



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Editorial

DUTY

I don't know whether you fellows read these effusions, but I sincerely hope you do. In them are expressed from time to time our hopes, ideals and sentiments.

We have had editorials on Loyalty, Comradeship, and kindred subjects, but this month I want to express my thoughts on duty.

In time of war you have all done your duty as worthy citizens of our great Commonwealth of Nations, but at the moment I am mostly concerned with our duty to the Association and our fellow members.

Most of us, and I include myself, are too prone at times to take our Association for granted. Something which has been built for us and from now on will run itself without any effort on our part, except the payment of an annual subscription and attendance at meetings and functions when we feel in the mood.

This is not so! Our Association has been brought to its present state by the untiring efforts of a few stalwarts, but for whose labors it would long since have ceased to exist. Are you content to allow these few to carry the burden indefinitely?

We owe a duty to those who paid the supreme sacrifice to keep the name of our Unit alive but we also have a duty to the living—to see that the objects for which our Association was formed are fulfilled.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on the 23rd June and your attendance is essential. Try to remember that the willing horse cannot be worked forever. No Matter how much you appreciate the job that has been done by the few who have been in harness so long, I want you to realise that a blood transfusion of new executives will bring to our Association the new ideas which will help to keep it alive and progressive.

Do your duty!

Come along to the Annual General Meeting!

If proposed for office, don't turn it down!

If proposing anyone else, make sure it is someone who is fitted for the job!

Well, chaps, I leave it to you.

—GEO. BOYLAND.

West Australian Whisperings

Committee Comment

Since going to press last two committee meetings have been held one in April and one in May.

In April final arrangements were made for Anzac Day. But owing to a dearth of business little else was discussed.

The May meeting, held on the 20th, brought forth discussion on the Annual General Meeting, which takes place on June 3. The agenda for this meeting was completed and should assist in expediting business on this important evening.

The General Secretary reported that War Medals were now to hand and unfortunately these did not arrive until after Anzac Day. As most of the W.A. members now have their medals it is hoped that in all parades in the future they will wear them. If you are not in receipt of your medals please advise the General Secretary, C. D. Doig, 9 Barrack-st., Perth, quoting your army number and present address, when all efforts will be made to see that you get your medals. Inter-State members are advised to write to Medals Section, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, and just quote your army number and present address, when your medals will be sent to you. Members who have received their medals are pleasantly surprised at the quality of them.

It was resolved that an effort be made to get the names of any members in other States who are not on the mailing list of the 'Courier'. This applies especially in Queensland and Tasmania where our mailing list is confined to a very few. In Tasmania we have only the addresses of Vic Pacey and Joe Lovell, if either of these could supply us with addresses of other Apple-Islanders we would be most grateful. In Queensland we have a few more addresses but the list is far from complete and if Peter Hearle or any other member can give us a list of addresses we would be only too pleased to put them on the mailing list.

A working bee at King's Park

was arranged for June 8 to keep our area in good trim. It is proposed to plant more couch grass seed earlier this year in hope of a germination during the latter part of the winter.

Association Activities

Firstly, Anzac Day. A wreath was laid on the State War Memorial by our State Secretary, Geo. Boyland, at the Dawn Service, in memory of our fallen. The Unit took part in the Anzac Day Parade and in common with most other Units, our members were down a little but we still managed to muster a sizeable parade of 40 odd under Tom Nisbet with Mick Morgan as Standard Bearer. Most pleasing feature was the number of country folk who attended and managed to have an enjoyable day with their mates. After the march we adjourned to the 16th Battalion Drill Hall which Tom Nisbet kindly arranged for us and proceeded to lower quite a bit of liquid refreshment and it all added up to a really good day.

