



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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JUNE, 1957

Price 1d.

Your Duty

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, July 2nd

It is your duty to be present
at this meeting. If you have
any interest in Association
welfare then be at this most
important meeting.—Editor

Be There

Be There

West Australian Whisperings

APRIL MEETING. AUTOMATION

On Tuesday evening, April 2, we were treated to one of the finest talks by a guest speaker that we have been privileged to hear since the meetings have been of the entertainment kind.

The subject was "Automation", and the speaker was Ken Watson, one of the executive of Bell Bros.

Ken Watson spent a long time recently actively engaged in working in factories where automation has been introduced on a large scale.

Ken's activities were spread over a vast number of different projects and naturally covered quite a few different firms. Whilst the big strike at the Standard Motor Company was on he was working in the factory and gave us a brilliant description of how a modern motor works, converted to automation, functioned. As you probably know, the big strike was caused by the workers thinking that automation was going to place a lot of them out of work. It was afterwards found that while automation speeded up production considerably it took about the same number of men to produce the same number of articles. This was worked by means of the fact that it took a lot more men to produce the initial plans and patterns, etc., than before and also the final handling and packing absorbed more men. This all seems hard for the layman to understand, but Ken assured us that it was a fact.

Another field that Mr. Watson entered into was experimental work at the Sperry Gyroscope Works. Many of the precision instruments used in modern guided missiles were produced at this factory. Some of the accomplishments of these instruments are truly fantastic.

Throughout Ken's lucid explanations of these many and varied automatic means of production his ready wit kept our interest as he spiced his talk with reminiscences of his own private movements in England and the Continent.

After Colin Doig had thanked Ken we gathered round the good old keg and cheese and biscuits.

All in all a rattling good evening

and one that we will really gain some useful knowledge from.

It was very gratifying to the Committee to see such a good roll up of members. They must have known that the fare was to be of No. 1 quality.

I was pleased to see our old pal Mick Calcutt, after a spell away. Hope that you will be able to pop up more now, Mick.

Another in Charlie King was having a good time and was noticed having a really good old ear bash and a few beers. Merv Cash also found time off for a little amusement.

THOSE SUBS CHAPS!

Now, chappies, what about those subs? There are still a lot of you regular members who are unfinancial in the Association.

And you other lads who up till now haven't kept yourself financial, what about it? Come along to a meeting and see what you are missing. Apart from meeting your old mates again and having a chinwag there are numerous other entertainments and amusements arranged for you. Sports nights, film evenings, talks on interesting subjects are planned by your committee to give you an everchanging fare for YOUR evening.

It is very discouraging to see only a few turn up after so much work has been put into these arrangements.

Now give it a go—you won't be sorry.

The usual "spot or two" is always on.

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

Committee Comment

Minutes of Committee meeting held at Monash Club, King-st., on Tuesday, April 17, at 8.30 p.m.

Present: Messrs. Green, McDonald, Napier, Pendergrast, March and Carey.

Minutes: Minutes of previous Committee meeting were read and confirmed on the motion of Messrs. March and Napier.

Business Arising:

April Meeting: Mr. Napier reported a fair attendance. The guest speaker, Mr. K. Watson, had given a very interesting talk and in appreciation of his talk it was resolved a letter of thanks be sent to him.

May Meeting: This to be a film night. Mr. Laidlaw had promised Ampol would put on a show. It was decided members could bring a friend.

Anzac Day: The following arrangements were determined for Anzac Day: Wreath, ordered from Wilson & Johns by J. Carey; Representation at Dawn Service by Messrs. Pendergrast and Napier; Refreshments, eats from Messrs. Dook and Hollis; Contributions, same as previous year; Identity tags, supplied by Mr. Doig; Frame of Wreath to be recovered by Mr. Pendergrast Permission for use of rear of drill hall to be obtained.

Honour Avenue: Mr. Pendergrast reported an attendance of 16 members. A good deal of work had been accomplished and the turn out was most satisfactory. Mr. Green said he would try and obtain a mower and cut the grass within the next few weeks.

General Business:

Finance: The Treasurer, Mr. Napier reported finances in our current account were at a very low ebb. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to conduct a sweep providing permission could be obtained from the Lotteries Commission. Tickets to be 1/- each and prizes: 1, Ladies costume or gents suit made to measure, value £30; 2, 50 gallons petrol; 3, Groceries, value £5.

