



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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RESOLUTIONS AND ALL THAT

The New Year never fails to bring up a crop of resolutions. Some new but mostly those of died-in-the-wool type such as giving up the weed Nicotina, or cut out hitting the bottle, etc.

This time put a couple of good ones on the top of the list. Not just to be thought lightly of and discarded but to be retained and kept in mind. Those resolutions are of a Unit nature, i.e.

I resolve to do my utmost in the coming year to further the interests of my Unit Association and not leave the job for the "other fellow" to do but hop in and do it myself.

I resolve to attend as many of the meetings and functions as possible.

I resolve to help my Association by keeping the Committee posted as to the doings in my area and so help the 'Courier' to continue functioning.

Not a lot of resolutions but resolutions which if carried out could make our Association even greater than it is.

It is encumbent upon you to see that these little duties are carried out and so continue to cement the friendships made during times much harder than those of today.

—W. March.

ANNUAL RE-UNION
SHENTON PARK R.S.L. HALL

SATURDAY, FEB. 5

West Australian Whisperings

Association Activities

BUCKS' CHRISTMAS NIGHT

This evening was a very enjoyable one with quite a good roll-up and a good sprinkling of visitors.

An impromptu "midget" debate was put on with Colin Doig, Curly Bowden and George Boyland on one side and Fred Napier, Joe Burrige and Dave Ritchie on the other. The subject chosen was "Are Flying Saucers visitors from other heavenly bodies or are they just a figment of the imagination." Fred Napier's team drew the positive side of the debate and Col Doig the negative. As you can imagine there were many hilarious moments before the judgment came. Ron Dook who presided as judge called for the positive side as being winners.

The usual keg was very hastily despatched and despite the efforts of the hard working Calcutt we were unable to procure another.

Evening broke up a little earlier than usual but everyone voted it a grand night.

MARCH MEETING

The meeting scheduled for March has been arranged as a film night with our usual annual viewing of Slazenger's Davis Cup film. It does not need description to know what a great night Davis Cup night is so roll up and bring a guest with you as it is also a guest night. The usual drop of the doin's will be on tap.

OLYMPIC RE-UNION

Even though September 1956 seems a long way off it really isn't and I would like all who can make a definite statement regards this trip to Melbourne to advise me and state whether accommodation will be required. You must realise the enormous job of organising that this re-union is going to take. Our old friend Jerry McKenzie has been made O.C. organisation so it is in very capable hands. No doubt in a short time I will be receiving quite a lot of information regards the Re-Union from Jerry. We are awaiting word from you, Jerry.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE

This will be held at King's Park on Sunday, February 6, at 3 p.m., the day following the Annual Re-Union.

It will take similar form to last year and will be in the capable hands of your president, Mr. Colin Doig.

Anyone with a vehicle with room available for transport is asked to assemble at the Perth railway station at 2.45 p.m. If those fortunate enough to own cars can help in transporting other folk from Perth to the Park it should ensure a better attendance. Once again let me impress upon you the importance of attending this service. It is our Association's yearly effort to commemorate and venerate those who gave their lives to the cause. Anyone of us could easily be named in this grove and it is not much to ask that you attend one short service per year to once again remember those who are no longer with us.

Metropolitan members in particular should find little difficulty in attending and should make every effort to attend, and short of sickness or shift work no excuse should be accepted.

ANNUAL RE-UNION

The first function of the New Year and one which is eagerly awaited, is the Annual Re-Union to be held at Shenton Park R.S.L. on Saturday, February 5. This promises to be the best ever held and already quite a few country folk have expressed their intention of being present. If you live in a country area and have a Unit mate in that area, what about a bit of contact work and bring him down to the Re-Union? This is definitely our big night and we want to make it bigger and brighter as each year passes. A special request is made to city members as their problems are light compared with country folk. It is mainly a case of catching public transport and presenting themselves at the door, whereas the lads from the bush have to travel vast distances and also as most are engaged in rural industry they have to make some arrangements to carry on in their absence.

