



# 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. 13. No. 136.

NOVEMBER, 1959

Price 1d.

## Editorial

### HAVE WE DONE ENOUGH?

This article is prompted by remarks made by our N.S.W. scribe. This correspondent made the point that although hostilities ceased 14 years ago and most of us were well and truly settled we had not made any positive approach to the subject of those who made our very existence possible.

He was referring of course, to those natives in both Timor and New Guinea on whom we relied for our lives. It must be admitted immediately that certain of our members on their own bats had attempted to do something for their creadoes in Timor but generally speaking as an Association we haven't done much. A little lip service, a toast at annual get-togethers, and not much else. The overall total not much in excess of zero.

The time is well and truly ripe when a positive approach to this subject should be made and branches in each State should try their utmost to formulate a plan of action to provide assistance to those who meant so much at a time when salvation seemed so far away.

We should try and make a little Colombo plan of our own to assist those natives or the children of those natives in Timor who were very much black angels to us. There probably is not such a lot we can do in New Guinea that is not being done in a better way than we could do the job as after all this is an Australian Mandate. Timor is a very different matter. Could we

not exert some pressure in proper places to have this area come within the scope of the Colombo Plan and have Australia render some service to those who rendered so much to our cause and thereby the Australian cause? Perhaps it would be possible for the Association to sponsor a scholarship for a Timor native at an Australian Technical College or the like. Some way or other we should look deeply at the problem and try to render some reciprocal aid now that we are so well placed.

We have the organisation we have the men capable of doing a correct and proper job on a project such as this but to date it has been pigeon-holed. Now is the time to get some action and pay some of our just debts. It is not enough to be eternally grateful to these folk who probably saved our lives. They are one of the backward people of South East Asia and we should try and help.

It is a well known fact that the Portugese Government have in the past cold-shouldered most efforts at assistance in this area but with the acceptance of the oil drilling companies we could make that the thin end of the wedge and hammer to get something done.

All that can be hoped is that this article will spark some interest in the subject and get branches in every State thinking and possibly planning to do at least a little something. This is our longest outstanding unpaid debt.

## West Australian Whisperings

### Committee Comment

A smaller than usual turn up at the Committee meeting held on Tuesday, Nov. 17, at Monash Club, attended to management details for the Association.

The Committee was most appreciative of the guest speaker provided by Mr. Doig for the November meeting and decided to send a note of appreciation to Col. Ashworth.

All the many details of the Children's Party to be held on Sunday, Dec. 6, were combed out and various tasks allotted to Committee members. The detailed organisation of this function bids fair to make this the best function of its kind yet held.

The Committee were most disconcerted by the failure of the Under Secretary for Water Supply to agree to allow us to use the sprinkler system in Kings Park for an hour a week. It was decided to try another approach to this problem in the hope of getting at least sufficient watering to keep the area alive.

It was decided that the Christmas party for adults this year be a normal Bucks' Night at Monash Club, on third Tuesday in December, this being Dec. 15. Guests would be allowed and it is hoped to provide entertainment in the way of a pianist, quiz competition, etc.

A very lengthy discussion on Repatriation Benefits took place and it was decided that the Association would watch the interests of members to the best of their ability in future as it is feared that generally the lack of basic evidence of illness, etc., in the field mitigates our members' success when applying for pension benefits.

Meeting was completed at 10.30.

### SPECIAL MENTIONS

**There will be No Meeting on First Tuesday in December owing to proximity of Children's Party. That CHILDREN'S PARTY at 16th Bn. Drill Hall, on 6th December, is a must. Be there by 2 p.m. Don't forget working bee in the morning**

### Association Activities

For the first time for a long while the Association had a guest speaker at a monthly meeting. At Monash Club on Nov. 3 a moderate roll up heard a most interesting discourse by Col. Ashworth on the war against Chinese communists in the Federation of Malaya. Col. Ashworth was with the Gurka forces who had so much to do with this campaign. He as a staff officer was on the inside of most of the happenings and therefore could give a lot of inside information. He did not try to cover the whole subject in one night and has promised to address us on another occasion and give more information on this campaign. He left us with the impression that the communist menace was now largely under control and mainly for the reason that the population of Malaya had been practically 100 per cent anti to their activities.

Col. Ashworth is an outstanding speaker and we were also fortunate that the man who had acted as his staff captain had also recently arrived in W.A. and was also able to attend. We are most indebted to these men for a most interesting evening. A pity that more could not attend but luckily for us the committee of City of Perth Sub-Branch R.S.L. also came in and swelled the ranks to make the muster passable.

