



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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Editorial

THE PASSING OF TWO BELOVEDS

This is not written in any joyful vein as it concerns the loss to the community of people who have been held in the highest esteem.

The British Commonwealth, at this moment, mourns the loss of a beloved Queen with the death of Queen Mary. Much has been written in the press in eulogistic terms of our dear Queen and it is sufficient to say at this time that she personified all that was best in womanhood. She was firstly a great wife to her Kingly Consort, George V, and a mother of outstanding merit to her family. She knew sorrow as few people know sorrow in the loss of a husband and three sons.

The times in which she lived were both troublous and revolutionary. Three wars which greatly affected the Empire were fought during her lifetime, and also the world emerged from the Horse and Trap Era to the Atomic and Jet Age during that same lifetime.

It is the magnificence of such people as Queen Mary who make the Royal Reign in our Commonwealth imperishable. We mourn her passing with the loyal subjects of the crown in all our far flung Empire.

Another passing of a more personal character to our little Association is that of Dr. John McInnery. John McInnery endeared himself to our Unit during his term with us in New Guinea, his selfless courage and ability to endure great hardships in his task as R.M.O. to such a scattered force as ours made him the friend of all. He possessed in the greatest magnitude that thing we call the common touch. He could mix with the highest and lowest and still remain our beloved Doctor.

His medical skill was outstanding, his physical endurance something to be marvelled at. He was possessed of that enquiring turn of mind that made him make the lot of the native in New Guinea his self appointed task. After his sojourn of a brief sixteen months in New Guinea, his knowledge of the Anthropology of the New Guinea native was excelled by few. He returned to New Guinea after the war, and with his own plane acted as M.O. in the Wewak Area, and it was here, on his second tour of duty, that he lost his life in an air crash.

His passing will be mourned by all who came in contact with him, and the loss to our Association is only equally by the loss of the inhabitants of New Guinea who learned to rely on his skill and intrepidity.

At this time our sincere sympathy goes out to all who were near and dear to him, and wish God Rest his wandering soul.

—COLIN DOIG.

West Australian Whisperings

Committee Comment

Your Committee met again this month on the 17th and a good roll up of committee members dealt with many matters affecting the Association.

After much discussion it was decided that the Committee recommend to the Annual General Meeting that a laid down form of service be drawn up for our Annual Commemoration Service and so get a degree of uniformity into all the matters affecting this service. It was thought by the Committee that, as any member of the Committee may be called upon to perform the duties of this service in the absence of the President or Vice President, the whole service should be such that it could be conducted with dignity and due solemnity at short notice by anybody.

A sub-committee was formed to look into the cost of supplying some sort of sporting equipment for use at monthly meetings of the Association. The items suggested being carpet bowls, darts, an air rifle which would afford safe target shooting, and possibly such nerve shattering games as draughts, checkers, etc. The Committee felt that there are often blank spots to be filled in of an evening and these amenities could do the job nicely.

A further approach is to be made to the Kings Park Board in regard to providing water so that grass could be established in our area in the Park. Quotes of the cost of providing and laying of the necessary piping will be obtained in the event of a favorable reply from the Kings Park Board.

A plan for a drive on unfinancial members was devised and it is hoped that by the time the final accounting for the year looms up, this matter will be well in hand and that unpaid fees will be at a minimum.

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

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

Association Activities

The March meeting proved to be well worth the trouble of attending as Slazengers Ltd. came along and showed the film of the last Davis Cup. This is a mighty film and any of you chaps anywhere in Australia who have not yet seen it should seize the opportunity if it comes your way, of seeing the film. This film is definitely better than the similar film last year, which, incidentally was top grade. Owing to the fact that we were second on the list for screening we had quite a late start, but it was well worth waiting for and everybody present thoroughly enjoyed the show. Our thanks to Slazengers Ltd. and to Ted Trainor, the screening manager, for their co-operation with this fine evening.

The April meeting is on Tuesday 7th (the day after the Easter holidays) and, owing to unforeseen difficulties, Mr. Colin McDonald will not be able to attend, but, with great good luck, we have been able to get onto a worthy substitute in Mr. Archie Jackson who is a Patrol Officer in Kenya, and has been there for a time now, and his experiences with the native problem there should make interesting listening. This area is much in the news now and so, if you chaps want to hear something of topical interest from an on-the-spot observer, here is your chance. Roll up and give the speaker a good hearing.

