

2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

(Address All Association Correspondence to Box T 1646 G.P.O. Perth

Vol. 9. No. 99.

SEPTEMBER, 1955

Price 1d.

Editorial

Fighting Words

Recent statements by the Honourable Minister for the Army and army spokesmen on the Forces to be sent to Malaya have provoked this Editorial.

It was stated by these people that wives of soldiers operating in Malaya would be given the opportunity to accompany their menfolk and secondly that native servants would be provided for the households of married soldiers.

When soldiers are sent anywhere it is primarily with the idea that they will have to fight otherwise it is stupid to send them. Whether they be garrison troops or active "In the Line" troops the chances are that at some time they will have to do battle with the enemy. If this is not the intention with the Australian Troops for Malaya then they should not be sent at all.

If it be the intention of the powers that be that our troops can and will be used as combatants then they will be much better unencumbered by wives and families and by native servants.

The last war proved to the hilt the truism that the most effective fighting soldier is one who is unencumbered in any way, that is the single man. If insufficient numbers of single men are not available for service in Malaya then of course

married men must be sent but these should not have the impediment of families on the spot. A soldier is not at his best if he thinks that there is any chance of hurt coming to his loved ones and there is a distinct chance that this can happen with the type of terrorist warfare conducted in Malaya at the moment.

We have seen in the past how garrison troops cluttered up with camp followers in the way of wives and families have reacted in times of rapid mobilisation. Any impediment such as these tend to slow up movement and effectively reduce the speed at which a force can be moved from point to point. On the spot partings are always an embarrassment and the general effect is one of reduction of morale.

To effectively maintain a striking force anywhere and in the jungle in particular, they must be integrated and highly trained and in superb physical condition. This can only be done if a force is so placed that it is at immediate call with early morning P.T. parades, etc. Camp followers have the inclination to break down this discipline especially if over a fairly lengthy period.

If the powers-that-be think that to maintain a force in Malaya for a reasonable period it is desirable to

send married men then it would be better to adopt the plan previously used in Japan and Korea of sending half the force for a short period and then sending the other half to relieve them, both forces unencumbered by camp followers. I think it would soon be found that the effective striking ability of this divided force would be greater than the full force impeded and cluttered up by families and servants.

After all, soldiering as opposed to uniform wearing is a serious business and brooks no outside influences. Camp followers will prove to be the worst possible influence

on the force for Malaya and apart from being an unnecessary charge on the taxpayer in the way of fares and living costs and servants will serve no useful purpose. When a man signs on the dotted line to serve his country he should know the risks involved and one risk is the parting from his family and this must be accepted and not minimised by transporting them to his scene of activities.

The people responsible for this decision should reflect upon it and take the commonsense view and leave wives and families in Australia and then the servant problem will solve itself. — "Seedy?"

West Australian Whisperings

Committee Comment

The Committee met on Sept. 20 when a good roll-up of members took place. Those present were: Mick Calcutt, Ron Dook, Jack Carey, Wilf March, George Boyland, Arthur Smith, Bill Willis, Gordon Pendergrast, Curly Bowden, Dutchy Holland and Jerry Green.

Discussion at length took place re the Ladies' Night. The engagement of the Rhythm Spinners for the evening was decided upon.

It was also decided to request members attending the Ladies' Night to endeavour to arrive about 8 p.m. instead of the late arrival of a lot in the past.

The question of Country Conventions came up for further notice and it was decided that this year Bridgetown would be the site and the date would be the weekend of Nov. 12, 13 and 14.

Correspondence dealing with this convention has already passed between Bridgetown and Perth.

CONDOLENCES

The Association wishes to extend its sincerest condolences to both Dr. Dunkley and Nip Cunningham. Dr. Dunkley's mother, Lady Gibson, recently passed away and Nip Cunningham's father passed away on Sept. 2.

