



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

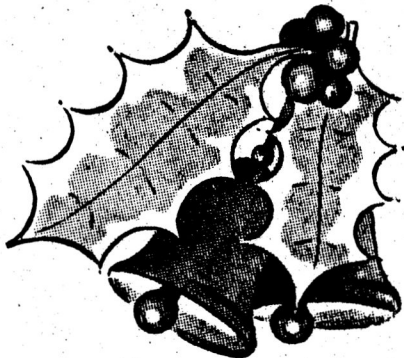
Address All Association Correspondence to Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth

Vol. 11. No. 117.

CHRISTMAS, 1957

Price 1d.

**A
MERRY
XMAS**



THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The Festive Season draws nigh and we will soon hear the familiar Christmas bells ringing out their joyous message. And so it is with us.

A warm Christmas Greeting and wish for a prosperous New Year to all readers. To those stalwarts in every State we say "Well done, and may you feel the happiness which you have gained from these services for many a year yet."

Let us turn to our aspirations and desires for our Association.

May good providence and fortune follow in our footsteps throughout the coming year.

Whilst the world doesn't seem to be able to find peace it is still a grand feeling to be well and happy with our lot.

May the spirit of Christmas touch the hearts of those who seek war and the ensuing unhappiness it brings.

Let us hope that the councils of the world will feel the message and lull the war machine into obscurity.

Let us with every thought and wish help to make our world a better place for the generations to come and reflect the year round the glorious fellowship of the Spirit of Christmas.

—W. E. March

Association Activities

KIDDIES' CHRISTMAS PARTY

It doesn't seem such a far cry to the days when most of us were young bloods—or lasses—without any immediate thought of marriage or kiddies.

To see that hall full of the "little angels" makes one realise that those years since we were together as a unit have passed very quickly.

Age was no bar to the way they enjoyed themselves. From the 15 year olds right down to the babes in arms, all had a rattling good time.

The work which had gone into making the party a success seemed nothing when all appeared to appreciate it so much.

All the usual ice cream, soft drinks, sweets, caps, whistles and balloons, etc., were in evidence and were duly disposed of in no uncertain manner.

Frankie Fenn amused the kiddies during the afternoon with games and films were shown at intervals.

A delightful afternoon tea was served in the supper room and it was much appreciated as it was quite a warm day.

Father Christmas duly arrived in his sleigh amidst squeals of delight from the nippers. He promptly handed out his gifts of books to kiddies in family groups. This helped to hurry up the proceedings.

We are indebted to Ralph Finklestein for making the sleigh.

The attendance this year was down on other years and very few country folk were able to be present. The time of the year makes it awkward with harvesting being in full swing to say nothing of the numerous other jobs the cockles have to do.

Our President, Gerry Green put in a tremendous lot of work to make the Christmas tree a success and he is to be congratulated on his handling of the hundred and one jobs which confronted him. A vote of thanks must also go to his family who wrapped and addressed all the parcels.

Mick Holland did a grand job as the old gent with the beard.

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

FERTILISER FUND

Latest donor to this all-important project is Shorty Stevens, of South Australia. Another S.A. donor is Jim Veal.

Clarrie Turner has also made a donation.

Cheque to hand from Bob Williamson, of S.A.. My word you S.A. boys have certainly been very generous and we very much appreciate it here in W.A.

Tom Martin, of Miling, has helped the fund along also.

Stan King, of Pingaring, has joined the growing ranks of donors this month.

Personalities

ARCHIE CAMPBELL has recently joined up with Ampol. He will spend a considerable amount of time touring round country districts in his capacity as country sales representative. We all wish you luck in your new venture, Arch, and hope that you will meet a few of the boys in your travels and be able to renew old acquaintances.

I saw Gerry Green's daughter, Geraldine, at the Christmas tree. She had a very narrow escape from serious injury when she fell out of Gerry's car. Although suffering abrasions etc., she looks quite on the road to recovery and played the piano during the serving of afternoon tea. Glad to see you about Geraldine. I'm sure you won't fall out of a moving car again, will you?

Called in and saw MERV RYAN the other day and was he working a sweat up? He was in the midst of doing some cement work at the rear of his home. Real hard yakka he called it. Doing it the hard way hand mixing. His little toddler wasn't helping any with a smart dash across the recently smoothed cement now and again. Merv seemed to take it all in his stride which is more than I could say.

What's happened to all those lads we used to see regularly at our meetings—Scotty Wares, Frank Freestone, Alf Walsh, Bill Willis, Dave Ritchie, to name only a few. All these chappies have at some time or other been stalwarts of the Association and to see them gradually drop out is disconcerting. The

Committee try very hard to please all tastes, and feel that if there are any suggestions to come forward which could enhance the prospects of larger meetings, that they would welcome them.