The usual monthly get-together was held at Monash Club on May 6. Owing to a previous booking we were unable to obtain the film of the Davis Cup and we filled in with a debate. The subject "Should the Press be Censored?". Mick Calcutt, Geo Boyland and Dave Ritchie took the affirmative and did a really good job on an awkward subject. Eric Smyth, Ron Dook and Fred Napier took the negative and really excelled. Eric Smyth's reply to the debate was a real gem of shrewd deductive reasoning. Everybody present seemed to enjoy this impromptu debate and we intend to keep the idea in mind when casting for a means of filling in a blank evening.

Now it is a case of coming events cast their shadows before. The Annual General Meeting is practically upon us. The date—the 3rd of June. This is a most important meeting as far as your Association

is concerned and it behoves all who can possibly make it to attend. The presentation of reports and financial statements and the election of officers for the ensuing year will take place and of course this is your chance to elect the men you want to run your Association. Also if you have any grizzle, grumble or compliment to offer, come along and aim them for the mutual benefit of all. We make an urgent appeal to members to make this Annual General Meeting a real bumper attendance and truly representative of the Association. Several office bearers have signified their intention of resigning office this year and successors will be required. Notable among the defections this year is your president John Burridge, who has reluctantly decided to retire owing to pressure of business.

Also early in June (8th) will be that Working Bee at King's Park. Once again we ask for a big roll-up so that we can do a really good job. It is a case of many hands make light work and there is quite a bit to do. We hope to clean up the area, plant further grass seed and to repaint the plaques so that the more that attend the more we can get done.

Another activity of the Association on which we have not touched for a considerable time is the Red Cross Blood Bank. You will remember that some three or four years ago we attended as a body and donated blood and since that time members have been called up nearly every three months to donate blood to the bank. We have approximately 30 donors in the Association and one of our statistically minded types computes that we have given nearly four hundred weights of blood over the period. Now, dear reader, comes the sting of the scorpion's tail. How much of this blood is yours? What have you contributed to this most worthy cause? If you are not a donor then we appeal to you to rectify the matter as soon as possible and go to the trouble of going to the Red Cross Blood Service Centre in Adelaide Terrace, just East of Victoria Avenue, and enrol. Blood today is one of the greatest of all the lifesavers and it occa-

sions the average citizen the minutest of trouble to assist in this National cause.

Personalities

Vaie Frank E. (Sapper) Browne who was killed recently in a traffic accident on Stirling Highway, Cottesloe. We much regret the passing of this loveable old character who for all his ways was beloved by all. He lived a lonely life and died a lonely death. He was dead and buried before most of the members realised that the person referred to on the police notices was our old member. Luckily Eddie Craghill was able to connect the two and attend his funeral. We can only say at this point that we hope he has more peace in death than he had in life.

Jack Spencer has been having a bad time with his broken leg. You will remember he was concerned in a traffic accident also and had his leg broken. Apparently his leg did not knit at all in the early stages and he was admitted to St. John of God Hospital for further bone setting. He is now at home again at 53 Normandy-st, Inglewood, and would appreciate any visitors who can possibly call.

Gordon Rowley was able to make it for Anzac Day—all the way from Manjimup. Oh, boy, that tie! A beautiful grey effort with a large double red diamond and Timor, New Guinea, New Britain on a large gold scroll. Noticed he smartly put it in the pocket ere the mob started to have a few stagger juices for fear of souvenir hunters. The "Swede" looked a picture of health and had a good day nattering to the gang.

Gordon Barnes also down from the country for the parade. He comes from Quindanning and made it a long week-end. "Barney" appreciates being back in W.A. but says the Adelaide Anzac Day is a beauty with pubs open in the afternoon and excursion fare to Adelaide from all parts of S.A.

Don Murray down from York where he is now domiciled and luckily has obtained his own home. He is working for a local hardware

merchant and says he enjoys the new situation muchly.

Another of the country folk sighted at the march was Ernie Bingham having a brief respite in the city. As usual "Bing" looks a ball of dash.

Among the city folk not sighted for a long time was Clarrie Norman. Clarrie is still with the Tramway Dept. as a conductor and driver and appears to be doing O.K. He reported that he had an excellent day out.

