



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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# ANNUAL RE-UNION

## SATURDAY, August 20th

**HOBBS ARTILLERY HALL  
KARRAKATTA**

**THE EVENT OF THE YEAR  
BIGGER THAN BARNUMS**

### **Country Folk:**

Make up a car load and meet your mates

### **City Slickers:**

Kick that tele in the tummy for the night  
and make it with the gang



**Starts at 6.30 p.m.**

**Dinner at 7 p.m.**

## Editorial

### The Forward Look

With the start of another year of activity the time is propitious to look to the future and see what it has to offer to associations such as ours. We seem at all times to be the target for competition of some type or other. At the moment the initial impact of television is having quite a marked effect on the interest demonstrated in Association affairs. Possibly this is but a passing fancy and will, given time, find its correct level in the scheme of things.

Organisations which are banded together with the sole purpose of fostering friendships formed in days now long past will naturally have their ups and downs. It is only the depth of such friendships which will prove whether we as an Association can last the distance. If the measure of success of such organisations as were formed out of World War I are any indication, then we are in for a poor future. Most of these either went by the board or took new heart from the stimulus of World War II.

I don't think any of us in our wildest dreams have any desire to see World War III to give us a stimulus.

If things are accepted in their correct perspective most members will see that an active Association such as ours, has plenty to offer as a social organisation, a strong medium for peace in our time and a civic body of outstanding merit.

To give ourselves perpetuity we must do much more on the civic side to prove that our banding together is not of selfish instincts only. It is necessary to take an active part in the things around us and accept projects to make the Association worthwhile.

The year ahead must be one in which the thinking caps are adjusted to the winds of change. We cannot forever live in the past. History is all very well but if it is for this alone that we continue to associate then our hopes for the future are not going to be bright. Let all who have the good of the Association at heart take heed and find an ambition to achieve as the past has so surely proved that this organisation is always so much better when it has a fight on its hands. Find an object and unswervingly follow it to a successful conclusion and then we will see our Association prosper despite the challenge of the various mediums of the day.

## West Australian Whisperings

### Association Activities

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at Monash Club on July 5. The attendance, considering the bleakness of the weather, could be considered to be excellent.

For the ensuing year the following officers were elected: President, R. McDonald; Vice President, P. Hancock; Secretary, J. Carey; Treasurer, G. Boyland; Editor, C. D. Doig; Auditor, J. C. Poynton; Committee, Messrs. G. I. Green, W. Epps, T. Nisbet, C. Varian, D.

Ritchie, R. Kirkwood, R. Smyth; Country Vice Presidents, Goldfield area, P. Campbell; Geraldton area, P. Barden; Midlands area, C. Sadler; Great Southern area, A. Hillman; South West area, G. Rowley; Warden of King's Park, J. C. Burridge.

A review of the finances of the Association showed that rising costs were catching up and an overall loss was shown on the year's operations.

Reports from President, Auditor Treasurer and Editor were received with acclamation and a minute of appreciation of the work of the outgoing President and Executive was recorded.

The matter of attracting greater

attendances at meetings and functions created quite a deal of discussion, but no one could offer much in the way of worthwhile suggestions as most of the methods discussed have been tried without much success in the past.

The meeting closed at 10.30 p.m. without ever becoming at all lively. All in all one of the tamest Annual General Meetings for years. This probably because those present are quite happy with the manner in which the Association has been conducted over the previous year.

#### ANNUAL SWEEP

This is now well under way and you should all have received your tickets ere this. Please make every endeavour to return the butts to Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth, as early as possible. The organiser would like to have every book in his hands prior to August 26. With the present cost of postage at 5d. per letter follow up action is extremely costly so try and save your Association much needed cash by sending your books back without the need to send out reminders.

You good folk in other States who have received books of tickets are especially requested to get them back promptly as distance makes follow up practically impossible.

**Do the right thing by your organiser—get those butts back pronto!**

#### ANNUAL RE-UNION

This is just about upon us.

The date—Saturday, August 20.

The venue—the same as last year, Hobbs Artillery Hall, Karrakatta, where most of you got your discharge from the army.

You can bet this will be the outstanding event of the Association calendar. Catering will be excellent, company all that is desirable. Make it a must. You good folk in the country areas what about arranging a car load from your particular area and swell the ranks as never before?

The Commemoration Service will be held as usual at Lovekin Drive, Kings Park on the Sunday following the Re-union (the 21st). It behoves all right thinking members to make a herculean effort on this day to be present. Remember

it is your mates long since departed who we show our homage to on this day and being a Sunday nothing should be allowed to stand in your way to attend.

#### SEPTEMBER MEETING

Although this meeting on Sept. 6 follows rapidly on the heels of the Annual Re-union you are requested to keep it closely in mind as this will be the Annual Sports Night and your chance to take the Association Belt off Vice President Percy Hancock who won it last year. This is always one of the really good turns and you can give yourself a written guarantee of a good evening's fun with your mates

#### LADIES' NIGHT

This will be held on Tuesday of Royal Show week as usual. The venue is not yet fixed but you will be advised in plenty of time of the place which is selected. Make a note on your calendar and book up the long haired mate well in advance.

#### EMPIRE GAMES RE-UNION

Don't know whether it is the long cold winter but generally plans for the Empire Games in Perth have not advanced terrifically since last year were advised. The final agreement for the building of the Chevron Hotel are due to come before Parliament for ratification in the next month or so. This ratification appears to be a foregone conclusion.