Personalities

Dave Dexter and family arrived back in Australia on board the "Strathmore" on Boxing Day. He and his family were met at Fremantle by Tom Nisbet, Geoff Laidlaw, Don Turton, Mick Calcutt, Arthur Smith and Colin Doig. After drinks at Doc or Dunkley's home, then Don Turton's, Col Doig's and Geoff Laidlaw's, lunch was taken at Kings Park after which fun and games at the instigation of "Doc" Dunkley. Then returned to "Strathmore" where Jack Denman also turned up. All in all an enjoyable day and a good welcome back to Aussie for Dave. Dave looks real well as do his family, although the youngest has not yet decided whether to talk in English, Cingalese or Tamil. Dave is due to have a couple of weeks leave in Melbourne and then return to Canberra for the next couple of years.

Stan Payre in town recently. Says he is a certainty for the Re-Union and hopes to talk "Mal" Herbert into it also.

Jack Fowler is on holidays at Mandurah at the moment. Will be in Perth for the Re-Union. Says the Sadler boys will be down also. Also had a bit better treatment from the season than he expected and finished up with an eight bushel average. He and the Sadlers had a night out at Wongan Hills with Geoff Laidlaw recently and I believe a good time was had by all.

Keith Hayes leaves for Mandurah on annual leave very shortly.

Wilf March also been enjoying a respite from work.

Mick Calcutt back at work in the carpentry business again after the Xmas spell. Mick is an absolute ball of muscle these days, says something for late hours and hard work.

Treasurer Alf Walsh is now back at work after a bout of shingles. Glad to say that Alf looks a ton better. We hope he will be at his top by Re-Union time.

Fred Griffith:

Down in Perth over the Christmas and New Year period and recently returned to Geraldton where he is in partnership in a lead mine. While he is doing quite well he says

it is not much fun to have to be away from his wife, Beryl, and family. An odd lightning trip to Perth is not enough.

Curly Bowden:

That man certainly gets around and bobs up in odd places at odd times. On New Year's Eve he got more than he bargained for. While at a party in Point Walter he decided to pop in and see yours truly, the Editor, and have a New Year's noggin with me. When the door was opened he was nearly deafened by the wailing drones that emitted from one of these instruments commonly called the bagpipes. It so happened that a friend of mine had dropped in with this piper who was in the throes of giving off large amounts of ear-splitting "music". Curly and I both decided that the bagpipes may be "extra" at the head of a march but to have a piper marching all over your house at one o'clock in the morning—nix on it!

George Boyland:

Arrived at the committee meeting the other night and still on crutches. George has certainly had a rough time of it with his broken leg. It has been a long time.

OBITUARIES

Tpr. A. J. Cole, Killed in action, New Guinea, January 7, 1944. Age 33.

Lt. P. Hopper, Killed in action, New Guinea, January 27, 1944. Age 28.

Tpr. D. McRamshaw, Killed in action, New Guinea, January 10, 1944. Age 20.

Tpr. R. L. Beardman, Killed in action, New Guinea, January 10, 1944. Age 22.

DO YOU WANT A TRADESMAN?

Wherever there are homes there are jobs to be done and some of them are not within the compass of our own general knowledge. Within our Unit there are several very good tradesmen and if they send their names in to me I will publish them in the 'Courier'.

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

The Women Have Their Say

Just a few lines to let you know how we appreciated the Children's Xmas Party.

It was a credit to the Committee. It would be very hard to improve on such a perfect afternoon, nothing missing whatsoever, even we parents thoroughly enjoyed it.

Janet and John were very thrilled with their books and every child would feel the same way. It was an excellent idea of giving books and I feel sure that every child, no matter what age appreciates a book.

Mick is going to Hollywood tomorrow (Tuesday, January 11) to have treatment for his back. He will be there about 10 to 14 days.