Burglars visited the home of ARTHUR and BERYL SMITH the other evening. Fortunately they must have been disturbed and fled with nothing else other than a few packets of cigarettes. Arthur says that since the burglary Beryl has become very nervous of being left alone. So it sure looks like a bit of high organisation on his part to make the meetings in future. Looks like you will have to bring Beryl to my home and make sure of getting that leave pass Arthur.

In February ALBY FRIEND is off to the North West wool classing. This is the result of a lot of spare time study that Alby has been putting in the last couple of years. The butchering game is not what it was and he feels that the change of employment will help him to regain his health which has been suffering lately. After a sojourn in the north he expects to take up a position with one of the wool firms at Fremantle. Good luck to you, Alby.

DICK GEERE was whipped off to Wickipin quite suddenly the other day. He was sent up relieving on his job in a bank. Hope that Perth doesn't miss out on your company for long Dick. Thanks for cash received for sweep tickets and donation to the Association.

SLIM JAMES wrote in a short note enclosing cheque for sweep tickets and subs. Thanks Slim, see you soon. —Editor.

"THE KNIGHT"

This is the first of a series of articles written about that lovable person, Paddy Knight. Despite the "Knights" many wayward ways he will always remain in our hearts as one of those characters who seem to be in most units.

We all miss Paddy and perhaps these articles, related to us by one who really knew him will help to keep alive the memory of the "one and only". —Editor.

Paddy Knight was a big Irish-Australian who had really been

round the block. Weighing about 20 stone and about 5ft. 10ins. in his fat feet and with a big cast in his right eye and brimful of wit and villainy. He was croupier in a big illegal game at Cairns and with his ready wit and a mind like a calculating machine he was a past master with the "rake" in any game of chance. One of the players, a fairly permanent gambler, was of irascible habits who used to carry all his "dough" in his hand and was liable to throw it all on the table and dance on his hat when he lost a wager. The croupiers usually raked in a percentage of this loose folding money while the punter was going into his act on his hat. Paddy was doing just this in a big way and the notes had hardly found their way into the "boot" in the table when the irascible one came out of his act and sighted his money going into the cache. With a roar like an infuriated bull he whipped out about 12 inches of gleaming steel in the way of a knife and proceeded to chase Paddy round and round the table making lunges at Paddy's bulging posterior. Meanwhile the "Boss" stood in the doorway yelling, "Clock him with a chair," advice that was not being heeded by the lads who were busy making themselves as anonymous as possible. Paddy's great bulk was making vast inroads into his breath as he tried to gain that extra couple of yards which would enable him to make a break for the door where the "Boss" held the bridge with a chair ready to heave it in front of the irate punter and slam the refuge behind Paddy. After about the twelfth circle of the table Paddy felt he had enough lead to dive for the doorway which he did with great promptitude, but "I.P." had put on a spurt at the same time and made his final lunge just as Paddy leapt for the door and "Boss" had heaved the chair and this lunge cut the seat clean out of Pat's bulging pants. Local cops arrived in time to save the "joint" from the wrecking hand of "I.P." who by now was foaming at the mouth and violently red of eye. Paddy's comment—"Thank God I've been on a diet and lost about two stone, otherwise you birds would have been dining on human rump steak." —"Seedy"

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Random Harvest

Mrs. Bill Howell, of 68 Randell St., Mandurah, writes:

Please find £1 and sweep butts enclosed. Sorry could not sell more for the Association but we're a bit pushed for time here as Bill spends all his spare time on our new home.

Best wishes for Christmas from Bill and a Happy New Year as it doesn't look as though we will be up before then.

(Thanks for the sweep butts, Mrs. Howell. Hope to see you and Bill again as soon as you can find that spare time. —Editor.)

Bill Rowan-Robinson, Woodborough Bridgetown, writes:

I enclose butts together with a cheque. So many things on here I dare not try and sell them so filled them in myself.

Like everyone else I keep putting letter writing off but don't know really if there is much news that would interest the boys. Had our R.S.L. re-union last Saturday and it was a great success. Yesterday the P. and C. had a big fair. Tried to keep clear of it but without success. My wife got raked in to run a stall and I found myself selling tickets for a ride on a tractor trailer (about 40 kids at a time). Had a good Agricultural Show, this took up another three days, one getting ready, the day, and the next cleaning up. Most things seem to be O.K. except the season. It started well but ending very badly. Hay is finished, the orchard work is under control so it is mostly odd jobs between now and Christmas. Cows are drying off early so will be off for a holiday on Boxing Day with the family, generally they go off without me. Saw the old Langridge at a field day at Donnybrook. Also saw him at the ram sale in Bridgetown. He had some very good rams in and topped the sale. I wanted to get some of his but missed out on them. What am I doing buying rams? They tell me one has to have them when one goes in for the fat lamb business. What they do I don't quite know, but I do know that it costs quite a lot to nod ones head at a ram sale. Yes the sheep are eating their way into the cow pastures. Yours truly is giving the dairy away. Baby

beef, fat lamb and fruit is the order of the day now, with a bit of wool chucked in of course.