Anzac Day is next on the list. Arrangements are the same as last year. The fall in will be quite close to Pier-st. and then when the service on the Esplanade is over and we have marched off, we will move back through Supreme Court Gardens to the 16th Battalion Drill Hall for a drop of the doings.

Members should all now be in possession of their War Medals so please wear them on the march. If you have not yet put them together, the order of precedence is 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, Victory Medal and General Service Medal. They should be mounted on a Bar.

The bottom of the Star of Medal should be $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the top of the Bar. This will require about six inches of ribbon which is the amount sent with the medals. When putting the ribbon on to the Bar the Dark Blue stripe takes precedence and is always nearest the buttons on the coat. Good bars with pin attached are available quite cheaply from R.S.L. Trading Company in Hay-st., Perth.

We have only two more meetings before the Annual General Meeting in June, namely, April and May, so please give some thought to whom should occupy your executive positions in the forthcoming year. Quite a few positions will definitely have to be filled, in particular that of President as our present occupant of the position, Gerry McKenzie, has been transferred East and, of course, is unavailable for the office next year. Also other officers have intimated that they will not be in a position to stand for election in the coming year. So here is a golden opportunity to infuse new blood into your Management Committee.

Personalities

Jack Fowler has been noticed in town and is receiving medical attention for a dislodged disc in his neck. He is in some pain and is finding difficulty in moving his neck and arm, but, when last seen, was responding to treatment. We wish Jack a speedy recovery and hope that as his busy season looms up he will be on deck again.

Another of the lads in hospital this month was "Scotty" Wares. He was forced by ill-health into a medical check and they promptly bunged him into Hollywood Hospital with the possibility of an operation for the removal of his gall bladder, hanging over his head. Latest to hand is that he is doing very well and that he may be able to avoid an operation altogether. We wish you a speedy and complete recovery "Scotty" and hope you will be back detecting thieves at the W.A.G.R. very soon.

Don Turton was in town briefly

the other day and was saying he was in need of a good holiday. Don is quite a bit down in weight but that is understandable as he has been working flat out for quite a while now on the clover rolling business.

Steve Rogers is now well and truly settled down in the city and has tried a job or two without finding one to suit. You'll catch the right one, Steve, if you keep trying long enough.

Gordon Barnes has changed his domicile again, and this time is with a timber mill at Boddington driving a truck. Says it looks like a good job and will fill in nicely till he can get a War Service Block at Rocky Gully.

As mentioned earlier, Gerry McKenzie has been transferred East and is due to leave for Ingleburn Camp in New South Wales on 15th April. We are sorry to see Gerry depart from W.A. as he has done a real tradesmanlike job of President since he took over last June. He has brought lots of new ideas to the Association and we have prospered in a big way since his term commenced. Our loss is a gain to our N.S.W. Branch and they will be well advised to get him into harness at an early date. We wish Gerry a happy sojourn in N.S.W. and hope he will be able to further his progress in the army.

Still seen about town is Fred Griffiths, and with the last cyclonic blow in his area he might be a lucky man not to be there. Onslow took, quite a pounding from the cyclone and damage is extensive. Have not seen Fred since the bow so don't know to what extent he and his mates suffered in the way of plant damage.

Jack Hanson is now well in the crayfishing, business and, of course, has been away on the boat for quite a while now. We hope to see a little more of him when the season closes.

Another of the lads in the army in N.S.W. is "Bobby" Burns. He is training at Ingleburn Camp, awaiting removal to Korea. He was lucky enough to obtain a War Service Home at Scarborough, prior to leaving W.A., and now his wife and family are nicely settled down there. In writing to me,

"Bobby" was most eloquent in his praise of the Xmas Party for the kiddies and says his kiddies are still talking about it.

A couple of our members, in Ron Dook and Keith Hayes, have returned to the daily grind after a period of annual leave and both look extremely fit and benefited by their holiday.

Colin Hodson is another of the lads who have managed to get into their own homes at long last. Colin has his place at Victoria Park and is most happy.

Fred Humphreys is now working at the Brunswick Bakery which is the place that Steve Rogers disposed of, so we still have a representative at Brunswick to have an odd noggin with Blue Wilkes.

Syd McKinley is now on the staff of Shell Oil Co. at Guildford Airport refuelling planes, and, of course, it means a terrific amount of night work, and he says consequently his attendance at meetings will be affected. Syd is looking particularly fit and asks me to send his regards to all the gang.

Saw Ken MacIntosh in town recently with some clients to a trotting sale of horses. He looked very well and said things were quite prosperous in the Wagin area and that he and his family were doing well.