I wish the Association the very best for this coming year.

Yours etc.—JEAN MORGAN.

* * * *

Just a few lines to thank the Association ever so much for the beau-

tiful books which were sent to our children at Xmas time.

They were very thrilled with them. We were sorry we were unable to get down to the party this time as Gordon has sold the car. He has a real old-timer of a ute to take him to work. He has a lot of faith in the old thing but me, oh no! Gordon started work again last Monday after three weeks break over Xmas. He spends all his spare time painting the house and digging, he is digging out a kykuya lawn. I wouldn't like to say who is going to win, Gordon or the kykuya. We are into our new home, we moved the Saturday before Xmas.

Thank you once again for the lovely books. I will sign off wishing the Association a very prosperous New Year.

Yours etc., EVA ROWLEY.

ARTHUR SMITH IN ANOTHER ACCIDENT

While working on the North Wharf at Fremantle on Monday, December 27, Arthur Smith had the misfortune to have his right hand badly crushed.

Arthur, who is with the P.M.G., was installing a telephone on the freighter Waroona. While walking along a stringer under the wharf he slipped and made a grab with his right hand at the whaling piece. Just as he did this a slight swell eased the ship against the wharf pinning his hand.

Despite the fact that he called loudly for assistance, he had to make his way to the top of the wharf by himself. Once on top members of the ship's crew gave him help. He was taken to Fremantle Hospital where he was admitted for a few days.

Arthur has been very unfortunate in the manner of accidents since his discharge. First he had to have a piece of steel removed from his eye and then he was badly smashed up on Mounts Bay Road when he was involved in a collision, and now this happens to him. Surely he must have had the lot now and can

look forward to a bit of a rest from hospitals, etc.

To heap more woe upon his shoulders his wife is in hospital but is now well on the way to recovery.

Speaking to Arthur last week he said that he expected to return to his employment shortly.

Reminders

Annual Re-Union:

At Shenton Park R.S.L. Hall, on Saturday, February 5.

March Meeting:

Davis Cup Film Night, guest evening.

Subscriptions:

With the end of the financial year that old bug bear—subs—comes up again. See what you can do about it, chaps.

Have you a ball point pen? If so what about scratching me a few lines and letting your old mates know how things are your way?

Commemoration Service:

Will be held as usual in King's Park on Sunday, February 6.

What's So and So Doing

PETER MANTLE:

Married eight years, daughter starting school, son aged four, and a third and Final Demand due early in 1955.

Still a journalist with News & Information Bureau at Canberra, doing a few very interesting jobs and a lot of mighty dull ones. Gets an occasional trip away to civilization on jobs in the big cities.

Vegetate in a badly-built Government house in an outer suburb with few buses. At the moment of writing, wife and self are doing the script of a weekly variety show for the A.B.C. called "The State of Never Never". Will probably have been hounded off the air by the time this is printed, but it's good extra money while it lasts.

Health good, though he plays no sport to deserve it. Maybe gardening helps, and trying to keep pace with the kids.

Small-scale dabbler on the Stock Exchange with very handsome percentage profits so far—and at least one of them wasn't a fluke.

Getting quite a lot of fun out of life in a quiet way.

BILL COOPER:

Of Scarborough, is at present working with a bricklayer picking up as much of the trade as possible. Bill is married and has one boy and one girl. A very hard worker and can always be relied upon to hop in and do those jobs which most avoid. Also has a very good record for attendance at meetings and functions connected with the Association.

KEN DOAK:

C/- Lineyards, Albany. Married with four children. Is a telephone linesman with P.M.G. Dept. at Albany, having moved there from Katanning. Ken is W.A.'s. only No. 1 Coy. hon. member. He trained with our cadre at Foster and then went overseas with No. 1 Coy.

ALBY FRIEND:

Of 81 Halse Crescent, Melville. Is married and has five bonny kiddies. Alby is in partnership with his brother in a butchery business and is doing quite well although he has to put in long hours. Alby is taking quite a lot of interest in Unit affairs and generally places himself at the busy bee's disposal to do any sundry jobs.

