



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

(Registered at the G.P.O. Perth, for transmission by post as a periodical)

Vol. 7. No. 79.

DECEMBER 1953

Price 1d.



Editorial

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

At this happy time of the year with the advent of Christmas and when the Death pangs of the Old Year merge with the Birth pains of a New Year let us take stock of the past and build our hopes for the future.

The year 1953 has been, all things considered, quite an improvement on several of the previous years. We have at least seen an end to the "Shooting War" in Korea even if the Peace is a bit uneasy it is at least good augury that it has allowed the combatants to get together in a spirit of conciliation and stop the useless slaughter of thousands more innocent soldiers and civilians.

Events in Malaya and Indo China seem to be on a much quieter plain. The world in general does not seem to be in such high hysteria as was witnessed in the years immediately following the World War.

Let us sincerely hope that this new spirit which was born in 1953 is matured to strong adolescence in the year which is hard upon us. Let us hope that wiser Councils will prevail and that the great nations of the World will forever forget the threat of World War Three. What has happened in the theatre of War in Korea can be transplanted with success to the bigger Arena of World Affairs and if the effort is made by everybody to sincerely seek a better and more harmonious universe then there is no reason why it should not be achieved.

On the plain of more mundane things, the affairs of the Association have once more prospered. We have had a good year and have cause to feel proud of the efforts of everyone who has assisted in keeping those bonds of friendship so tight. Let us look forward to 1954 with high ambition, high hope and high ideals and carry the splendid torch of comradeship to even greater heights than have been achieved in the past.

We extend to our members heartiest good wishes for a Happy and Merry Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year. Make the spirit of Christmas permeate your whole being during the year to come and may a Divine Providence shine on you and yours. —C. D. DOIG.



West Australian Whisperings

Committee Comment

On Tuesday, Nov. 24 the Committee met in Col Doig's office in Perth. Those present were Colin Doig, Arthur Smith, George Boyland, Jack Carey, Alf Walsh, Fred Napier, Carly Bowden, Bill Willis, Mick Calcutt and Wilf March.

The guests for the evening were Kev Waddington and Herb McKinley. Unfortunately Herb couldn't make it owing to pressure of work.

Air Rifle has been licensed and owing to the license having to be in one person's name Mick has registered it in his own. Mr. Jones who donated the rifle is to be written to and thanked for his generosity. It is the intention of the committee to invite Mr. Jones to a function in the future. Safety precautions re the new shooting gallery were discussed at length. Kev Waddington has donated a bundle of sheet lead which will be used as a back drop for the targets. Special ammunition is to be procured for the rifle.

King's Park Water. This job appears to be considerably larger than afore thought, but until such time as Blue Pendergrast's plan is complete it is too early to make an accurate estimate. It has been decided that three separate working bees will be necessary to get the avenue into shape when the job is ready to start. The suggested working bees are:

1. To cut and thread pipes.
2. Levelling of ground and laying pipes.

3. Planting out grass.

Country Convention. See Jack Carey's report printed elsewhere.

November Meeting. Poor show and better results should be forthcoming. Attendance was so small as to be very discouraging to those who turned up. Guest night should attract a lot more than it did else it may have to be discontinued.

Guests for the December Committee will be Jerry Green and George Strickland.

Xmas Party. Discussion on the kiddies' Christmas party took up most of the time of the evening and the ground work attended to

and jobs allotted to various committee men.

Xmas Sweep. A small sweep is to be conducted to help cover expenses for the party and anyone who does not receive a book will they please contact Colin Doig.

Personalities

A letter from Lake Grace by Stan King. Stan tells us that they have had a crackerjack season at the Lake with plenty of feed to help along the wool clip. Rains came at the right time for the crops although a bit on the sticky side at seeding time. The cricket season should keep Stan amused for a while.

Albie Friend has whipped in a hastily scribbled note and says that he has been up to his ears in work on his new house. Keep at it Albie.

Ron Sprigg in Albany apologises for his lack of correspondence but says things are very quiet down his way. Ron saw Norm Thornton and Geordie Smith a while ago. They were working on the high school.

