



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Editorial

DISCARD THE SHODDY

In his excellent broadcast on Coronation Eve, the Governor-General, Field-Marshal Sir William Slim, invited us all to dedicate ourselves—as the Queen was to dedicate herself the next day—to the service of Australia and the brotherhood of all her subjects.

“It means,” said this fine old soldier, “that we discard the second best, the shoddy, the half-truth, the near-enough-good-enough. That when we have a job to do, we do it as well as in us lies.”

We might well heed his words. The man speaking was not only the personal representative of Her Majesty, but a soldier of 40 years' experience through every rank from Second Lieutenant to the highest post of all, Chief of the Imperial General Staff. In those 40 years of Army life he must have seen (as we saw in our short experience) a great deal that was shoddy and second best, a good deal of work done that could have been done far better. And he must have seen (as we did) the men who put their very best into the job, who, as Sir William Slim said later in the broadcast, “are prepared to put a bit more into the kitty than we expect to get out of it.” He spoke of a “right pride in craftsmanship, in the work of our own hands and the skill of our own brains.”

How badly we need those things in Australia today.

You know, I know, and we see it evidenced every day, that our country is weakened by the many who do as little work as they can get away with, who make no apology for doing a boy's work at a man's wage, who take a tradesman's margin for job they know full well has not been done with the skill they could apply if they wanted to.

There is the man who feels entitled to every bit of time-wasting he can chisle out of the boss, who gives only his second best efforts in his work.

No sensible man would advocate a return to the 80-hour week, and few would welcome the harsh conditions that once oppressed the working man. But so long as we put the minimum into the kitty and take out all we can grab, we play no part in the welfare and glory of our Commonwealth. We are, in fact, bludgers.

And even if we, as individuals, do our best in the job and give the service we ought, we still fail in duty to our country's welfare if we tolerate in others the near-enough-good-enough. Our country and its prosperity is not just a matter for Government: it depends on the work that we and others do. And while we are all producers in our own small way, we are all consumers of the goods and services of others. If we determine that the money shall stay in our pockets until true value is offered, the shoddy must give way to the worthwhile, and the bludger to the self-respecting worker.

And when this happens our country will be well towards that place of honour, prosperity and happiness that our mates who died would have wished it to attain.

—PETER MANTLE.

West Australian Whisperings

Committee Comment

The Committee met on Tuesday, July 21, and there was a good attendance, those being present: Messrs. Doig, Carey, Boyland, Napier, Calcutt, Willis, Smith, Bowden, Walsh and March.

Quite a lot of business was covered, the meeting finishing up at about 11 p.m.

Our tender of £4 for an air rifle was not accepted but Bill Willis thinks he has a clue where he can pick one up gratis—so here's hopin'.

A sub-committee to handle the entry from our Unit in the Silver Chain Flower Day was formed. It comprises Keith Hayes, Dave Ritchie, Curly Bowden and Frank Freestone. Arrangements for display and decoration of the allotted 6ft. by 4ft. section will be ably carried out by these active members.

Arrangements have been made with Johnny Burrige to give a very interesting talk on his recent experiences abroad. We all know Johnny's breezy manner and this should prove very interesting.

Further work was put into the organising of the programme for the year. Arrangements are complete now and the programme is to be adhered to unless something unusual crops up to alter plans.

A new scheme has been introduced by the committee and that is to invite two members of the Association to attend the committee meeting and give their views on anything they may have in mind. The idea behind this is to stop the Committee from becoming "committee minded" and thinking along the same channels all the time.

A decision to invite Ray Aitken, Rowen Robinson and Jim Smailes to write a couple of editorials was made. We want to have a few new angles and ideas. Already great interest has been taken by members in the proposed Country Convention in the Wongan Hills area. Several members have assured their support but the Committee would appreciate a letter giving us further assurance.

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Personalities

OUT OF COL DOIG'S MAILBAG

Bert Burges called and leaves for Melbourne towards the end of July and of course hopes to contact as many of the lads as possible while in Melbourne. He is hopeful of also going to Tasmania and will look up any of the Apple Islanders that he can.

Sak "Pigeon" Pierce during the month. He is as big as a bullock and it appears that bulldozer driving suits him down to the ground. He is still knocking his block at Nornalup into shape and hopes in 18 months or so to be able to turn full time farmer.