Random Harvest

Sid McKinlay from Cocos Island writes:

Things are going very nicely here good home, climate, etc. Joe Burridge passed through en route to Singapore a couple of weeks ago, will see him again on his return journey. Also on Cocos, a carpenter with D.C.A., is Jeff (Rocky) Williams. Here too, is one Alan Bennett who was a Lieut. on the "Kuru", the little ship you probably remember well. He is Marine Officer with D.C.A.

The Cocos-Keelings Islands consist of a group of five small islands roughly set in oval shape, forming a lagoon about five miles in diameter. West Island, where the airstrip is situated and where all Q.E.A., D.C.A. and Shell staffs are

housed, is the largest of the group, being some nine miles long and 300 yards wide with an altitude of 10 feet. Except where there are buildings and the strip, the coconut palms dominate everything. The only wild life are hundreds of cats, one female dog, thousands of centipedes, and millions of mosquitoes after rain. The temperature ranges from 72 to 90 degrees throughout the year and is very easy to take. The only fruit is paw-paw, though a very small variety.

We have four regular aircraft a fortnight plus an occasional R.A.F. Mosquito and lately a Belgian DC6 with migrants for Perth. Although the small number of planes would indicate much time on our hands this is far from being the

case. Actually we work about four full days a week though it is spread over the seven.

The entire group of islands is surrounded by reefs and at low tide there are crayfish to be caught, also plenty of big fish trapped in shallows to be speared by hand. Entertainment.s include a monthly dance, about four film nights per fortnight, plus odd evenings of cards, housie, etc. A Cocos Club has been formed with a bar and lounge, etc. Tennis is very popular (recently my partner and I won the men's doubles tournament and received a nice trophy).

There is a nice beach for swimming and is quite safe. Though sharks may be seen anywhere at any time they are no menace, being sand sharks under three feet in length. They shoot through very smartly if you make a move.

The houses are fully furnished, with hot water system, fridge, washing machine and all mod. cons. A Swedish pre-fab they consist of three bedrooms, living room, kitchen, etc., with built in cupboards, internal toilet and bath with shower recess. We bought, among other things, a wireless from Singapore where prices are much lower than in Australia. Being the "pitch and toss" I have a vehicle at my disposal.

Will take this opportunity to wish you the best for the coming season.

Please give my regards to all at the meetings.

Jerry McKenzie writes from Royal Park:

A wee note to let you know we are well and happy over here despite the floods and political wrangles. Luckily I bought a hill then built my house on top of it so we escape everything bar the wind.

Have linked up with the Association over here and see quite a bit of Bert Tobin, Gerry Maley, Harry Botterill, Alan Munro, Jack Servante, etc., and an odd word to Bernie Callinan. Had a full day having a few drinks with Baldy at Geelong some time ago and lately spent Bendigo Thousand weekend with Kev. Curran before he ceased to be mine host at Atheneum.

I have been appointed secretary of the Olympic Welfare Committee and hope to soon get a 'Courier' full of dope over for publication.

We are faced with quite a problem in accommodation but it can be done—the only snag will be NOT getting definite figures and then teeing up a bunk and NOT getting it filled. Maybe a word on those lines to the lads there of the importance of going firm on their intentions would help. As you can see I am O.C. of this Depot and find it a full time job in addition to Depot commitments such as enlistment, discharge leave, transit, medical boards, plus interviews for Duntroon O.C.S., apprentices and band boys I am currently O.C. Metro Troops, O.C. soldiers under sentence, O.C. soldiers under arrest, and am responsible for all district and general courts martial, from the staff, feeding and dress (full blues and trimmings for D.C.M. these days).

Calvert is now with Shell at Geelong. Bill Slim got him the job.