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The usual party for the kiddies will take place on Sunday, Dec. 6, at the 16th Bn. Drill Hall, commencing at 2 p.m. You are cordially invited to bring the children along and let them have a great

day's fun as well as meet the benign old gent with the whiskers and a great big bag of presents.

Ladies are requested to bring along a plate of victuals for afternoon tea. The men are asked to attend a working bee in the morning to get the hall into shape and do all those little things necessary to make this a day to remember. In the afternoon members are also requested to assist the organisers where ever there efforts can best be used. So that all can have a good afternoon's enjoyment hop in and help and so make everybody's task a little lighter.

### BUCKS' NIGHT

There will be a meeting on the THIRD Tuesday, namely Dec. 15, and this will take the form of a Bucks' Night at which you may bring a friend. We hope to have a picture show, quiz show and a pianist, supper will be provided and a good evening's enjoyment should be assured.

### Personalities

Merv Ryan is still in R.G.H. and it appears he may be there for some time. This is a good opportunity for you to pay a visit to the hospital and say cheerio to Merv. We sincerely hope that this bout will be the last that Merv requires in hospital.

Another in R.G.H. at present is "Bruss" Fagg who has been forced there with an attack of dermo. Hope you are soon fit again "Bruss"

Sighted briefly was "Robbie" Rowan-Robinson who rushed in to say good day, handed in a screed for publication and borrowed our copy of the film "Men of Timor" to show to a group at Bridgetown. He was down to a directors' meeting of Westralian Farmers of which he is a country director representing the South West area.

Seen for a momentary flash the other day was Geo. Strickland behind the wheel of one of those huge travelling cement mixers known as Ready Mixed Cement. Geo. is an owner-driver of one of these vehicles. Just time for a nod and a wave and he was away again as the green light let him into motion.

Another of the lads at the wheel

of an unusual vehicle was Ernie Evans who drives a terrific mobile crane for one of the big cartage firms. Always looks as though it is going to fall over frontwards but never does.

News to hand that Bernie Callinan is tripping to South East Asia to provide a report for the Australian Government on the past, present and future operations of the Colombo Plan. Bernie was on a similar mission to Vietna last year. This time he is going the full gambit of the operational area of the plan, Indonesia, Burma, Nienahm, Malaya, Siam and I believe India. He was given a tremendous build up by the Australian Minister for External Affairs in an article in a trade paper just before his departure. Hope you will be able to give us some impressions of your trip on your return for publication, Bernie.

David Dexter's name also in print the other day. This time provisionally promoted to a position as Secretary Australian Universities Commission, Prime Minister's Dept. Melbourne. Hope you are successful with this promotion, David, and congrats in advance.

"Dusty" Studdy had a wonderful trip to Melbourne taking in both the preliminary and grand finals of the football. Said thanks to Harry Botterill and Harry's brother-in-law who is an official with the Melbourne Club he had wonderful seats for both these games. Was also a guest at an evening with a Melbourne Football Club trainers and said it was a great evening. Went to the races with Bert Tobin, Harry Botterill, Gerry O'Toole and Max Davies and once again said it was great. "Dusty" cannot speak highly enough of the hospitality of the lads in Melbourne. He said they set themselves out to give him a good time and most definitely succeeded. "Dusty" also said that he was surprised at the number who said they would be starters for the Empire Games Convention in W.A. in 1962. We can definitely assure all starters that they will have the time of their lives if they can get to the "post".

News to hand that Ron Dook will be holidaying in W.A. from mid-December over Christmas and the new year. Will be tickled pink to

see him and renew our friendship. Hope that some Association function will be on while Ron is here.

A brief note from Tom Crouch to say good-day to the gang and promised to write more fully in the near future. Give us a Christmas present Tom in the way of a long letter for the December issue. Glad to hear you are well.

Eadie Pendergrast wrote in haste when returning her questionnaire to say that Gordon was working flat out and that they hoped to make the Children's Party. Put yourself down as one of the very few who even wrote briefly Eadie, when returning the questionnaire.

Alan Brown put a note on the bottom of his questionnaire to say he was a night worker with "West Australian Newspapers" and as such not available for many functions but would assist all he could in the day time.

That questionnaire was not a failure but like so many of our ventures to get a little information from the gang it was not a brilliant success. To be able year in and year out to organise the Children's Party we do want up-to-date information and we want it early so if we fail to provide you with the right presents for your children don't descend on the necks of the organisers just have a little self analysis and see if possibly it might have been your fault.

Since the sweep on the Kalgoorlie Cup the old writers' cramp has set in with most of the gang and my trips to clear the Box T1646 are mostly fruitless. What about a bung-ho effort in the new year boys? The old editor's brain gives out trying to dream up news to fill the vacant spots.