The Association will be forming a special sub-committee, as soon as the new Committee get a chance to clear the decks and get down to business, to plan the Empire Games Re-union and you may rest assured if you make the trip to Perth in November, 1962, you will have the time of your life.

Remember a quid a week saved now will make a long range dream come true.

### Heard This?

Everybody laughed when I sat down at the piano, but when the little redheaded contralto gave me the key to A flat—boy, how I accompanied her.

## Committee Comment

The first Committee meeting for the current year was held at Monash Club on Tuesday, July 19, and a large amount of business was conducted.

Arrangements for the Annual Re-union and Commemoration Service took up a considerable portion of the discussion and eventually these two important events were resolved to advantage.

The programme for the first six months of the year was drawn up as under:

August: Stump speech. A tape recorder would be provided to give some novelty to the evening.

September: Annual Sports Night.

October: Ladies' Night. Venue and form the evening is to take to be discussed at a later date.

November: Film night.

December: Bucks' Night or Barbecue and Kiddies' Party.

## Personalities

A few pen portraits of your new members on the State Executive.

R. "Spriggy" McDonald, your new President, has served the Association long and faithfully. A terrific toiler at all the various functions. Had a term of two years as Vice President. We wish him every success in his term as President.

The new Vice President Percy Hancock, is making his initial entry into our Executive. Percy has done a lot of work for the Association and has never been behind the door when we ask for volunteers. Many moons ago now Percy started a branch at Kalgoorlie and it was going along very well until he had to come to the city in his employment. Percy is a clerk with the West Australian Govt. Printing Office.

Geo. Boyland, the new Treasurer, really needs no introduction. He has served the Association well and faithfully over a lot of years and only the onerous nature of his employment has kept him from active Committee membership in recent years. He has been Vice President, Secretary, Auditor and now Treasurer.

Bill Epps makes a welcome return to the Committee after quite

a few years of absence, but Bill has never really been out of the scheme of things as he is the printer of the "Courier" and has mailed it now for years—ever since it was started. It is with real pleasure that this hard grafter is welcomed back to the Committee fold.

Another returning after many years is Dave Ritchie. Dave has found the conduct of business sufficient to keep him very busy and only now has he felt that he can give some of his time to Executive matters once again. We feel sure Dave will prove to be a real acquisition to the Committee.

It was most pleasing to see a new face in Bob Smyth accepting office. Bob will undoubtedly bring quite a lot of new ideas to the Committee as he is a man of many parts and a keen administrative brain. He has always evinced an interest in Association affairs but the stress and strain of business has limited the amount of time he could devote to Association efforts. We wish him well.

Two who have decided to call halt for a while were Ken Bowden, the past Vice President, and Fred Napier, the past Treasurer. Probably no two people have worked harder and more cheerfully for the Association over a long period than Ken and Fred. Practically since the inception they have served on the Executive except for brief breaks and we hope that this break will also be of a brief nature. Both felt that the time had come to have a spell and make room for new faces. Ken is fully occupied with his job and has also accepted office with the Melville-East Fremantle Sailing Club of which his young son is an active sailing member. Fred is tied up pretty strongly with bowls. Arthur Smith also has been forced to give it away as he now is on shift work and finds it increasingly difficult to put the time necessary into Association affairs. The Association would be most remiss in the decencies of things if we did not say a big thank you to Ken, Fred and Arthur for their prodigious efforts of the past.

Fred Napier is unfortunately back in Hollywood with his bad leg. Hope your stay is only brief, Fred.

Saw Gordon Holmes the other day. Down in Perth for a check up by Repat. Gordon hopes to make the Re-union this year and also hopes to bring along a mate from the 2/3rd. You will be most welcome, Gordon.

Bert Burgess in town this month looking fit and well. Says he does not think he will be able to make the Annual Re-union this year as he has only recently added to his family.

Bob Smyth, a family man once again—a daughter. Congrats. Bob, keep up the good work.

Congrats. also to Tony Bowers on the arrival of his daughter.

Doug Fullerton down from Borneo on three months' leave. T'was good to see the old Fullerton's face at the A.G. He tells me he is heading East for a stretch but will be back before heading back to Borneo for a further couple of years.

Jack Poynton says he is heading to Melbourne to do a school with the E.S. & A. Bank and it may even lead to a position in one of the Eastern States but he is keeping his fingers crossed and hopes he can remain in the sunny (?) West.

### EXTRACT FROM W.A. ENGINEERING DIVISION BULLETIN

#### NORTH WEST PROJECT

Apart from flies, mosquitoes, death adders, and other annoying forms of wild life, escaped prisoners have been of nuisance value to Group 3 recently. Early in the month two prisoners broke out of Nullagine lock-up, and escaped in the police vehicle. In their flight north they cut telephone lines in two places in an endeavour to delay pursuit. The members of Group 3 Wiring Party at Black Rock, were telephoned and requested by the police at 4 a.m. to set up a roadblock near their camp. This was covered from strategic points by Don Hudson (.303) and Bob Foster (.22). However their efforts were in vain as the escapees had passed the point half an hour previous to the setting up of the roadblock. The keen disappointment

of the party members was somewhat modified when the escapees had been recaptured after becoming bogged in the De-Grey River. They were found to have .303 rifles, two .22 rifles, a .38 revolver, 2,000 rounds of ammunition, a case of gelignite and four "bombs" made up with five second fuses.