Sweep to be drawn June 19, re-

sults in "West Australian" June 22. The acting secretary undertook to issue the tickets.

General: Mr. March said that with the assistance of Mr. Napier he would like to introduce a new filing system in card form. He outlined his ideas and Mr. Green said he considered Mr. March's offer most generous and acceptable.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11 p.m.

Association Activities

WORKING BEE

A great deal of work was accomplished on the morning of Sunday, April 7, when 16 of our members turned up to rake and clean up the King's Park area and to plant more grass.

When a lot of the leaves and rubbish had been raked up it was seen that the grass wasn't in such a bad state as it appeared, although some patches were very bad and need replanting. It will be necessary to conduct another working bee before the Commemoration Ceremony and that date will be advised in the 'Courier'.

Unfortunately the grass was not able to be cut but we hope to be able to do that soon.

Those who came along were: Charlie Gorton, Henry Sproxtton, "Dutch" Hollyand, Tom Nisbet, Gerry Green, Joe Poynton, Jack Carey, Alby Friend, Keith Hayes, "Sprig" McDonald, Colin Doig, Jerry Haire, "Blue" Pendergrast, Clarrie Varian, Ron Dook and Wilf March.

I don't think I have left anyone out. That would be a sin after slaving all the morning, wouldn't it?

ANZAC DAY

Once again Anzac Day has come and gone and as usual the Unit put its best foot forward and a cracker-jack march and day resulted.

Firstly at the Dawn Service at the State War Memorial, a wreath in the shape of our colour patch in red and grey was laid by two representatives. Then at 10 a.m.

RETURN SWEEP BUTTS BEFORE WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13

the main body of the lads lined up and marched behind the banner to the service on the Esplanade. With assistance from other Squadrons (except the 2/5 who marched as a separate unit) we managed to muster 60 marchers.

Geoff. Laidlaw commanded the parade as Senior Unit Officer on parade and Mick Morgan was banner bearer. Other members of the Unit were marching in uniform with various C.M.F. Units. Tom Nisbet in the uniform of a Brigadier in charge of Headquarters Groups, Barry Lawrence a Lieutenant with 44th Battalion and Ray Parry with 16th Batt.

After the service the gang met at 16th Battalion Drill Hall where the usual refreshments were partaken of and generally the show kept going till 6 p.m. with various private parties going to various hours of the night and early morning. Everyone voted it one of the best days ever. At this function we were joined by 2/5 with about 20 members who were under their own banner for the first time.

Just a few of the personalities on parade. Firstly our Commander, "Bull" Laidlaw, who looks not a day older than Timor days. Mick Morgan, a little greyer than of yore but still looking extra well but troubled with his back. For the first time on parade in W.A. Arch Campbell, and he seemed to be enjoying it very much and has already decided that this is to be a hardy annual for him. Another first on parade in W.A. was Gerry Tuohy who is now catering officer for Western Command. Gerry looked in marvellous form and still the Tuohy of the ready laugh and full of good fun. Peter Campbell made the trip from Norseman to be with the boys and he too looked wonderful. Ted Potts was on the march but made an early exit. Len Bagley made it for the march this year as most Anzac Days he is working. Len brought his dad along to enjoy the company of the gang. Merv Ryan was there looking very well after his long sojourn in hospital. Dusty Studdy seen for the first time for ages, completely unchanged and in good form. Arthur Smith just out of hospital and not looking 100 per cent yet but still managing to raise a smile. Percy Hancock, most debonair complete with

bow tie. Jack Wicks seen for the first time for ages and also in the pink. Ron Kirkwood, who is now domiciled in the city, made the parade after a long absence and really enjoyed himself. Same applies to Bill Howell who looks well. Afraid if I have missed anyone who thinks he should have been written up, my apologies.

For the success of the day much credit to Jack Carey, Fred Napier, Gerry Green, "Blue" Prendergast, Mick Calcutt, Ron Dook and Bill Hollis, who all performed a tremendous amount of work to make the day tick.

DAVIS CUP FILM NIGHT

The May meeting took the form of a film night and as usual on these evenings we had a rattling good turn up. We have received quite a lot of stimulation from the good roll up at recent meetings and look forward to even better attendances in the future.

Ampol put on the films and showed both the recent Davis Cup matches and Ampol Car Trial. Great films and well received by the lads.