John Burrige has recently returned from a trip to Singapore and Malaya. This is John's second trip to these areas in three months.

Haven't seen hair or hide of Dick Darrington since the first sputnick went into orbit. Must have been a

passenger, I think. If not an appearance would be welcome.

Harvey "Slim" James returned from a trip to Colombo and a letter telling of the trip is printed elsewhere.

Geo Wilson a most regular committee man with City of Perth R.S.L. which coincides with our monthly meeting nights, so that mostly excludes Geo from most of our shows.

Syd McKinley is Airport Superintendent for Shell Oil Co. on Cocos. Syd is doing his second stint on Cocos for the company and thoroughly enjoys it.

Alf Hillman has been hitting the news recently and appeared in two issues of the Countryman, a weekly magazine for country people. Alf took Grand Champion prizes for both ewe and ram in the Merino classes at the Katanning Show. His photo with his two sheep was good to see. This victory sparked off a full page write up of Alf and his father's history of their farming of the Broken Hill area. Success did not come easy to either Alf or his father and he has triumphed over bundles of adversity and it is only recently that his property was badly burnt out. Congrats in a big way from all the gang, Alf, and hope you have many more victories of this type.

News to hand that Lionel Woodhead will be heading West for a holiday and will be staying at Hyde Park Hotel, North Perth. Lionel will be leaving Adelaide round about midday Christmas eve. Lionel is secretary of the Cav. Commando Association in South Australia.

Sorry to hear Vida Turton had been in hospital but Don says she is on the mend now and we wish a good mate. Vida, a speedy return to top health.

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

### SPECIAL MENTIONS:

**There will not be a meeting on the First Tuesday in December. This will be held on 15th DECEMBER, THIRD TUESDAY, at MONASH CLUB—Bucks' Night. Bring a friend and enjoy a crack-a-jack night**

## Random Harvest

**DAVID DEXTER, of Katmandu, Nepal, writes:**

In view of our Unit's past association with this incredible land, I decided to startle you by finding a piece of paper—a difficult job here—and write to you. I refer of course to our great epic poem which used to scare the wild life on the Prom., seduce the girls at Wayville, intrigue the abos at Katherine, and which was then handed down into our history and legend by our mighty hirsute troubadour among the crags of Timor—"The Green Eye of the Little Yellow God."

Having had the plains of Delhi where the average temperature between April and June is 110 deg., and having got sick of the unhappy unsmiling Indian face, Fre and I decided to explore the Laidlaw legend. I also had a bit of political and Colombo Plan business to transact but that was by the way. We flew from Delhi to Agra with its Taj Mahal which is really all it is cracked up to be, then to Benares the Hindu death centre, then to Patna the ancient capital of Ashobia's B.C. Indian Empire, and finally through the pass into this only recently opened land. It is quite an experience to fly down the valley of the Ganges and Jumna and to see what wonders of construction and destruction they can be. I've flown into all the countries of S. and S.E. Asia in the last few years but nothing equals the thrill of flying into this smiling valley of Nepal, with its nice terraces, its golden temples and pagodas and beyond—the line of the eternal snows, Everest and his brooding companions.

The Katmandu Valley, with about 500,000 of the 8,000,000 inhabitants of Nepal, used to be a lake and is now a kind of an inverted saucer. The people are of mixed Aryan (from India) and Mongolian (from Tibet and Central Asia) origin. Very sensibly they saw what was happening around them and decided to shut out the rest of the world—until the coming of "democracy" in 1950. The original settlers of the valley—the Newars—are a race of master craftsmen. Never, even in Anghor Wat in Cambodia, have I seen such carving. Here Buddha

sits with the main gods of the Hindu pantheon—Shiva, Vishnu and Brahma and the thousands of lesser gods. There are as many temples as houses and as many gods as people. And so, following discussions with the P.M. (B. P. Koirala) and others I began to have doubts about whether there would indeed have been such a fuss about the half hitching of the green eye of the little yellow god. There are so many gods and so many green eyes that I thought to myself—surely they wouldn't miss one.