Had a letter from Alf Hillman, returning the Olympic Re-union circular (the first I've received to date) and indicating that, all being well, he would be present. He had seen Bert Burges recently and they had reciprocated with one another in a bit of spot light fox shooting, but the foxes were a bit unco-operative and they only managed to get one on each farm. Alf said he had about 100 acres of clearing to do this year, but, with the aid of a good fire, finished it very rapidly. Thanks very much for the letter, Alf, and hope to hear from you again shortly.

Arthur Smith has been able to return to work and has a job which he can accomplish with his one good arm and his damaged one. Says it breaks down the monotony considerably and helps to build the morale no end.

Fred Sparkman was in town recently, owing to an illness to his

mother. Fred looked very well and said he was hopeful of making the city for Anzac Day. He also said that he was working a lot of overtime on the railways and that it was helping to make up the leeway lost during the recent disastrous metal trades strike.

Dave Ritchie has been suffering from a bad throat recently and has had quite a bit of difficulty in talking. A bad thing for a bloke who has to rely on his voice to sell things and earn the daily bread.

Ernie Bingham has been in town staying with Colin Hodson and enjoying a well earned spell from hard work.

Bill Epps is now well and truly in his new home which he largely built himself, and, although there remains a lot to do yet, he is very happy at the result.

Reminders

The April meeting, Tuesday 7th (day after Easter) with Archie Jackson at the helm, be in it to win it, boys!

Anzac Day, don't forget to roll up and wear those medals.

Annual General Meeting looming up, so give it a thought now and again boys, and get some new blood.

SUGGESTION CORNER

Apropos of the recent visit to W.A. of Peter Krause and his wife, a little advice to any of our members who contemplate travelling Interstate is most opportune.

Peter told me he had some trouble finding hotel accommodation, he wrote to three hotels before finally being booked in. This in itself is a bad show and lacks vision on our part.

I would suggest that members notify the secretary of the particular State they are travelling to, giving the gen on what they require. Everything could then be arranged and possibly some member could be on hand to meet and welcome the visitor.

—Mick Calcutt.

Random Harvest

Quite a long letter from Dan Thomas who is now living in Launceston, Tasmania. He is working with the P.M.G's. Dept. He is most anxious to form a branch of the Association in Tassie, but, of course, our membership in the Apple Isle would be a bit small. Will be writing you personally on some of the points you raised, Dan, so be patient for a while as I'm further behind than a good trotter with my correspondence. We will be only too-pleased to publish any Tassie notes in the 'Courier' which you or anybody else may care to submit. Dan was among those in for final selection for the Coronation Contingent as he is a member of 12 Battalion, but missed out at the finish. He played Aussie Rules for Northern Tassie Postal Team last season and they beat Southern Tassie 7.15 to 7.14, a bit close methinks. He also played rugby and played off for the State premiership and received a trophy. Dan is still doing a bit of fighting, he beat K. Delaney on points and twice beat the Fuzzy Wuzzy Tommy Ptarie. He has given the bike riding away, reckons he is getting too old!

A short letter from Ray Cole who is apparently a very busy man at the moment with a bit of open cut trouble on the coalfields in N.S.W. (and in W.A.). Says the resultant paper war is good and heavy. His regards to all the W.A. lads.

My next is the evergreen Peter Mantle who usually finds time to send a few lines quite frequently. Peter was giving quite a boost to our local publishing people, says he recently had a pamphlet to be printed in English, French, German, Dutch and Italian and thought he would have to send it to Holland to be printed, but had no trouble in getting four local quotes to do the job with its multitude of accents and squiggly bits. Peter has been to Sydney again recently, preparing for the Plant Quarantine Exhibit at the Sydney Royal Show. Hopes, if the purse will permit, to take the wife and family down to Sydney for the Show, as it would

give the kiddies a chance to see the zoo, a thing they've yet to appreciate. Peter still very interested in gardening and was boasting of a potato weighing one pound ten ounces. Peter has got onto a formula which is stated to be a complete plant food, and he says to date it has stood up to all the tests he had applied. He will continue to try it out for a season and if it continues to succeed he will hand on the formula for publication.

Peter's latest story: Shortest version of the old plot, Boy Meets Girl, Boy Loses Girl, is, "Once upon a . . ."

Well that wraps up Random for another month.

Heard This?

A pretty wench was lapping her drink in a cocktail bar and expressed a wish to have music from the juke box. After running through the list of songs she rejected one by one, "Desire", "In the Chapel in the Moonlight", finally choosing "Carelessly".

