



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

Three.

looking
tting a
Mick
ith his
sses our
aving a
h lately
ck has
think
good
p-

(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. 104.

JUNE, 1956

Price 1d.

Your Duty

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, July 3rd

It is your duty to be present
at this meeting. If you have
any interest in Association wel-
fare then be at this the **MOST**
IMPORTANT MEETING of
the year. —Editor.

Be There

— — — —

Be There

West Australian Whisperings

Editorial

"Staying The Hand Of The Undertaker"

It seems essential that every now and again someone should deal out a solar plexus blow to the members of the Association to get them to re-awaken to their responsibilities to their Association and to re-kindle their interest in the organisation.

Let it be reiterated that any association is only as strong as its **active** members. It is not enough to pay your subscription, attend an odd re-union or meeting and leave the rest of the work to the willing horses. As these willing horses dwindle in number so the active strength of the organisation falls below a safe minimum. A stagnation of ideas sets in and this is the first sign of the dry rot which kills such associations as ours slowly but surely.

Many such organisations as ours started after World War II, all with similar laudable ideals of friendship and mutual assistance to all, but many flourished for a short while and died for lack of interest, others have staggered along because a few hard working souls have refused to let them die. A very few others, ours among them, have flourished strongly to the present time. It is as a result of seeing organisations drop out of being that has prompted this Editorial. Only many jabs in the right place will keep members up in the collar and pulling their weight to keep a fine association thriving. If all members do not take an **active** part in the affairs then surely through lack of new ideas will boredom set in and proceedings will take on a sameness that kills interest and thereby attendances fall away and the organisation starts to get rigor mortis. If new blood is infused regularly in the way of new committee members, new ideas brought forward at meetings, then a new brightness permeates proceedings and new interest is aroused and the organisation goes forward in leaps and bounds.

It must be remembered if too much is left to too few then there is a tendency for such people to get sick of the effort and either half-do the job or not do it at all. This is another means of breeding stagnation and stifling the show to death.

All can help in some way or another. If you get an idea no matter how small pass it on to the Committee. Don't be afraid to accept office if nominated and turn up to the Annual General Meeting so you can be nominated. If in the country write in a letter for the 'Courier', submit ideas for the betterment of the Association.

But whatever you do don't leave it to the other fellow or as sure as God made little apples there will come the day when there is no other fellow to lean upon and then "finish Association".

So right now, fellows, what about a bit of new effort in the way of attendances at meetings and a few epistles for the 'Courier'? 1956 is a good year for a bit more effort from **YOU!** —"Seedy"

Heard This?

A steeplechase jockey, riding a horse for the first time was told by the trainer to say, "Up, boy!" to his mount as he came to every jump. He carried out instructions, and the horse won easily.

At his next ride on the horse he was given similar instructions and was 20 lengths in front at the last fence, through which he crashed and fell.

"Did you say 'Up, Boy' to him at that jump?" enquired the trainer.

"No, I was so far in front that I thought it didn't matter," replied the jockey.

"Of course it matters," roared the trainer. "You've got to tell him where the jumps are—he's blind."

Association Activities

JUNE MEETING

A very poorly attended affair, most disheartening for the Committee, but nevertheless enjoyed by those present.

There being no entertainment specially set aside for this evening a general chat on Association affairs took place. This was decided upon as a "curtain raiser" for the more important Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, July 3.

The usual liquid refreshments were partaken of ably backed up by a "dixie" of hot curry that Ron Dook brought.

ANZAC DAY

The Unit once again mustered for Anzac Day and the roll-up of all Squadrons was in excess of previous years. Some 60 in all made the march and it was good to see such a good muster. Another pleasing feature was the fact that practically everyone was wearing his medals most proudly.

Geoff Laidlaw led the parade and Mick Morgan was "Sister Hannah" who carried the banner.

Previously a wreath in the shape of a red Double Diamond was placed on the War Memorial by Arthur Smith and "Blue" Pendergrast at the Dawn Service. The wreath was most favourably commented on by all concerned and was mainly comprised of red Polyantha roses.