And so I decided to look at the problem from another angle and to investigate "the broken hearted woman" theory. These people have a long history of bloodshed, torture, trial by ordeal, slavery and other such choice things. Until 1769 they were a series of squabbling kingdoms but then a Gurkha conquered the place and since then Nepal has seen a unity—the present king is the ninth in succession to the first Gurkha king. The people had no say against despotic rule, particularly between 1850 and 1950 when a gang of hereditary Prime Ministers the Ranas imprisoned the kings, built bigger and better palaces than the kings, devised more intricate tortures and became bigger and better despots. In 1950 the king and the people threw out the Ranas but they didn't hold their first election until this year when the Congress Party (like Nehru's outfit) downed the commos. What puzzled me was that throughout their grisly history the people have laughed and joked. They are the happiest people I have ever seen despite appalling poverty, sickness and illiteracy. In fact they are a 12th century people suddenly cascaded into the mid-20th and not letting it worry them too much. Although they are mainly Hindus the caste system is not such a torment and burden as among India's 400 million people. Cows, pigs, dogs, rats, etc., mustn't be touched as in India; the women are subservient as in rural India; and the whole beautiful valley is covered all over with sweet violets as in India. Yet from cheerful Johnny Gurkha and the sturdy mountain porter using Freddy's

"trump line" to the poorest of the poor townies, they seem to think it a great joke. I sincerely hope that "civilisation" doesn't change their nature. The point of all this is that I reluctantly came to the conclusion that the idea of a broken hearted woman in Katmandu is a myth. But perhaps I'm up the well know creek—maybe the broken hearted woman was back home in England—I can't quite remember.

And so I could go on. But to me Geoff's green eye of the little god and its relationship to the broken hearted woman wherever she came from will always be in the same class as the Abominable Snowman or the Loch Ness Monster. No prying fool should examine them too closely.

As a special request could you sometime publish the green eye in the "Courier"?

**H. E. "Slim" JAMES, of 18 Beatrice Street, Scarborough, writes:**

Regret delay in answering your question in the news letter of how the trip went.

In short, it was really something my good wife and I had looked forward to for a long time, especially as she had not been in the best of health for the past couple of years.

Firstly we booked for a three week holiday, which eventually ended up at five weeks owing to the Himalaya breaking down on the return trip which I might add left me with £1/4/- sterling when we docked at Fremantle.

The "Stratheden" was the ship which carried us up to Singapore for the fastest, busiest and funniest six hours ashore I would ever wish to have. Luckily we accepted the services of a mighty taxi driver who really knew the ropes (one, Abdul Kasin) or a name very close to it. This worthy gent deposited us back at the ship with six minutes to spare.

Then on to Colombo where we booked in at the Mt. Lavinia Hotel, a very nice spot about seven miles out from the city.

It would take far too long to describe all our movements, but our time was spent mostly on sightseeing tours of in and around Colombo and a two day trip up into the hills and tea country. The scenery was absolutely beautiful but the dank

smell was everywhere. Clothes left in a wardrobe overnight would reek of this musty odour next morning.

The roads are very good but the drivers (all natives) seem to rely on the great Buddha to protect them. Especially on the winding, hilly road to Newah Ehalia which is 6,200 feet above sea level. The roads wind around the mountains with tremendous drops into the valleys below, and fog and cloud banks in the late afternoons. The country itself is or was a great tourist attraction, but since they have had self administration it has literally gone to the dogs. Strikes are prevalent as we found out, and I think, judging by the majority of people I spoke to, they are very sorry the British pulled out. Prices are high and wages low which speaks for itself.

To cut this short, we sailed home on the "Himalaya," a beautiful ship with beautiful stewards (all men) or I thought they were till they spoke. Then both my wife and I had very grave doubts.

We took quite a lot of slides, so if you can fit in one night early next year and would like to see them I would be most happy to oblige.

Enclosed cheque for £5. Please fix up subs and if any over put into Unit funds.

**STAN KING, of Pingaring, writes:**

Firstly, thanks and appreciation to all committee members, and others, who made the annual dinner such a success. A do which should not be missed by anyone, and to all you blokes who didn't make it, well it's just your bad luck. I'll be there next year, full as usual, unless of course something really drastic happens, like the brewery closing down.

Secondly, I was at the Ladies' Night for the first time, and well, it's got me beat how you blokes down there manage to stack on such a good show. My wife reckons it a must for next year, and the guests I took along, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Munday, are still talking about it, and so they ought to.

Well, shearing is all finished around here and we all reckon it was a good clip, some not as bulky as last year, but everybody seems well pleased. The oats are starting

to turn now, so the next job will be hay cutting, I suppose. Some have already started baling, but most of us are still using the binder. By the end of next month it will be out harvesters and many curses against the heat, dust, and flies. Still we wouldn't be cockies if we weren't moaning about something.

The school kids sports are on tomorrow in Lake Grace. Four schools in it and are these kids keen not a dud amongst them and no swabs need to be taken after a race.

This is the end of the page and me too. Regards to the mob.

**"Robbie" ROWAN-ROBINSON, of Woodborough, Bridgetown, writes**

My small flock of sheep is shorn, orchard work is under control, and I'm off to Perth for the day early in the morning. I've got a little bit of spare time this evening so I will try and scrape up a little bit of news. A bit hard to come by as I don't see many of the boys these days.