Thanks are due to Geoff Laidlaw for organising the showing.

While the Davis Cup was considered to be the main attraction, the Ampol Car Trial stole some of its thunder. The great coverage which the film unit made brought to our notice the hazards and beautiful scenery in colour.

Afterwards the usual refreshment was enjoyed. More interesting evenings are to follow boys, so keep the first Tuesday in the month free always.

Being guest night many new friends were made and a few old faces turned up.

THOSE SWEEP BUTTS

Don't wait until the last minute to return your sweep butts. It makes the job very hard when all the butts come in at the last minute.

The sweep is to be drawn on Wednesday, June 19, and results published in the "West Australian" on Saturday, June 22.

The committee has directed me to state that all tickets outstanding by June 19 will be deemed to have

been purchased by you. So, whip those butts into the mail as soon as possible.

You can co-operate even further by including a few lines in with your butts. Other unit papers have had to cease publication through lack of correspondence. We certainly don't want that to happen and that little item of news from you will help the "Courier" along no end.

ANNUAL DINNER 10th AUGUST, 1957

Listening in on the grapevine it appears that the Annual Dinner is to be "something to write home about". The Committee has things well in hand to give the new Committee, which will take office at the Annual General Meeting in July, a good start. They have the unenviable job of organising a big show such as this with only a short tenure of office behind them.

You will give them a great hand by keeping the Dinner date firmly fixed in your mind and making every effort to be there. It has always been a grand night and this coming one will NOT be the exception.

Shenton Park R.S.L. Hall is the venue and as we have nearly all been there before we shouldn't have any trouble on that score. If you are not sure of how to get there contact one of the Committee or ask a fellow member if you can. Best to get that part of the business organised well and truly beforehand.

I have already been assured by a vast number of town members that they will be present so it now remains to be seen if the change of date can assist country members to be present.

It's understood that the date won't suit all but if we can bring a few country members to Perth at this time who haven't been able to make it before, well we have achieved something. That's something we won't know until the time arrives.

**IT'S YOUR NIGHT—AUGUST 10
BE THERE!**

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COMMEMORATION SERVICE AUGUST 11

As has been the practice in the past, the service will be held at the usual spot in King's Park where our own section of trees are dedicated.

The service commences at 3 p.m. and will follow along the lines of previous years. Whilst it is hard to predict the weather in August an endeavour is being made to obtain permission to erect a temporary shelter adjacent to the area. This will probably be a bell tent. Anyway more about that later when final arrangements are made.

This day is one which we all revere and all members are asked to make a special effort to be present and pay respects to our fallen comrades. They have not died in vain and it behoves us to give them this "so little" in return for the "so great service" they rendered us.

VALE JACK SERVANTE

On May 8 our old pal Jack Servante passed away. For a long time Jack had been ill and his passing has come as a great shock to all his old pals. Jack had been in W.A. for a comparatively short time but he had made a host of friends who deeply mourn him. The funeral took place at the Fremantle Cemetery on Saturday, May 11, where a large roll up of Association members was present.

VALE, DON LACEY

News has come to hand re the passing of another old friend. Don Lacey has been killed in a motor accident in the Darwin area. If anyone has any more news re Don, the committee would appreciate a letter giving us further details. —Editor.

An Address You May Need:

Editor,
Wilf March,
3 Bricknall Road,
Attadale, W.A.

"LEST WE FORGET"**MAY**

Lilya, Sgt. D., killed in action, Timor, May 17, 1945, age 21.

APOLOGY

I wish to apologise to Norma and Jack Hasson for having omitted Fred Smith's name from the February obituary notices. Fred was Norma's brother, and it is with deep regret that she has been occasioned any grief over this oversight.

Personalities

BILL HOWELL turned up at the April meeting and looks a picture of health. The "Boy" doesn't get much opportunity to pay us a visit but is always very welcome. Bill has recently taken the big dive and married. He is a barman at the Peninsular Hotel, Mandurah. So any of you fishing enthusiasts who will be visiting down that way, pop in and see Bill and he will put you onto the right spots, etc. While talking about "spots" Bill pulls rather a good drop of ale so make sure you have the necessary few shekels in the bin when calling in.

