



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

Vol. 6. No. 70.

FEBRUARY, 1953

Price 1d.

## *Editorial*

### *The Coronation*

To most of us, the Coronation is just another event that we will read a lot about, think about very little, and dismiss quickly from our minds, but if we only stop and consider, the Coronation may well be a corner stone or turning point in the history of the Empire of which we are all proud to be members.

No one in my position can even guess what may happen during this illustrious reign, we can only hope, and wish, that by our own actions, thoughts, and words, we may help those hopes and wishes to come true. So, if we can all, have the same wishes and hopes, then the reign of our Queen will surely mean prosperity and happiness for us all.

To all who were present at our Commemoration Service, our hopes must surely be for lasting peace, and although our methods and ideas of obtaining the "peace" may differ, if our desires are earnest enough I am confident that peace will be achieved.

The Association has a chance of being represented at the Coronation by our President, and, if selected, some of the honour and glory must seep through to our Association, and I can only hope that we will be able to look back and say that we participated at the beginning of a reign which brought prosperity to a happy and peace loving Empire. It is not sufficient for us having witnessed the crowning of our Queen to sit back, admire and wait for miracles to happen. We must show, by both words and deeds, that we are behind this gallant lady in her endeavours to make our Empire the glorious symbol of prosperity, stability and peace which it has stood for in the past, and despite the crippling effect of two world wars, will certainly be again in the future.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

—F. NAPIER.

## West Australian Whisperings

### Committee Comment Association Activities

Last Committee meeting was held at Monash House on February 17, and the attendance was well below average. We had the pleasure of welcoming Peter Krause from Victoria, who was in W.A. on a short holiday. The Committee was able to swap ideas with Peter and it is hoped he will be able to take back to Victoria an impression of how we do things over here.

First business was a financial and social review of the Annual Re-union. The treasurer advised that after all outstanding accounts are paid the function would show a small profit which after the quite considerable losses of past years reflects great credit on the sub-committee responsible for catering. It is hoped that the financial success of this year will be carried on in the years to come, to this end it was resolved that Mr. Dook be asked to supply a detailed list of items required to cater such a function so that future Committees will be able to cater along similar lines.

It was decided that our observance of Anzac Day be the same as for last year and that the fact that football fixtures would be played on that day would not interfere in any way with our celebration. It is hoped that arrangements can be made to hold the function in the same place as last year, namely 16th Battalion Drill Hall.

Some discussion took place on Commemoration Day Service, but this was deferred owing to the absence of the President who conducted the Service and whose views would be of guidance to the Committee for future services.

It was resolved that a complete review be made of unfinancial members and that a list of same be supplied to next meeting.

#### THE THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

All men dream but not equally.—the dreamers of the day are the most dangerous.

Taken in order since that last issue of the 'Courier', they are firstly the working bee at Kings Park on Sunday, February 1—this was the best ever. Twenty-five chaps rolled up with rakes and shovels and the whole job was completed in a little over an hour. This shows just how easy this job can be for all concerned if there is a good muster. Our congratulations to all concerned on such a good effort. We hope that when these working bees are called in the future that a similar good result will be obtained. The Kings Park area is now spick and span and was most favorably commented on by the secretary of Kings Park Board who happened to drive along while the "bee" was in progress and was amazed at the wonderful roll up.

Next comes the Annual Re-union held at Monash House on February 7. This was definitely the best ever. The attendance was a record—76 of our members present and quite a few guests. The catering was outstanding. There was plenty of food of really high quality for everybody and some to burn. This is due in no small measure to the Catering Committee comprising Mick Calcutt, Ron Dook, Geo. Boyland and Alf Walsh, with the capable assistance of our good friend Bill Hollis and Ron's staff at Dunreath. We are indebted to all these and to those good folk who donated towards the catering, namely Tom Bateman, Gordon Rowley, Bill Cooper, Jack Fowler and Roy Watson. It was good to see so many present from the country and as usual the numbers were disproportionate with city members. Thirty chaps from the rural areas made the trip to Perth and they came from as far north as Geraldton, south as Broomehill and Manjimup, and east as far as Kalgoorlie. These chaps will be written up under "Personalities". Our thanks also to Mr. Allan Gregg and Tom Knight who came along to entertain us. Mr. Gregg's card tricks and lightening sketches drew

forth applause from all. Mr. Knight was singularly unfortunate in that he came along to play the piano for us only to find the instrument out of order. The President did a great job in handling a lengthy toast list to advantage and also as M.C. of the evening in general. All who attended voted it a great evening.