The party members manning the road block were amused during the arrival of the pursuing Nullagine and Marble Bar constables who, knowing that on their own instructions, trigger happy P.M.G. staff could shoot them down at every corner appeared at a snail's pace, waving their arms in the air and calling: "Friend. Don't shoot," and other peaceful expressions.

On May 12, 1960, two youths (aged 19 and 17 years) were each gaoled for 32 months.

### "LEST WE FORGET"

#### JULY

Thomas, Tpr. L. G., died of illness, New Britain, July 9, 1945.

#### AUGUST

Brown, Pte. L. J., killed in action, New Guinea, August 27, 1943. Age 19.

Holly, L/Cpl. W. I., killed in action, New Guinea, August 27, 1943. Age 23.

Maley, Cpl. J. L., killed in action, New Guinea, August 12, 1943. Age 33.

Waller, Pte. D. C., killed in action, Timor, August 12, 1942. Age 21.

Cheverton, Cpl. W., killed in action, New Guinea, August 27, 1943. Age 19.

Ewin, L/Cpl. R., killed in action, Timor, August 14, 1942. Age 26.

### When In Town

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William St., Perth

## Random Harvest

**B. J. "Peter" BARDEN, of 6GN, P.O. Box 310, Geraldton, writes:**

Just a hurried note from "The Voice of the North" to let you know that all Double-Red-Diamond types in the Geraldton region are as well as can be expected, with the "cocky" types such as Bill Drage and Joe Brand, sporting smiles from ear to ear because of the highly promising seasonal prospects.

I had a good yarn with Jack Denman the other night at the R.S.L. meeting and he says he's not feeling too bad these days. He is back in Vacuum Oil Company's office after relieving on the road for a period. Jack, as usual, made a valuable contribution to the various discussions at the R.S.L. meeting, and the Sub-Branch officials feel that Geraldton has a good chance of winning the Collett Cup for the third consecutive year. This is awarded to the best country Sub-Branch of the year. We are very proud of our R.S.L. Sub-Branch, and it has much in common with our own 2/2nd Association because a feature of its work is its endeavours to help the less fortunate and to play a leading role in the community generally.

With another year passed, I would like to congratulate the office bearers of our Association on the splendid manner in which they are looking after our affairs. I would especially like to pay a tribute to Col Doig for the excellent job he is doing in maintaining publication of the "Courier".

Some time ago Bill Drage said he would be happy to take a load of Double-Red-Diamond types from the Geraldton area to the Annual Re-union on August 20, so I hope he will get most of the boys together for this trip. I, unfortunately, will not be able to make it because of my A.B.C. work at the Sunshine Festival.

**ARTHUR MARSHALL, of Peet St., Harvey, writes:—**

Hope this will be of some help to you. I can remember things pretty well but putting them on to paper is a different thing. Have been doing very little of late. In

fact my hardest work has been keeping the old blinkers open to watch T.V. I put in a steady five hours every night. Things are going to alter shortly though, because I have to go into strict training for the annual old boys footy match—Harvey v. Brunswick. We're two kegs in front now and are going to try and make it three in a row. You see, losers pay.

Saw the interstate game against the Vics on Saturday and Jack Carey if you can't get Stork Clarke out of East Fremantle's team we'll never win the grand final. Of course if it's West Perth we have to play well it would be an even tussle because Foley is just a useless big lug.

**PETER MANTLE, of Box 120, Biloela, Queensland, writes:—**

You know that thing we used to sing: "Cut off from the land that bore us" and ending up with "and here's toast to the dead already, and here's to the next man to die." Well, I'd always thought it was a Royal Flying Corps song, but apparently it's very much older than that, according to a book I've just been reading.

Back in the days when commissions were bought and sold, the 38th Regiment of Foot was posted to the West Indies with headquarters at Jamaica.

A lot of officers didn't fancy leaving civilisation and farmed out their commissions to others. But the impoverished and the conscientious went with their men . . . and the regiment was there for 60 years.

Yellow Jack fever was rampant. The regiment was decimated almost on arrival, and decimated again within six months. Reinforcements came, and died of fever. It got to the stage where an officer or man sent to the 38th knew that in effect he'd had it. And this song "Cut off from the land that bore us, etc.," was a sort of funeral dirge for themselves.

My War Service Home is nearly complete, and within a few weeks we should be living in it. It's fibro, and our outside painting will mostly be black, with a few touch-

es of white. Looks quite effective against the big expanse of grey of the fibro. Hardly any houses around here have fireplaces, but there are a few weeks in the year when you're glad of extra warmth, so I'm installing clinder gas. Outlet in the sitting room, and appliance with a flexible lead so that it can be wheeled up towards the dining room for breakfasts on cold mornings. The appliance can be unhitched and wheeled into any of the bedrooms, and linked up to the piping there to warm the room up. And in the kitchen will be a fixed small gas heater which can be turned on when preparing breakfast on a cold morning.

But most of the year is hot to warm, so all windows on the breeze side are hoppers that go right down to the floor. And leading to porch, four leaf french windows on loose pin hinges so that doors can be lifted clean off if need be.

For the three children I've had beds made which are virtually a whole bedroom suite. Mattress rests four foot from the ground. Underneath are 18in. wide drawers from right and left of the head of the bed, 12in. deep, 9in and 3in. A similar set halfway down the bed, and on the opposite three open shelves. Then at the foot of the bed you open doors and there is 3ft. width of hanging space, 2ft. 6in. deep.

