is now doing publicity work for Plant Quarantine which of course, is the crowd who try and prevent the introduction of plane diseases to Australia and prevent the spread of existing pests. It is Peter's job through posters, pamphlets, etc., to decimate the information to everybody and make them pest conscious and make them want to keep Australia free from pests (nothing to do with the Immigration Department). He hopes to be able to travel around some of the Royal Shows with a small set up. Peter was in Melbourne recently and met a few of the boys including Alby Martin, Jerry Maley and Bert Tobin. He has been leading a quiet life at Canberra getting his home into order, planting trees, shrubs, etc., which are on the free list in the capital.

Peter's latest story. A Jewish couple got very sick of having little Abie hanging around the house on Sundays so they thought they would do as many Christian parents did—pack him off to Sundayschool. Abie comes back from his first excursion saying "I'm not going there again—they teach you wrong things. They said that money is not happiness." "And they are quite right," said his father. "Money is not happiness, it's the **interest** on the money that gives you happiness."

Victorian Vocal Venturings

As our committeemen's reports are too few to take up a large space I will give them priority in this issue and here they are.

BERT TOBIN. Sorry, no news. Have been laid up for a couple of weeks with 'flu.

HARRY BOTTERILL. Bumped into Bert King in Myers the other day, looking particularly fit, and he sends his regards to all the boys. He is now working on the wharves (must be money in it). Told me Dan Thomas has been transferred to Tasmania, thinks it's Launceston but is not sure. Don't know whether this is news or not, but Museles Adams is now ferrying cars from Sydney to Melbourne. He gave up his job at Ansett Airways and said if this falls through he can always try A.N.A. He started off with T.A.A. so what will happen after that nobody knows.

BLUE SARGEANT. Tom Coyle is still hard at it at the joinery works (this is Traralgon, you know!). Saw Campbell Rodd buying some seeds a few weeks ago so is probably busy planting gardens. Harold Bickerton still serves a few pots after work, but as I'm all for the "Tiger" I don't see him after. Haven't seen Ted Mulcahy since Kev Curran was up here and we had an unofficial re-union, and what a turn. Fact is I'm itching for another. I reckon Col Doig and Co. are doing a grand job over West, hope they keep it up. It's good to get the rag and see how the other blokes are doing.

That may prove a shock to some but the fact is I got exactly one letter in the last month, and that was from Blue Sargeant at Traralgon. He did such a good job reporting on the local lads that I have co-opted him to represent the committee in Traralgon and have sent him a supply of the monthly returns. While on that subject, any other country volunteers would be greatly appreciated. To Blue, my thanks. He also said that he had been flat out on his house and hopes to move in within the next couple of weeks. He has done the lot himself, chimney and all, except power and water, 13 months

hard work. A job to be proud of. Pity the trout and duck season intervened, you may have done it in 10 months, Blue. The next piece I think is worth quoting as written. "By the way of a crust I'm a lumber puncher by trade. Foreman on one of the local mills. It's dirty and hard but the oscar is there. I still reckon it's a pity I didn't have the brains to be a school teacher what!" Typical Sargeant, no comment. His closing words were: "Well, Gerry, I'll close now with a long range forecast—I for one will be at the next re-union. I enjoyed the last so much." Inigo Jones Sargeant!

25th June, 1952, after due circularisation we procured a liquor licence and repaired to the Drill Hall for our annual general meeting and election of office bearers. A beaut night, comfortable surroundings, ample grog and tucker, and—19 bodies!! What a flop, yet what a successful, constructive meeting. Each one of that 19 was prepared to offer some helpful suggestion or else assist in carrying out some worthy task. We were treated to the unheard of spectacle of the outgoing office bearers lobbying for re-election. Such was their interest in their self-appointed jobs that they wanted to see them through. To all those who could have made it, but didn't, one of the most enjoyable evenings we have had was missed. Don't let it happen again. My thanks to all who are to assist over the next 12 months. We can't help but go to further successes. In passing, all who are prepared to come along to committee meetings are welcome. We have the power to add. Phone me UM 9676, I'll put you on the mailing list.

All will be pleased to know that Bernie Callinan is again president. We are proud to have you at the helm again, Bernie. Others elected are: Patron, Major Stuart Love; vice presidents, B. McLaren and J. Servante; secretary, P. G. Maley; treasurer, H. E. Tobin; auditor, M. Davies; committee, D. Williams, M. Davies, M. Smith, A. Claney, G. Kennedy, H. Botterill, G. O'Toole,

A. Campbell; delegate to Combined Commando Association, A. Campbell.

A fine body of men to be sure.

Other business which came up for discussion included:

Provident Fund:

As a guide to both the trustees of our fund and also to those who we may some day be able to assist over a bad period the following was resolved: "That allotments from Provident Fund be treated as advances, to be refunded if and when possible, either partly or in full by the recipient."

Honor Roll:

We desire to obtain a complete list of our boys who have passed on to be incorporated in an Honor Roll to which we can pay homage in our act of remembrance at meetings and re-unions.

Tasmanian Members:

We wish to invite to our fold all Apple Islanders, and when addresses are received and checked personal invitations will be sent out.

Annual Subscriptions:

Our hard working treasurer produced his costs and proved that the present subs did not cover printing, postage and 'Courier' costs. In view of this it was agreed the annual subscription be 10/-. **Please note, Victorians, and send them in then we can pay our 'Courier' capitation.**

Melbourne Cup Sweep:

Printing is under control and the treasurer who is in complete control, will be in touch with Jack Hartley and all the local lads before very long.