By the way, had quite a shock when reading the August "Courier" I'm credited with having five children. Immediately had a muster. There are still only four. Two boys first, Max 12 and Gilbert 10, followed by two girls, Jans 8 and Trudy 6.

Cheerio and a Happy Christmas **(That glossary in the "Courier" Bill, has surely caused me some headaches. What with crediting you with an extra child and numerous other errors I have mustered up quite a bit of mail on the subject. One would think it was done on purpose, wouldn't you? —Editor.)**

"Blue" Pendergrast, of 69 Porter Street, Collie, writes:

Sorry I haven't sent the tickets back before this but I have been flat out with Edie sick and Norman in hospital.

I had hoped to make the Christmas party but Norman only came out of hospital on Saturday and I didn't think it advisable to make the trip.

Am enclosing cheque for £1 with butts, hoping that the sweep is a success.

(Bad luck missing the Christmas party "Blue" and hope that your family have recovered completely by now. —Editor.)

Mrs. Mervyn Cash, Wilcock Street, Cannington, writes:

Are we too late to participate in the children's party this year? Mervyn missed out on the last meeting as he took the whole family to a Guy Fawkes party that evening. He has been working overtime finishing our house, which is now complete and we didn't give a thought to the party until the children reminded us. I would be grateful if you would let me know and also how much money to send. The children are two girls aged 11½ and 6½, and two boys aged 10 and 8½.

(Thanks for letter Jean. Did you manage to make the Christmas Party after all? That building programme certainly keeps the old Merv's nose to the grindstone, doesn't it? —Editor.)

Do-Da Tatam, of 40 Dover Road, Scarborough, writes:

Please find enclosed postal notes for 16/-. Best I could do in short time.

(Postal notes received O.K. What about dropping into a meeting and seeing the boys? —Editor.)

Reg Harrington, of Wyening, writes

Herewith re-union questionnaire. It has lain along with much other unattended correspondence for some months, so it was in good company. I profusely wrote about three pages to enclose same with and it met a similar fate to a lot of the bills. However don't consider my appreciation and interest is measured by my tardiness in answering.

Received sweep tickets just lately and might possibly fill another book should you send me one. We are building and they have asked me to get another book at least.

Have been a very busy little girl lately with a building programme in progress. These crimson house plans have a habit of growing, and worse still the population of the finished article seems to be reluctant to stay static too. In the "Courier" there was mention of being sure all children and ages were made available for the Christmas party. With the modern rate of production one is never too sure whether the other homework is being done so I will give you a full list up to date and a firm assurance of nothing further on the assembly line at the moment.

We are hoping to move into our new home about February. It should be quite nice on completion, built with Clackline bricks. The only thing that is hard to take is the paying part of the deal, not that I mind the cost, but it is a matter of getting it to pay. However there is always one bright side. If a man is worried about being in dept the bloke he owes it to is a sight more worried.

Give my regards to the boys. It is most likely we won't be able to make it to the party but there is a slim chance. That day is my birth day also.

(Thanks for letter Reg. Hope that the building plans keep progressing along the right lines. Have made a note of your family's ages, etc. —Editor.)

Bobbie Burns, I.S.A.S., Swanbourne, writes:

Just a small note to let you know I am still alive and kicking, but undoubtedly you will all think I have gone overboard.

As you can see by the above address I am now stationed in W.A., with this new unit "Special Air Service," and I thought I would be able to give the good old ale a bashing with all the mob, but so far I have been more over East than I have here, firstly I had to do a "parachute course"; and then I did two weeks special "Air Photo Course", on arrival back here I had a stay at Rottnest, so as you can see I don't get much time, still with a lot of luck I might make a meeting or two in the near future, I hope.

I wish to thank you for the regular "Courier", without it I would not have a clue what was going on. It certainly keeps a man up to date with the happenings and where abouts of everyone. You ask for the ages of the kiddies. Well I have two boys, one Bobbie Burns aged eight, and the other Brian Burns, aged six years. I do hope I am here for the Christmas Party this year for I have only been fortunate once in attending our Christmas Party, and it sure was a super effort that year, so once again here is hoping. One thing about this life you never know where you are likely to finish up.

Give my regards to all the mob, and tell them I hope to see them all in the near future.

(Yes, you will have to make that effort to see the boys. We have quite a lot of fun. —Editor.)

"Dusty" Studdy, 28 Railway Parade, Midland Junction, writes:

I am enclosing book plus one postal note. Will you send immediately two more books as I'm certain that I can sell them. If I don't I will buy what's left so you can rest assured that I will make a big effort. Please note the number of my address where the hell they got 123 from I can't work out as there is not a quarter of the houses in the street. Well I will draw to a close as for writing letters I am a failure. Cheerio!