Kev Waddington also was among those marching and he looks better than I've seen him for some time. Kev does not enjoy the best of health and has to take things very gently.

Was most pleased to see Eric Smyth at the May meeting. Eric looks really well and it says volumes for the Geraldton climate. Eric stepped into the breach when we had a debate and did a really grand job. Looks and sounds like a future M.P., and I'm not talking about Military Policemen.

Our congratulations to Tom and Beverley Nisbet on the birth of a daughter. This now makes it two boys and a girl for the Nisbet household. A nicely knit set-up paralleling the Burrige family.

While on the subject of the Burridges, have to report that Johnny is off to Singapore on business again shortly. Towards the end of June or early July. He is flying there and coming back by ship. If he can possibly arrange it he hopes to take in a visit to Portuguese Timor and view a few of the old sights and see a few of the old faces. We all hope he is able to fit in this most worthy trip and see just how the old spot is operating these times.

Mick Morgan was once again our Standard Bearer on Anzac Day and looked the immaculate type he always is. He and Jim Corney were the only two of the mob sporting medals and say they have broken the ice for the gang to really do the right thing next year.

Gerry McKenzie has now moved to Northam with his Korean Force Training Establishment. Says his job is growing daily. Although to look at Gerry you wouldn't think so, he is as big as a bullock.

A letter to hand from Jack Hasson. Thanks for giving me Ivor Goodal's address, will smartly include him in the mailing list once again. Jack reports fair opening rains at Ballidu and he is now hard at the seeding business.

Another correspondent was Ron Kirkwood, from Kalgoorlie. Ron says still plenty of work in the bank up there. Says he missed the Anzac March quite a bit as it gave him a chance to meet a lot of the blokes you didn't see at any other time. He is another pleased to receive his War Medals. Ron saw Alf Coupland some time ago and says he is putting on weight in a big way. Ron wishes to be remembered to the gang wherever they be. He expects a reduction in income tax what with all the contributions made by that carpenter H. H. Calcutt. Says Mick can't be buying enough tickets for the "Copper's Ball".

Tom Crouch writes to give news of his doings at Manjimup. Reports a nice break to the season down there with nice green paddocks now. Tom was involved in an accident with his vehicle. The steering failed and he ran into a red gum sapling. In a masterly piece of understatement he says: "I got off lightly. A stitch in the eyelid and one in the shin, sundry bruises where I ruined the steering wheel." He says he seems to be always going to meetings lately being president of the Branch of Farmers' Union, captain of the Local Bushfire Brigade and chairman of the Tennis Club Social Committee.

It would hardly be a 'Courier' without a letter from Bert Burges. I only wish that quite a few more were imbued with the same idea of sending in frequent letters giving their own and others news of their area. Bert hopes to finish his cropping very shortly (300 acres) and have a break in the Big Smoke. Says the season has broken quite nicely at Broomehill. Bert says the Broomehill Tennis Club ran an Easter tournament excellently organised by Alf Hillman. Bert won the doubles title with his brother-in-law from Geraldton. Bert has high hopes of being a starter in the Monster Re-union in Melbourne in Olympic Year and hopes a lot

of others will be able to do the same. Your suggestion re the changing of date of Annual Reunion will be brought up at the Annual General Meeting, Bert.

Don Turton has returned after his trip East. He reports meeting quite a few of the lads over East. He saw Peter Hearle and Col. Cubis in Brisbane, and Tony Adams at Toowoomba. All are doing very well. Peter Hearle says there is a slight recession in the painting business in Brisbane but enough work available to keep himself going at least. Col Cubis has a thriving business near the Ascot racecourse and Tony Adams is really going well in the bank in the Downs Capital. Then Don saw "Curly" O'Neil Jack Hartley and Alan Lubey in Sydney. Said he went along with "Curly" while he reported some court proceedings for the "Telegraph". Don spent three days trying to take in all that the Sydney Royal Show could offer but said you want at least a week to really see it all. He was most impressed with the machinery exhibits.