Personalities

Saw Dick Geere braving the rain and cold winds out at Caversham air strip where the motor car races were taking place. Dick is very keen on these events and he must have got the urge to drive one of those racy Austin Healys because he was seen behind the wheel of one recently clocking along about 90. Glad it was you Dick, and not me. I'm built more for comfort than speed.

Having a yarn with Ralph Finklestein the other night (Sports' Night) and the discussion turned to the Olympic Re-Union. When Ralph walked away he had paid his £2/2/- deposit for this great show and is now looking forward to a great holiday. A few of you others want to give this matter some thought because we are running out of time to organise everything and an early acceptance will be to your advantage.

MELBOURNE CUP SWEEP

Keep pegging away selling those tickets, chaps. The money made from this sweep is the life-blood of your Association and if you have any pride in it, well hop in and get those butts back to the Committee as soon as possible. Money in the bag is what we want.

"DO YOU REMEMBER?"

My particular piece of nostalgia for this issue concerned the famous "Rum Rebellion" at Wayville in 1941.

As you well know we stayed at Wayville for about eight weeks prior to movement to Katherine. Everything was terribly "Hush Hush" and security as to future movement at its top. All stores for future operations were on hand and the boxes of sleeping bags because of their apparent lightness and the bits of cloth sticking out the cracks plus, of course, the boxes of rubber patrol boots, soon gave all the rubber necks the idea "Paratroops" which the lads didn't do much to dispel.

Leave was plentiful, dough was light, thirsts terrific—wherewithal to slake said thirsts clino. The war stores contained the Rum Issue which was carried with the cooks' stores in the cook house. This was considered by some of the gang too good an opportunity to miss and thought was smartly transferred into action and the rum was broached and being 250 per cent overproof evidence of the crime was not long in showing up in the way of odd drunken bodies, especially those connected with the cook house in any way and especially kitchen fatigues. Soon the supply of Issue Rum was sadly depleted and the leakage required official look-see. Sufficient drunks were available for immediate arrest and about seven faced the C.O. one Monday morning charged with being drunk on duty. The C.O. was also trying to ferret out the culprit in the filching of the grog. He had a half-full bottle of rum on the table with him and asked several of the culprits if this particular brand of rum could be bought in Adelaide. When he got to Sig. "Taffy" Davis, he asked him the usual question. "Can you buy this brand of rum in Adelaide?" Without batting an eye lid "Taffy" took the bottle, had a prodigious swig out of it, replaced the cork, and said: "No sirr, oi don't think so, but it's damn good rum." The C.O. was aghast for a moment at this impertinence and promptly put

five pounds worth of red ink in "Taffy's" paybook and fined all the others a couple of berries each.

I don't know if anybody ever did get nailed for the theft of the rum but Timor was hardly rum country anyway.

SPORTS' NIGHT

On the night of Sept. 6 a good crowd turned up to pit their skill against one another.

This year two new games in "Hooky" and tossing the penny were added to the ever-popular darts, table tennis and quoits. The competition was keen throughout the evening with all enjoying some success in some sphere or other until the championship was narrowed down.

The "Champ" proved to be none other than "Stricky". George Strickland was a model of consistency all night and earned his right to wear the belt for the next 12 months.

LADIES' NIGHT

This year's star attraction booked for Oct. 4, looks like being one out of the bag. The ladies, God bless them, are in store for a real good evening.

The venue is as last year, at Crawley Bay Tearooms and those attending are asked to endeavour to be present as near 8 p.m. as possible so as the evening's entertainment can be got under way early.

The engagement of top-line entertainers in the name of the Rhythm Spinners will guarantee a high grade of entertainment to help make the evening a great success.

**Now keep the date in mind—
Oct. 4, Hills Crawley Bay Tearooms.**

OLYMPIC GAMES RE-UNION

All members who have signified their wish to attend the Olympic Games Re-Union have been contacted and forwarded an official programme, and advised on what tickets are already sold out. They have been directed to contact Boans Travel Service and fill in the order form which was sent to them.