(After "censoring" your letter it doesn't leave much does it? Have made a note of your address and will have it correct in future.—Ed.)

Bert Burgess, of "Burlands," Broomehill, writes:

Herewith sweep ticket butts together with pound note to cover same.

Best wishes for a successful sweep. If I draw Beau Knight will give myself more than a 50-50 chance of taking out the money.

Harvesting main occupation here at present. Crops generally going a little better than expected. Alf Hillman tells me he harvested 1,000 bags of oats from 110 acres. The general stories are oats yielding very well. Barley fair. Wheat not so good. East of Kal. the barley is carrying a pretty heavy dockage. So far a good sample here.

I had mowed a patch of Beecker barley for 10 bags but since affected by pest and had reduced the coverage to five bags. However it has now yielded eight bags of good sample.

Best wishes for Christmas.

(Received sweep butts and remittance O.K. Even if you don't draw Beau Knight you can always help the poor old bookies and give them a dollar each way. Good to hear that crops are up to expectations and that everything is O.K. on the farm. —Editor.)

Jack Hasson, of Ballidu, writes:

I am sending back the butts and sincerely hope you have great success with the sweep. Will make the cheque for £5 and the balance can go to the Christmas tree. Am afraid we won't be able to get down on the 8th but know it will be a great day. 'Tis a credit to all who work so hard to make a day for the nips.

'Tis hot up here and according to reports you folk in Perth are getting it too. Still its good harvesting weather and I am flat out. The crop has turned out reasonable and I'm quite pleased.

Cheerio for now and a Merry Christmas to you all.

(Bad luck not being able to make the Kiddies' Christmas Party, Jack. I know that you look forward to your visits to Perth but the harvesting must come first. Thanks for the cheque and you can rest assured that your donation towards the Christmas tree was wisely used. —Editor.)

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Clarrie Turner, of Killora Stud, Elgin, writes:

Just a few lines along with the sweep butts. I would just like to say that I am pleased to help in any way with Association affairs, but you will realise how tied we are when away from the city. Life has been very busy with us all here and sickness has once again played about with any plans we have had. Grace's mother has had a couple of strokes in the past three months and at one stage they gave us no hope, but I am thankful to say she has rallied again and although it has meant a lot of extra work and running about for Grace she is keeping well owing to still having her mother.

We have finished the hay cutting and carting now and the dairy has passed its peak and on the down trail now, so I expect to ease up a little in the new year. We have bought a new stallion from New Zealand and he arrives in Fremantle on Monday next. "Majesty" is the name and will be standing at the stud here in the future.

Grace and I went to the Highway Hotel for dinner recently and who should I see but Joe Poynton down on the loose with the rugby players for the weekend. Managed a couple of drinks with him but unfortunately it was almost closing time when we met.

Also saw Bernie Langridge at the Busselton show and we had a few minutes together (and a couple of drinks). We had quite a discussion about the Unit and its affairs and as you have called for suggestions, here is one. That you cut down on the number of entertainments, etc., as you are making a lot of work for those few hard workers who manage to keep the Association together. 1. The Christmas Party and parcels for the kiddies. Mind you, we do appreciate this work but we all have our own trees, parties, etc., and the children receive plenty so I feel that this would save yourselves quite a bit of expense. 2. Curtail meetings to a minimum as it must keep you boys on the move a good deal attending them all.

Would like to stress the need to keep the "Courier" going, Honour Avenue, and help to the needy in the way of your busy bees, etc., as I feel you are doing a grand job,

so don't wear yourselves down too much. These are only suggestions and you people have the picture much clearer than us, so treat these suggestions as the Committee think necessary. You will probably hear from Bernie also on this matter.

Am enclosing a couple of quid for the sweep and fertiliser fund.

Grace and I tried very hard to make the Ladies' Night this year, but her mother's illness just would not allow us to make the trip. Regarding the annual Re-union, the summer months are the most suitable to me, but then as a man gets on his feet, so he becomes more free and may be able to make it at any time of the year.

Well now for this time I'll say cheerio with kind regards to all the boys.

(Your suggestions will be passed on to the Committee for discussion Clarrie. As far as the work goes a lot of it is sheer pleasure. Of course, at times, it is a bit solid but generally speaking there's a lot of fun to be had at working bees, etc. Thanks for donation to the Fertiliser Fund. —Editor.)

Ning McCraig, of 33 Gold Street, South Fremantle, in a note to Col Doig, writes:

Enclosing money for sweep, also 10/- dues. How are you going these days? Haven't seen you for quite a while. Sorry I didn't get to the last Re-union. No excuse. Just forgot the date. I hope the sweep results turn up tops. Best regards to you and all.

(Short and sweet like the donkey's gallop, Ning. Thanks for sweep money and contributions.—Editor.)