Last Sunday we slipped through to Donnybrook for the day, only an hours run from here. Of course we spent the day with none other than Bernie Langridge and family. Twins and his three boys are all doing well. Unfortunately Bernie is having a bit of back trouble and his wife has just had an op. but seems well again now. Forgot to mention that I saw Bernie the week before at the ram sale held in Bridgetown. His rams were not quite up to his usual high standard and rams, due to the low lamb price, were rather hard to quit and quite a few of his rams were passed in. However there is still plenty of time to sell them before they are wanted.

Have not seen Gordon Rowley but see his advertisements in the local paper and gather his business in the chain saws is pretty bright.

Sorry you could not make it with us for the re-union, Gordon, hope to do better next year. While on

the subject you other Sou-Westerns, what about us all getting our heads together next year and giving the committee the support they so duly deserve? Again while on the subject I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those responsible for the re-union. I know these things mean a lot of work. I believe we have Tom Nisbet to thank for getting the hall and also for a lot of the cleaning up. The printed double diamond and name were a great help and a good idea.

Had one day at the Royal Show, met MacLoughlin there. Looks prosperous and seems quite happy with his job with the Cyclone company. Don't forget to call in if you are down this way, Mac.

Talking of shows, we are having our annual show in Bridgetown on Nov. 21, if any one feels like making a day of it, come along, none other than yours truly will be there to welcome you in the President's room with a few glasses on the house. As you know it is the best show in the south west, beautiful grounds, Olympic jumps, marching display, magnificent cattle and the best in sheep, flowers, vegetables and handicrafts, even a brand new "ladies and gents". Hot weather and cold beer guaranteed, nothing but the best.

★

*Heard This?*

Women's faults are many,  
Men have only two;  
Everything they say,  
And everything they do.

★

"They say the nearest way to a man's heart is through his stomach."

"Yes, that may be, but the stretch between the heart and the pocketbook is the hardest to get over."

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**There will be No Meeting on First Tuesday in December owing to proximity of Children's Party. That CHILDREN'S PARTY at 16th Bn. Drill Hall, on 6th December, is a must. Be there by 2 p.m. Don't forget working bee in the morning**

# Historically Yours!

## WAR CLOUDS GATHER (Continued)

While we were settling in our new camp sites and traversing the area and familiarising ourselves with the natives and their customs, events with the rest of Sparrow Force at Koepang were shaping for a change.

Firstly the "Koolana" arrived at Koepang with re-inforcements for our Company (a list compiled from one of my correspondent's memory elsewhere) arrived and went straight on to Dilli. These officers and men were originally attached to Company H.Q. as a kind of mobile reserve and were later to be farmed out to platoons as normal reinforcements.

Lt.-Col. Leggett who was O.C. Sparrow Force, had shaped up his defence of the Penfoei aerodrome as best he could. Companies were spread around the perimeter with one company dug in on the beach along with the Vickers guns from H.Q. company. One company was held as a mobile reserve to move to any position where a landing by the enemy may take place.

It was not difficult to imagine the dilemma of the Force commander with such a stretch of coast line and so few troops. In his appreciation of the situation he was forced to consider how best to disburse his meagre force to achieve his role, that of delaying the enemy and also making certain that the huge Penfoei drome did not fall to the enemy in a useable condition.

At this time late in January, 1942, the situation changed and the role was to be altered. The island of Timor and the drome at Penfoei was to be denied to the enemy at all costs. To achieve this the force was to be built to Brigade strength with the addition of 2/3rd Pioneers of battalion strength from Darwin, a detachment of American artillery and a company of British anti-aircraft gunners. Brigadier Veale was to command this force and along with his staff he flew to Timor. Major Tim Cope (now Brig. T. Cope, Army H.Q.) was Brigade Major and Capt. Geo. Arnold was Staff Capt. Capt. Geo.

Parker and a set of 8th Div. Sigs. also arrived to provide the necessary intercommunication for this bridge. Col. Leggett handed over command of the Force to Brig. Veale and prepared to concentrate on the defence of the drome which had to be strengthened considerably.

All troops had moved out of the barracks provided by the Dutch as these were too good as an aircraft target to be healthy. Troops were now camped in their company areas in and around the perimeter of the drome.