Now for the Annual Commemoration Service at Kings Park on Sunday, February 8. Once again a very good roll up of 42 members on parade and an even bigger attendance of friends and relatives. Mr. Gerry McKenzie, as President, handed the Service and did a good job. Tom Nisbet was Parade Marshal and Alf Walsh was installed as Warden of Honor Avenue for the ensuing 12 months. Once again the appeal goes out to members to make this Service a MUST on their annual calendar and although the roll up was good it is still a long way below what we should be able to expect from such a big crowd of members in the metropolitan area. Once again the country folk put up a good performance and their numbers reflected great credit on their enthusiasm.

The March meeting to be held at Monash Club on the 3rd will take the form of a picture night and the Committee has decided to make it a guest night also. So members are permitted to bring along a male guest to enjoy the films. The films of the last Davis Cup are among those to be shown so that it should be of great interest to all.

April meeting we hope to have Mr. Colin McDonald to tell us more about China. As China is very much in the news these days and as Mr. McDonald is so well qualified to talk on the place, a good evening is assured for those who attend.

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## Personalities

Firstly a synopsis of those people who attended the Re-union.

Eric Smyth down from Geraldton and looked very hale and well if a little thinner in the thatch. Eric brought apologies from Jack Denman, "Boomer" Giles and "Nip"

Cunningham, who were unable to be present. Jack Denman also sent us a wire wishing us all success on the evening.

Kalgoorlie was very well represented this year. Ron Kirkwood, Jim Smailes and "Ning" McCaig, were present and must say all looked well and prosperous. Ron was down at Safety Bay for his annual holidays and says that he can recommend that centre to anyone who wants a good quiet holiday. Ron was good enough to write on his return and compliment all on the successful arrangements of the evening and say that he enjoyed himself immensely meeting chaps he hadn't seen for a couple of years.

It was extra good to see Bernie Langridge once again after an absence of quite a few years. In the early part Bernie was one of our regulars but matrimony and the job of getting a farm into order precluded him from coming again until this year but he is none the less keen. He looks fit and well and wishes to be remembered to all the gang.

Clarrie Turner was present sporting a small toothbrush moustache and looking most debonair for a Cow Cockie-cum-Stud Master. The "Moose" had altered very little since army days and seems to have put on less flesh than most of us which says something for work plus hockey as a sport.

Steve Rogers was making his initial appearance at a Re-union and he enjoyed himself no end and was noted traversing sundry Timor trails with some of the old "C" platoon characters. Steve has sold his bakery business at Brunswick and is now living at Scarborough and intends seeking a job in the 'Big Smoke' after having a well-earned rest.

Those inseparables, Norm Thorn ton and "Gordy" Smith down from Denmark for the evening. "Gordy" still has an immense memory for events in Timor and was able to tell me a lot of things that Bernie Callinan required for his book on Timor. Norm, "Gordy" and Mick Morgan seemed to be putting in some excellent ear bashing together and I'll bet that the attack on Dilli was among the subjects under punishment.

Stan King was in Perth and this time managed to kill two birds with one stone and take in Country Week Cricket and the Re-union. Stan looks extra well and reports a fair season at Pingaring where he has his block. Didn't notice his name among the run getters or wicket takers for his side so reckon he must be a great fieldsman or the scorer.

Bob Palmer another down for Country Week who managed to make the Re-union this year. Bob doesn't alter much in the way of flesh but seemed to notice a few grey hairs and an odd wrinkle or two. Bob is another with a long memory for events in Timor and was able to assist me no end.

Those two stalwarts from Broome hill, Alf Hillman and Bert Burges, of course, were present. They are so regular one is inclined to take the sacrifices for granted but both are marvellous helpers of our Association and definitely deserve our praise.