Saw Bill Howell briefly the other day. He has a fish supply and general grocery store at Mandurah and says he is doing quite well. He is gradually giving away the cement brick business as he reckons the work is too tough.

Rolf Finkelstein is in the news again. This time in connection with his old love—boxing. He is to referee the bouts conducted by the Police Boys Clubs and should make an excellent third man with his all-round knowledge of the fistic business.

Ray Parry is back in Perth on leave from military duties in N.S.W. He is situated just out of Dubbo

and is instructing the new battalion for Korea. Ray says it is very cold over there. He has Geo Merrit and Tommy Towers in his platoon and reports that they are going well. Geo. Merritt is very popular with the mob and most patient in showing new rookies the workings of the army. Geo should do well in Korea and all I hope is that he keeps that head well withdrawn and that goes for you too, Tommy.

Reminders

Firstly the Annual General Meeting on June 3 is a **must** for everybody who can possibly make it. Come along and bring all those bright ideas so as to ensure another successful year.

The financial year is nearly at an end and still quite a few subs outstanding. If this little remark applies to you then do that little something about it and remit that dollar to C. D. Doig, 9 Barrack-st., Perth.

Don't forget the Working Bee at King's Park on June 8. It is a case of all the more the merrier and we want to make a really good job.

A further memory tickler about the Blood Bank. We would like to see all our members enrolled as donors. The address for potential donors: Red Cross Blood Service Centre, 254 Adelaide Terrace, Perth, just east of Victoria Avenue.

We have made a firm booking for the films on the Davis Cup Interzone Final, Challenge Round and also the last Wimbledon Championships. This will be screened at our July meeting on 1st. The programme lasts about one hour 45 minutes and should be really good.

Random Harvest

A letter to hand from my S.A. correspondent, Dudley Tapper. Dud apologises for lack of scandal for the 'Courier'. Says that Adelaide has had good rains after a very dry period which has benefitted everybody but the bricklayers in which trade Dud earns an honest crust. He reports that the cost of an average 12,500 sq. ft. home in brick

and tile is about £3,000 which compares favorably with W.A. at least. Dud says Keith Dignun has changed his employer and is now with the Ford Motor Co., being a staff man on car bodies. Keith says he couldn't understand the lingo for a long time and the first Aussie he heard spoken was a voice asking for a "bloody pannakin".

Thanks a lot for the addresses, Dudley, they will be included in future mailing lists.

Another voice out of the silence is also from S.A. This time H. G. (Carl) Marks. Carl reports seeing three of the old Red Double Diamond types at the Anzac Day celebrations, namely Bob Williamson, Fred Gowns and Len Marchant, although strictly speaking Len was not at the march being Hors-de-Beer after a night out the previous night. Bob Williamson is with Kelvinator Co. in Adelaide now. Jimmy Veal is still at Port Pirie. Jimmy has a son. Carl reports Paddy Wilby passing through Pirie recently still carrying the swag. Carl and Bob Williamson are trying to work up a trip West some time next year but a lot depends on how good the crop of grapes turns out on the Mark's ranch. Thanks a lot for the sub, Carl. That makes you financial to May 31, 1952, so you are

Victorian Vocal Venturings

In this, my last edition to the 'Courier' for some long time, I would like to say how much I have enjoyed the writing of these news articles that get to all the boys, mates of yester years. It has not been easy in many ways as the lads are spread and news has been hard to collect, yet it has gone into print at all times. The co-operation we have received from our friends in W.A. has made it a whole heap simpler and to Col. and his henchmen I send my grateful thanks. What the branch in the West means to us all as an inspiration is now history—what its value means in propagation of comradeship is inestimable.