The whole area was being "shot up" from the air almost daily as a matter of fact you could almost set your watch by their 9 a.m. appearances daily. The accuracy of these "shoot ups" had to be experienced to be believed. The first coincided with the first Yankee squadron of Kitty Hawks which staged through Penfoei. These came in during the evening and departed early in the morning. One Yank said: "I believe youse guys is getting shot up here. If they come while we're here we'll give em hell." Afraid the Uncle Sams weren't there next day when the usual attack took place, except one No. 13 (so you are not superstitious) which had broken down and was being repaired at the hangar. A Yank Top Sergeant was sitting on a stool giving tongue when out of the sun came a flight of Zeros, and one aimed straight at the hangar and drilled the Kitty Hawk full of holes and one bloke swears shot the stool clean from under the vocal Yank who took off like a startled fawn.

Also on this occasion a lad from the 2/11th Engineers was in the hangar measuring up a girder when the attack took place and had an "Australia" badge shot off one shirt epaulette and another bullet went through the slack of his shirt under the arm pit. He said: "As well as khaki shorts and khaki shirt, I've now got khaki underpants!"

On another occasion during a raid one officer noted for his always immaculate appearance dived into

the first available slit trench and much to his horror and everyone else's enjoyment it was a well-used slit trench latrine.

These raids were also playing havoc with the Hudsons of No. 2 Squadron R.A.A.F. which were headquartered at Penfoei. If aircraft were being repaired on the ground when a raid took place they were properly U.S. when it was over. One morning one of the Hudsons which was having engine trouble was being taxied round the drome with engines roaring and the poor old technical type doing the repairs couldn't hear a thing, when out of the sun shot a Zero and gave the Hudson the works. The chap shot out of the Hudson, did a 100 yards down the drome in better than evens, then collapsed. He had a bullet through the knee but this didn't stop his first smart dash. He said: "The first I knew a raid was on was when the dashboard flew into my face."

Wing Commander Headlan, O.C. R.A.A.F., decided that it was suicide to leave the planes on Penfoei so with the aid of the Dutch a secret (?) drome was set up on the south coast. The area was bulldozed and camouflaged and the planes used it successfully for a short while. Aviation spirit was to be landed there from Australia and the first boatload arrived and was being ferried ashore when the Jap air force struck. A Yank from the whaler doing the ferrying was sighted later and he said: "I been down at that secret drome. It ain't a secret no longer. The Japs just shot up four planes on the ground." This was

only one of many abortive efforts to use camouflaged secret air strips.

The Fifth Column operating at the Dutch end of the island was terrific at this time. The Japs seemed to be aware of what was happening even before it happened! Major Wilson who was in charge of the Heavy Battery decided to put an observation post on the peninsular across the bay from Koepang. The only other persons aware of this move were Col. Leggett as his approval was necessary, the party of three who were to man the O.P. (and these were not told until they set out in the boat) and the chap with the boat who ferried the party and he was vouched for on a reliability basis by the Dutch Commandant and he was not warned until the last possible moment. The party set out at nightfall, set up the O.P. and were shot up at 9 a.m. the next day! Good "Fiffo" work by any standards!

There was one Indian storekeeper bloke in Koepang who was supposed to be a political refugee from British rule in India. He owned quite a bit of property in Koepang and also seemed to own more than his fair share of cars. He had the hide of a rhino and would put his oar in anywhere he thought he could glean any information. He probably was one of the leaders of the "Fiffo" movement in Timor and was probably booked for early execution when the "balloon went up" but owing to his political pull he was a "hot potato" until the Japs moved in.

All this shows the formidable task before Lt. Col. Leggat and later

## 2nd Australian Independent Coy., 1st Reinforcements

Lt. Cardy A. G.	Pt. O'Neil F. V. T.	Pt. Teague R. W.
Lt. Garnett H.	Pt. Hartley J.	Pt. Webster L. E.
Lt. Laffy J.	Pt. Hogg D.	Pt. Larney R.
Lt. Rodd C.	Pt. Bagnall K.	Pt. Freeman ?
Pt. Anderson W. S.	Pt. Buckman N.	Pt. McCabe ?
Pt. Cole H.	Pt. Meezer N.	Pt. Walsh V.
Pt. Coles ?	Pt. Beresford B.	Pt. Wilcox E.
Pt. Coyle T.	Pt. Holden H. A.	Pt. McLaughlan A.
Pt. Collis C.	Pt. Jones K. D.	Pt. Thompson (Porky)
Pt. Cullen H. R.	Pt. Clarke M.	Pt. Mildren T.
Pt. Brown ?	Pt. Keenahan J.	Pt. Lilya D.
Pt. Darge ?	Pt. Kenneally J. P.	Pt. King S.
Pt. Demmery N.	Pt. Olde G.	Pt. Harrison P. J.

(The above thanks to Paddy Kenneally and others. There may be gaps perhaps you who read this can assist by sending in omissions.)

Brig. Veale in organising the defence of Dutch Timor. Sparrow Force in this sector was nothing more than a pound of steak to a hungry tiger!