From those distant pastoral areas of cows and sheep came Don Young. Don is way up at Three Rivers Station out from Meekathara and he took the opportunity of having a bit of a holiday and also attend the Re-union. He is firmly resolved to come again next year. He and the gang from 5 Section, Ray Parry, Brooker and Barney Barnes, were giving the lugs some torment. "Barney" Barnes, Gordon Rowley and Tom Crouch made a really healthy representation from Manjimup. All looked well although Barney had a crushed finger from dropping a sleeper upon it. These chaps are all what I reckon to be good Association members. All have to make quite a big effort to be able to be present but they reckon the opportunity to fraternise with their ilk amply repays them. The Barnes has taken the opportunity to stay on in Perth for awhile and see the Inter-Dominion Trotting Championships.

Of course a Re-union would not be complete without that Prince of good fellows "Chook" Fowler. Jack just never misses and "hits the kick" at the slightest pretext.

Lew Thompson also another of the regulars I can't remember a

Re-union without. Lew, who despite a slight deafness appears to have a marvelous time bandying words with the old Sappers like Don Turton, Bill Epps, Geo. Strickland, etc.

Don-Hudson the sole representative from Collie this year. The other lads couldn't make it but Ray Watson was good enough to send a donation. Hudd quite the handsomest guy about the place in his cherry colored shirt. You don't have to ask if Don enjoyed himself—he always does.

Good to see the old "Wendel" Wilkerson present. Looked dead quiscal and enjoying life to the fullest with his old mates of "C" platoon, Jack Carey, Tom Crouch and Co. The "Wendel" admits to doing alright and keeping the wolf from the door.

Fred Griffiths down from his lead mine up Onslow way and took in the Re-union. Fred looks particularly fit and says he and his party has quite a reasonable year again. They deserve it to live out in the mulga and work like slaves.

Jack Hassen was down from Ballidu and enjoyed himself thoroughly. Jack became the champion bidder at the Dutch Auction of some posters that Colin Hodson did for us for decoration. Helped to swell the proceeds of the evening no end.

Don Turton and Ernie Bingham made the trip from Wandering although the "Turt" was a little late in arriving owing to a prior engagement to attend a wedding. "Bing" seen in the unfamiliar role of drink steward seeing that everybody had a full glass.

Reg Harrington put in a late appearance, he also had a prior engagement but thought enough of the Re-union to at least come along late and meet the gang. Reg was one of the many country folk at Sunday's Service also.

"Doc" Wheatley stopped riding herd on his pigs and tomatoes to come along and grace the show with his lean presence. "Doc" is all wire and whipcord at present and you could use his ribs for a xylophone. He was seen with some of the old 8 Section gang swapping spits.

"Herbie" Thomas dropped in from places 'dork' to add his mite

to the evening's enjoyment. He is another of the lean brigade and looks as though he could go straight back to the jockey business and ride at seven stone.

It was really good to see Harry Holder there with a friend. Harry was with the Heavy Battery at Koepang and is now under our wing as he has no association to belong to. Harry made a real witty speech and it augers well for us one night when we get him to tell his story to us of his doings after we left Koepang.

All the old die hards from the metropolitan were there and quite a few we haven't seen for awhile including Ralf Finkelstein, Mick Morgan, Geo Strickland and Sid Jarvis. Space does not allow me to list the lot but you will see from the above that it was a most representative gang and great to see them once again.

Most of our chaps who were injured recently like Arthur Smith, Jim Ritchie, Jack Spencer, were able to get along and it was marvelous for them to see the old gang again and we hope it lifted their morale.

Bill Cooper unable to come as he was away on holidays but he kindly donated the rolls for the dinner. Thanks Bill.

Our poultry donors Tom Bateman and Gordon Rowley, also due for thanks and we can only hope that their ranks will be added to next year.

Arthur Marshall was down to Country Week and had his usual successful time with both bat and ball but strangely enough was not at the Re-union, must have had a prior engagement.

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Salesman: I've been trying all week to see you; may I have an appointment?

Big Businessman: Make a date with my secretary.

Salesman: I did and we had a grand time, but I still want to see you.

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**An Address You May Want**

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

## Reminders

That March meeting on the 3rd is beckoning. Be present and see the Davis Cup film. Bring a friend and see that he too has a pleasant evening.

Also keep the April meeting in mind for the 7th when Mr. Colin McDonald will speak to us on China.

The evergreen perennial Subs. comes forward again. With the financial year drawing to a close we have far too many outstanding subs and we don't like it much—what about that 5/- boys?

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## Heard This?

Doctor: There's no need to worry about your wife. You'll have a different woman when she gets back from the hospital.