Welcome to old pal Gerry Maley, as secretary of the until until such time as the Annual General Meeting elects one. No doubt it will be our good old stalwart who so ably started the N.S.W. Branch with our good friend and comrade, the late Jack O'Brien. Please give Gerry all the help possible as the job is by no means a soda. He wants news.

nearly due once again. Would appreciate it if you could get a few S.A. addresses but have quite a few now including D. Tapper, Bob Williamson, J. Veal, D. Stevens and O. K. Dignum, and of course, your own. If there are any others in S.A. that you know then send them and I'll be only too pleased to add them to our growing mailing list. Some names spring to mind, Clarrie Chopping, Mark Jordan and Litchfield whose addresses would be most welcome. "Blue" Pendergrast's address 16 Henry-st., Subiaco.

There was an excellent concise history of the Timor Campaign in the "Double Diamond", the official organ of the Victorian Commando Association written by Major Rolf Baldwin. Perhaps one of these days we will get around to having a real history of the Unit written and Baldy and Bernie Callanon should together do a great job on the Timor section of it.

The committee as it stands as present, is doing a grand job of work and I hope they are kept in for quite a few years to see that the 2/2 prospers for a long time to come. I recommend their return at the next meeting. Just a bit of lobbying, boys, but all for a good cause. Incidentally they have a good programme of work lined up for presentation and your approval at the next A.G.M.

The Anzac Day re-union was a magnificent affair and the 87 who attended had a great time—biggest feature was the obtaining of the usual venue, the Drill Hall. This was due to terrific work by our president, Bern Callinan who worked tirelessly to make sure that this re-union was to be held in the usual surroundings. Judging by the wide smile on his face throughout the night it was well worth the effort. May I add here a word of thanks to Toby who was no small help in the rapid change over. Congratulations on the disposal of the 63 gallons boys, and the behavior throughout—it was truly a memor-

able night. So was the next day!

I am not going to individualise on the attendance at the show, except in a few cases. Cam Rodd was there and it was good to see the old Roddie looking so fit and well. He enjoyed the night and his earbash with his old cronies. Ken Monk was released from his chores on the dairy farm, his good lady subbing to let him attend the march. Thanks Mrs. Monk, it was good to see him. Another to come in from the wilds was Bluey Sergeant looking fit and well. Bert Bache on leave from Adelaide was another to be welcomed effusively—he is doing fine in his new post. It was good to see all the boys turning up in such force.

Apologies from our patron, Major Love, who was otherwise engaged but he sent his best wishes to all the lads. Baldy could not attend as his college has first call on his services for Anzac Day. Roddie suggested that we should dodge around and organise a raid to get him the night before the show. He was fair dinkum, too! Thanks for the good wishes, Baldy, we are all waiting until the night that the Head says go.

So here I terminate my last bulletin as the news source has ex-

hausted itself. My grateful thanks to all the lads for their co-operative letters and to their being right behind me in all I attempted to do during my term as secretary. To Col Doig for all his guidance and help in the intricate affairs that beset the unwary—to W.A. for all the close working in regards to affairs that affected the men as a whole. To Toby for his ready and invaluable help in all things appertaining to the efficient running of the Unit. He is a trump card without a doubt. Finally to Bern Callinan who did so much to further the Unit interest and who at all times was ready with help in every direction. We are indeed lucky to have such a forthright and competent president, who at all times has the interest of the members uppermost in his mind, and who works to that end at every opportunity. My sincere thanks to one and all of the committees who have been in office during my term as secretary.

Cheers one and all and good luck to you all. May the 2/2 prosper in the years ahead and become a force in the work they undertake to benefit their members and the community at large.

—ARCH CAMPBELL.

New South Wales News

Well, another Anzac Day has come and gone and it seems like only yesterday since the last one. How the years fly past once one has reached the age where he has to settle down and make a life for himself—so much he wishes to accomplish and so little time to do it in. If the days were forty eight hours long I still wouldn't have time to fit in all the seemingly important things that I want to do, so now I just set them out in order of priority and try to cope with the situation that way. At the risk of being contradicted I venture the opinion that one's friends are one of the most important things in one's life, and I can't help thinking that if each of us devoted a little more time to fostering those friendships and helping each other,

then how much happier we would all be. The point I'm trying to make with all these apparently irrelevant observations is that I wish I had more time to get around and see you chaps and organise functions for you. Back in our early days as an Association we used to have regular smokos which were thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, but unfortunately the difficulty in securing beer supplies, premises and high costs forced us to abandon the practise. Nowadays we have to content ourselves with an occasional get together, which is all the more reason why everyone should make a special effort to be present on Anzac Day, the Annual General Meeting, picnics, etc.