After the service on the Esplanade those marching repaired to the courtyard of the 16th Battalion Drill Hall for "refreshments". Once again Ron Dook and Bill Hollis did an excellent job of providing the eats and the comments on all sides were most eulogistic. The thanks of the Association go to Ron and Bill for a job most excellently done. As per usual Mick Calcutt saw that all was ready at the Drill Hall for the marchers and thirsts were quickly assuaged. The day finished for most at about 4.30 p.m., but a few of the seasoned performers managed to get further "supplies" and carried on until about 8 p.m. This, judged by early Anzac Days, shows the aura of respectability which is gradually settling on the gang with the passing of the years.

Now for some of the personalit-

ies on parade. The "Bull" looking his usual bright self and setting a beautiful step out in front. Mick Morgan makes certain with his great height that nobody misses our banner. Mick has been having a tough time with the health lately and the arthritis of the back has been giving him plenty to think about. Geo. Boyland did a good job of handling the cash and keeping the show solvent. Geo has been battling with the health also lately but on Anzac Day he looked quite well. As mentioned earlier Mick Calcutt handled the "liquid" side of things and was his usual cheery self despite a badly inflated knee. Bill Epps seen on parade as usual, looking very fit. We haven't seen a lot of Bill lately as he has been bound up deeply in the baseball business which has consumed most of his spare time. He assures me that we will see more of him in future. Ray Parry with a string of "gongs" which makes our usual four look a bit lonely. Ray, despite a greying of the thatch, looks like the Fiddler's Bitch. Bob Smyth the real debonair Executive Type and full of saies "bull". Bob has just had a great success in launching the Beaucaire "Neva Press" shirt for which he has the local agency. Dave Ritchie also greying a bit at the temples but otherwise looking like a million dollars. Harry Sproxton doesn't alter a day, his complexion despite the rigors of an outdoor occupation still "peaches and cream". "Spriggy" McDonald still as inclined to give a bit of cheek as usual and he and "Curly" Bowden bashing one-another's ears to some purpose.

Jack Carey looking a lot better and enjoying himself more than I've seen him for some time. Arthur Smith the ever ready helper of all the workers whether it be the Treasurer or the barman. Ron Dook and his aide Bill Hollis as mentioned previously looking after the "eats" line and both looking practically prosperous. Tom Nisbet looking as lean as a kangaroo dog and boy is he getting grey. Tom has still got a ready laugh for the inevitable jokes that fly at such gatherings. Joe Burridge is in the Bob Smyth class more the debonair executive type but still with the famous Burridge ability for enjoyment. Alby Friend was among

those present and is he a great advertisement for his butcher's shop? Tom Bateman seemed to be having a most enjoyable time swapping lies with all and sundry. It was a real pleasure to see our old stalwart, Jim Corney, once again. Jim is a fairly regular Anzac Day attendant but finds it difficult to make our other activities. Jim looks a ball of health. Dick Darrington as usual the butt for all the lads who want a good listener. Dick can never be accused of talking his head off. Dick Geere is another who is wearing well and with his ready smile seems to make everybody round him happy. Percy Hancock was having a great day. Anzac Day without "Ajax" Harrison and his mate would be a much duller affair, he always seems to enliven proceedings with his ready quips. Harry Holder was in it with the gang and was Koepang and other Timor points taking a bashing as a result. Don Murray still as lean as ever and certainly was enjoying the company assembled for the day. Geo. Strickland as always having a wonderful time. Clarrie Varian a little late but made up for lost time good and smartly. Visitors were very numerous and we were able to entertain quite a few of the boys from H.M.A.S. Belbourne which was in port for Anzac Day. The usual good muster of lads from other Squadrons such as Peter Strickland, 6th Div. Cav., Jack Sweet 2/5 Coy., McCall 2/3 Coy., and others too numerous to mention and afraid in the after haze of the day their names have eluded me. As can be seen all in all a wonderful day but still a lot of absentees. Apparently "leave passers" are a bit hard to come by for some of the gang.