**JIM SMAILES, of Box 7, P.O. GUYRA, N.S.W., writes:—**

Your five books of butts to hand and I am immediately attending to same as I am likely to be away a fair bit and these things can get overlooked. Please add another five books to my humble contribution and make out one each in the names of my family just like the enclosed five are done. You may give me the numbers in a row if possible and perhaps let me know them before the drawing. Don't post them as it will save postage and may get overlooked. Enclosed is £10 cheque to cover all 10 books.

Am off to Concord again soon. Am not too happy about it all. Am now rated 50 per cent incapacitated and feel it most times. However the game must go on and the fort held.

More next time. Regards to all

**JIM DENT, of Wirrinya, writes:—**

Enclosed butts for cup sweep and an extra quid. I might be behind with my subs and it could help to keep the "Courier" alive.

It's good to be able to follow some of the lads' movements and to know how they're going. Some of those West sandgroppers seem to be doing alright including one Marshall (the mug). There's not much happening here. I've only got seven kids now to give me head aches (no pictures here). Haven't seen K. D. Jones for ages. Don't know whether he's dead or not. I can't see his hide on the wall.

Must go. Give my regards to the boys.

**F. W. BENNETT, of 18 South Creek Rd., Dee Why, N.S.W., writes:—**

Was very pleased to receive the sweep tickets and am enclosing butts and cheque for same.

It seems as though you have solved the problem of getting us members in N.S.W. of taking up the pen. First a few particulars about myself.

Married with two children, one boy 14 years, one girl 12 years. Occupation, assistant manager with the firm who represents Yale, the world renowned lock manufacturer. I am also the specialist on locks for N.S.W. and Queensland.

We do not have a great number of meetings here in Sydney, but always manage to get together on Anzac Day or whenever a member from another State should visit us.

You folk in W.A. have certainly got a very wonderful organisation and are to be complimented on it, and I, for one, thank you sincerely for the "Courier" each month. It is a wonderful publication and keeps us all well informed of the activities of our mates.

Some of you no doubt, will remember a chap named Bob Ballinger. Recently he had a very serious accident at work. His hands were caught in a press, one hand completely severed and on the hand he has only three stumps of fingers left. Really a tragic happening as he is married with five children. Perhaps anyone who remembers him would like to drop him a line, or perhaps one from H.O. of the Unit might help to cheer him up. His address is: R. Bollinger,

42 Elvina Ave., Avalon Beach, N.S.W.

Well, after humbly apologising for not having dropped a line before, I will close down with my best wishes to the Association and all its members.

**C. SADLER, of Box 24, Wongan Hills, writes:—**

Just a short note enclosing sweep butts and cheque. Would you take 10/- for subs and 50/- for Children's Christmas Tree.

At present I am not certain if I will make the Re-union but will try.

We have just commenced shearing. Only managed one day before the rain but hope for a good spin next week.

Met Geof Laidlaw in Wongan last month and heard the doings of quite a few of the boys.

Hope to see you at the Re-union.

**W. J. CONNELL, Bruce St., Woodbridge, Queensland, writes:—**

Tis Sunday night in the workhouse, at least it is always a workhouse when there's a letter to be written. Don't you think so?

Have received your circular and book of tickets and will endeavour to sell same. I don't think anyone has "mates" when it comes to selling tickets as there are so many raffles, etc., on the go these days. Still I can do with that £25 so I had better buy a couple.

I have always received my copy of the "Courier" regularly and really enjoy it, but like everyone else, just keep putting off writing. I see Fred Otway fairly often and you may be interested to know he has had a couple of short spells in hospital.

While not being an original member of our Unit I have followed "Historically Yours" with some interest and may I mention that I hope you follow through with our New Guinea and New Britain campaigns as it should arouse a lot of interest in some of those chaps who have never written.

I'm still in the building game, having disposed of my mixed business quick-smart. There's a terrible life for you! Seven days a week and the customer is always right. Like hell they are! Anyhow that's all over now. I'm with

the Public Works Dept. which is quite a good racket. Have been to Cloncurry as you already know and have been to Mareeba and Cairns last November to January. Saw our old Red Lynch camp site and you would never know it had been there. Strathpine has also altered a lot, being nearly all sub-divided out that way now. Yes, Brisbane is certainly growing. Woodridge is 16 miles out to the south. Please note my change of address.

You may hear a lot about Sunny Queensland but it's sure been cold this winter. A fortnight ago we had the best frost I have seen since leaving Victoria seven years ago. It was white everywhere. Even on the roof tops. Of course all our six banana trees were wiped out. They're black now. I wish those Melbournites would keep their weather down there where it belongs.

Well, this has been quite an effort to me, but I hope it helps the "Courier" along a bit.

Still only two boys in the family and no sign of any more. They are 13 and 10 years now.

Cheerio for now, may write again

**FRED OTWAY, of 98 Wecker Rd., Mt. Gravatt, writes:—**

Before I write anything else, I wish to commend Bernie Langridge's idea of Sectional correspondents. Everybody functions better with a bit of organisation. Up till now we have all written in willy nilly or not at all. I would like to see the matter taken up at the next meeting and discussed generally among members to see what they think of it. I'm sure correspondence will pick up.