"Dig" Dignum has returned his sweep butts plus 10/- for subs. It appears that things are on the quiet side around Seaton Park where 'Dig' lives. At the time of writing he hadn't even seen the old Tapper for quite a while. "Dig" suggests that he must have slipped into the concrete when pouring a foundation.

Another letter from Albany—this one from Ron Dook who sent in his sweep butts. Ron has been flat out getting a home ready for his family who have been to Mandurah.

Paddy Doyle from Kalgoorlie has sent in an entry for the motto competition along with his sweep butts and a few shillings subs. Paddy has been off work with broken ribs. Sorry to hear that Paddy and hope that by the time this 'Courier' reaches you that you're ribs have knitted and that you are O.K. again.

Ron Neuzerling of Dover Garden in South Australia has written quite a newsy letter. Ron who works on

the trams has recently shifted into one of the new imported English pre-fabs and finds it O.K. too. Being an electric and on a big block of land Ron says that it's just like heaven. He intends to get going with the vegetable growing.

Jack Hasson from Balidu, sent along a note with his sweep butts apologising for not being able to make the Ladies' Night owing to the fact that the babe had whooping cough. Tough luck, Jack, but there's always next year. Jack tells us that his crop is O.K. and that he is quite pleased with things.

Tom Bateman returned from Car narvon and whipped in a hurried screed regards the sweep.

Mick Morgan was another unfortunate member who was unable to attend the Ladies' Night at the last minute. The old bugbear—work—kept him away.

Mrs. Bob Palmer has written from Cowarannup for Bob who is away hay baling in the Baandee area. Hope the trip turned out a financial success. By the way—bad writing must be a habit in the Palmer family as I have spent about 20 minutes deciphering your letter. My apologies, Mrs. Bob.

Norm Thornton at Denmark, has sent in a few lines—his yearly letter, he calls it. Norm and his wife have now got a son, so Norm can puff his chest out.

Norm asks Paddy Kenneally to write to him as he owes Norm a letter. It appears Paddy hasn't advised Norm on the sex of the Kenneally offspring and Norm is rather curious to know if it is a boy. There couldn't be two Paddy's in the same house—says Norm.

Peter Campbell, of Southern Hills, has also corresponded with a short note. Tony Bowers and family have been staying with Peter. The season has been excellent at both Southern Hills and Scaddan and Peter tells us that we can expect to see him in Perth around February.

The old Brooker has dubbed in with a letter note. "Brook" says he is still working at the zoo but the head keeper's job is eluding him. Keep at it Brook, and we will see you there one day.

"Boomer" Giles is doing pretty well for himself in Geraldton in the carpentry line. He has been work-

ing on the State Housing homes. There are quite a few of the lads up Geraldton way, and "Boomer" was expecting to have a chinwag with "Irish" Hopkins who was dining out the good old amber at Shepherd's Hotel. Bernie often sees Eric Smythe, Jack Denman, Bill Drage, Bruss Fagg and Joe Brand.

"Kip" McMahon is down at Albany and gets around quite a bit. Often sees Ron Sprigg around. Ivor Goodall is also in Albany. He is the local speed cop and certainly whips down on the unwary.

Henry Sproxton in Bayswater, is a very busy man these days. He has gone into partnership with two other carpenters and has contracted to build two houses for the Housing Commission. These must be finished before Christmas or else he will be liable to penalty rates—Well "Sprocky" don't stand around here reading the 'Courier', get stuck into it!

Short note from "Tea" Potts, of Maylands. Haven't seen much of you lately "Tea" old boy, but hope you will be able to make the Reunion.

Another letter from Jim Smailes of Kalgoorlie. Jim has been battling with the Repat with regards his illness but hasn't had any satisfaction from them. Reports that he is coming good slowly and feeling fairly well although out of nick. Jim, how about letting that lucid pen of yours have its head and send me down a couple of editorials? I am sure the boys would appreciate it.

Pemburton calling—with the caller being Ted Loud. Ted was down in Perth to see the end of the football and saw quite a few of the lads and knocked a few ales over with them. Ted says that he is still with the Forestry and that if the weather doesn't warm up they are not in the race to have a fire. Only chance to chase a bit of overtime will be to light one himself. Ted says Abe Thompson is doing quite well at Dunsbrough.