MAY MEETING

The May meeting falling hard on the heels of Anzac Day saw a very small attendance at a very good show. The evening took the form of a guest speaker and Mr. Hurt gave us a most entertaining and educating talk on, firstly his escape from Malaya in the face of the Jap advance, then his work in England as a Telephone Censor, and lastly his return to Malaya after the war. Although we were small in numbers those present made up for it

in enthusiasm. President Mick Calcutt was a "cot case" and Ron Dook was in the chair. A most cosy and informal atmosphere was created by all sitting around the table and enjoying a few drinks while listening to a most educating lecture. Our thanks to all and sundry and especially to Mr. Hurt for such a good evening. After the speaker had finished and departed quite a reasonable discussion took place on many of the controversial aspects of what he told us of Malaya. The Doig was in good form and was prepared to join issue with anyone on any subject. "Rocky" Williams was at the meeting being down from Cocos Island for a holiday. He bought a block of land out at Floreat Park and after his sojourn at Cocos intends to build his permanent home there. Keith Hayes also of the company and brought along with him a young lad of the "Perth" who was also able to give us quite a lot of information about happenings in Jap prison camps. Once again a great night and the main losers those who didn't attend. Remember these meetings in the main add something to your general knowledge, plus a ton of good company and you will be the gainer by becoming a regular habitue.

OLYMPIC RE-UNION

Despite the appeal in the May 'Courier' for definite acceptance of a visit to the Olympic Games' Re-Union we have not been in receipt of any word at all. Several members of the Association were contacted and sent programmes, etc. The sooner a complete list is compiled and sent to Victoria the better. We cannot expect the Victorian Branch to hold on indefinitely while we think about it.

Heard This?

Cowboy: "What kind of a saddle do you want—one with a horn or without?"

Dude: "Without, I guess. There doesn't seem to be much traffic on these prairies."

Random Harvest

I understand that **Ken MacKintosh** has taken up residence in the city somewhere having been transferred to the Stock Department with his firm, Elder Smith & Co., from the management at Bridge-town. We hope that after he settles down we may see something of Ken at Unit activities.

Fred Napier is still in hospital and his leg is giving quite a bit of trouble. We sincerely hope that it won't be long before Fred is back at home and working once again.

Geo Boyland went back into hospital, this time in Royal Perth, to have the pin removed from his broken leg. We wish Geo a speedy recovery as he has had more than his share of sickness over the last three or four years. George is now out and back at toil again.

Tom Crouch has been in the Big Smoke this month. Tom is down to see the doctor about a 'chronic appendicitis'. He looks very well despite the ailment and reports a good season last year and prospects for the coming season O.K. Tom said **Alex Thomson** was also down from Dunborough. Tom also said most of the lads from his area were doing quite well but that **Gordon Rowley** and **Ted Loud** had been on the sick list. Tom is gradually grading up to a beef herd and hopes by 1960 to be off the teat pulling and watching the "ham-burgers on the hoof" roll in the cash.

One who has also been in the city is **Bernie Giles** and afraid he has not been so fortunate. Bernie was unlucky enough to lose his wife early in May and we offer our most sincere condolences "Boomer" and hope that the consoling influences will be good to you and help you over your troubles. Bernie is one of the leading foremen with Geraldton Building Coy. and in his job had done very well for himself.

Jack Fowler seen in the street recently and Jack is still looking forward keenly to the Olympic Reunion at which he says barring accidents he is a certain starter. Jack has a summer house at Mandurah where he heads to enjoy the pleasures of summer.

Haven't seen sight or sign of the "Brooker" for so long I doubt if I'd know him again if I saw him. Surely those lions, elephants, monkeys, etc., at the zoo can be left to fend for themselves one night "Brook" while you enjoy a little convivial company with the gang.

Dick Crossing once again a father, making three in all. Must be flat out to avoid labour problems on the farm in the future possibly with these shearers' strikes it is a good thing.

Calling the following who are long overdue to write to the Editor with a note of the doings, etc. **Ray Aitken, Arch Campbell, Ron Sprigg, Norm Thornton, Gordie Smith, Mal Nichols, Steve Rogers, Jim Smailes, Peter Alexander, Tony Bowers, Peter Campbell** and a dozen others who haven't had writers' cramp for many a moon. What about it boys, just a short note from you all would fill the 'Courier' next month and save the Editor much head scratching.