I have been in hospital twice for a couple of days in the last six weeks, nothing serious, I'm still in good health. I had a lump taken from my shoulder blade which turned out to be a fibrous cyst. Secondly I developed an abscess on my stern. It gave me some curry too. I thought it was a boil and was waiting for the head to come. I finally went to a doctor and was operated on that night. It was as big as a tennis ball.

These last few weeks I have been door knocking, that is selling honey at the door. It was hard going at first but now I'm in good nick and

could march into the army again. That's what I reckon anyway.

It's been an unusual winter, cold, with westerly winds and snow not far away, that had never previously seen snow. Yes, that's what I said. Snow in Queensland. It's colder than any place in the West, up Stanthorpe way, that's up in the ranges.

I'm doing a short school of bee-keeping at the Agricultural College this August during show time. It is called exhibition by the locals and the kids get two weeks holiday. The city is pushing out towards me 60 acres opposite me has just been sold for building blocks and there is a big factory going up on my side of the road. I would like to get to Perth for the Games but am afraid it will have to rest with the honey bees.

**LES W. ISENHOO, 11 Eveleen St., Cardiff, N.S.W., writes:—**

It is indeed a pleasure to drop a "lovely letter" to the 2/2nd at this stage.

So many years have rocked and rolled away since I last saw you Jokers. Families have arrived and now are growing up and eating like sharks.

First off though I would like you to give my best wishes to any of those rugged, tough boys who had the "pleasure" of my hay days and my company. There is no need to laugh, just think back until into focus again. Hope they are all thriving at present.

I've had a bad spell for a few years but I've managed to pull my socks up and out manoeuvred certain civvy elements which makes my work pleasant again.

It is always interesting to read the "Courier" and find out how one-time footsloggers settle down into a new world. At least it was for me getting married to a sweet young thing about 7½ stone and now 11 stone. Ah well, who cares all the more to love and cherish.

Have had bad news. Mum's mother has died and is getting buried this morning. 92 she went to as did her brothers and sisters. What a great age and all this time looked after herself since grandfather died nearly 30 years ago. My wife just rang this through to me. I must put this aside and leave for funeral.

Back again and somewhat flattened after the funeral. Grannie had been having some bad falls and refused to acknowledge the fact or give in to it, that she was having black-outs and it finally killed a little earlier than we thought. Her eldest sister went to 99.

I am writing this at work where I am storeman with Technical Education Dept. Have about 10 years up and in thinking ahead to when I'm in a position for long service leave (15 years) have in mind for a trip by car round your way, all going well of course.

I am indeed proud of the 2/2nd and always will be, if you wish to know why I haven't been up to activities going on about me Jack Hartley has most of the facts. Will endeavour to do better now I have started.

Haven't seen any of the boys for years and surprisingly bumped into Alec Garbitt from B Troop a week ago. He has had a good deal of domestic strife, but they have got together again and he is knocking babies out with no trouble at all, has one coming along now, will make four. Will find out his correct address and let you know as he said he is still very interested.

All my family are growing up with the eldest 13 and youngest 8. Have four myself, all girls. Being a craftsman I have no loose joints. Have my own home and own it. It's not a palace and do a little to smarten it up from time to time. Have a couple of dozen fowls, a few fruit trees and a big back lawn for the kiddies and myself of course. Have a good car that we own also, 1958 Holden. I taught my wife to drive and it is ever so handy for us at various school, church and Masonic functions. In other words we have a very happy home even though I'm outnumbered 5 to 1.

With these few (?) words say cheerio and lots of fun.

**L. G. OLDE, of 79 East St., Canley Vale, Sydney, writes:—**

Enclosing ticket butts and money. No trouble getting rid of them. Will send some more money later on for "Courier". I think if we all put in say 10/- a month do you think that would cover expenses. Let's know if it doesn't.

Well, now, a bit of news. I hope

to be coming over in 61. You see one of our leading bands are going over to play for the Games. I hope to be with them. Won't cost me anything.

Well I haven't seen any of the boys lately, not since Anzac Day. Had quite a good roll up. Just can't remember who were there. Must of had too much amber liquid.

Well regards to all the boys over there. Sorry there's not much news this time. Would like to hear from some of them especially Mick Morgan. Please let me have his address.

(H. J. Morgan, 11 Daly Street, South Fremantle, W.A. —Ed.)

**LEN BAGLEY, 38 Armadale Crescent, Mt. Lawley, writes:—**

Every success with the sweep. Please find enclosed books and £2.

Will be able to get along to a monthly meeting now as I have just completed three months of night shift. I started day shift last Monday for three months. For sure I will be going to the Annual Dinner.

All the family are well. My son is two years of age today. Have not seen any of the boys for some time.

Hope this finds you well. Regards to all the boys.

**STAN SADLER, of Wongan Hills, writes:—**

Enclosed are ticket butts and cheque. Cheque to cover tickets and my sub for year, the rest for Unit funds.

I guess you'll have plenty of news this month with all the butts being returned. Feast or famine.

Had a visit from the Boss a couple of weeks ago—Geof Laidlaw. Had dinner and a few beers with him at our local. He was making a country tour of Ampol's agencies and depots. Unfortunately his visit clashed with a meeting which both Jack Fowler and I had to attend so we had to cut our session short. Chas. Sadler was more fortunate and was able to continue on to closing time.

Dick Crossing was up here during seeding, chasing seed wheat. We were able to sell him some of our surplus. He is having a big year. Has half his farm in crop. Met Pop Harding at Dalwallinu

a while back. Golf weekend. Both Pop and I try to play. He still has a school bus run at Kalannie and is very content with his lot.