Bill Drage was in the city during the month and looks extra well. Reports a good season and says that also applies to Joe Brand. Bill is a definite starter for the Annual Reunion next year and will bring down a car load from Geraldton.

Ted Monk was at our last monthly meeting and he too looked real well and happy. Ted entered into the sports night with a will and seemed to enjoy himself no end. Had a talk with him about the proposed Country Convention at Wongan Hills and he was all in favor—thought it should prove a success.

Bad news from Ernie Dinwoodie. He has to enter Hollywood Hospital as a T.B. case and expects a lengthy sojourn. We all hope that Ernie makes rapid progress and gets out of hospital long before he expects. If good morale will do anything he should make an excellent recovery as he is in good spirits.

Have seen Arthur Marshall a couple of times, and he also looks fit and happy. Still battling along in the trucking business and although it is not what it used to be, it can't wipe the grin off Marshall's face.

John Burrige has most recently returned from a business trip to Singapore, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta and will be Guest Speaker at our August meeting on his experience on this and previous trips. John said he saw a photo of David Dexter in a Colombo paper sitting on one of the Australian tractors sent from here under the Colombo Plan.

It was good to see Fred Napier about again and able to take part in our last sports' night. He still manages to throw a mean quoit and only had to lower his colors in the final to Syd McKinley.

The big news as far as yours truly is concerned is that at long last I've got a house. The address is cnr. Rosedale and Gunn Streets, Floreat Park. Can assure you that after seven years at a pub it is extra good to have a place of your own. Very much in the raw as yet, but have high hopes. Thanks to the good offices of Don Turton was able to shift in very easily and now have the job of knocking it into shape.

A note from Ivor Goodall with his subs. The pound will take you up to May 31, 1956, Ivor, so you are well in front.



SPORTS' NIGHT

At the last monthly meeting we held a sports' night and it developed into a real battle among the "giants" of the darts, table tennis and quoits. The eventual winners were: Darts, Smith; Table Tennis, Carey; Quoits, McKinley.

It was a great night with all games keenly contested. We are all looking forward to another such night.

MOTTO

The motto competition is lagging, and has not received the support it deserves. At present there are less than a dozen entries—hardly a good return for the number of members of the Association.

Give it a little thought, chaps, and post your entry in as soon as possible. The prizes are well worth winning.

Books written by those old friends of the 2/2nd—Michael Calvert, Spencer Chapman and Bernie Callinan are the prizes.

Entries must be in by September 30 so bring them in as soon as you can.

Reminders

Motto Competition closes September 30, 1953.

Advance applications for Bernie Callinan's book are being accepted and will be autographed by the author.

August meeting with John Burridge to speak to us—should be good.

Names and age and sex of children required for the Xmas Party, especially from country dwellers who did not submit names last year. Any additions to last year's list will be welcomed.

New South Wales News

I had good intentions of inflicting an editorial upon you this month, but the three essential ingredients for a good editorial, time, an idea and journalistic ability, seem to have evaded me, so you are spared the agony. I mention this with an ulterior motive, gentle men, over in the West they seem to have quite a few enthusiastic editorialists (you won't find the word in Websters), and they make a mighty good job of it too. Now what I'm getting at is this: an editorial is a most important part of any magazine and generally they reflect the highest ideals and thoughts of the writer. Surely there are a few among us here in this State who are able to lift our

minds out of the fog occasionally, long enough to do a bit of clear thinking on a higher plane. How about it boys? Some of you must have a pet theory or some constructive ideas you would like to expound and here's your great opportunity.

Personalities

Snow Turner wrote from Waratah to let me know he is still battling on up there. Snow is a widower with two youngsters to look after, so he is kept pretty busy. He manages to take an active interest in the local R.S.L. on the committee and does the calling on

Housie nights. Russ Blanch's address is Byron-st., Bangalow, Snow. A fiddely will get you out of the red, Snow, and thanks for your letter.