Random Harvest

Firstly a letter from Alan Cardy received ages ago and as yet not replied to. Alan lives at 122 Cardigan Street, Auburn, N.S.W., and is still caught up in the Army. Alan has recently been appointed Adjutant-Quartermaster of the first C.M.F. Commando Coy. At the moment the Unit is functioning from Victoria Barracks, Sydney, but later will move to Georges Heights. The C.O. is Major Max Grant who previously served with 2/5 Commando Sqn. One of the early enlistments was "Twilight" Collins who, as you know, was 2/2 on the Ramu. The organisation of the new Coy. is very similar to our old show. Three platoons each of three Sections, Sig. Section and Pioneer Section. The officer set-up is the same as we finished with. No Sapper Officer this time. The A/Q is a Capt. instead of a Lieut. The aim is to train each member as a parachutist also cliff scaling, small boats, etc. Sounds like a good show to me. Alan goes to Puckapunyal to do a school shortly and hopes to contact some of the Vic. boys, including Jerry McKenzie. Alan reports seeing Jack Stafford who is a W.O.2 instructor with 17/18 Infantry Battalion, Sydney. Jack was hopeful of getting a transfer to Alan's new show. Thanks for a most informative letter Alan, hope to hear more from you as your show moves into gear.

Now from Jack Servante. Jack is to be a migrant to West Australia. Apparently must have liked what he saw of W.A. during his visit early in the year. Jack is being moved west by his employers and as yet I don't know what form his business in W.A. will take but we will welcome him with open arms at the same time bewailing Victoria's ill luck in losing such a staunch worker as workers like Jack can be ill afforded from any show. Now you groppers, especially in the city, if you know of a furnished flat or furnished house that Jack could rent from early in November then please let Col Doig know and he can appraise Jack's agent of the fact Jack is married with two children

for whose good conduct he is prepared to vouch. Had a previous letter from Jack thanking all in W.A. for their kind hospitality during his visit West. Jack also was unfortunate in losing his father in June.

Tony Adams writes from Coolangatta, Queensland, to say "hello". He has just been transferred to the famous beach resort with the A.& N.Z. Bank after quite a long sojourn at Toowoomba. He is manager of the bank at Coolangatta and says he is still accustoming himself to the added responsibility of management. Says the good sorts parading past the door in their bikinis is bad for concentration but extra easy on the eyes. Tony reckons the sport set-up at Coolangatta not so good from his point of view as at Toowoomba where he had it absolutely laid on in the way of tennis. He has taken up golf and, after the initial set-back financially of buying clubs, etc., he is really enjoying the game. Tony says his wife is really enjoying Coolangatta where her health has improved considerably. He now thinks that he may be a most doubtful starter for the Olympic Re-Union as being a most junior manager he would be way down on the list of likely candidates for leave at that time as the senior managers would have first call on the relieving boys. Sorry to hear this news, Tony, as was looking forward to renewing our acquaintance. Thanks a ton for the letter and will try and contact your mother before she returns home.

Lew Thompson called the other day and looks real fit. He is having a bit of a battle with his property at Mooliabeenie but keeps the chin erect. Lew says starting a property from scratch is no fun at all. He says he will be at the next Re-Union for sure. He has been one of our solid attenders at this function, has been to all but one.

Arthur Marshall was also in recently to say "good-day", looking as large as life. The "Marsh" has interested the Harvey cricketers in putting down a turf wicket and

was down in the Big Smoke to make arrangements for the laying of same. Marsh is also making arrangements to go into the bulk super spreading in the Harvey-Brunswick area and is patenting a device to do this. He is in the Hay Baling business and hopes for a bumper season this year. Arthur is still sport-happy and says nothing would give him greater pleasure than to be curator on one of the big ovals where they played sport every day.

A letter to hand from Bill Rowan-Robinson with a lot of suggestions re aiding Country Conventions. Thanks a lot, Bill. Have not re-printed your letter seeing that it mainly deals with the Convention on points not quite decided yet. Your suggestions have been a great aid and you are thanked for your help in this subject. Bill says that Doug Fullerton is now working at the Donnelly Mill and that it is one of the best in the State.