We are having quite a good season here so far. Got all our crop in well, had a few web worm, nothing serious, and we have ample sheep feed. The only "nigger in the wood pile" is the price of wool which is absolute bedrock at the moment.

We are starting shearing on Monday and expect a better than usual clip.

Blanche and I and family hope to make an overland trip to Queensland after harvest, starting just before Christmas if all goes well.

Could you give me the addresses of some chaps handy along the road? We may be able to make a few calls, time permitting. I know Kev Curran is Bendigo, and Ron Orr, Grafton, and intend to contact them if possible. Our final destination is "Buderim Old" where my brother Ron is domiciled. We intend to stay a couple of weeks, then wend our way back, staying a while with relatives in Victoria. We are all looking forward to the trip.

That's about all for now. Regards to all of the 2/2nd down there.

**J. CORNEY, of 1306 Albany Highway, Cannington, writes:—**

Just a few lines returning butts of sweep before I forget them, as that is what might happen as the memory is not as good as it used to be.

I hope to make the dinner this year so long as the weather is not too cold. Have been feeling a bit chilled the last week or so and at present am sitting in front of a good blaze writing this but the fingers are a bit cold and pen is slipping about a bit.

Am enclosing cheque for £2. I don't know how I stand with subs, so you can place the extra toward the Christmas Party.

**J. GALLAGHER, of Tenner Road, Kojonup, writes:—**

Enclosed find cheque for £3/0/6 £1 being for enclosed sweep butts and fill in another book for me. I don't get around enough to sell them. The other £1 is for subs.

Wouldn't have a clue how I stand. The year seems to have buzzed around pretty slick, it doesn't seem to be 12 months since the filling in of sweep butts for 1959.

I shear a few thousand sheep each year and plant a few hundred fruit trees. Will reach the 1,500 tree planted in a couple of weeks time. I've been keeping them for a few years now and hope in a few years time they will keep me. Then I'll throw the old handpiece up the bush.

**SHORTY STEVENS, Yallunda Flat, South Australia, writes:—**

How time flies! I had good intentions of dropping a short not many moons ago and here it is sweep time again which means 12 months since I last wrote.

During that time we have become fairly settled in our place and are quite happy with the prospects for the future.

Despite the drought last year, which was about the worst seen in this State, we managed to get by. We had a fair harvest and were able to conserve enough fodder to see us more than safely through this year.

This season so far is a direct contrast to last, neither the feed nor crops are growing owing to the very wet conditions and we are still hand feeding stock. The extreme cold has made me envious of the tropical dwellers. Could almost wish I was up there.

As far as I know there are none of the Unit on the peninsular where I am and I have no chance of any contact. I get an occasional letter from Dig who keeps me up to date fairly well. The last information from him was that he is snowed under with work but is managing to keep fairly fit.

I apologise for not having stirred myself sooner and dropped a few lines. I'm no good on the pen but I like to receive the "Courier" and my sympathy and praise goes to the few who battle on and produce it.

I think it was Bert Burgess some time ago came up with the idea that each Section could be responsible for a month each. To my way of thinking this idea is worth a try. If the months were nominated surely we could rise to the occasion

and supply the goods. I'd like to see a few more comment on the idea.

I say give it a try, at least the poor old Editor would have a group he could blame for lack of copy for a change.

Last week was the Annual Meeting. I hope you few old faithfuls were supported by a good roll up and that you had a successful meeting.

We were hopeful of one day getting over to the West but this venture of curs has made rather a large dent in the finances and plans of travel suffer accordingly. Still one never knows.

It is still raining here and the forecast is for still more to follow. I think I'll hit the hay and let it soothe me to sleep.

I'm enclosing a cheque for the sweep butts and 5/- for subs. I've never known how my subs stood but it will have to do this time.

Wishing you all the best for the coming year for the Association and its activities.

These tickets were sent to the old Snowtown address, perhaps you could alter the records. The "Courier" comes here.

**J. HALLINAN, of 72 High Street, Cabramatta, N.S.W., writes:—**

Just a few lines to say I am enclosing butts of the tickets and a cheque for same.

Not very good at this letter writing as a matter of fact I never was. There are quite a few of us in the one nest here. All at Cabra. Snowy Went, Tommy O'Brian, Bill Hoy, Jack Keenahan and self and every so often we have a get together at the Cabra Vale Ex-Service men's Club, mainly to let the ladies let their hair down and keep them out of curs.

Kev Curran landed in Sydney a little while back so one and all were invited to Arncliffe R.S.L. as a welcoming committee. Needless to say quite a drop of amber was consumed. That was on the Saturday. Wasn't satisfied with that, had to be at the nesting place in town for a farewell on the Monday evening. Quite a chin wag and a big head the next day.

Will close on these few words and hope this finds everyone over there as it leaves me here.

# Historically Yours!

## Chapter 8

### ROUNDING OFF THE FIRST ACTION

To date only the initial action of No. 2 Section has been dealt with in regard to "A" Platoon, so now it is necessary to record what occurred to the rest of the platoon while 2 Section and B and C Platoons were being engaged.

Here is Arthur Marshall's account of what happened to 3 Section.