"Oh, goody," she cooed to her escort, "I love carelessly." But the escort found afterwards that she was not true to her words.

They were having the usual weekly money nag after payday.

"It's all very well for you to dictate," he said. "Why don't you cut out something yourself?"

"I like that," she countered. "At least you can't say I buy things I never use."

"Such as?" he queried.

"That fire extinguisher you bought last year. You haven't used it yet."

An Address You May Want

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

New South Wales News

VALE DOCTOR MAC'

Once again our ranks have been depleted by a most unfortunate accident and a gallant gentleman has gone to join the many good mates we left on the battlefields of New Guinea. Doctor John McInerney, the flying doctor of New Guinea, and well remembered as our popular medico during our campaigns in that area, crashed in his plane into Vanimo Harbor on the first of March and was drowned. The plane sank in fifty feet of water, but two passengers in the plane managed to escape through a hole in the fuselage and get to the surface. The doctor also fought his way out and up to the air but before his friends could reach him he sank again. His body was recovered a couple of days later, and according to reports he had suffered severe head injuries in the crash and apparently lost consciousness after the struggle to get to the surface.

Mac' was well known for his feats of mountain climbing and exploring and had done a wonderful job in his position as Flying Doctor. His loss as a friend of ours is deeply felt, but to the people of New Guinea it must represent a very real tragedy indeed. I have met a number of people down on leave from up there over the last few years, and without exception they all spoke in glowing terms of the grand job Mac' was doing among the natives.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his widow and relatives. Farewell, Mac', we'll meet again some day.

Personalities

Quite a newsy epistle from Alan Luby last week. He is well settled in the new job at Gilgandra and very happy about it. In his own words, "I feel that this is the type of job I was cut out for and enjoy doing it. There's plenty of work in it, what with the office, organising, and transport of patients, besides almost an acre of ground to

look after, and all the incidentals that crop up. We have a fortnightly dance going and house at the station once a week. Next week I have a carnival going in our grounds for three afternoons and nights and have a lot of preparation to do for that yet."

Alan sees Keith Craig and his wife in town fairly often. Keith has a property about ten miles out of Gilgandra and is doing well. Alan hopes to be in Sydney at the end of March for a Superintendents Conference and despite a full programme will be trying to sink a few with old friends. Thanks for your letter Alan, hope to see you soon.

Had my knuckles caned by Col. Knight this week for not acknowledging a letter from him away back in October. Sorry, Col., but I had so many letters that month that I couldn't fit them all in to my 'Courier' notes, and I put some of them away, including yours, for answering later and promptly forgot all about them. Your cheque and butts were received safely, Col, thank you kindly.

Besides his job at New England Motors, in Lismore, Col and his pa-in-law have holiday flats at the seaside resort of Ballina, and have also recently bought into a fair sized mixed business there. In his last letter Col says he recently had a visit from Paddy Wilby who was heading for the Gulf country on a prospecting trip and asked to be remembered to everyone. Arthur Birch is the only other of our mob left in Lismore so he and Col often get together for a noggin. Russ Blanch lives about 20 miles away, but Col hasn't seen him for some time. Thanks for your letters, Col, and will try to do the right thing in future.

Renewed acquaintance with Wally Rayner at Hornsby recently. Wal is a porter on the railways and has just finished building a home down at Caringbah. He is married and has two daughters. His wife and one of the girls have had a lot of illness over the last few years, but Wal says things are now beginning

to take a turn for the better. Those chaps living on the southern line please keep an eye out for Wal on the stations as he has now moved down there.

Anzac Day

We will be gathering as usual for the march in front of the King Edward VII. statue near the Conservatorium, so all those who can possibly make it please meet there about 9 a.m. I will be placing a wreath on the Cenotaph at 7.30 a.m. and hope to see a few more there. After the march we will be adjourning somewhere to knock off eight dozen Flag Ale, but I don't know the rendezvous yet. Watch the "Daily Telegraph" on that morning and I'll have the address in there.

The New South Wales Commando Association has very kindly invited us to participate in their reunion which will be held in the State Ball Room immediately after the march, so if you should miss us before the march you may find us at the State Ball Room, but in any case you're a morai to find some old friends there from the other squadrons.

—JACK HARTLEY.

Heard This?

The golfing novice finished his game and handed his score card to the secretary. "Two below bogey," he remarked proudly.

"But," protested the official, "this is nowhere near bogey."

The novice looked hurt. "Compare the score," he said, "with the figures on the chart and you'll see"

"Great Scot, man!" roared the secretary, "that's the length of the course in yards!"