Bob Palmer, Cowaranup, writes: Dear Wilf, I am not really certain whether you are still Editor or not but guess you will send this on for me if not. Give it to Colin, he likes trying to read my scrawl. Anyway blame Barb for she has been at me for weeks now to write to the Association and because today is very wet and too much for yours truly to go out fencing she has been at me all day until here I am. Now I am here I'm not so sure I have much to pass on. This dairy farming is not a holiday down these parts and I don't get about a great deal. Did see Bernard Langridge at a meeting at Capel a fortnight ago for only a few minutes.

Also better late than never I guess, but we both would like to thank the Association very much for the parcels sent to the 'nips' at Xmas time. They were very much appreciated by them all. Just for your records we have four: Ann 10, John 8, Bruce 5½, Helen 4, and we have high hopes that is all. Also if you would address anything to us as R. K. because my brother is also in this area and he is R.

Also am afraid I mislaid the tickets for the reverse raffle you sent out and haven't found them yet. Will be on the job for the Melbourne Cup though.

Still trying to make a farm out of this place here. The main draw back at the moment is the fact that butterfat prices drop and all else goes up, so that development is very slow owing to the lack of finance. Maybe one day we may get on top. Have increased from 25 cows to 43 in seven years which I suppose is not bad for just the two of us—Barb and myself. Barb picked up and burnt about 13 acres of bulldozing this last year which is more than just a little help. With out her assistance I wouldn't be here now.

Am afraid I will not be a starter for Victoria as its the wrong time of the year for us here. Would like very much to go but there it is.

Notice the date for the Annual Re-Union is Jan. 28, 1956. Have high hopes of making it if I can get away. Will mean Barb milking the cows on her own a couple of times. If any of the old show between here and Perth want to get up that day and I make it I could pick up anything up to five if they wish. If there are and they contact me later we could arrange time and place.

Best of wishes to all the gang. Bert Burges, of "Burlands" at Broomehill, writes: After five dry years I didn't think one could ever be tired of rain again but, a few fine days would be most welcome right now. The last two months have seen nothing achieved here on the farm. Wet and cold and windy and bog everywhere. Shearing is delayed everywhere. Have made a start on the sheep here but so far have only had one fine day.

The feed is simply wonderful and sheep are cutting about 3 lb per head up on last year. However crops on low lying areas have suffered considerably.

Went through to Geraldton about three weeks ago by plane from Perth. Had a day in Perth on my way up but straight through on the return journey. I called to see Joe Burridge and Col Doig but both were away from their offices. Also called at Skipper Baileys in the hope of seeing Tom Nisbet. Didn't know then that he had been transferred to Swan Taxis. Congratulations on the step up, Tom.

Did however see Dave Ritchie

who is the same happy soul and carrying his many responsibilities with a smile.

Not having my own conveyance whilst in Geraldton and the reason for my trip being to see my father who is not enjoying good health, I wasn't able to contact any of the lads there with the exception of Irish Hopkins who was also very busy with the Saturday morning rush.

Whilst apologising to all in the northern port I would like to do so to Bill and Gladys Drage whom I had promised to visit when up there. Irish told me they were all going to a barbecue in Northampton on the Saturday evening so perhaps I was fortunate in being grounded. Did hear that Jack Denman was suffering from a fall from a ladder—had it attached to a sky hook.

The Katanning ram sales are being conducted tomorrow and Wednesday and are usually well attended from all parts of the State. I am hoping to see Ken Mac, George Timms and Alf Hillman there admiring the rams if not buying.

Shorty Stevens, of Box 62, Snowtown, S.A., writes: Have been suffering with a guilty conscience for months because of my laxity with the pen but will try and ease it a bit tonight. One cannot help but admire the stalwarts who do so much to keep the 'Courier' going with so little help in the way of correspondence from the masses. If we could manage a letter per year each it would mean quite a few for each edition.