Ernie Hoffman is still chasing the elusive yellow metal out from the fields. He sends his regards to Mick Calcutt and Ron Dook.

Mrs. Freddie Grows, of Blair Athol, South Australia, wrote for Fred, who has been away on country jobs for his firm.

Sweep butts have brought in quite a few notes from the lads among them being 'Doc' Wheatley who we haven't seen for ages—where are you, Doc? Sid Jarvis has been building pig pens and consequently kept very busy at Gosnells. Dick Pepper of Moonyoonooka was also interested in Bernie Callinan's book and any other book on the Timor campaign. Eric Smythe sent in his butts without any cash, followed by a hurried note with cheque—not bad for a chap in the accountancy! Geordie Smith's wife sent in his butts—Geordie had writter's cramp according to Joan. Among the mail were

butts from Kev Millington of Donnybrook, Neil Scott, M. J. Holland of Victoria Park, Charlie Sadler of Wongan Hills, Eric Thornander of Collie, Gordon Rowly of Manginup Don May, Don Hudson, Jack Denman of Geraldton, 'Slops' Hislop of Carnamagh, Charlie King of Canning Vale, Les Haise, Joe Poynton and Pigeon Pierce.

Saw Jerry Haire making a hurried dash through the city the other morning. Didn't have much chance to speak to him but Jerry says that he has been tied down with night school so has been unable to make the monthly meeting. We miss you, Jerry, with your sound advice and cheery nature.

COUNTRY CONVENTION at Wongan Hill

Held at Wongan Hills on Sunday 15th Nov., 1953. Present: Messrs. Doig, Calcutt, Boyland, March, Hoily, Geere, Bowden and Secretary, representing city members. Messrs Fowler, Wilkerson, Brady, Hassen, Monk, C. and S. Sadler, representing country members.

Apologies recieved from Messrs Harrington and Turton.

Following a general get together outside the Wongan Hills Hotel, members adjourned to the Toc H. Hall where the meeting commenced at 11 a.m.

REPORT ON MEETING

The Association President, Mr. Doig, in his opening address extended a hearty welcome to all members present. He explained that the idea of holding country conventions had been initiated by a former president, Major MacKenzie, and the first convention had been held at Bridgetown last year with reasonable success.

The main purpose of the convention was to enable country members to get first hand information of the workings of the Association and to give country members an opportunity to put forward any ideas they might consider of value to the Association.

Mr. Doig then went on to give a brief resume of the Association's activities. The Association, he said, could boast a 95 per cent membership, nearly all members being fin-

ancial. Meetings were held monthly and though better attendance at these could be forthcoming from city members, those who did attend enjoyed themselves. Functions such as ladies' night and the annual re-union and the services on Anzac and Commemoration Day all tended to strengthen the Association ties.

In the past the Association had by its efforts, obtained subsistence and kit allowance for those on Timor, arranged for war service medals to be forwarded to members and whenever possible assisted indigent members. The 'Commando Courier' had also been edited to keep all members posted on Association affairs. Busy bees had been run at various times to help out members and these had always had solid support from fellow members.

The next project on the Association's hands was to grass our Memorial Avenue in King's Park. This would be a big job and would entail the laying of an underground sprinkler system to provide water enough to maintain the area once the grass was planted. Plans had been drawn up and it was hoped to have the project well under way early in the New Year.

Mr. Doig then invited other city representatives to cover any aspects of Association affairs he may have overlooked.

Mr. Boyland, the General Secretary, spoke of the financial side. He said that thanks to the Melbourne Cup Sweep the Association finances were sound. By catering for the Annual Re-union ourselves, what in previous years had been a loss was turned into a profit. The Xmas Party would be on again for kiddies this year on Sunday, Dec. 13, and again presents would be sent to children in country areas.

Mr. Calcutt, the Vice President, supported the previous speakers' remarks and stressed to members present the importance of supplying information for publication in the 'Courier'.

Mr. March, the Editor, strongly supported Mr. Calcutt's reminder re news for 'Courier', saying no matter how trivial the news might seem he would be pleased to have it. He also hoped that a permanent correspondent could be obtained from the Wongan Hills area.