JIM CANTRILL has just returned from a working trip to Geraldton. He was only there for a week and was loading manganese. Having to work 14 or 15 hour shifts he was not able to play very much and although he popped into a few of the haunts usually frequented by our Geraldton members he was unfortunate that he missed seeing any of them. He is shortly to go on another trip to the mulga—this time to Peak Hill, out from Meekatharra. He will be away from home about three months altogether, also on a manganese loading job.

GEORGE STRICKLAND has been on a holiday recently. He spent a couple of weeks at Mandurah and a week at Narrogin. George recently was fortunate enough to win £1,000 in Charities and has been enjoying the spoils. A brand spanking new Ford Zephyr received a good running in on his trip. Nice work if you can get it, George!

MERV RYAN: Out of hospital and this time he hopes for good. Last skin graft on his leg appears to be great success. We can look forward to seeing more of Merv under much pleasanter circumstances. Merv has always been a great Association worker even when not in the best of health.

GORDON "Blue" PENDERGRAST is contemplating making his permanent residence in Collie. Soon as he can make arrangements to sell his home in Perth he will be off to the south west. Edie, "Blue's" wife, is still not in the best of health and perhaps the change will do them both a lot of good. Here's our best wishes "Blue" and hope that you will not be held up with your arrangements too long. We will miss you a lot on committee but your livelihood must come first.

ERNIE DINWOODIE seems to be settling down quite well at his Rehab course of motor mechanics at the Perth Technical College. We have seen quite a lot of Ernie lately and hope that he can keep up the good work and enjoy himself at the numerous functions.

ROUNDUP

By Colin Doig

"Robbie" Rowan-Robinson looked in some time ago to say good-day and to tell of meeting most of the gang in the Geraldton-Northampton area including Eric Smyth, Jack Denman, "Irish" Hopkins, Bill Drage, Bruss Fag and Joe Brand, all of whom looked after "Robbie" while he had a holiday in the area. While in the Big Smoke "Robbie" went over to Garden Island and saw the memorial erected by S.R.D. to their fallen of the war including our old friends Zecka Rebella, Lieut. Peries, Des Lilya and others.

Bert Burges in town recently for a Farmers' Union congress and managed to sandwich in a drink with Col Doig, Dave Ritchie, Ron Kirkwood and Arthur Smith. Bert looked extra well and at that time the main topic of conversation was Timor oil of which Bert has high hopes, having seen bundles of oil seeps.

"Paddy" Doyle down from Kalgoorlie to see an eye specialist man-

aged to find time for a few schooners with the writer and talk of old times. Paddy looks years younger than when in the army. Still battling it out on the Boulder Perseverance.

Saw Don Turton a couple of times and afraid the circumstances were not of the best as Don had had the misfortune to lose his sister, Molly, and we pass our most sincere condolences. Don himself looked well and said he had just finished building a new home on his property at Wandering.

Rip McMahon down from the bush for a brief spell prior to return to places unknown. Rip having changed his location as barman in country pubs.

Ron Kirkwood is back in Perth after quite a lengthy sojourn in Kalgoorlie and is living at Cottes-

loe. We hope to see a bit of Ron at meetings, etc., from now on as when in the city before he was one of our stalwarts.

Arch Campbell also appears likely to be in or around the city shortly as he has given away the farming at Moulyinning and hopes to build in Perth. He is another hard worker who we will welcome to our ranks.

Ken Bowden in his new home at Point Walter and working like a slave to knock it into shape.

Dick Geere has been off work recently with a slight touch of his old heart trouble and we wish him a most speedy recovery.

Of interest to the old Foster brigade, Jim Menzies is back in Perth to manage a new subsidiary for Skipper Bailey Motor Co., handling heavy tractors, machinery, etc., after a term at Bunbury.

Random Harvest

Here is a letter from DUD TAPPER, of 54 Collingwood Avenue, Flinders Park, S.A. Jerry Haire received this letter recently and has kindly sent it on to the 'Courier' for publication. Thanks very much Jerry. Hope that others receiving mail from the boys will follow suit.—Ed.

Am writing to you a little out of season, but never the less my conscience is no doubt the provicator. I have been meaning to write to the 'Courier' since last November but have never got around to it. I see you have returned and settled down from your trip abroad, I read with interest your meeting with Scottie Taylor, and only wish I could have been with you on that day. I now would like to relate my meanderings over the last 12 months or so. Firstly the Olympic Games. We made the effort (how is not important) and arrived in Melbourne in time for the opening ceremony, a more spectacular show you could never have seen, the grounds were at their best being a pageantry of colour with the green grass and brown track and a beautiful day exemplifying the crowd of 105,000.