Red Cross Blood Bank:

Arch Campbell reported on this matter and is arranging a further visit for July 24.

Combined Commando Ball:

This is a must. Among the definites are Bern Callinan, Arch Campbell, Max Davies, Bruce McLaren, Harry Botterill and Gerry Maley. Beer and admission tickets available from Arch Campbell, WM 1111. The date is Show Night work that out yourself. All country men please note and make an effort. A grand night is guaranteed, floor shows and all the best of tucker. It is in aid of their Welfare Fund for which we are all eligible.

Not taking away any of the credit due to our president for his most comprehensive and interesting report, the highlight of the evening was the treasurer's report. Bert Tobin really let himself go and it was greatly appreciated, as was evidenced by the spontaneous round of applause on its completion. Funds are healthy, general fund £35/10/1 and provident fund £68/17/5, a total credit of £104 7/6. It was decided not to transfer further cash from the general to the provident fund at this stage as some finance was needed to cover our outgoings on the Cup sweep.

We finished up with Melbourne Bitter and Fosters Lager, cheese and biscuits, and closed the doors sharp at 11.30 p.m.

Welcome to the fold, Leith Cooper. We would like to see you at all our future gatherings. Peter Krause was present, having managed to sneak (?) off. He had to start baking again at midnight. Caught his hand in a machine a few months back, but though it doesn't look too good, Pete considers he is nearly right again.

Remember boys, a bit more news next month, I hope.

Cheers'n beers—GERRY MALEY

An Address You May Want

G. MALEY,
10 Agnes Street,
Noble Park, Victoria.

Heard This?

The bridegroom tipped the colored porter of the sleeping car not to let on that there was a honeymoon couple aboard the train. The rest of the travellers, nevertheless, evinced great interest in the newlyweds and the husband accused the porter of giving away the secret.

"No, suh," the porter denied. "they asked me, but I'se protected you all de time. I done told them you ain't married. Just said you and the lady's jest pals."

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New South Wales News

We regret to report that Jack Hartley's father is seriously ill. Jack has gone back to his home town—in north-west New South Wales. We hope that his father's recovery is speedy and complete.

Meanwhile, Jack has had to delegate for the first time since his appointment as secretary, the job of collating and disseminating the copy from this State.

I take over—for this issue only—and blandly accept all responsibility for any sins of omission or commission and with little, if any, regard for the law of libel.

Truth and public benefit is the defence, and all writs will be acknowledged in turn.

Drip Hilliard swallowed his false teeth recently while eating at his home in Arncliffe. Latest reports say that the teeth and their owner are still there. Drip's somewhat peculiar achievement caused much hilarity at Arncliffe and gave rise to ribald banter, numerous slogans, and many suggestions—practical and otherwise. Some of the wise boys were betting that he had developed a fixation on teeth, and many characters who had heard of this strange new appetite nervously pressed their chain-store choppers a little closer to their gums. We must confess to a certain gleeful hand-rubbing in this household at 'The Plate' frequently telephones between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m., simply to ask: "How are you?"

Arncliffe R.S.L. adopted a suggestion from Jim English that members engage us in a Games Night. Alan Luby, Jack Hartley, Paddy Kenneally, Eric Herd, Merv Jones, Jack Keenahan, Jim English, Tom O'Brien and I attended. We had the merriest time since that cricket match at which we nearly lynched the umpire who looked like Griffin. Alan Luby ably thanked the Arncliffe Club on our behalf. During the evening two unnamed members had a cross-room duel with darts, using themselves as boards. Later, Jim English's parents staged an impromptu reception for us in their home. Just before midnight, Jack Hartley and myself assisted Merv Jones to his front gate, and then hurriedly left the area.

We've been wondering what happened to the others; maybe they are still at Arncliffe.

Jack Hartley was extremely pleased to receive letters from Ted Cholerton and Keith Craig.

Ted drew a fat lamb block—"Bookra", Cadia-road, Orange, and his property adjoins a block drawn by Frank Press.

Keith is farming at "The Packet" Gilgandra, and sends his warmest regards to all. Keith heard that Ray Parry and George Merritt were stationed at Dubbo and has been trying hard to find them. Would someone forward their address to Keith.

Sid Hilliard, a staunch Association man, has settled in Broken Hill with his good wife, Phyll.

The injuries Bill Hoy received in Sydney's huge train smash were not as serious as first believed, and he has almost recovered.

I'm sure everyone will endorse our sincere congratulations to Paddy Kenneally who will marry Miss Norah Kelly on August 9. The couple met in England.

That talented artist of ours, Sam Fullbrook, is preparing for exhibitions in Sydney.

Jim Ward has returned from Melbourne and is driving a hack in the city.

Bill Coker narrowly missed being in the wrong column of accident statistics when his car overturned recently. We suggested to the crumpled patient that he spend a nigh's convalescence with us at that Arncliffe shindig. His wife, however, pointed out that the doctor had directed that Bill be homebound, so we didn't labor the point.

If anybody knows the whereabouts of Jim Griffin would they forward to me his address. Would they also tell the immortal citizen that the good soldier, Cecil Charles Anderson has gone to an N.C.O.'s school at Seymour—and record Griffin's comments.

Regards, —F. O'NEILL.

An Address You May Want
 J. F. HARTLEY,
 Creek Road,
 Berowra, N.S.W.