The Secretary said the previous speakers had just about covered everything there was to say. He hoped country members would bear in mind and try and make the big re-union in Melbourne in 1956 at the time of the Olympic Games.

In conclusion Mr. Doig said Bernard Callinan's book "Independent Company" was on sale and autographed copies could be obtained in Perth.

Country members were then afforded the opportunity to air their views. Mr. Fowler said apart from the disappointing roll up at the convention he was very satisfied the way the Association affairs were being conducted. No other country members had any new ideas to offer but each expressed deep appreciation of the efforts of those city members who were and had been running the Association. All stressed how much the 'Courier' was looked forward to.

The meeting concluded on this happy note.

The party adjourned to the Wongan Hills Hotel for the hour session then proceeded to the Sadler Bros. farm as their guests for the remainder of the day.

Following an enjoyable luncheon provided by the ladies and aided by ample liquid refreshments a very pleasant afternoon was passed. The function was held in the Sadlers'

barn which proved an ideal spot for the occasion. Happy reminiscences interspersed with a game of darts (at which the gents proved too good for the ladies) made the get together one to remember. The ladies present were Mesdames, Doig, Holly, Fowler, Hasson, Wilderson and C. and S. Sadler. An equally enjoyable tea was provided by the ladies and prior to the departure of some of the city members the President and Vice President on behalf of the visitors thanked the country people especially J. Fowler and the Sadlers, not forgetting the ladies' committee for their warm and generous hospitality.

Summing up it can be said the Wongan Hills convention was a successful one. Too true there could have been a better representation of city members, but those who did make the trip thoroughly enjoyed themselves and came away with happy memories of a weekend well spent.

Such conventions can only strengthen the bonds of the Association and it is the writer's opinion that conventions should be continued at least every other year and every effort be made to get as many members as possible to attend.

oooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

THANKS

All members of the Association who visited Wongan Hills recently for the Convention had a really marvellous time and the hour for their return came all too quickly.

The hospitality displayed by the country members and their wives made us feel really at home.

We say to you folk in Wongan Hills — Thanks.

oooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

LOST AND FOUND

Lost

Gents' Wrist Watch, American type, lost Anzac Day at 16th Battalion Drill Hall. Owner: Herbie Thomas.

Found

Gents' Windcheater Overcoat, also Lady's Green Check Umbrella, at the 16th Battalion Drill Hall after the last Ladies' Night. Apply to C. Doig, Box 1273 G.P.O. Perth.

"INDEPENDENT COMPANY"

Bernie Callinan's dashing book on the Timor Campaign is one which should be in the possession of every member of the 2/2nd Commando Squadron.

This book is faithfully written and as authentic a record as it is possible to present.

Maps and photographs are generously distributed throughout and it is sheer delight to see the photos of some of the creadors, cocknights and some of the old gang.

In Perth Albert's Bookshop has the book at 21/-.

Autographed copies can be obtained for an additional 5/-. This 5/- is to go into Association funds and Alberts have kindly agreed to collect these extra 5/- on our behalf.

Already this book has had a tremendous sale lads, so hop in and buy one and if you are not in the position to purchase one yourself through being in the country write to the Association and they will do the purchasing for you.

RANDOM HARVEST

Memo for Joe Poynton. Will you please contact Paddy Kenneally as he hasn't had news of you for nearly a year. Here is his address: 28 Wilkin Street, Yagoona, N.S.W. Paddy sends his regards to the boys.

Where's Koala Ward the cook? Wendyll Wilkie would like to know. If you are around Koala, drop me a note and I will inform Wendyll.

Mick Calcutt's dart game in Wongan Hills didn't turn out quite as he would have liked. The ladies were playing the gents in a match and Mick was scoring. Mick had the ladies in a nice position, through manipulating the scores a bit, but Teddy Monk came up "crook" on him and pegged out to win the game for the gents.

Ron Naurzling has been visiting Perth because his mother passed away. Our sympathy, Ron.

REMINDERS

There will NOT be any General Meeting in January.

New South Wales News

Unfortunately for you New South Welshmen I haven't any news to relate.

Your correspondent, Jack Hartley, dropped me a hurried line apologising for not sending in the copy. Get on to him and give him a reminder or two because we don't want to miss out any more.