"Wock" Crossing, of Box 24, Wongan Hills, writes:

Herewith sweep butts and cheque Sorry they weren't in earlier. Regards to all. In haste.

(Thanks for cheque "Wock". Hope you have a good harvest and can hit the big smoke in the new year. —Editor.)

Geo. E. Wilson, 3 Behn Street, Bentley, writes:

Please find enclosed ticket butts and £1 for Perth Cup Sweep. Sorry I'm late but I have been hoping to see you in town.

(Received cash O.K. —Editor.)

Rip McMahon, of Palace Hotel, Wagin, writes:

Enclosing £2 with sweep butts and wish the sweep every success. **(Thanks Rip. Hope everything is O.K. with you. Haven't seen you in ages. —Editor.)**

Ilma Martin, of Box 40, Miling, writes:

Please find enclosed cheque of £6. £1 for sweep tickets and the remainder to make Tom a financial member and towards the Fertiliser Fund.

In your glossary of W.A. members you underestimated Tom's ability. We have three children, not two. One girl and two boys, the youngest being five.

Tom has acquired the middle aged spread and lost a little more hair, but still works hard and long. At present of course harvesting is in full swing and the crop is stripping better than was expected, so for once no moans from one cockie.

Tom always looks forward to receiving his "Commando Courier" and hopes that it will continue arriving. Unfortunately he has had writer's cramp for many years which prevents him from contributing any news towards it. However as we are off the beaten track and do not venture out very often he doesn't ever see any of the boys.

Two years ago whilst on a few days holiday at Geraldton we got to within two miles of Bill Drage's place but as it was dusk and Tom was sure we'd never find our way back to Geraldton in the dark without a compass we made a hasty retreat without completing our mission.

Tom and I wish all members, wives and families a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

(This writer's cramp you talk about is a disease which is suffered by many. It seems very prevalent amongst ex-Commando types. Cheque received O.K. and cash allotted as requested. —Editor.)

Stan King, of Pingaring, via Lake Grace, writes:

Please find enclosed raffle butts and two quid. Sorry I can't make this a decent letter but am flat out harvesting and must away.

(Received butts and donation O.K. Stan. Fertiliser fund will gain by your generosity. —Editor.)

Ken Millington, of Unim Street, Donnybrook, writes:
Please find enclosed £1 and my sweep tickets.

I'd like to put you wise about some facts. You had me down as a clerk whereas I am a timber faller and my three children are all girls.

Life as usual is very busy so I must away.

(Sorry about getting things a bit mixed up in the glossary regarding your work and family. Our information gets a bit out of line at times. —Editor.)

Mrs. Tony Bowers, of Tenner Rd., via Kojonup, writes:

I'm sending this to a box number as Tony did not give a name. Hope it reaches its right destination.

Cheque enclosed for £2. There is now no price marking on these stubs so if I have made a mistake and not sent enough sue Tony.

(Cheque arrived safely, Mrs. Bowers and everything O.K. —Editor.)

Doc Wheatley, of Byford, writes:

Please pass these butts on and the enclosed cheque. I'm off to town and in a hurry so will have to pass up on the news. Hoping this finds you in the pink. I'll just get you to say "Howdy" to the boys (Cheque received O.K. "Doc"). What about letting the little bit of hair you have down and coming in to a meeting? The beer is still just as cold and plentiful as ever. —Editor.)

In a letter to Col Doig, Ken Doak, of Lineyards, Albany, writes:

Enclosed are butts of sweep tickets. I think I could get rid of another two books if you cared to send them down.

How are you keeping? I heard you had not been enjoying the best of health. Hope you are O.K. now.

Myself, I'm having a lot of trouble with my legs. Bengers Disease the quack tells me. Have been rejected by the Repat. but consider I have a good enough case to put before the Tribunal, which I am awaiting word of now.

Must get this into the mail so will say cheerio for now.

(Sorry to hear of your ill health, Ken, and sincerely hope that when you go before the tribunal that you are accepted and receive some help from the Repat. —Editor.)

Joe Brand, of Ojilvir, writes:

Please forward on the £2 for my subscriptions. Do not know how much behind but this will fix things up I hope. Harvest is all over. Finished up with 17 bushells to the acre. Had a grand time at our R.S.L. annual dinner last week. Of course Big Bill, Brus Fag, Jack Denman and self were all there. No need to say we got home with the dawn. See quite a lot of Eric Smythe as he does up my income tax returns and he sure doesn't miss me either. Haven't seen old Nip for quite a while. He has left his old job and I hear he is now working at the Murchison Inn as barman so will call to see him. Will close now and hope all the boys the best for Christmas.

(Received subs O.K. Joe and very interested to hear from you again. With the harvesting over you will have a little more time to "play". —Editor.)