Bill Bennett sends quite a bit of news about the Queensland boys. Bill was up there on Anzac Day and met Ron Host, Harry Handicott, Peter Heard, Kel Carthew, Athol MacQueen, Wally Congdon, Shorty Stevens and Col Cubis. Bill says the boys up there are very keen to give their Association a shot in the arm, and sends a few proposals to be put to our next meeting. You have my solemn promise to attend to the matter as soon as possible, boys. Thanks, Bill, for the letter and Olympic questionnaire.

Alan Luby also playing mother and father to two offsprings while Edie has been down to the big smoke for an operation. I guess by now that Edie is home again, Alan, and I trust the operation was

successful and the trouble departed forever.

Alan met Angus Evans' sister in Gilgandra in May and she said Angus was expecting Snow Weir over for a holiday in the near future. Two to one they both get ridden out of town on a pole if they get off the leash too often. Keith Craig's wife presented him with a daughter at the local hospital in May, making the pigeon pair. Congrats. to you both. Which reminds me of a quick little true story: One of the local kids in my street came home and told his mother the teacher asked all the kids where they were born and his unsuspecting mother said, "And where did you say you were born?" "Aw, well," he says, "I wasn't going to say a sissy place like the Women's Hospital, so I told her down at the Stadium."

Thanks a lot Alan—will drop you a line in the near future.

Random Harvest

Short note from Dick Pepper enclosing subscription money.

Dick's a very busy man trying to get over his June 30 balance—Dick, you're no orphan in this matter. Regards and best wishes to all the boys.

Peter Mantle—a regular correspondent has come to light with this month's editorial. Peter has been at home for a fortnight playing "mummy and daddy" to his infants while his wife had a rest. He quite enjoyed it but the washing, cooking, etc., has kept him mighty busy.

Fred Wilkes, of Brunswick Junction, dropped a note in the other day. He has had a rather tough time of it the last six months with an ulcerated tummy. Sorry to hear that Fred, and hope that you soon become well again. Fred has seen Fred Humphries and he says that he hasn't changed a bit. The years must be kind to you, Fred. Fred Humphrey's putting a bit of dough together—the kind that makes bread.

Jim Smailes sent a hasty line or two the other day and tells us that he is also on the sick list. He was

to go into hospital in July for an operation but have no further news of him at the time of going to press. Anyway, Jim, we are awaiting a few more lines from you to let us know how you are. We're with you mate.

Don Dhu writes from Essendon, Victoria. He's having a pretty good time, what with partying and knocking over a few of the ambers with the boys. He met a few of the boys in the Anzac Day celebrations and indulged in a spot of ear-bashing. Rod sends his address to you Frank Freestone—it is: 9 Ardoch-st., Essendon, Victoria.

Short screed from Gerry O'Toole in Victoria. He was to enter the Repat. at Heidelberg for an operation—nothing serious he says. With a bit of luck in early August he hopes to be over in the West convalescing, so look out for him lads. Gerry was going to see the Grand National and was to invest a modest bob or two on anything carrying colors resembling the good old double red diamond. The bookies love him and pray for his continued good health.

Victorian Vocal Venturings

I must firstly express my disappointment at not having my news included in the last issue of the 'Courier'. I seemed to be keeping to my usual programme, but no doubt due to the desire to have the details of the W.A. Annual Meeting in print as soon as possible the editorial mailbag was closed ere the VVV's arrived.

Twenty stalwarts braved the inclement weather and resisted the counter attraction of the Second Test to attend our Annual Meeting held at Kelvin Hall, Collins Place, Melbourne, on Thursday, June 9. It was a most enjoyable meeting and we managed to enjoy a few beers and some cheese and biscuits afterwards, and the bulk of us still arrived home in time to hear Morris, Hassett and Miller wend their way back to the pavilion.

The following gentlemen were elected to hold office during the ensuing 12 months: Patron, Major Stuart Love; President, B. J. Callinan; Vice-Presidents, B. McLaren, H. Botterill; Secretary, P. G. Maley; Treasurer, H. E. Tobin; Auditor, M. Davies; Committee, A. Munro, L. Cooper, J. Servante, D. Williams, M. Davies, M. Smith, A. Claney, G. O'Toole, G. Robinson.