We in the Portugese section were slightly better served as we had quit the main town except for the small force on the strip and the Dutch in Dilli itself. We had settled down to do a job we had been trained for, that of guerillas, to take the enemy by surprise by forays from the hills. To a large extent we were eliminating the hazards of the local populace but as yet knew not the calibre of the local aborigines and were prepared to distrust them if necessary. Thank God we didn't have to use this distrust!

Here it must be mentioned that the inter communication between the island and Norforce at Darwin and also with South East Asia Command in Java was supplied by the R.A.A.F. We in Portugese Timor only had "101" sets which were not capable of the range to Australia and we sent any messages via Force H.Q. in Koepang. This arrangement for the R.A.A.F. to handle the main inter com. was to be one of the major blunders of the whole campaign and whoever thought it out in the first place must have been terribly trusting. Here was Sparrow Force, a ground army, forced under any circumstances to stay put, dependent for its main liason with Australia on a bird of passage set up like the R.A.A.F. Their very role was not to stay put but to pull back to safer dromes and operate against the enemy from there. Their ground staff at that time were mainly untrained in normal soldiering duties and naturally did not comprehend the necessities of vital inter com. The 8th Div. Sigs at this time had not received their gear and of course would have normally taken over the main signals role.

To date the Japanese forays onto the island had been by fighter plane only, bombers had not been used in any of the raids and in this it was only in line with their normal pattern. Firstly the head down raids while they took certain areas, then when established in the newly taken area the bombers would be based and proceed to soften up the area already well and truly strafed by the

fighters. This pattern had gone on from Indo-China right through Malaya, Singapore, so we knew that when the bombers started our turn for invasion would not be far away.

News was received that the reinforcements for Sparrow Force were under way in convoy from Darwin. Once again the old Zealandia was in the convoy. The 2/3rd Pioneers and the American Regiment of Artillery were on their way. The anti tank detachment of Britishers had already arrived from Java and with their Bofors were positioning themselves in Koepang.

The bombing of Timor started firstly desultory, sporadic raids, sheer head down stuff not aimed to do a lot of damage but plenty to keep the R.A.A.F. busy and the force in Timor thinking largely of itself. Then we knew that Ambon and our sister force, Gull, were taking the brunt of the Japanese onslaught. Not for me to chronicle the deeds of Gull force, enough to show how all this fitted into the general pattern of Japanese strategy for the overwhelming of each strong point in turn using the blitzkrieg methods made famous by the Germans on the Continent. Everything, yes everything the Nipponese could muster in the way of air force, navy and army was thrown at each point in turn. Well and specially trained troops to do the landings, the complete Japanese fleet and air force to provide the soften up and always an advantage of at least 10 to one in their favour. Once a point was taken it was swiftly consolidated and secondary troops moved in to garrison the area and the original force made ready for the next onslaught. Yes, this was the pattern of conquest set through the previous months and to date proving to be invincible. It was also to prove in the long run to be their undoing as the whole machine wore out at the one time and spares just weren't available but the ground they made in the meantime was to give them a reputation which daunted the bravest!

Yes, the war clouds were certainly gathering and thunder black they looked to that little band with the cherry red double diamond patch. Thoughts of home sweet home were uppermost but the training of Wilsons Promontory was ever upper-

most. The uneducated state of mind in which we had been told: "You will be out on your own, no mail, no friends, just you and your own weapons is all you will have between you and the enemy," was having its effect. We knew we had been told no lies and amazingly morale had risen since malaria had been held at bay.

This was the situation in mid-February, 1942, with No. 2 Section with Lt. McKenzie in command, on Dilli drome ready to give the Sappers a chance to blow the strip sky high. The Dutch manning defences in Dilli. The rest of "A"

Platoon at Cactus Flat, "B" and "C" Platoons at Three Spurs, Coy H.Q. at Railaco while the larger portion of Sparrow Force comprising the 2/40th Bn., held positions at Penfoei drome. The 2/1st Heavy Battery in position in Koepang Bay assisted by British Bofors, the 2/3rd Pioneers on the water along with a regiment of American artillery and Timor was to be held at all costs. Ha, Ha, Ha!!

So much for the plans of men—what of the ways of chance? We were not to be long in suspense!

### End of Chapter 5

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

## Victorian Vocal Venturings

A new hand has taken up the correspondence and it's going to be tough to compete with the standard set by Harry Botterill, but at least I can endeavour to pass on the news. So please, a little patience until I pick up the drill.