We arrived about one hour before the show started and the Vics. had done a mighty job of having 200 seats in the one block for our crowd and believe me my hand was sore meeting chaps I had not seen for many years. Bill Tomassetti looking well and fit, Happy Greenhall looking just as he did when he set up his wireless in Timor right in the middle of one of our ambushes. Butch McKenzie as fit as when he swam the river at Darby. Bernie Callinhan not much changed in appearance from Foster days. Campbell Rod about two stone heavier from Cactus Flat and a host of many others.

The R.A.P. turned up in full strength namely Cliff Paff and Alan Luby, and believe me neither have changed very much. Mind you I saw most of these lads through an alcoholic haze. My wife and I were guests of Max and Grace Davies, and Peter McGrachen, Max's cousin. Strange when I mentioned the amber fluid my mind goes to Max and Peter (a dirty dig, Davies).

On with the games. We only saw the athletics, namely the hammer throw, Betty Cuthberts win-

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ning her heats and final, Bob Morrow the Yank, winning his heat and final also relays. He is a perfect specimen of man and a mighty runner. Unfortunately we didn't have tickets to see Shirley win her hurdles.

In all the Games were a sensational event and I will never regret seeing them. All I can say if I had the money I would be in Rome in 1960.

The convention held in Melbourne was quite successful. Here again was another round of catching up with chaps I hadn't met, namely Smash Hodgson who is as keen as ever; Paddy Wilby a little older than days of yore and last but not least Taffy Davies showed up looking a bit older and toil worn.

I saw a bit of Kiwi Harrison who I believe is now in hospital. He is still the same old Kiwi, as strong as a lion and twice as game. Also Peter Krausse who still has mischief in his smile. In all the Games and re-union were highly successful.

Unfortunately I had car trouble coming home and had to put a new short motor in the bomb. It set me back a bit but it was still worth it. I was sorry more of the lads from W.A. never made the trip. I met Jack Fowler, Joe Burridge, Wilf March and Arthur Smith at the re-union. Also met Major Love the same night.

I went to a combined show of the Commando Anzac Eve in Adelaide and met Bob Williamson, Carl Marks, Alan Hollow and Tom Foster. Quite a good show. Arrived home in the early hours a little the worse for wear, had trouble kicking the dead japs out of the way to get home. Bob Williamson was telling me that Jim Veal had not been too good in health for some time and was under the doctor and could not make the evening.

Well Jerry, apart from saying we are all well here I am stumped for interest. I never could put my thoughts to paper and no doubt you will have trouble reading this scribble. So I leave it to you to censor or decipher.

An Address You May Need:

President:
Gerry Green,
158 Landsdowne Road,
South Perth, W.A.

Another letter passed on to the 'Courier'. This one from SMASH HODGSON, of Myora, Victoria, to Colin Doig.

This letter so long delayed, that it is with some trepidation that I even make the attempt.

However, anyone who can give birth to, or can feather along a saying, such as "as safe as a nun's virtue" will, I am sure, excuse such a lapse of time, or such a dilatory attempt to redress such a lapse.

Truth to tell, I've always had a healthy respect for what could or should be written you. you may wonder why, and perhaps, this may or may not be a surprise to you.

I once heard you elaborating on the events of an evening during the course of which you had as your victims, the people who were present at that meeting. All of the above is so much preamble; unnecessary; but yet necessary, perhaps, because you may have forgotten it, and yet to me, it typified Colin Doig. I cannot do, ad verbatim (whatever that means) but to do justice to what remains of my memory, this is how you put it.

"I had them so, that they were literally hanging upon the end of each word as though it were a jewel or a gem of wisdom." And you, the author, or the microphone of such a phrase, have the nerve to say, "Smash, you can do things with words or phrases." Col, if you can do these things just pat-oh and promptly and especially impromptu, then lawks amussy, you are the man we should be hearing from.

Though perhaps you may not have heard me laughing, I was doing just that, for I could just imagine your stance. I was laughing deep inside me, for you were having quite a heavy loan of these people, yet you were not ashamed to tell us all next day that you were doing so, and yet I knew somehow that you were doing it for a joke—and a purpose.

I argued with me, "the sausage I know is preferable to the chop I do not know!" Therefore the coolness I was determined to extend to his successor.