Bernie Langridge, of Donnybrook, writes:

Here I am as usual, at the 11th hour with a note to convey Good Year Greetings to all the boys of 2/2 Commando Association.

You should feel proud of the progress the Association has made during the last 12 months. If the little 'Courier' only brought news of one to the other it would be serving a very useful purpose. In the country and especially those of us farming must, of necessity, be alone a great deal. That grand little paper comes along once a month bringing with it the news of so many very dear friends. It only has to mention a name and a train of thought is set in motion which brings a mental picture of the individual mentioned. You see him as no one but a Unit mate has seen him—you remember his face, a remark he made or perhaps an incident that leads you on to some other individual not mentioned in the 'Courier' of the moment. If one allows himself time to retrace his steps (mentally) he will get hours of pleasure out of just reading the 'Courier' and then reliving some of the times we had together.

Babs and I appreciated immensely the generosity of the Association in forwarding two books each for Kim aged nearly four, and Alexander aged nearly two. David is the baby and he is about nine months,

so you will readily see we are not out of a job.

The farm is progressing slowly. The fruit crop is good. Would you tell the boys through the 'Courier' that I'll have Elberta bottling peaches ready early in Feb. at £1 per flat case freight extra at Donnybrook (recommended). News of apples at a later date. Have oranges available now at £1 per bushel case.

All the best, hope to see you in February.

Robbie Rowan Robinson, at Galway Bay, via Busselton, writes:

My wife tells me that, as I'm on a holiday, I simply must write to the 2/2 and of course she is right, so here goes.

First of all, please pass on my thanks and appreciation to the committee for the very nice Christmas presents that were sent to my family. We thought the idea of books a good one and the choice was excellent. By the way Mrs. Ken Macintosh was greatly amused with the inclusion of a book for a girl, as well as two boys. So far only two boys.

I'm enjoying a holiday down here. Bought our caravan down a week ago and will be staying here for another week, then will return leaving the family here for another two or three weeks, at the end of which I shall return for a day or two here and then pack up and bring them all home. Bernie Langridge and family paid us a visit on Sunday and spent the day with us. Bernie brought three extra children besides his own so with my four and six extras the place looked like a Sunday school outing. However great fun was had by all. Incidentally there is a very good beach here for children, acres of sand and the water is safe.

I see quite a bit of the Ken Macks and our wives, having nothing else to do, often ring each other up and swap the latest. By the way Ken has booked a cottage here in February, could not get in earlier. Ken won't be able to stop but will make a dash for the coast whenever Elder Smith will let him.

The old Sparkman spent his annual holiday here too, just before Christmas. Went out deep sea fishing a couple of times (horribly sick the first time, but managed to

keep it down the second time) now classes himself with Jack Davey.

I think that is about all the news. Don't know if I can make the Re-Union, but hope to. Have got to come up to Perth sometime in Feb.

Jim Smailes called in. He and his family are taking three weeks' holiday. He headed round the south coast and up through the south west and is on his way to Rockingham. At the moment he has gone on to Caves House and he wants to have a look at the caves. He is calling back here again with his family, for a swim and afternoon tea, then back to Donnybrook for the night. He had already contacted the Langridge. Jim looks well and enormous can hardly see out of his eyes. Looking very prosperous in his big new Ford Custom-line. He seems to have reached the top in the mining engineering business. His wife and family all looked well.

Bert Burges, of Broomehill:

As sheep and other jobs are necessarily neglected during harvest the present time is a busy one endeavouring to regain an orderly routine, as our country members will agree.

My wife and I are having a short break at Bunbury—will be pleased to see anyone who may happen to be in that area during 3rd to 11th February, Rose Hotel.

A Christmas card and note from Tony Adams. Many thanks, Tony. Glad to know all is well with you and yours and trust your caravan tour to Sydney and back via the coast came up to expectations.

Also an interesting letter from Bert Dowsett, of East Kew, and a member of the Alwyn Trading Company, who among other lines, are inventors and manufacturers of the Drummaster, which is a device for more convenient handling of 44 gal. drums and contents. Greatly interested Bert.