Ron Dook recently had a short respite from the work-a-day world and let the migrants put their bothers on other shoulders for a while. Can assure you a holiday was required muchly in Ron's game as Migrant Hostel Manager.

Personalities

Scotty Wares was seen scarping over Beaufort-st. bridge the other morning. Haven't seen anything of Scotty for ages. Guess he must be saving up his next appearance for a good old ear bash. See if you can make it for the Annual General Meeting, Scotty.

Tom Nisbett was recently appointed to succeed Brig. R. Bale as commander of Headquarters Group, C.M.F., Western Command. Tom was on the reserve officer list and commanded the 16th Infantry Battalion Cameron Highlanders from 1951 to 1954. "The Brig" is a good supporter of Unit affairs and can usually be relied on to curtail some of his various interests in order to swap a yarn, tilt a glass and have a general ear bash with the gang.

Arthur Smith blew into the committee meeting late the other evening. Arthur has had his nose to the grindstone studying at a special night school to further his knowledge re the telephone branch of the P.M.G.

"Blue" Pendergrast and **Bill Willis** can be seen daily working on a building project in Canning Highway, South Perth. "Blue" and Bill have joined forces in this business venture. Both being good toilers they should form quite a partnership. Don't forget you lads, if you need a job in the building line, contact these boys who can be relied upon to do a sound job.

Jack Carey is gradually regaining his former cheerful ways. It has taken a long time but Jack assures me that he is feeling better every day and hopes to be 100 per cent in the near future.

Tom Bateman is set for rather a busy time in the next few years. Tom is with Dr. Snow's department and engaged in the immunisation against polio. On July 1 he leaves with a doctor and will tour the State—Mogumber to Meekatharra, Kalgoorlie, Esperance, Pemberton, etc. When the first round is completed with the giving of the first needle the second round will be planned. Tom is very keen on his work and is looking forward to his lengthy tour. Tom will be on the lookout for you when in your district, so don't forget to contact him.

Mil and Ken (Curly) Bowden were blessed with another son recently. Saw Curly at the meeting the other night and he had the worried look of all newly made fathers. Surely Curly, by this time you have learned to bear-up to the worries of becoming the proud parent. Curly and Mil are living at Brentwood, near Mt. Pleasant, this at least until final arrangements can be made for their own home.

OUT OF THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

Henry Sproxton, of 52 Roberts-st. Bayswater, writes:

Please accept my apology for the delay in forwarding £1 being for tickets handed in on Anzac day. It was impossible for me to get to the meeting last Tuesday night. I have

been flat out lately getting another job started and trying to get the last one finished, sort of business, but it's a lot better than being slack as many in the building trade are at present.

I stuck my neck out this morning and went up to Kings Park on the off-chance of seeing you. Not one single head was sighted so after about 20 minutes in the hurricane I headed the truck back for home and a drop of fire.

Bert Burges, of "Burlands", Broome hill, writes:

Once again I have to commence this with an apology. We chaps in the country are definitely falling down on the only real way we can assist—namely supplying news for our Editor.

If no one can be prevailed upon to accept the job of Editor and there is no 'Courier' then we might as well fold up the whole concern.

I think each and everyone of us should ask ourselves these two questions: "Do I value the 'Courier'?" and "What am I doing towards its continuance?"

The recent news from the Olympic Re-Union Bulletin must be most disheartening to our Victorian organisers and before it is too late perhaps it would be wise to consider a postponement.

It would be a great pity if the Re-Union was to be a disappointment after the efforts made by Victoria and due to no fault of its members.

There are two major factors against the date set. Chiefly of course the Olympics. It will be impossible to obtain transport anywhere or effectively organise anything due to the anticipated flocking of bodies and vehicles in Melbourne at that time.

Secondly, November is a very difficult time for land types to get away due to seasonal work and I imagine also to city and town dwellers so near to the festive season.

In addition to the above many of our members in all States have undertaken during the last 12 months new positions and projects and would perhaps find it less difficult to get away next year.