Which reminds me it is 12 months since I last wrote to the 'Courier' and at that time I was vainly boring for water on a block of scrub land I had bought. I eventually got water in the fifth hole.

I have tried approx 80 acres of W.A. Blue Lupins on the block as a start at development and am hopeful they will be as successful as in your State. so far no one over here has had any luck as far as I can find out and I followed instructions in a screed put out by the W.A. Government Dept. of Agriculture so if anyone has any good advice regarding the aforementioned things I'm all ears.

We have had an excellent year here so far and at the moment the district is in the middle of shearing and hay baling and the only cloud on the horizon is the promise of the biggest grasshopper plague for 60 years. Reports are that hatching has already started in some northern areas.

Had a pleasant surprise last Sunday when Tom Foster & Co. called to see us. I have known Tom was over Anama way and always intended looking him up but now the contact has been made it is a certainty for the near future.

Tom is looking well and we had a bit of a yarn for a short while but he could not stay as he had to shed up for shearing. Tom is more than upholding the tradition of the Unit in playing his part in civic affairs and appears to have more than enough to keep him busy.

Will look George Lewis up next time I journey through his metropolis and we'll organise a get together, maybe.

Re the Olympic Re-Union, I'm afraid I've too many straws in my hair to be able to make it in person but will be envious of all who can. Am glad to see S.A. will be represented by Dignums and Tapper.

Dig was up to see me last Easter and promised to come back for a weekend as soon as Tap would give him time off. Dud must be keeping his nose to the grindstone as I've heard no more since. I'll have to tell him to bring Tap with him as they both know where I live.

I don't suppose any of the W.A. boys will be making the Olympics by car, but in case they do we have plenty of space around here for a caravan park and even if we could not put everybody up we could supply space and water for as many as would like to come and we are only one mile from the main road to Adelaide via Snowtown. We are only 15 mile from the Pirie-Clare-Adelaide road for those who take the wrong turn. Don't forget anyone at all who wants to stop by on their way through we'll be glad to see them.

Have not heard much from Litch for quite a while but expect I'll get a card for Xmas, I presume he is still earning a crust for himself.

Victorian Vocal Venturings

There is not very much to report this month, as we are having a quiet period as far as Association functions are concerned, but we will be having a committee meeting in the near future to make preparations for our sweep drawing and Xmas party. I am happy to report that Gerry Maley is now up and about and has returned to work, and is feeling pretty well. His doctor must know Gerry's form and he has checked up with Gerry's drinking (not drunken) mates to make sure that he is sticking to his instructions not to touch the liquid amber for six months—but Gerry is doing the right thing.

Don Myer is back in town. Is still a W.O. in the army and I believe is stationed out at the Carlton Drill Hall. He had a few beers with Bruce McLaren recently and Bruce said he has put on a lot of weight and is looking very fit. It will be good to see Don at some of our future functions. He has not been receiving any 'Couriers'—no doubt due to an obsolete address—but we will soon rectify that, Don. He is now residing at 5 Keith St., Clayton.

Bert Tobin had a letter from Tex Richards in Tasmania requesting more tickets in the sweep. This is the thing we like to hear—requests for more tickets. It's very important that we all make a big effort this year and sell as many tickets as we can because we will need all the money we can raise to make our Olympic Re-Union a success. Tex is in very good health and here is his address if anybody would like to drop Tex a line: Bradshaw St., Latrobe, Tasmania.

Alan Munro is about ready to start building a mansion in Lower Heidelberg Rd., Ivanhoe. All the best of success, Alan.

I had the pleasure of spending a week in Tasmania recently—combined business and pleasure trip—made more pleasant when I bumped into Bernie at Essendon drome, and he was going over on the same plane to spend a week over there too, so we arranged to have a little re-union at Hobart with some of

the boys. We managed to get on to Vic Pacey and Ivan Brown and we spent a very enjoyable hour over a few beers and chewed the rag to some order. Both Vic and Ivan are in good health and all send their regards to the boys. Ivan is coming over for the Re-Union but Vic is not sure yet. We tried to contact Joe Loveless but he was up in the north of Tasmania somewhere in the wilderness, working on the new P.M.G. communication lines to the mainland.