In view of the fact that the 1954-55 season is generally regarded in this area as being well below average and water position acute in many properties I was interested to learn from a local stock firm manager that the number of sheep sold through the Katanning markets, only amounts to two thirds of the number sold for the corresponding period of the previous year.

Victorian Vocal Venturings

I am rapidly earning the title of the 'Courier's' worst correspondent and must agree that it will be a well earned title. I can fully appreciate the dilemma in which our hard-working editor, Wilf March, finds himself when it is time to lodge his copy with the printer and discovers there is none, as that is generally the position I am in during the second week of each month. However, Wilf always gets something out and it is up to me, to emulate his fine example.

Our bright spot of the year came up again on the 4th December when we entertained the kiddies in the approved manner. It was another grand occasion aided by favourable weather, and all the youngsters seemed to enjoy themselves immensely. Amongst others we were very pleased to welcome Tom Coyle from Traralgon, Blue Sargant, Hayfield; Ken Monk, Bowong; George Veitch, Sunbury; all with their families who travelled many miles to make the show at Bonbeach. The Gordon Stanleys made their first appearance and we sincerely hope to see more of them. Also it was an outing for the Bernard Callinan's latest, and all present can vouch for his perfect parade ground manners. It was nice to meet Mrs. Gerry McKenzie and the offspring and am happy to record that himself appears as fit as the pre Christmas round of entertainment could let him. Peter Stafford whom you no doubt recall as the small arms specialist on the Prom, also made the grade with his charming wife and family.

Have seen quite a bit of Alan Stewart since he took up residence in this fair city, and was fortunately able to get him out for an evening before Christmas. Alan's fair lady, Monica, has not been the best lately and had not yet left Sydney, so Alan spent the holidays up there. He feels certain however that she will be well enough to join him the moment he can obtain decent accommodation. Alan has not received a 'Courier' since leaving Sydney and would appreciate the Editor noting his pro tem address as c/- 3 B.O.D. South Kensington, Vic.

All members will be extremely sorry to hear that Bert Tobin's

good wife Wilma, who has had a few months of ill health, including a severe operation. We trust ere this is in print that Wilma will be her cheery self again Bert and that she keeps in good health in the future.

Was pleased to receive a newsletter from Col Doig just prior to Christmas. The Doig is a real garden lunatic now as can be seen from the following extract. "Some body suggested growing roses as they didn't require much work after they were planted. Don't believe it! You never stop spraying and dusting and pruning and generally mucking around. Ours look particularly nice at the present but how long we can sustain our enthusiasm for spraying, etc., is another matter. I trenched 230 ft. 2ft. 6ins. deep and 4ft. wide to plant them in loam and compost so I hope they repay all the hard graft." All I can say, Col, is that we should have had you digging the drains at Katherine.

Also in my pre-Christmas mail was a letter from Jim English who was one of the 2/40 Btn. who came through and joined us. Jim is living at 5 Knoll Avenue, Arncliffe, N.S.W. and is of course a member of N.S.W. Branch of our Association. Jim was visiting Melbourne between Xmas and the New Year as a member of the N.S.W. R.S.L. Cricket Team. Sorry I was unable to contact you Jim, but I went away at the last minute, and had to forgo quite a few of the meetings and celebrations I had planned.

All Victorian members will be happy to learn that after our little brush with the army our booking for Anzac Day of the George Street Drill Hall has been reconfirmed. However I had to give my assurance to the A.A. and Q.M.G. that no irregularities would occur and that means everyone must be on his best behaviour.

Had a letter too from Rolfe Baldwin, who tells me that Michael Calvert is now working at Shell. That guy sure gets around. I trust you're query re "Independent Company" is cleared up by the time this hits the letter box, Baldy. I can appreciate your dismay.

Cheers 'n beers, GERRY MALEY.