That this state of mind got no results whatsoever was hardly my fault. How the hell could I have been prepared for such a casually disarming query that went like this:

"Smash, what's the state of the tobacco situation?"

This, I decided straight off, was a mind with a mind for detail, and if there is anything I like more than Mum or beer it's detail that wraps itself around my interests. As Commissar of the Commissariat, I found that tobacco was never short thereafter except when Col and I were on guard together.

The malicious rumour that Paddy Wilby was commissioned to O.C. a special tobacco train has no basis in fact, unless Col and I give it credence and don't press me for I've been known to tell the truth.

Well, Col, that's the persiflage disposed of.

I still drink too much according to whether Mum looks at it or I do (when and if I can). I've practically given up Gippsland as a winter working climate because it has worn my lungs to a tissue paper thinness.

I still think the north of Aussie holds the most promise for pioneering and enterprising citizens, and for this reason I hold many views.

1. It's far enough and inaccessible enough to prevent well meaning pioneers like me getting there.

2. It is distantly far away, and therefore I gaze upon it with a yellow eye; me knowing what green fields are like, therefore I'll never be divorced.

3. The ants are posing a serious threat to the Amalgamated Society of Compass Makers by reason of building their houses segmented due north and south, thereby nullifying said union's "Just demands" for a reason for living.

4. The buffalo fly, after what they hope was a platonic flirtation with the elks, are now on the horns of a dilemma, and being an antler of said societies I'm glad of their company.

5. Having fallen in with all past, present and I fear future governments, that in an area such as this, only man is vile, this is the retreat for me except that I hate to be jostled by drug and gold smugglers.

Am I losing faith? Page Frank Clune.

How is that garden, Col? I suppose it now shows the promise that your sweat should merit. Gardens,

eh? Fraid my talents only run to destroying nature's work such as trees. I'd be happy with half the wages if someone would pay me to plant some.

'Fraid I must end on a note of gloom old boy. Today's bets are written on my cigarette paper packet, and tobacco besek la iha. Two such events represent agonising contingencies.

Good health for me and on my people's part. Hope it is thus with you.

Well, we have waited a long time for a missive from "Ole Smasho" and here it is, chock full of "Smashisms" and the ready wit we knew of old. Thanks a lot Smash, I hope that this is only the forerunner of many a letter to the boys. —Ed.

Bill Connell, of Nambour, Queensland, writes:

It's so long since I dropped a line I just can't put it off any longer. Every time I read the 'Courier' I promise myself, 'I'll write tonight.' I never have.

Things are much the same here, with me. Family all O.K. and fighting fit. And I mean fighting fit, as anyone with two boys will know. It is my youngest boy's birthday today. He's seven and the eldest will be 10 on April 12. For the record I have just turned 34 myself. Just 11 years and one month since I was discharged.

I see in this last 'Courier' that a couple of chaps are showing 'grey'. Well, I guess we are all a darned sight older now than our army days.

Is there any chance of getting an enlarged copy of the photos in this last 'Courier'? If so, let me know how much and send them along. I can only recognise Ken Monk and "Happy" Greenhalgh in these.

What has happened to all the N.S.W. boys? Most of the chaps I knew seem to be N.S.W. I still haven't met George Coulson. Guess I'll have to take a trip out there some day. If you see this George, call in and see me. Quite welcome any time you know. Bring the family, of course (if any).

Did a trip back to Mildura Xmas time. Had a few minutes chat with Norm Tillet. Passed through Melbourne but only stayed one day,

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and being Saturday didn't look any one up. We were running very late and as we still had 1,500 miles to go, just couldn't stay longer.

I own a '55 Prefect now and couldn't wish for a better small car. Two punctures and a boiling radiator in 3,500 miles. Not bad going.

Also, we are in our new house now. Been in it 12 months. Built in my weekends and holidays. Still a little painting to be done inside, but we'll get there in time. How I could have done with some "willing" hands this last year.

Well, I seem to have rambled on, but before I close, I'd like to remind any of you chaps who might be passing through, to drop in any old time. Even if you can't remember me, personally. I'm sure I can't remember all of you chaps, by looks or by name. We could always put up one or two at a pinch. Be glad to see any of you.

I'm enclosing a cheque for £2 as I must owe something by now.

Best of luck to the 'Courier' and although I don't write very often, no one appreciates its arrival more than me.