Alf Blundy, of Smith Street, Beverley, writes:

Sending sweep butts and 25/- enclosed. I hope 5/- still makes me financial for another 12 months. Several months ago I was reading in the "Courier" where other chaps were sending sweep butts of some previous sweep you had run, but I didn't receive a book to sell, so don't know whether a letter went astray or was never sent. As I am a very poor writer and have not been able to help or be with the Association, it leaves me only too happy to sell a few tickets for you, so don't be afraid to always send your sweep tickets down here to let me give you a bit of a hand.

Well, words really are failing me and there's a bit more work to do so I hope you will excuse this note. (Thanks Alf. All didn't have books sent to them as it was a lightning sweep, but we will surely keep you in mind for the future. —Editor.)

Tom Bateman, of Wilfred Road, Canning Vale, writes:

Please find enclosed £2 and will give you the butts next Sunday. I have not had a chance to sell any yet but will get rid of them during the week. I must away now as I am off to York.

(Thanks Tom, hope you enjoyed the Christmas Tree. Cash to hand for sweep. —Editor.)

Jim Smailes, of 104 Harrison Street Rockingham, writes:

Please find enclosed the two books of butts sold locally. I'm sure my boys could sell a lot more about here, so please forward four more as soon as possible. I will enclose cheque for £6 to cover these two and the four new ones.

No news yet re the two dozen poems I wanted. Could you jog somebody's memory?

(Arrangements are to hand re the poems, Jim, and we hope to make some printing plans shortly.—Ed.)

Peter Campbell, of Gibson, writes:

Returning sweep tickets and sub. Hope you all do well out of it for the Association.

You will notice by above address have shifted down to the flies and sand so please send paper along to that address.

Have had Charlie McCaffrey out doing some painting for me. Still the same old Chuck. Also ran into at Norseman Fred Humfrey, the local baker there. Had a few beers with him and is doing well.

The season down here not too bad. Wheat going about 4½ bags but the clover seed will be a wash-out.

Regards to all.

(Sweep butts and subs to hand Peter, and have noted your new address. Hope your "Courier" reaches you safely. —Editor.)

"Nip" Cunningham, of 182 Augusta Street, Geraldton, writes:

I am enclosing £2 for sweep tickets and £1 for subs. Wishing all members a Merry Christmas and hoping the sweep is a huge success. I had a couple of glasses of the amber beverage with Brus Fag the other day. He tells me he is in the dollar industry carting crayfish from Port Gregory to Geraldton. He told me Joe Brand was taking his wife to Perth and sending her for a holiday to Brisbane. He got practically to Geraldton and had to go back to the farm at Northampton as he had forgotten to put his suitcase on board. So long for now. Wishing all members a Merry Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year.

(Thanks for the cash "Nip". Good to hear news from the Geraldton area again. —Editor.)

NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

J. J. Veal, of 6 Henry Street, Pt. Pirie, writes:

No doubt all the boys over there will be amazed to hear from me after all these years, and I can offer no excuse for not writing before beyond the fact that I was never gifted with an over-abundance of energy, as some of you may recall.

I am very pleased to see the old Sapper Section taking such a keen interest in the Association and must congratulate you all on the apparent success of same. It isn't easy to keep such a small show functioning so many years, as witnessed by our local R.S.L. The boys here really worked to build a magnificent new building, and now that it is finished interest seems to have died and we have very poor attendances unless something out of the ordinary is doing.

I am still working at the Lead Smelters as an electrical fitter, and since the war have taken an active interest in unionism. For many years I have been President of the local branch of the E.T.U. and President of the Pirie Trades and Labour Council for which my wife Audrey, blames my recent poor health.

As you are probably aware my old mate Bob Williamson deserted me for the bright lights of the city—although I still manage to see him frequently—so I am the only representative of the old show in this locality.

If any of the boys passing through require accommodation just give them the above address and don't be frightened to drop in any time because I have a very understanding wife.

The last visitor we had was Paddy Wilby and that would be five or six years ago.

I have two children—Max is 10 and Ray, another boy, three months. According to my wife the last one was gained under false pretences and she now suspects that my health is not as bad as she was led to believe.

This place is now designated a city with a population of about 15,000. A uranium plant has been in operation for a couple of years now, so we should be on the agenda for a sputnik one of these days.

Please give my regards to all the

boys and I hope some of them drop in to see me if they are passing through.

Am enclosing sweep butts and a guinea and will endeavour to write more frequently in future.

(Well Jim, it is certainly many moons since we had any word of you and your whereabouts. You seem to be quite a busy lad with your various union activities. It certainly takes up quite a bit of time but it is good to have an interest apart from the usual round-up. Now that you have broken the ice I hope to hear from you more often. Received your sweep butts and donation which will be added to the Fertiliser Fund. —Editor.)

"Shorty" Stevens, of Box 62, Snowtown, S.A., writes

I must confess to taking up a guilty pen and trying to cover a page or two.