An Address You May Want

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

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

Heard This?

The church congregation was giving a reception to a former pastor and his wife. The present vicar in the receiving line greeted his predecessor heartily. "Ah, how pleasant to see you again," he said. "And this is your most charming wife?"

The other minister fixed his host with an accusing stare. "This," he said reprovingly, "is my only wife."

The struggling author had called on the publisher to inquire about the manuscript he had submitted.

"This is quite well written," admitted the publisher, "but my firm only publishes work by writers with well-known names."

"Splendid!" shouted the budding author in great excitement. "My name's Smith."

Magistrate: "Where is your husband?"

Defendant: "I ain't got no husband. He has been dead ten years."

Magistrate: "Are all these little children yours?"

Defendant: "Sure."

Magistrate: "But I thought you said your husband was dead."

Defendant: "Yes, sir. He's dead, but I ain't."

A preacher, driving along the road came across one of his flock, cursing and sweating over a flat tyre.

"Won't come off the wheel, eh?" said he sympathetically.

"Sure won't, Preacher, and I've been working and cussing here for an hour. I've tried everything."

"Have you tried prayer, my son?"

"You serious, Preacher?"

"Certainly, come let us kneel and pray together."

Whereupon they knelt in the road and preacher said a prayer. And sure enough, the tyre tumbled off the wheel.

The preacher, still on his knees, eyed the wheel with astonishment.

"Well, I'll be damned!" said he.

Victorian Vocal Venturings

Our main item of news this month is the barbecue held at the Maley Ranch, Noble Park. Blessed by fine weather and in a perfect setting, a grand evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who managed to find the place. The festoons made it stand out like a beacon, so I think all who intended attended. Of those who signified their intention of coming along, notable absentees were George Kennedy, who, no doubt, fell off a train; Gordon Stanley, whose good wife's condition was such that it was impossible for him to leave her, and Smash Hodgson, who, unfortunately, at the very last moment, found that it would cost him two days' work to come along, and these days that would be enough to make anyone change his mind.

Pete Krause was there in fine form, with the fair Elvira to assist him when in difficulties. Harry Botterill and Olive were in the fun with Joan and Bill Tucker. Lorraine and Bruce McLaren, the Alan Munro family, Sep Wilson and Co., Leith Cooper and wife, Harry Wilkins with a charming companion, Bob George similarly equipped, Jock Campbell and blondes, Bert Tobin, Arch Campbell and Mam Smith, all seemed to be enjoying the beer, snags, chops and sweetcorn. It was really a night to remember, so much so that Des Williams and his good lady saw fit to drop me a line of appreciation, which to Margo and myself was a most pleasing surprise.

On display were the trophies which we are giving for our Anzac day raffle, six silver beer tankards and a silver tray. It is really worth winning, unfortunately the tickets were not ready at the time, we could have sold hundreds, but I have no doubt that when they are distributed they will sell like hot cakes. Better get in early for your share.

Bob Smythe is in Melbourne for a short visit. He and Bert Tobin have had a couple of jugs but I was unable to make it. Something seems to crop up to prevent me

meeting Bob each visit he makes, but one of these fine days we will make it.

Bernie Callinan had a Sunday business trip on the week-end of the barbecue so had the misfortune to miss out. By the way, his book will soon be off the press and I feel certain it will be a best seller. What book on such a unit as ours could miss out?

All will be sorry to learn that Bill Peterson, ex sig., has recently been hit by that scourge, polio-myelitis. He has recovered now happily, but his shoulder will require a lot of treatment to bring it back to normal. We all wish you a speedy recovery, Bill.

Gordon Stanley's wife, Joan, seems to be over her worries for a short while, but I reckon a couple of Blue's hairs are now grey. He has sent her and the girls away for a spell and is trying his hand batching again.

Have had letters from my No. 9 correspondent, Blue Sargent, and from Rolfe Baldwin, both of whom are rarin' to get along to the Anzac Day Re-union. We look forward to a record muster this year, all Sunday to sleep it off so there will be no excuses accepted. Be there or else.

The Olympic news is much brighter, they say that it is the first time A. W. Coles has smiled for months. It's in the bag, much to his credit, it is rumored Mr. Cain is sporting a black tie to hide his feelings. Just what was behind all his shennanikin will probably never be known.

So we close quite cheerfully, with thoughts of 1956 ahead.

Cheers 'n beers,
GERRY MALEY.

An Address you may want:

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