As we are fast approaching Xmas we would appreciate if all our country members would let us know of any new additions to their families or of other members who are not already on our list. All we require are their sex and age. Get this information in early as it helps us a great deal with our organisation.

We also appeal to all Interstate members who are coming over here for the Re-Union to let us have all the information they can as quickly as possible.

And don't forget those sweep tickets, boys. Get on the job early and keep on it—and don't be shy to ask for more tickets—as we have plenty more.

W.A. COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER: Ladies' night.

NOVEMBER: Visit to W.A. Glass Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

DECEMBER: Kiddies Xmas party.

JANUARY: No meeting.

FEBRUARY: Annual Re-union.

MARCH: Davis Cup film. Guests.

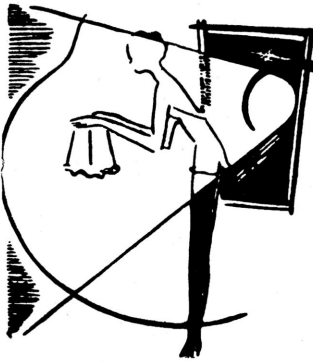
APRIL: Guest speaker.

MAY: In abeyance.

JUNE: In abeyance.

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

(LADIES' NIGHT — TUESDAY, OCT. 4 — Crawley Bay)



Headlights

Youthful looking jockey is invited to a big posh party. He does not know many of the guests, but gets his eye on a large over-sophisticated blonde. Finally plucks up courage as the orchestra gets hot. "Pardon me," he says. "May I have this dance?"

The blonde surveys his "baby" face and his four feet eleven, and draws: "I'm sorry. But I never dance with a child."

"O.K. missus," says the jockey. "But I'll tell you something. Nobody would ever know."

* * * *

The bloke, feeling sick as a dog, and full to the eyes, goes to the doctor for an overhaul.

Doc spends an hour on him. Finally says: "I can find nothing organically wrong with you. It must be the grog."

"That's all right," says the drunk. "I'll come back when you are sober."

* * * *

Two minutes to train time. The drunk is standing at ticket office. Hands over a zack. "Single to Bankshia," he demands.

Ticket seller says the fare to Bankshia is ninepence. "Another threepence, please."

The drunk says: "Ninepence, eh? That's hot. It used to be sixpence."

"Not in my time," says the seller. "Another threepence."

"Only have a zack," says the drunk. "Where can I go for sixpence?"

And, in one voice, the other 15 people in the queue tell him.

Rosie: "My new boy friend says his convertible runs like a rabbit. What does he mean by that?"

Mary: "He probably means it always heads for the bush."

* * * *

A rather tipsy gentleman boarded the bus unsteadily and lurched into a seat beside an alert and suddenly white-faced matron.

"Young man," she gasped, "you are headed straight for eternal hell!"

"Lemme off!" cried he, leaping to his feet with a strangled cry. "I'm on the wrong bus."

* * * *

The shy young man had the not-so-shy young miss out for a drive, when suddenly the motor began pounding.

"I wonder," he said, stopping the car, "what that knock could be?"

"Maybe," sighed the girl, "it's opportunity."

* * * *

A farmer who lived in the hills had driven to town for his semi-annual trip to buy supplies. While in town he decided to buy a new suit, the first in 20 years. When he started home, it was on the wagon seat beside him.

When he was about five miles from home, he came to a creek with a good swimming hole so he said to himself:

"I think I'll take a bath and put on my new suit and surprise the old lady."

He left all his clothes in the wagon, had a nice swim, came back to the wagon to dress and discovered that someone had stolen not only his new suit but the clothes he had taken off as well.

He climbed back on the wagon seat, clucked to the horse and said:

"Well, guess I'll go home and surprise the old lady, any way."