Well, Bill, it's certainly great to have a letter from you.

We in the West do appreciate a little news from the other side and your interesting first effort will surely be well received by all your old pals. As you say, names do escape one at times.

Afraid that it may be a bit awkward procuring copies of those photos you requested as they are enlargements of candid camera shots and we are not in possession of the negatives but as I have a postcard size of each if you wished to go to the extra expense of a rephotograph job just let me know. I'm not sure what the cost would be. Editor.

Mrs. Jim Cantrill, of 144 Gwyned-fred-rd., South Perth, writes:

I am writing on behalf of Jim regarding the next committee meeting. I am sorry to say Jim will be unable to attend because he is at Meekatharra working on manganese. Jim will be up there for at least two months so would you pass on his reason for non attendance. I may say I don't like being a grass-widow specially with four children to cope with and do they take some handling. Well cheerio for now.

Mrs. Ivy Cooper, of 42 Ostend-rd., Scarborough, writes:

I'm writing on behalf of Bill to say he will not be able to attend any of the activities during April, and to explain why he hasn't been for so long. You see he is now a big fisherman. He has been up at Ledge Point for the past 4½ months crayfishing. Things weren't too bright at the beginning of the season but are coming good now when it's almost too late, as they give it up about the middle of May as the seas are too rough around then.

I know that if he'd been working in Perth he would have been only too willing to lend a hand and see all the boys at the same time for a few grogs.

By the way could you advise me how Bill stands with his subs as it seems a long time since we paid any?

Well this is just a short note for now.

Thanks Ivy for your letter regards Bill. We know only too well what a good clubman Bill is and his willingness to hop in when there is a job to do. Unfortunately when his work takes him away from home it is understandable that he can't be at the meetings. We certainly missed his energetic person at the working bee in King's Park. You rope him in for us when he comes home and send him along for a chat and a drop with the lads. You will be notified later re subs.—Editor.

Jim Smailes, of Adelaide River, Northern Territory, writes:

You will get a surprise getting a letter from up in these parts, but in this mining game one does get about a lot, and never know where you may turn up next. As these parts are of some importance to us because of our early months up here as a Unit, I thought the boys generally may like to hear a little, first hand information from one who is now resident up here. I received my March 'Courier' yesterday, and glad to hear of some of the boys, particularly concerning the Olympic Re-union.

Well, I am living at Adelaide River, and slaving for an Adelaide Mining Company, endeavouring to win uranium. Meeting with some success, and generally overcoming the various problems as they arise. We

are right on the main north-south road about two miles south of Adelaide River.

It is now the end of the wet and very steamy and hot, inclined to entice one into the local blood house at 5/9 per bottle, but it doesn't seem to be quite worth that much yet.

The "local" is now built under the big mango trees where the 2/4 M.G. camped. There is a big War Cemetery here, well kept and cared for, containing the graves of men who died in and around Darwin and districts. Sig. Richards' grave is there, he died at Larrimah after having a tooth pulled on our return to Australia in January 1943. Also a big stone memorial to all men and women killed in Timor and the islands to the north of Australia. It has all the 2/40th names listed, and all the smaller units. The 2/2nd has a special list, and names only 19 men. Several well remembered names are missing, such as Knight, Mitchell, Waller, Ewan, etc. They seem to have most of 7 Section boys correct, but the later casualties are far from complete. Even George Thomas has been put in with the 2/1 Co. Next time I go along I will get a complete list and send it to you. The Association may be able to get the list put right. Also buried here are two 2/4 boys who we never met, died at Katherine during 1942, before they joined us in Timor.

I must comment on the way the grounds are kept. It is a credit to the War Graves Authority, and well worth a few minutes visit if ever passing through this way. All graves have a pure white marble head stone, fully inscribed with name, rank, unit, etc., set in neat rows in a perfectly kept green lawn. There is a stone wall all around the 2-3 acres of grounds and creepers and flowers cover the big entrance gates. A permanent staff keep it all in good condition. Also buried here are the postal workers who

were killed the day Darwin was bombed, 12 men and women. Many of the graves are nameless, such as M. Navy men killed in Darwin harbour. All Americans were removed after the war and taken home. There are many R.A.F. pilots and countless R.A.A.F. men.