There was considerable discussion as to whether we should affiliate with the Combined Commando Association, and though the meeting considered it was a matter for the individual concerned whether he became a member of that organisation or not, it was decided that our delegate, Arch Campbell, should discuss the subject with the Association. It was not feasible that our Association should in any way commit any member to the payment of any subscription in addition to that which is paid to the 2/2 Association. One could well imagine our members' feelings should we attempt to do so.

That the task we have undertaken to act as host State for the Olympic Re-union is truly a colossal one is not denied by Arch Campbell, but, as he informed the meeting, there is not the slightest doubt that we can do it, and do it well. To this end a special sub-committee will be formed at our next Committee meeting. It is of utmost importance that every Vic-

torian member become active in the true sense and give his whole-hearted co-operation to this sub-committee and in that manner ensure the success of the big Re-union and thereby strengthen the Association and cement the bonds that hold us together.

Our Treasurer presented his report and discussed in full the transactions recorded therein. Max Davies, in moving the adoption of the report, expressed his great admiration and appreciation of Bert Tobin's work, and stated as auditor that he could assure the members of the Association that their finances could be under no better control than that of our treasurer.

Bert Tobin, in his capacity as organiser of the Melbourne Cup Sweep informed us that he looked forward to a bigger and better sweep this year, and that he hoped to have the tickets in the mail early in August. The drawing will again be held on the Thursday night before Cup Day, it being realised that all who drew horses were entitled to know their horses before the race was run. Although a large number of tickets could be sold in the last few days before the race it was thought that we would prefer to stick to our present policy. Prior to the closing of the meeting a vote of thanks was accorded to Ken Monk who travelled from Poowong for the evening. Also to Jack Benson who journeyed from Warrandyte.

A very great surprise to the Treasurer and myself was a presentation organised in a very secret manner known only to those who perpetuated the act. The gifts were in the form of a set of beer tankards and were greatly appreciated. However, I am sure I can speak for Bert as well as myself, I am only too happy to assist the Association in any way that I can, and at no time is any reward anticipated. It was a grand gesture, though, and made us both very proud.

An unexpected absentee from the meeting was Pete Krause, to whom I had spoken not long before the meeting. Pete had to give up the pastrycook game owing to the effect it was having on his health. He is now in the steel business at

Williamstown. I trust it was nothing serious that kept you away, Pete, and if it wasn't, why the hell weren't you there? Major Love sent his apologies that owing to a most important function taking place elsewhere he couldn't make it. The Major must have been a very proud man that night, his daughter, who is nearing the end of her training at the Alfred Hospital, was to receive a prize for being dux of her year, and a special prize for her work in the theatre. Your apology was accepted Major, and please ask your daughter to accept the Association's congratulations.

Maure Smith was absent also, being ill with pleurosy. Hope you are fit again now. Gery O'Toole was another notable absentee, please explain. Max Davies, off the grog and smokes since his visit to Heidelberg, was welcomed. Max asserts that he is pretty fit again, but he still doesn't look one hundred per cent.

Further to previous news on Bernie Callinan's book which incidentally is to be titled "Independent Company", there has been a delay in the works and it will not be through until September.

Harry Botterill has sent in his report as follows:

Ran into Dave Brown a while back and was sorry to see Dave on crutches. He had had an accident in his car and smashed his kneecap, but he said that he had a good doctor on the job and he hoped to be fixed up soon with very little after effects. Anyway Dave we all hope that you get well soon.

Bill Gillchrist is doing a Marconi course at A.W.A. and hopes to see it through this year. We hope so too, Bill. He is looking particularly fit and put on quite a lot of weight. Says it's hard for him to get to our functions because of a job that has shift work. Jim Henwick is domiciled at Hampton with his wife for the next few months, house minding, which helps out with the accommodation angle for a while.

Blue Sargent writes from Traralgon that he hasn't sighted any of the other chaps up there so can not report on them. Blue has his woes, he has a of a cold, wife, and daughter off color with a touch of the mumps. He has been busy with another R.S.L. working bee

and has at least three months week end work lined up in front of him. A mixture of news, Blue, some not so bright, but plenty to keep you busy. Many thanks for your assistance.