Like most other members my intentions have been good for at least 18 months and on receipt of the last "Courier" my conscience has at last stirred and here I am.

As a scribe I'm afraid I've never measured up and as I very rarely see any of the boys news is hard to come by.

Being a farmer I was unable to organise the seasons to allow me to visit Melbourne for the Re-Union—past history—but my wife and I managed to journey over during March of this year.

We met a few of the lads and saw a little of Victoria coming home along the Murray and through Mildura. It was only a quick trip but none the less enjoyable. We went out to the Maroonda Dam and it certainly must have been an ideal spot for a family gathering. Next time we'll stay longer and see more of the place.

Returning to local territory I seem to still be able to get enough to eat for myself, wife and kids—two, a girl and a lad—and I don't have any trouble sleeping at night so life could be worse.

Harvest prospects this year are not very promising. Have started operations here; very little hay cut and crop yields from three to seven bags I'd estimate, depending on locality, the foothills being much better than the plains. It is pretty good though really; seeing we have only had about six to seven inches

of rain for the year. Our average is a bit better than 16 ins.

I am still spending my spare time playing around with the scrub block and can at last see a bit of progress; will be glad when I can give the share cocky away—not enough freedom for me in that game. Fallowing is a must in this district and with sheep returns the way they've been the land owners do not like seeing the feed ploughed in. The good crops are on fallow this year and so far I've not been able to prepare for next year's crop.

I sometimes see George Lewis on my way to the block but the last few trips my old truck has not been going so good and I seem to have no time to stop anywhere. Sorry George, but I'll strike it lucky one day.

I'd appreciate it if you could print Tom Foster's address. I have a book of his I should do something about. I have not forgotten Tom. I called about six weeks after you left at Anama and missed you. Have intended doing something about it ever since and just haven't.

Like all the other writers I'd like to hand out a pat on the back for the back room—or front room—boys who do so much to keep the Association afloat. If penning a few lines will make the task a little easier then surely a few more can do it more often.

Once started it is not so bad and I can think of a lot of names that I have never seen printed in "Random Harvest". Won't mention any but quite a number could be.

Providing you can decipher my script I'll try and get a few through more often myself.

Re the sweep butts I'm enclosing same together with a cheque, £1 for tickets, £1 for subs, £1 for Fertiliser Fund or whatever you feel it would be best used for.

Not wishing to strain your optics any further I'll close.

Regards to all the boys. Remind Titch he owes me three letters.

(Well Shorty, it is certainly great to hear from you again. It doesn't seem 18 months but we will let that slide as we are happy to hear from you. As to the shortage of names in "Random Harvest" I can't do much about that. If the boys appreciate their "Courier" they will write. Tom Foster's address is: T.

A. Foster, Anama Station, Brinkworth, S.A. Thanks for cheque, cash has been allotted to the right quarters. —Editor.)

Bob Williamson, of 2 Goldsworthy Crescent, North Glenelg, S.A., writes:

Enclosed please find butts 1064-1080 in Perth Cup, and my cheque. If ticket 1077 should win a prize it will prove the age of miracles is not yet past. Ticket 1077 you will find does not exist. Printer's error no doubt.

If you have another book available send it to me as I can sell it.

The cheque covers 19/- for the book of 19 tickets and a subscription of £1/1/- to assist the funds.

I have been intending to write for some time, as a matter of fact, ever since meeting the boys at the Olympic Games.

My apologies to Arthur Smith for not writing earlier, as I intended to send him a screed listing the towns we visited when he accompanied me from Melbourne to Adelaide after the Games. Arthur tried to drink the Murray district dry, but although a failure in this regard he must have created a famine something after the style of a plague of locusts. You can take anything from Arthur except his food.

That's all now. Regards to all the boys.

(S.A. is well on the map this month Bob and it is great to have news from you boys on the other side. Will look forward to any further news you may send from time to time. Thanks for your cheque which has been placed in the Fertiliser Fund. —Editor.)

George Lewis, of Kulpara, S.A., writes:

Enclosed find ticket butts. Ticket 0967 was in the middle of the book making 21 in all, also postal notes to the value of £2 to cover tickets and subs. I am still glad to receive "Courier" with all its news of the doings of the Association.

Things are much the same with me. I run a garage here, but business has been very quiet this last couple of months. Must be the poor season they are having here. I never see any of the other boys around. Ron Stevens of Snowtown calls in sometimes but its months since I saw him. I never get to the

city much and when I do I never seem to have time to locate any of the city boys.

Well here's hoping you keep the "Courier" going even if you have to make a quarterly edition of it.

My regards to all the boys. (S.A. again. Whew you lads are really turning on the mail this month. Thanks for sweep money, and subs. Hope that business has picked up by now. —Editor.)

NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

Jim Smith, of 32 Campbell Avenue, Normanhurst, Sydney, writes:

The recent issue of "Courier" which incidentally is always read with avid interest by yours truly, has again reminded me that it is high time I added my contribution.

Time has moved on and many changes are apparent for most of us but we will always remember the "old show" and the great gang of blokes which made it the show that it was. Reading from "Courier" letters from such identities as Dud Tapper and "Smash" Hodgson send a comparatively newcomer such as myself back to days which we fondly remember and for this very reason publication of the "Courier" is very necessary.

For myself I live the quiet suburban life with a wife and two children. Joined an island export show in '49 and since then have made a few trips to New Guinea. This time last year I was in Lae and whilst there took photos of each of our chaps' graves, negatives of which are enclosed. I thought the next of kin may be interested. Details as extracted from the War Graves register are as follows:

WX34012, Leonard John Brown, died 27/8/43, aged 19, grave F.B.13.
 VX123030, William Cheverton, Cpl died 27/8/43, aged 19, grave F.B.3.
 WX19133, John Morgan Owen Davies, Tpr., died 31/12/43, aged 23, grave A.B.14.
 WX13043, Cyril Ernest Doyle, L-Cpl., died 29/9/43, aged 23, Grave E.C.14.
 WX12024, William Ivor Holley, L-Cpl., died 27/8/43, aged 23, grave F.B.1.
 VX53569, Phillip Hopper, Lieut., died 27/1/44, aged 27, grave M.A.7.

NX49663, Lloyd Beilby Kemp, Tpr., died 12/11/43, aged 21, grave F.B.10.

VX135930, Lawrence Harry Maloney, L-Cpl., died 10/1/44, aged 23, grave M.C.6.

VX1042, Valentine Flood Nagle, Lieut., died 4/10/43, aged 28, grave F.C.5.

WX29710, Donald McKillop Ramshaw, Tpr., died 10/1/44, aged 20, grave M.B.13.

WX9534, Alexander Stewart, Cpl., died 19/3/44, aged 24, grave M.A.1.

VX69602, Robert Drummond Wordie, Tpr., died 30/10/43, aged 23, grave C.D.1.

The following names are shown on plaques at the War Cemetery only, as their bodies were not recovered:

WX34934, Roy Louis Beardman, Tpr., died 10/1/44, aged 22.

NX57432, Hugh Brown, Tpr., died 25/10/43, aged 29.

NX51317, Henry John Cole, Tpr., died 27/1/44, aged 32.

VX117978, Percy Robert Mitchell, Tpr., died 27/10/43, aged 20.

Re snaps I'm sorry that I took two on the one negative but I think an enlargement will reveal the two names. The cemetery is beautifully cared for, as are all other war graves throughout New Guinea and if there is anything I can do for any of the next of kin on my next visit up there I will be only too pleased.

I have not seen Goroka since the war but I know it is now a thriving centre with coffee as the main agricultural crop.

As most of the blokes know Doc. McInerney was killed in a plane crash at Madang about four years ago. He was tremendously popular there and was as wild as he ever was in the 2/2. At the time of his death he owned and flew his own aircraft.

Do give my kindest regards to all the gang over there and tell any of them who come over here that I will regard it as a personal insult if they fail to contact me.

Cheers for now and all the best. (Thanks for very informative letter Jim. Will have to look at the photograph with a view to reprinting in the "Courier". —Editor.)

Address All Your Correspondence:
Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth

LEST WE FORGET

DECEMBER

Swift, Dvr. R. R., accidentally killed Timor, Dec. 15, 1941. Age 22.

Davies, Tpr. J. M. O., died of illness New Guinea, Dec. 31, 1943.

Moule, Spr. L. C., 2/11 Field Coy., killed in action, Timor, Dec. 10, 1942.

Northey, Tpr. J. E., killed in action, New Guinea, Dec. 6, 1943. Age 30.

Heard This?

He: "I wonder if I could make you melt in my arms?"

She: "No, I'm not that soft and you're not so hot."

* * *

Girl: "Does this lipstick come off easily?"

Salesman: "Not if you put up a good fight."

* * *

Did you hear about the girl who went to the fancy dress ball dressed as a telephone operator and before the evening was over had three close calls.

* * *

We know a girl who expects too much. She broke off her engagement because, she said, her husband-to-be just simply couldn't bear children.

* * *

"Rastus," said a dusky belle, "you is goin' to have to jump out ob dat window cause sho' nuff dat am mah husband's footsteps ah heahs in de hall."

"But honey chile," protested her visitor, "we is on de thirteenth floor."

"Rastus," she said firmly, "you is gwine to jump neberless. Dis am no time for superstitions!"

* * *

"I see you gave the little colleen a private room," observed the first surgeon.

Second Doc.: "Yes, she was too cute for wards."

* * *

She: "I believe you're the kind of man a girl can trust."

He: "Haven't we met before? Your faith is familiar."