Anxious Husband: And what if she finds out?

\* \* \* \*

### POLITE

A very absent-minded professor went into a barber's shop and sat down in a chair next to a woman who was having her hair trimmed.

"Haircut, please," ordered the professor.

"Yes, sir," said the barber, "but if you want a haircut I'm afraid you'll have to remove your hat first."

"I'm sorry," he said, as he looked round, "I didn't realise there was a lady present."

\* \* \* \*

A man, accompanied by his small pet monkey, visited a hospital to see a mate who'd been operated on for appendicitis and arrived just as the latter was coming out of the anaesthetic.

He decided to take a stroll until the other was fully conscious, and departed, leaving the monkey on the end of the bed.

Whilst he was away the patient came round, and seeing the monkey on the bed said: "I don't know whether you are a boy or a girl, but your mother is a very sick man."

## Random Harvest

A long letter with a heap of queries from Bernie Callinan who is finding the book writing business as much as he can cope with on a part-time basis, says these publishers move too fast by half. Managed to satisfy most of the questions by getting onto the gang at the Re-union. Bernie was good enough to compliment us on the 'Courier' and his thanks are doubly appreciated as he is so well placed to judge. He has promised to write at length when he gets his book on the market and gets a bit more spare time and we will keep him to his promise.

"Shorty" Stevens writes from Snowtown, S.A., to say "Good-day" to the gang and tell us that he is due to step into double harness. He is to be married on March 28. Congratulations, "Shorty" from the mob. He hasn't got around to seeing Geo. Lewis as yet but hopes to in the near future. The season has been quite good around his part and of course "Shorty" hopes to realise the "Share Cookies" dream and own his own property any old tick of the clock. He had had a letter from the old Litchfield and "Litch" wishes to congratulate the 'Courier' on its good performance. Thank you "Shorty" for your good wishes also. Ron Host's address: 29 Gladstone Road, Highgate Hill, Brisbane, Queensland.

"Tony" Adams writes briefly from Toowoomba to say he is well and sends his best to all the gang and he included a cutting of great interest to all the boys. The new Mayor of Roma (a town of 4,500 population) is Neil Singleton Hooper and he won the office from two other aspirants. Our congratulations "Hoop", keep the old Double Diamond flying at Roma, son.

Tony also mentions Alan Soper who is a foreman with Queensland State Electricity at Ayr. Alan has worked his way up from a linesman and it is a really good effort. The Soper is a married man with three children and is now looking around for a cane farm. "Bulla" Tait is also on the look-out for a cane farm. "Bulla" is only re-

cently married. Good luck to you "Bulla". Geo. Shields is a clerk with the meat works at Bowen and often visits Ayr. Thanks Tony for the newsy but brief letter.

Had word that Tommy Foster has just become the poppa of another boy. This makes two pair. No matter what happens next time, Tommy, it must be a full hand. Anyway our congrats. Tom, and sleepless nights shouldn't worry you with all that prior experience. What about a letter mate?

Had a couple of letters from Gerry O'Toole and he wishes to be remembered to all the gang. Gerry was at the races recently with "Smash" Hodgson and they had a hate session on bookmakers and bookmakers' jockeys. Gerry put "Smash" onto a cert which ran fast so he now is in the category of "bookmakers' best friend". Thanks for the letters Gerry and hope to see you in August if you come West. Can assure you of a big welcome from all the gang.

Last but not least on the Random list was a visit West by Peter Krause and his good wife. They came West on the Duntroon and we managed to show a bit of the city plus a bit of hospitality. He came along to a Committee meeting and met some of the lads, then Mick Calcutt gave him and his wife a tour around including a look at our Honor Avenue and Honor Roll of which he took photos to show when back in Victoria. Mick, of course, included a few visits to renowned hosteleries. Geo Boyland had them out one night and yours truly did the honors another night. He met quite a few of his old Sig. mates and likes the place so much he is already talking of returning. Peter is a pastry cook by trade and also a typewriter mechanic so he can't go wrong anywhere.

Well that concludes Random for this month.