The Annual General Meeting was held at George Street Drill Hall, on Friday, Sept. 25, and although the attendance was lean, those who came managed to enjoy themselves and at the same time complete the necessary business. The annual conscription of office bearers resulted in the following appointments for 1959-60:

President: Harry Botterill.  
Vice Presidents: Bernard Calinan,  
Alan Munro, Bruce McLaren.  
Hon. Secretary: Jock Campbell.  
Treasurer: John Southwell.  
Auditor: Bert Tobin.

Bernard Callinan expressed, with regret, that as he was unable to devote sufficient time to the Association's activities, to justify re-election as president, he requested that he not be nominated but states that he would continue to assist in every possible manner. This decision was received with sincere regret by all present, but we do realise the heavy commitments made on his time. We have valued his guidance and our grateful appreci-

ation of his services to the Association is recorded in the minutes.

Of other interest, was the movement by Bert Tobin that a fund be started for the purpose of ensuring some financial assistance for those who may be going to the Empire Games at Perth in 1962. Also, it was moved and carried that in view of the increased costs, the annual subscription be raised to 15/- per annum.

Another point under prolonged discussion was the rather dismal business of the necessity to review our mailing list of members particularly with regard to the heavy increase in postage rates. With no small measure of regret I must point out that many members have, over the years, failed to respond to our notices of meetings, return of sweep tickets, social evenings, subscriptions, and requests for any change of address. We are aware of most of the difficulties associated with this problem but we do feel that the efforts made by the Committee on your behalf warrants some degree of consideration. We would like you all to think about it very seriously and make some effort to keep in touch. Remember that, although you may not appear at our meetings, there's always someone asking about you.

### MELBOURNE CUP SWEEP

The draw night at George Street, Oct. 29, showed a marked increase in attendance and although the recent beer quarrel upset our catering, in that the cask bound contents could have been cooler, a happy group made the most of the night. Campbell Rodd made the draw and did a fine job for the old Unit as many members or their families secured a horse . . . the writer more than pleased with a third place getter. Captain Jack Fletcher of 2nd Commando Coy., was welcomed and we must acknowledge the splendid effort the Coy. made in disposing of 1,000 tickets at their first attempt. In fact, they sold the winner. John Southwell reports this year's sweep very successful and he too is to be congratulated for the big part he plays in this event.

### SOCIAL PICTURE NIGHT

With several notable exceptions, the stayers and their families enjoyed an evening at the Ripponlea Headquarters of 2nd Commando Coy. Jack Fletcher provided the ingredients by way of hall, projector and operator, kitchen requirements, ale, etc., and the very colourful "Olympic Games" film was viewed with delight and great interest by those who remember those wonderful days. We were happy to meet quite a few of the present Commando Coy. and we anticipate many more meetings of mutual enjoyment. Once again the small fry made the most of the main hall and many budding Commandos were seen swinging gaily from ropes bars and other frightening equipment housed therein. The consumption of sweets and soft drinks by the youngsters is staggering but it gives us all immense pleasure to see the way they enjoy themselves. Also of note is the fact that the Broadhursts had a full dress rehearsal for this event on the previous Friday until Mavis finally checked the date; the boys are still complaining about the extra unwarranted bath. Olive Botterill proudly presented their newest member, Lynette, to the gathering and she does manage to look like Harry. Once again we offer our grateful thanks

to the ladies for the splendid supper they provided.

The Commando Coy. has invited members and their families to watch a parachute drop by about 50 of their unit at Laverton on either Saturday, Nov. 28, or Sunday, Nov. 29. Those wishing to attend should ring John Southwell at about 9 a.m. that Saturday to fix the time of the drop as this will be controlled by the weather conditions. Our thanks for this invitation go to 2nd Commando and we feel that a close liaison with this fine Unit will benefit both organisations.

In conclusion I would like to ask all members throughout Australia, that if and when they visit Victoria, they would forewarn us of their arrival and period of stay so as to enable us to provide some form of re-union with their old friends; if such is desired. Victorian members are requested to write to me at 4 Chalmers-ave., Sandringham, if they have any news for the "Courier" unless, of course, they send same directly to G.P.O. Box T1646, Perth

With all good cheer.

—JOCK CAMPBELL



### *Heard This?*

Mr. and Mrs. Guinea Pig found themselves surrounded by a pack of 220 snarling hounds and 42 huntsmen.

"If we can only hold out for two hours," said Mr. G.P., optimistically, "we'll outnumber them."



### Six Ways Of Being A Failure

A man is a failure:

1. When he is so burdened by his business that he finds no time for rest and recreation.
2. When he loves his own plans and interests more than humanity.
3. When his friends like him for what he has more than what he is.
4. When he knows that he is in the wrong, but is afraid to admit it.
5. When he envies others because they have more ability.
6. When he does not care what happens to his neighbour or to his friends so long as he is prosperous.