Three Section after the landing at Dilli and a few days on the drome went straight to Cactus Flat, and with 2 Section and A Platoon H.Q. set up camp. What a camp it was too. First of all an area had to be axed out of the over large cactus bushes that abounded the flat. This was to allow the tents to be pitched right in the cactus and so stop the enemy from attacking from the rear (in theory).

The flat itself was feet below sea level and at one stage it was considered digging a channel from the sea, a few hundred yards distant, and flooding the area. This lake then was to be used as a base for sea planes.

Malaria struck down most of the troops in quick time. Some were sent to the hospital in Dilli where the Doc was doing a sterling job, but orders came out that only the really serious cases were to come in as the hospital was overflowing with cases and as very little could be done for anyone, bar rest and the taking of liquid quinine, they may as well stay at camp.

The only fresh water obtainable had to be carted from three miles away by the troops pulling a little rubber-tyred cart. One water bottle a day was the ration and the rest went to the cook house.

For sure, in all their army days to follow, A Platoon never had a camp like Cactus Flat. Even with all the sickness there was a lot of terrain to be traversed and maps to be drawn up of tracks leading into Dilli from the mountainous country abounding to its south and west.

Three Section, led by Lieut. Clarrie Turner, traversed most of these tracks and started to get an idea where they went and how steep they really were. Straight up and down was the natives idea of making from one point to another. To troops trying to recover from malaria this was a task of no small effort, but the boys who could get out on these walkabouts found their health and spirits much the better for being away from Cactus Flat.

Two Section changed over with 1 Section at the drome after a month and then 3 Section were to take their turn. This was to be the pattern, a section at the drome and two sections at Cactus Flat.

Early in February it was decided to shift A Platoon, less 2 Section which was on the drome, to a camp further along the road toward the Dutch border than Railako. An area was picked out on a spur about half way between C.H.Q. at Railako and the Glano bridge. This was known as "Water Pipe Camp" owing to water being piped from a stream about 50 yards away to the camp.

After Cactus Flat this camp was a gem. The morale of the troops was never higher and with the knowledge that food from the natives could be had cheaply (after much bartering) the old "Letona stew," which was the "Smith's" one and only course on the menu was steered clear of as much as possible.

More and more area was being mapped and small parties under Cpls. Palmer and Hillman, were going further across the island. The Railako River was traversed to its headwaters.

Doug Fullerton, of 1 Section, took Pte. Marshall, of 3 Section, and Pte. Campbell, of A.H.Q., on a three day round trip towards Ailu and back down a track following the course of the Commero River which had to be mapped. A por-

tion of the Portuguese cavalry was met up with near Ailu, but at this stage they weren't being friendly. This didn't worry the boys much because they didn't look a particularly fearsome band of soldiers and it didn't matter much whose side they were on. The only envy was for the fine steeds that they were mounted on. Beautiful Timor ponies in first class condition. Maybe if it had been a little later on in the campaign the rest of the trip down the Commero would have been made in comfort.

Wearing of respirators on mess parades was introduced at Water Pipe Camp. This was thought necessary to get the troops used to having them on. It had been rumoured that the Japs were spraying powdered glass from their planes over the Malayan jungle and as they were flying more and more over Timor it could happen at any time there. It was not taken too kindly having to wear the bulky satchel while eating and quite a few unquotable remarks were quoted by the troops. A Platoon's O.C. was Capt. Baldwin and as his initials were R.R. he became known as Respirator Ralph. This name was to stick with him for the rest of the stay on Timor.

With the landing of the Japs and the capture of Dilli and surrounding area by the enemy, it was decided to shift A Platoon up on to the rim of the Railako River, overlooking the Glano. Three Section had the job of O.P. on the Glano bridge (which had been blown by the Sappers) and Tocalili a small posto. A Platoon H.Q. was about the middle of the rim. Two Section was the northern end covering the approaches from B Platoon. One Section was on the slopes down to the Railako River, and were to block the enemy coming up the river.

The Japs attacked 2 Section and A.P.H. on the morning of March 4. A terrific encounter ensued and the enemy paid dearly. Though the Nips suffered many casualties they still came on and A.P.H. and 2 Section had to withdraw. This threw the whole area into confusion owing to the fact that communication between sections was by runner and this was impossible under the circumstances. One and

3 Sections were left to make what decision they thought was best.

Three Section was depleted because Cpl. Palmer had taken a small patrol to Boibau the night before to investigate a report that Japs were in the area. They had orders if they were cut off from the Section by the enemy to make their own way to the Dutch border, this being the general movement of all troops being pushed back by the enemy.

Turner moved the rest of his section up towards where A.H.Q. had been attacked and took up an ambush position on a ridge overlooking the track. In the afternoon as activity in the whole area seemed to be nil it was decided to move down to the Glano River and await darkness before making a crossing to avoid being observed by any enemy patrols in the valley.

This was the position 3 Section was in on Bernie Langridge's birthday, March 4, 1942.

\* \* \*

This apart from the efforts of the Sapper Section under Lt. Don Turton, brings the history of the initial onslaught up to date.

The Sappers, as had every other section, had suffered the privations of the drome, had worked and slaved to build Three Spurs Camp, and prepared the dumps of ammunition and explosives. They had well and truly mined the drome and it was Cpl. Tex Richards and Spr. Bob Williamson who had blown the charges on the drome when the Japs landed.

At Three Spurs Spr. "Smash" Hodgson had set himself the spartan task of getting fit and used to tramp around with his pack filled with stones to accustom himself to the burdens that were to come. He accomplished the fitness campaign in a magnificent way as many times later he was seen carrying a Tommy Gun and as many as 500 rounds of ammunition!