All who attended the Combined Commando Association Ball last year will be pleased to learn that it will be bigger and better than ever this year. It will be held at the Royal Ballroom on show night, Sept. 24, and tickets are now available at 30/- a single. Several have expressed their keenness to attend, and if all interested will contact me UM 9676, I will supply the tickets and make the table arrangements. I can guarantee a wonderful night.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It would be a bad thing if the Annual Report of the Executive aroused no interest in you, the members of the Association, as this would mean that nothing worthwhile was being attempted, and the continued existence of the Association would then be very doubtful.

We have undertaken a very large task—to maintain the comradeship of our war service amidst the diverging interests, worries and pleasures of civil life. As we become older our outlook changes, but we have thought that there was something, developed within the Squadron, that was, and is, worth while retaining.

A much deeper consideration than I can give would be required to define what it is that still inspires us, but I am certain that it was something deep, something fundamental, something spiritual. In our earth-bound practical way we, the members of the small Association, are trying to do things that bear some relationship to whatever it was that inspired us then, and I should like you to decide whether we are striving for the right things.

During the last 12 months the Association has maintained the regular quarterly donations to the Hospital Blood Bank.

The Provident Fund now holds £103, but no cases of hardship were suggested to the Trustees and no moneys have been paid out. The fund is there to help anyone who needs it, but probably we shall

never have enough to be able to make substantial payments to anyone; however, we may be able to lighten the burden by taking over some pressing account, such as insurance premium, or buying some essential goods or clothes. The proper use of this fund is for your direction.

The Melbourne Cup Sweep was a great success, due to the energy and outstanding organisation of Bert Tobin, and it resulted in a profit of £150. A bigger and better one is already being organised for this year.

The Christmas Party for children triumphed over shocking weather conditions; this year's is being planned already and will include a surprise for country children.

A barbecue arranged and staged by Gerry and Mrs. Maley was such an outstanding success that a similar function is due to be held somewhere and sometime in the spring.

Eighty attended the Anzac Day Re-union and a short memorial address by Major Stuart Love and the service gave real meaning to the occasion. The catering resulted in a small financial loss but a quantity gain of 72 gallons of beer to the consumers. A raffle restored the financial balance for the day. The Honor Roll did not arrive in time for this Re-union but we are assured that all is under control in the West for it to be here soon.

We have extended little more than fraternal greetings to the Tasmanians, Brown, Pacey, Loveless and C., as yet; but we hope to do more in the coming year. They manfully disposed of their quota of sweep tickets.

Arch Campbell is proceeding with the organisation for the Olympic Re-union in 1956 and, already, the magnitude of the task before him and us has been revealed. We shall need everyone's assistance to make this the success it must be.

A working bee, organised by Arch Campbell, cleaned up the grounds of the Legacy Club's Home for Children at Hareland's, Kew. This was most successful and it is the first time any unit association, as such, has given this help to the Legacy Club in Victoria, and we are following it up by inviting children from 10 to 20 wards to our next Christmas Party.

New ideas are wanted and the committee places before you the

desirability of adopting one of the Legacy Club's Homes for our special care and attention; and also the desirability of establishing Country Committees at centres such as Bendigo, Geelong and Traralgon.

It falls to me to set out what has been done but I have had all too little to do with these events. The Committee, led by the secretary and the treasurer, has labored long and well and I should like their efforts to be appreciated.

G. J. CALLINAN, President.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Statement of income and expenditure for year ended June 30, 1953.

Melbourne Cup Sweep: Prizes £48/5/-, Printing of tickets £20-5/-, Sundry expenses £15/10/9, Deducted N.S.W. Branch's share £38/0/4; Income, Victorian sales £202/15/-; Profit, £156/14/7.

Sweep Drawing Function: Expenditure, Refreshments, etc. £11/8/2 Income, Contributions £5; Losses, £68/2.

Xmas Party for Wives and Children: Expenditure, Sweets, Ice Cream, Toys, etc. £26/1/6; Losses £26/1/6.

Barbecue: Expenditure, Chops, Ale, etc., £20/19/9; Income, Contributions £21/19/9; Profit, £1.

Anzac Reunion: Expenditure, Ale £40, Foodstuffs £15/6/-, Sundries £11/9/7, £66/15/7; Income, Contributions £57/4; Losses £9/14/7.