The long fighter strips still exist beside the main road, and although fast returning to the jungle, are grim reminders of a terrific struggle that was waged from here not so long ago. I myself always feel that we owe quite a lot to the Air Force in keeping us in touch with Australia. I have not had an opportunity to visit Katherine yet, but before long I hope to take a run down. It is about 140 miles south of here. I will try and find the camp sight if possible.

Recently the Katherine river rose up over the railway bridge, and flooded the whole area.

The road is now bitumen from Alice to Darwin, and a very reliable bus and truck service is in existence. Diesel locomotives run on the old line where "Leaping Lena" ran in our day.

I see quite a bit of the big Rum Jungle works near Batchelor. It is quite a place, and is still the biggest producer of uranium oxide in Australia.

It is a unique experience getting this opportunity to see something other than gold, and will certainly broaden my outlook on mining. There is not a lot of difference in the actual mining but a huge difference in the treatment and the handling of the product. The geology up here is of course different to the W.A. goldfields.

This new company that is to drill for oil in Timor is associated with the people I toil for and I have written to the chairman whom I know well, and told him of my association with the island, offering any assistance that I can. He says that as the thing develops I may come in handy. You never know eh?

Glad to read in the 'Courier' that they all had a nice time over in Victoria at the reunion, also to hear the names of some of the E.S. boys again. Could you get me Happy Greenhalgh's address, also Allan Luby's?

An Address You May Need:

Treasurer:
Fred Napier,
65 Branksome Gardens,
City Beach, W.A.

RETURN SWEEP BUTTS BEFORE WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

Let me know how I stand for such a plea and if they are still avail-able, could you post me a dozen copies of my poem. Just Smalles, Adelaide River, N.T., will get me.

Remember me to any of the boys. Your letter has been passed on for publication in this 'Courier', Jim, and I would like to thank you for such an interesting description of things in the N.T. at present. No doubt the lads will be quite interested in hearing about Katherine and surroundings they know so well.

Hope that your switch from gold to uranium proves all the success you would wish yourself. This uranium business is still one which most of us laymen hold in awe—more in regards to our ignorance in the subject. Perhaps a little later on we may be regaled with another of your interesting letters. Here's the addresses you requested: Jim: G. F. Greenhalgh, Moulmein, 63, N.S.W.; Alan Luby, 2011, Box 24, Grafton, N.S.W. Any time you require any further info. just call on us and we will send it on to you. Regards the poem I am making inquiries about same and will give you the good oil about that as soon as I can.—Editor.

Heard This?

"Send down two four-watt lamps."

"What for?"

"No, two."

"Two what?"

"Yes."

* * * *

Joan: "Tim's always been the perfect gentleman with me."

Jean: "Yes. He bores me too."

* * * *

The Irishman had heard that his sister had had a baby.

"Is it a boy or a girl?"

"Faith and that's what's worrying me. I don't know yet whether I'm an aunt or an uncle."

* * * *

Gentleman (to fellow occupant of hotel reading room): "Good day. Now where'n hell have I met you before?"

Second Gentleman: "I'm sure I can't remember. What part of hell are you from?"

Victorian Vocal Venturings

Things have been very quiet here in Victoria following our hectic time during the Olympics, but we have pushed away the cobwebs and started in once more. We had our first committee meeting at Wayside Inn on March 28.

Present: Bert Tobin, Jerry O'Toole, S. Humphries, Johnny Roberts, Gerry McKenzie, Bruce McLaren, Gerry Maley, Harry Botterill in chair.

Treasurer's report received and showed a very healthy sum in hand after the Olympics we thought we may have been broke). Bert expressed his desire to pass on his job as treasurer (a job which he has held as long as I can remember and has done a very excellent job of it). He has been a real pillar of wisdom and has always held the Association as number one job—a safety effort Bert, and all our thanks to you for past efforts).

Bert has business commitments and also family problems following the recent sad loss of his mother, and he also feels that it would be good to see somebody else doing the job and so passing on the chores of the Association to let other members share in it. He does not intend to drop out of activities and will still be right with us, but he deserves a real rest because at most functions Bert's job has kept him hard at it and he has had little time to mix with the other fellows.

We discussed a successor to Bert—and finally decided to approach Alan Stewart who is at present in camp at Seymour, to see if he would volunteer for the job.

Preparations were put in hand for the Anzac Day re-union. It was held in the usual place, George-st. Drill Hall, and all catering arrangements were attended to, the various jobs being split up among the committee.