I have discussed this with Alf Hillman who says he is almost a definite non starter for the set date owing to a new set up on his farm

but, all things being equal, could make it next year if held about July.

The above are my views and purely meant to be constructive and you are at liberty to treat them as you think fit.

The season here has opened with the promise of being a very good one. Just here we have had green feed since early March and though it has fluctuated considerably due to subsequent dry spells it didn't die off and now that good falls of rain have been received and cooler weather the feed is really off to a flying start.

Lambing has been particularly good with a minimum of the usual troubles. Myxomatosis and 1080 poison have combined well to greatly reduce the rabbits. Red mite, however, are in numbers and action may have to be taken against them.

With the help of a sharefarmer I have almost completed seeding of 450 acres of cropping which is my programme for the year.

I have two self propelled lawn mowers here for Dave Ritchie so should any city members be down this way by car with room in the boot for two lambs they would be doing Dave a favour by getting them up to him.

The Broomehill R.S.L. Sub-Branch has conferred life membership on Mr. Hillman Sen. in recognition of his services to the branch.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

The time near the Nadzab strip when 'B' Troop were marching along with the fullest possible packs to catch a plane back to Garoka for a well-earned rest. All heads were bent to the earth under the weight of packs, not a word was spoken by any one as they sweated along the road on a truly tropic, sultry early morning. Suddenly a nasal Yank voice came from the side of the road: "Why don't you guys wait and pick up a jeep?" The "Brooker" answered in a flash: "Don't you think a b—— man is carrying enough now?"

... Or when the same 'B' Troop was on said Xmas vacation at Garoka and the Doig called a rifle examination just to see that discipline was maintained while troops rested. Ted Cholerton's rifle was terrific and the Doig promptly said: "Damn it, man, you can't even see the hole in the barrel. Bring it back this afternoon cleaned."

"Chol" brought it back after lunch and approached the Lieut. who snipped a smart look down the bore and said: "Not much better." "Chol" retorted: "At least sir, I've improved the size of the hole."

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

Victorian Vocal Venturings

Committee meeting held at Wayside Inn 10/4/56.

Present were Gerry Maley, Bert Tobin, Jim Wall, Arch Clarey, Gerry O'Toole, Harry Wilkins, Harry Botterill (in chair). Apologies from Bernie Callinan, Max Davies, Bruce MacLaren, Gerry McKenzie.

Not up to our usual numbers but we managed to get through quite a bit of business, finalising the Anzac Day re-union arrangements, and further discussions on the Olympics and the decision to put a deposit on Kelvin Hall for the three nights that we require a hall for our Olympic functions.

Ken Monk wrote from Poowong east, he has been kept very busy, had his wife down to the city getting her teeth out and buying himself a new Ford Customline car—and is patting himself on the back because he bought it two days before old Bob Menzies opened his big mouth. Bob Snowdon called in to see Ken one day. Bob was caravanning through Gippsland with his wife and two kiddies. The usual epic episode from Smasho who is in the pink and still working for a living.

Bert Tobin had a letter from Jack Servante, who has bought a nice house overlooking the Swan River and is settling in nicely—he is very well now—back at work and sends

appropriate to the day, then we observed a minute's silence after which our president, Bernie Callinan read out the names of the deceased members of our Unit. We then settled down to the re-union with earnest where the liquid amber was particularly good and very well pulled. We did not have quite so many country members as usual, but this no doubt was due to Anzac Day falling during the week and the boys were unable to make it. Ken Monk, Terry Paul, Stan Webner were the only ones up from the bush. We had a very good muster of 1st Company chaps and it was very good to see them. Don Fryer made his appearance looking particularly fit. He now resides at Clayton. He is still in the army and is stationed at the Carlton Drill Hall. Jim Kenwick who is also in the army was present looking very fit and well about 15½ stone of it. Jim is just recently back from Japan and is stationed at the barracks. "Baldy" Baldwin made a very welcome appearance looking as always fit and well and with that sparkle in his eyes. He thoroughly enjoys being with the boys and I can vouch for the boys that we like having Baldy with us. He is going to England early in August on this teacher exchange system, and will be there for about a year, but we will be having a little function