I have a letter here from Paddy Kenneally having a slight winge about lack of news, etc., in the 'Courier'. It sure is a headache, Paddy, hanging on to the last minute waiting for copy which doesn't arrive.

In October a meeting was held with only a poor turn-up. Jack Hartley, Bill Bennett, Rus Symons, Dave Gallard, Irish O'Brien, Ron Trengrove, Jimmy English, Jack Keenahan and Babe Teague comprised the gathering.

The old "Babe" rendered a couple of songs and Paddy assures me he still warbles as well as ever. I can hear Babe's voice echoing through the Timor mountains now.

Many a song he sang for us in those far off days.

Victorian Vocal Venturings

Quite a number of raffle tickets rolled in.

Bill Peterson wrote from "Poverty Ridge", Fish Creek, to say that he is by no means a high pressure salesman and had not disposed of one ticket. However, Bill took the fiver's worth and filed various names in on the butts.

Seems to me you remembered your stay in hospital when filling in the names Bill and we congratulate you on a stout effort, and trust you receive the reward due.

Tickets and letters in from Blue Sargeant and Ian Briggs, also for which many thanks. I hope to settle down and pen you a lengthy let

ter in the near future, Blue. Hope all goes well at Traraigon and Lilydale.

Kevin Curran's team were not quite good enough to win the flag this year, but I believe Kevin was suffering from a most troublesome rash and should not really have played. It was a grand effort to lead such a young team so near to victory and Kevin is deserving of the highest praise. By the way, all interested in spending a week-end consuming mine host Curran's ale out at Bendigo, please let me know as we are very keen to have a gathering up there in the near future.

News of the stork's recent activities come from Bob Briggs, who supplied the nucleus of a sister for his two year old pride and joy, and Bob has really celebrated the grand success in siring the pigeon pair. Also blessed by the stork was our stalwart Ted (Smash) Hodgson, who is now handling his daughter even more tenderly than he used to care for his Thompson in forty-two. Our best wishes go to you two dads, and to your fair ladies, without whose assistance the success was not possible.

It is with great pride that I chronicle one more job well done. Last weekend the boys did a man-sized painting job for Legacy on one of their homes in Burke Road. Arch Campbell once again was the driving force, and others who helped were Bert Tobin, Bruce McLaren, George Veitch (two days), Wallie Wordie (two days), Johnnie Roberts, George Humphreys, George Kennedy, Alan Munro, Gerry O'Toole, Bernie Callinan and Leith Cooper. Hope I haven't missed any. During November our concreting job at Harelands will be coming up. The Matron has promised a beer or two to finish up on too, so roll up in force boys. It really makes you feel good to be able to help Legacy. By the way the boys were also generously supplied with a few glasses after the recent painting do. We'll be letting you know the date in the near future so don't forget to keep in training until after the concreting.

An excellently attended Committee Meeting last Thursday night saw 12 members present, and in the mood to clear up all outstand-

ing matters. One of the chief items was the Christmas Party, and plans were completed and ends tucked in. The usual toys, sweets, whistles, ice cream and drinks will be laid on for the brats, and possibly cotton wool for the parents to poke in their ears.

The Re-union held on Oct. 29 was a grand show and all who were fortunate enough to be present thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The drawing of the Melbourne Cup Sweep was handled by Bert Tobin and Max Davies in their usual efficient way, and the major prize winners as usual came from New South Wales. Amongst the drawers of horses were these familiar names: B. Callinan, G. McKenzie, J. Hartley, C. Paff, Mrs. J. J. Fenwick, Beverley Servante, A. Stewart A. S. Luby. Nice going folks. Wod alla, the winner, was drawn by F. Ryan, 49 Judge Street, East Sydney. On the financial side it was a grand success, and again their is over three hundred pounds in the coffers of the New South Wales and Victorian Branches. Congratulations to all who assisted.