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

## Victorian Vocal Venturings

Slowly but surely the wheel of time turns around and here we are now already planning ahead for our Anzac Day Re-union. This most important function headed the business which was transacted at the Committee meeting held on Thursday, February 5, at the Wayside Inn. It was our first meeting for 1953 and if it was a fair sample it augurs well for a busy and also prosperous year. It was a pleasure to welcome our good friend Alan "Darby" Munro who was most interested in proceedings and was able to assist with a word of wisdom here and there. To date we have only had three visitors to our Committee meetings, but we do extend a cordial invitation to others to poke their noses in. A phone call to yours truly will see that you are posted with the next meeting date.

No doubt all will recall the uncertainty and last minute changes we had to endure before we finally obtained the William Street Drill Hall for our Anzac Day Re-union last year. Such worries are now past history for we have a firm booking of the 3rd Division Drill Hall, George Street, Fitzroy. You can look it up in your road maps if you wish but to make certain you don't get lost we are having a locality map run off with the assistance of Bernie Callinan, and this will be mailed out in plenty of time to see that no one gets lost.

Arch Campbell has reported on the Olympic Games plans, and as you will have observed in the last 'Courier' the ground is not slipping from under his feet. As a matter of fact, I think Arch must have had a heart to heart talk with our worthy Premier, as the right honorable gentleman has not been tearing up so many plans of late. At least it seems certain we will have a wonderful response to our invitation so you local lads had better start measuring out your floor space. Six feet by three maximum—Tony Bowers pull your head in.

We are also essaying into a new field of entertainment and as plans go now a barbecue with all the trimmings will be held at the Maley

Hacienda on Saturday night, March 14. If a success similar functions are planned, so make it a MUST. Wet or fine an enjoyable evening is guaranteed.

I had a very welcome letter from Vic Pacey the other day, enclosing one fiddley-did too. The other day Vic had a phone call from Bernie Calinan who was on a flying visit to Tassie, but owing to being tied up Vic was unable to get out for a beer or two. Third time lucky, Vic. I'll tell Bernie to give you another try. Harry Botterill and Peter Mantle have also been in touch with C.V., Harry a couple of beers, Peter a rum, and in the land where the Cascade flows too. Must be that Poona habit, what! If I remember rightly Peter was on the hard tack when in Melbourne, I thought it was a purely Sydney habit and then only through circumstances. Vic wants to know if Max Davies still remembers Xmas at Beaudesert. I can answer that one, once a night you see his eyes light up, and out it comes again. You should have been at that Xmas dinner at Beaudesert! Vic's address is G. Brushy Creek Road, Lemah Valley, Tas., Max, so what about punishing his lug for a change. Happy Greenhalgh can still swing a golf club so he ought to be able to hold a pen, Vic. What about it Happy, you have the address now. Vic sends his kindest regards to the mob and also a pat on the back to the 'Courier'.

Percy Hancock is next on the mailing list and gives first hand information of the bumper W.A. Re-union held on February 7. Most unusual, Percy was the only Sig. present, although my old friend Rip McMahon was present at the working bee the previous Sunday. Seems to me that the W.A. Sigs are letting down a hard-earned reputation. Must send Taffy amongst you to teach you the tricks again. Percy is working with Commonwealth Hostels and as in all States things are not very pleasant in that line. As you say, they certainly need a shake up. The Doc might be the man to do it! He sure had a persuasive way.

To all the local dit-dah merchants go Percy's best wishes.

My most regular correspondent, Blue Sargeant has turned up trumps again with news and views from Traralgon. Firstly, to save you waiting for me to write, Blue, here are the addresses you want. Ted Mulcahy, 32 Deauville Street, Beaumario, is the latest on my list. Gordon Rowley, no luck, I've hunted but to no avail, perhaps Col Doig can help. Anyone seeing Gordon might ask him to write to you at 36 Liddjards Road, Traralgon. (Gordon Rowley's address: Manjimup, W.A.—Ed.) Blue assisted Tommy Coyle to empty the fridge the other night apparently they take turn about. No need to worry about your sub, Blue, you are up to date, though on reading this one or two consciences might prick a little. We start again in July, if some of you chaps don't look out you'll be so far behind you will never catch up. Pardon my digress, but I couldn't resist it. Ahah! the duck season will be with us soon and Blue is hurrying to finish his flattie in time for the opening. Sorry to admit I've never tasted wild duck, and only just understand the finer points of the duck shooters language, but I'm sure Blue will see I'm initiated before long. He mumbled something about rat-bags from the city spoiling things, but I refuse to publish anything smacking of libel. Good luck, Blue, I sure hope you do get your bag limit. Other Traralgon boys who get a mention are Harold Bickerton and Campbell Rodd, both with the Australian Paper Mills.