Anzac Day this year was a wash-

out as far as the march was concerned, the rain starting to fall just as we moved off and gradually increasing in volume until everyone looked like drowned rats. When we reached the town hall the march was abandoned, for the first time in its history, and we headed for Kogarah to get wet inside as well as out. What amazed me was that although everyone shot through like the proverbial Bondi tram as soon as the march broke up, with one exception they all turned up at Alan Luby's place. The exception was Neal Bray who had to go back to work. Neal is to be congratulated upon gaining his commission with the 30th Battalion. Strangely enough one of the testing officers Neal had to pass was Lt. Allan Dixon, now with the Photographic Section of the C.M.F. The rest of the gathering were Fred Stewart, Allan Stewart, Jim Hallinan, Jack Keenahan, Jack Sipple, Ron Goodacre, Fred Janvrin, Les Collins, Bill Coker, Ross Smith, Fred Otway, Johnny Rose, Paddy Kenneally, Joe Garland, Taffy Davies, Keith Wilson, Ron Trengrove, Eric Herd, Ron Teague, John Donovan, Sam Fullbrook, Ron Hilliard, Lawrence Tait, Tom O'Brien, Mick Devlin, Jim English, Tom Martin, Mick Mannix and five guests. As usual Alan's good wife was a very charming hostess and with everyone in out of the rain she promptly loaded up the tables with good things to eat and we proceeded to give it a caning. This went on for some hours, and late in the afternoon we gave three hearty cheers for Alan and Edie and most of us went down to the Arncliffe R.S.L. Club for a further session. I might mention that Alan and I were down there on Thursday night, Anzac eve, as guests representing our Association at a social evening they held, and we were made very welcome indeed. We have to thank Jimmy English for his good work on our behalf there, and I for one will be glad to go back for a second helping of their hospitality. I stayed on all night on the Thursday night and attended their Dawn Service before going into town to place our wreath on the Cenotaph. This chore was performed by Alan, while Fred Stewart and I ably looked on.

Reverting to Arncliffe again, Bob Field also turned up there after having a lot of trouble finding us. Curly O'Neill was also a late starter after having had to work all day, but he soon made up for it and I had to enlist the aid of my brother, Charlie, to hold him on the truck while I drove away.

Personalities

It was good to see Jack Sipple getting about again, not quite as good on the pins as he used to be with the right leg a couple of inches short and stiff. Jack has asked me to pass on to all his thanks for the assistance given him since his accident.

Ron Goodacre came a long way from Canowindra for the day. Sorry I wan't able to help you with those enquiries, Ron. Ross Smith and Joe Garland were two more long distance men. Ross from Maitland and Joe from Denman. Bulla Tait has been in town for some weeks, or I should say had been, as he was going back home to Queensland after Anzac Day.

Paddy Kenneally favored us with his presence for the day and I'm sorry to relate received rather a nasty gash on the leg and torn trousers on the way down to Arncliffe on the back of my truck. He became a little unbalanced somehow and but for the quick action of some of the others might have had a bad fall. Taffy Davies was breaking a long drought with a vengeance, and sends his kind regards to all the old Signal mob and said to tell you all he is divorced again. Almost forgot to mention the biggest bloke present, Jim Fenwick now a sergeant and on leave from his unit in Queensland. Harold Newton there also, boxing on beautifully and having a whale of a time.

Don Turton recently paid us a visit and it was really great to see him again. Don is still the same steady character as of yore but perhaps a bit leaner than we remembered him. He had been making a tour of the East coast and was on the way home.

—JACK HARTLEY.