Major Anzac Raffle: Expenditure Six Tankards and Tray £9/15/-, Printing of tickets £2/7/10, £12-2/10; Income, Ticket sales £39/10 Profits, £27/7/2.

Minor Anzac Raffle: Expenditure, Bottle Scotch whiskey £1/12/3; Income, Ticket sales £5/3/-; Profit £3/10/9.

Donations: £2/15/-.

Provident Fund Donations £13-5/-.

Subscriptions: £31/15/-.

Secretarial expenses: £16/19/5.

"Commando Courier", Victorian share: £31/14/-.

Sundry expenditure: Visitors' book £1/13/-, Amenities Interstate members £2/19/-, Deposit Keloin Hall for annual meeting £2.

Sundry Income: Int. on Bond £1 12/6, Int. on Prov. Fund ac. £1 16/1, Int. on gen. ac. 15/11. Pro-

fit on annual meeting 2/2, Profit on cigs. Anzac Day 19/10.

Total Expenditure: £240/5/11.

Total Income: £384/10/3.

Profit for year: £144/4/4.

Balance Sheet as at June 30, 1953:

Liabilities: Subscriptions prepaid £17/10/-, "Commando Courier" Vic. share of cost of June issue £2/6/3, Balance at 30/6/1952 £104/7/6, Add profit for year £144/4/4, Total £268/8/1.

Assets: State Savings Bank ac. £54/19/4, State Savings Bank Provident Fund ac. £104/16/1, Secretary's petty cash £2, 1956 Treasury Bond (face value £100) at cost £98/3/9, Stock of Anzac Day raffle tickets £7/3/5, Stock of glasses £1/5/6, Total £268/8/1.

Provident Fund Account: Balance as at June 25, 1952 £68/17/5, Plus donations June to November, 1952 £10/5/-, Plus transfer from Gen. ac. to build fund up to £100 in accordance with committee meeting minutes dated Nov. 26, 1952 £20/17/7, Plus donations April 1953 £3, Plus bank int. June 1953 £1/16/1, Balance as at June 30, 1953 £104/16/1.

H. S. TOBIN, Treasurer.



It is time to take stock of our achievements during the past 12 months. In so doing the first and most obvious conclusion to be drawn is that there has been a steady increase in the numbers who have attended our meetings and functions. This in turn points to a growing interest in our activities and the return to the fold of many who due to circumstances drifted away, but who now find that their private lives are more or less settled and are now keen to mix and yarn with their old comrades, which is all to the good.

Also we can assume from our experiences that it is essential to have regular functions to keep the show alive and on top of the world. Of course we have been aware of this fact for a long time, but owing to the transitory period between war and peace, the members who attended functions other than the Anzac Day Reunion were not sufficiently strong in numbers to warrant the expense and work involved in staging them. Summing up, we are now over the hill and can look

forward to the future confidently, with every reason to believe that we will go on to bigger and better things.

Owing to a variety of reasons we found it necessary to postpone the Annual Meeting until July 7.

To date there are four orders in for Bernard Callinan's book, "False Crests" and probably more are en route. Having a yarn with Bernie the other day and he thinks the selling price may be more than we anticipated, and in all probability we may have to call for an extra 5/- That I will confirm as soon as I possibly can.

Have been on the sick list for the last few weeks, the old pin playing up somewhat, but happily it seems to be improving.

Alex Boast has been having a very bad trot, having broken a leg some time back. Alex wasn't looking too bright at all on Anzac Day and it is to be hoped that he is more his old self now. Hope to hear from you soon, Alec.

I was very pleased to receive a note from Bill Bennet, still selling all sorts of things throughout New South Wales and Queensland. Sapper Bill wishes to be remembered to Campbell Rodd and George Kennedy, also to Alf Grachan and former Sapper Dick Adams. The old "Animal" Bennett seems to be doing alright, am pleased to report. Kindest regards to June and the kids from Margot and yours truly.

—GERRY MALEY.



EDITOR'S NOTE

Sory about your news being omitted last month but circumstances necessitated us going to press at an earlier date.

Heard This?

"Where can I get hold of you?"

"Gee, I don't know—I'm so darned ticklish."

An Address You May Want

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

J. F. HARTLEY,
Creek Road,
Berowra, N.S.W.