Apart from the above letters I still have replies to write to Tasmanians Ivan Brown and Max Lovelless, Dick Adams at Steels Creek and Rolfe Baldwin, Geelong. I'm gradually catching up and trust I haven't yet been given up as lost.

Local news is nil, Harry Botterill is on holidays, Arch Campbell and Bert Tobin both flat out, Max Davies just grinning and growing more benign every day. Alan Munro's tyres were deflated by some dirty so and so during our Committee meeting. We blame the P.M.G. M. Smith is back teaching his brats and wishing he could bash all their heads together.

Before signing off I must mention an epic in journalism printed in the Dandenong Journal of February 11:

"Pedestrian hit in Lonsdale St. While crossing Lonsdale Street last Thursday night a middle aged man who was staying at the Albion Hotel was hit by a car.

He sustained two compound fractured legs, a fractured THING, and extensive head injuries. He was taken to the Alfred Hospital and admitted in a serious condition."

Very, very serious!  
Cheers 'n beers,  
GERRY MALEY.

**An Address you may want:**  
G. MALEY,  
10 Agnes Street,  
Noble Park, Victoria.



**VICTORIANS**

Meet at

**Mrs. Kellett's**

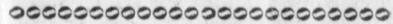
**WAYSIDE INN**

**229 Collins Street.**

(Just down from Swanston Street)

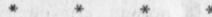
For a scrumptuous snack it stands alone. Ask your committee, they can heartily recommend the

**Wayside Inn**



*Heard This?*

The handsome young Casanova was very busy in the lounge, wooing the daughter of the house when her father came in and, thinking to do the couple a favor (and also considering the electric light bill) made to turn off the light, but the young man immediately jumped up and said: "Leave it on please, I hate to grope in the dark."



A young widow put up a costly monument to her late husband, and inscribed upon it, "My grief is so great that I cannot bear it."

A year later, however, she was married again, and feeling a little awkwardness about the inscription, she solved the difficulty by adding one word to it, "alone."

## New South Wales News

At the risk of being branded a chronic fabricator of weak excuses I offer the following for the absence of my column from last month's 'Courier'. Firstly there was such a paucity of news from this State that it was hardly worth putting on paper, secondly my new occupation as a taxi proprietor entails such long working hours that I was too damned tired to worry about it, and thirdly my typewriter finally cracked up and had to go in for repairs so I couldn't do any notes anyway.

Now having got that off my conscience I'll proceed to tell you all about the cricket match we played against the Cabramatta R.S.L. on January 18. As always, the day was a great success, particularly as on this occasion we won the match by 60 runs on the first innings. The game was one of lusty hitting very few runs being singles. Nearly every connecting stroke was either a four or a six, and our team ran up 186 in 90 minutes before lunch, besides making several visits to the pavilion for refreshments. After lunch and a swim in the nearby Georges River, the opposition went in to chase our score, but all in vain. Highlights of the day were a brilliant catch by Paddy Kenneally off a terrific six hit right on the boundary to dismiss their star bats man, and the miraculous fielding of Gordon "Shadow" Olde in cover. Anything that "Shadow" couldn't stop with his hands he stopped with his body or chin by the simple expedient of diving full length at it. It's a pity that the selectors weren't present or we may have had a representative in the Test team going to England. In between cricketing we soaked up 38 gallons of beautifully cold beer, and strangely enough all participants were still going strong when the party broke up. When the beer was all gone the more hardy types even organised a relay race and 100 yd. sprint, and again we were successful in both events. For the less athletic souls Tommy O'Brien ran a musical talent quest, but apart from Norah Kenneally none of the contestants would have got past first base with Terry Dear.

I'm a moral to get abused if I don't give the ladies a mention. From memory those present counting the number of grogs their husbands were sinking were Mrs. Tommy O'Brien, Mrs. Jimmy Ward, Mrs. Gordon Olde, Mrs. Pat Kenneally, Mrs. Alan Stewart, Mrs. Jack Keenan and several other ladies of the Stewart Clan, Mrs. Harold Newton and a few girl friends. They did a sterling job with the lunch, bless their little cotton socks, and showed great patience with the intemperate habits of their men.