On Saturday and Sunday last another busy bee was held at "Stanhope", corner Burke and Cotham Roads, Kew, a home for wards of Legacy. Though the roll up could have been a lot better, we still managed to get a lot of painting done. Amongst those wielding a wicked brush were Des Williams, Jack Servante, Bruce McLaren, Arch Campbell (two days), Johnny Roberts, George Humphreys, Gerry O'Toole, George Veitch and Max Davies. I'm sure I've missed a couple and I know I'll be in the gun for it, but I can't for the life of me remember. Our thanks are due to Arch Campbell who arranges these outings, which, by the way, are giving the Association a reputation that all the money in the world couldn't buy, and which I am sure we will all try to live up to.

Unfortunately for Bernie Callinan whose book "Independent Company" is now selling like a hot cake his good lady has been very much laid up in bed, and he has been chief cook and bottle washer for almost a fortnight. With four male faces to wash morning and night, he must know what his boys look like now. I trust Mrs. Callinan is

now on the mend, chief, and that you have a clear run at least until after Xmas.

Keith (Curly) Carlton, who many of the Foster boys will remember, is now mine host of the Recreation Hotel, Queens Parade, North Fitzroy, from where he dispenses a noble brew. I noticed Curly and Michael Calvert having a real chinwag on the night of the re-union. Curly has been trapped for his ten bob sub, and we are very proud and happy to welcome him to the fold.

Another new arrival in Australia is Peter Stafford, still in the army with the rank of Major, I think, and stationed at Victoria Barracks. Peter will be remembered as a W.O. at Foster.

I am obliged to Des Williams for passing on to me Hugh McDonald's address. Hugh is a 1st Company man and is at present bound to his bunk with lung trouble at the Bal-larat Base Hospital. Hugh is in a big way as a wool grower these days, and it is to be hoped you will soon be back on the land Hugh. We look forward to seeing you when you are again in circulation.

Arch Campbell has obliged with some news this month so I'll leave the floor to him. Cheers 'n beers.
—GERRY MALEY.

* * * * *

Long time off the pen, boys, but afraid the programme has been a bit heavy.

Spent a weekend at Bendigo with "Mine Host" Key Curran and he is looking fine. His wife, Gladys, and son Dennis, are good "ads." for hotel life, they are both blooming. Kevin did well with Sandhurst this year. Lost nine of last year's players and still played off in the grand final. The team came with a very late run winning nine on end to make the four and finished second. Key sends his regards to all.

Bernie Callinan had a first class radio interview on JAW on Cup night. Spoke of Timor and its relation to Australia in any future aggressive move. His book too was mentioned as appearing on Nov. 11. Missed your Vocation, too, you have an excellent radio voice.

On behalf of Melbourne Legacy and personally too, I would like to

thank the chaps who did such an excellent job of painting on the Legacy Home of "Stanhope". Many first class efforts appeared as brush met wood—any new home builders could do worse than employ our 2/2 boys. Gerry Maley I believe has ideas of covering his house with paint. Duck boys, I smell another effort. Incidentally the Legacy kids got a great kick seeing such a team of chaps working so willingly, yes, and so well. Thanks again chaps.

Good to see Gerry up and about again, we sure miss him when he is "hors-de-combat". Hope the cure is permanent, Gerry and your period of quietness is a short one.

Plans for the Olympic Games are going on apace and quite a few hours are being spent sorting out the "curly ones". The committee is having regular meetings per courtesy of kind Wilma Tobin—Bert's good lady. We have no intention of underestimating the magnitude of the task involved and during my visit to Perth at Xmas I hope to gather quite a few ideas to collate with those already tabled. Anyone who has any bright ideas on our "Olympic Re-union" can send them to myself or Bert Tobin and they will receive close attention. Maybe something will appear that will make the task so much easier.

Master Masons in Victoria send hearty good wishes to Mick Morgan on his elevation to Master of his Lodge in Fremantle. Good luck, Mick and all hope you have a bumper year. Sure you will.

Gerry McKenzie is to be domiciled in Victoria for quite a while and we know that he is going to be a tower of strength to us in our endeavours to keep 2/2 in Victoria strong and active. Welcome Gerry and hope you had a super-leave. W.A.'s loss is our gain and we hope to put it to good use. It is you for a guernsey, Mac. Cheers Amigos —ARCH CAMPBELL.

A man is getting along in years when he pays more attention to the food than he does to the waitress.

(Printed for the publisher by "The Swan Express", 10 Helena Street, Midland Junction, W.A.)