To sum up, it was a most enjoyable outing for all and I can only feel sorry for those who missed out on it.

\* \* \* \*

### PERSONODDITIES

Best letter of the New Year comes from Bob Smith who is now stationed up at Smoky Cape Lighthouse, Macleay River. He has been there for about 17 months, but has been too busy gadding around in a new Vanguard to worry about writing. Three times up to Brisbane and twice to Newcastle—in Brisbane on the last trip he saw Harry Handicott who is in the construction game and looking very fit. Bob has also seen Harry Greenhaigh a few times—Hap is in the Post Office in Maclean and Bob says is still the same old Happy of army days, a bit lean but looking fit. Also has seen Bill Walsh in Kempsey, doing well with his own taxi, married to a very nice lass and sire of three little Walshes. Five miles away from the lighthouse lives Noel Buckman, a foreman in the P.W.D. married with two nippers and also doing well. Bob and Buck often get together on Saturday afternoon to rinse their tonsils. Bob's wife Joyce, has had rather a rough time with her health for the last 12 months, but after a major operation in Brisbane is now feeling much better. Many thanks for your letter, Bob. I forgive you for the Dean Maitland silence, but do not let it happen again. Thanks too for the fiddly.

Was delegated by Gerry Maley to meet Mrs. Percy Hancock on the

Melbourne Express a couple of weeks ago, but unfortunately in the bedlam of Central station I could not find her, so she had to go on to Brisbane without having met any of the Sydneysiders. Gerry sends his best wishes to all and says they are still hopeful of the Games being held in Melbourne, and are proceeding with their plans for our Re-union.

Just looking back through November's 'Courier' I notice that Alf Blundy reports having shorn sheep for a chap named Jack Sheehan, who says he was left behind down on the Promontory when the 2/2 was formed. If my memory serves me correctly, Col., there was a Jack Sheehan in our mob, a big fellow who would gamble on two flies crawling up a wall; but I also recall another chap of the same name whom I knew in "Z" Special and I have an idea he may have been on the Promontory and was probably the chap Alf met. One of the very best too, and if Alf sees him again I'd like to be remembered to him.

Eric Herd reports that he and Ron Trengrove met an original 2/1st chap name of Bob Harker and Bob says the Combined Commando Association was planning to send a letter to Mike Calvert telling him his friends in Australia were unshaken in their faith in him. I suggest you show Bob the Random Harvest column of December's 'Courier', Eric, in which Major Love gives details of letters he received from Mike Calvert and Freddy Chapman. Eric's father hasn't been well lately so Eric and Heather have moved back to Glebe to look after him.

Freddy Ottway says his youngest daughter took her first steps in December, and he was going to have her on the paint brush any time. Fred and Lyle put in a late appearance at the cricket match as Fred had to put a new clutch into their car before driving over.

Dave Hogg reports from Balgowrie that he is a daddy again, a daughter this time. Congrats., Dave and sorry to hear the wife has not been the best in health; hope this issue finds her better and things improved greatly for you both.

Ran into Mick Devlin on Hornsby station last week. Mick is now building at Carlingford. Have been looking at a porter on Hornsby and other stations for the last two years and thinking he looked like one of our old transport mob, name of Rayner. Mick spotted him too and says he is the chap we knew, so I'll have a yarn to him at the first opportunity.



## Reminders

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Gallipoli Legion Club on Friday, March 27, at 8 p.m. Keep this date in mind, gents, and roll up to have a hand in running your Association. The address is 12 Loftus Street, just up from the Customs House at the Quay.



## OLYMPIC QUESTIONAIRE

You probably think this is a waste of time in view of the pretty dismal show the powers that be are putting up in Melbourne, but let's not take the defeatist attitude and wipe the idea of the Re-union altogether. Even if we do lose the Games I think we ought to carry on with our plans and make it a Melbourne Cup Convention. So, boys, get busy and fill in those forms and let me have them back. The idea primarily is to give the Melbourne folk some idea of what they will have to contend with, and we don't expect everyone to correctly forecast what their position will be in 1956.

—JACK HARTLEY.

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### An Address You May Want

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

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## Heard This?

Employer to beautiful blonde who has just filled out a job application: "Miss Jones, under 'Experience' could you be a little more specific than just 'OH BOY?'"