When the balloon went up it fell to the Sappers along with C Platoon to move the stores from Three Spurs to Railako and it was here that Spr. Paddy Wilby who had been born and reared in the station country of Queensland, came into his own and organised pack trains of Timor ponies to carry as many

of these valuable stores as possible to Railaco. What was born here was to become standard practice as the campaign wore on.

Patrolling was a continual matter with the Sappers as with every other section and they did their fair share of the traversing and mapping of the area.

When B Platoon was attacked Sgt. Gerry Green and his subsection were in the area and were involved in the attack by the Japs on B Platoon. They were less well positioned being lower down the slope and were forced to go to ground as the Japs opened fire. At the time it was feared that Green and his mates had all been killed but by hiding their time till nightfall they managed to make good their getaway and joined the main body at Hatolia at about the same time as the other troops.

This has been a somewhat sketchy account of the doings of the Sappers but at that time their activities were not so closely bound up with the enemy as were those of A, B and C Platoons.

So ended the first vital encounter with the enemy. The Company had acquitted itself well in the many skirmishes and had given a lot more than it had taken apart from the tragic loss of 7 Section. These raw men of April, 1941, were now the blooded troops of March, 1942, in a hectic year so much of such a diverse character had happened that it seemed as if we had been together a life time, not a brief 11 months.

Now came the time to lick our wounds and take stock ready for what the future was to bring.

Certainly what the instructors had told us at Wilson's Promontory had come to pass. We were cut off. We were on our own. We would have to live off the land if we were to survive. Well we can't say we were not warned and being warned we were forearmed and morale was high. We had met the enemy in his first vicious onslaught and were alive to meet him again.

It merely remained now to re-organise, re-position and prepare for the next attack by the enemy and if he didn't attack then would we take the war to his territory? Only the future would tell and we were in no mood to worry too deeply as to the future—it was such a problematic present.

(To be continued)

### BLACKBOY CAMP COMMEMORATION

This is published at the request of the R.S.L.

As you no doubt are aware a State-wide effort is being made to establish on the site of the old Blackboy Hill Camp a fitting commemoration to mark the birth-place of the A.I.F. in Western Australia.

This is estimated to cost £6500. The W.A. Government have made a substantial contribution towards the fund, and the Premier has publicly stated that every section of the community should support the appeal to commemorate this historic spot whence originated traditions which attained world-wide fame for the fighting forces of this State.

If you have not already made your contribution, the committee solicit your financial assistance and will gratefully accept your donation.

The Taxation Department have agreed to consider all donations of one pound and over as an allowable deduction on income tax returns.

The enclosed pro-forma will indicate the method of remitting.

I .....  
of .....  
have pleasure in enclosing herewith my donation of .....

Remittance should be marked "Blackboy Hill Camp Commemoration" and sent to the State Secretary, R.S.L., Anzac House, Perth, and acknowledgement will be by our official receipt and in the columns of the "West Australian".

### SPECIAL MENTIONS:

ANNUAL RE-UNION — SATURDAY, AUGUST 20  
COMMEMORATION SERVICE — SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

## Victorian Vocal Venturings

Sorry to miss out last issue— but time seems to really fly these days. Must be getting older.

There is really not much news, or maybe it is that I do not hear it.

The 2nd Commando Coy (CMF) recently held a dinner and fund raising night to aid the widow of one of their members who was drowned in the recent rip tragedy, and they invited our members along. It was a terrific night and included a mannequin parade, two up, and crown and anchor, and they raised about £120. We had a very good roll up of members: Jock and Fay Campbell, Bruce and Loraine McLaren, Johnny and Kath Roberts, Alan and Joyce Munro, Bill and Joan Tucker, Harry and Olive Botterill, Bert Tobin and George (Panchó) Humphreys came on their own.

Noticed during the mannequin parade (of night attire) that Bert's eyes were sticking out like buggy lamps. Bruce and Alan had a great go at the two-up but Bruce took the honours and the money off Alan as it rained heads most of the time. Bert also was a sufferer as he was a tailer too. (Wilma keep an eye on that man of yours.)

Gordon (Blue) Stanley who is domiciled in Launceston working with the Hydro Electric Commission in charge of communications, was over in Melbourne a couple of months ago. Came over to see his family, looking very well and enjoying life immensely.

On a recent trip out to Heidelberg Hospital to give my usual pint of blood, bumped into Bomber McKenzie who was there for the same purpose. He had been down to Wilson's Promontory and said he was going to write an article on his trip for the "Courier".

Jock Campbell, our popular secretary, had a very unfortunate accident at his work recently. Was working at the shaping machine when his hand slipped and he lost three fingers of his left hand. When I last saw Jock he was coming along nicely. Had had a lot of

pain but it takes a lot to keep a grin off Jock's face and he took the attitude that it was better his left hand and not his right. I bet he didn't even miss a footy match with Sandy, although I was looking for him when they played Brunswick. We all wish Jock a very speedy recovery.

Have just had my usual trip to Tassie and looked up Ivan Brown who is still sign-writing in Hobart. Had dinner with Vic and Ess Pacey and family and spent a very enjoyable evening with them. Vic had T.V. on trial and I'll bet pounds to peanuts he finishes up with a set although he swore he wouldn't, but the odds are against him, namely Ess, Gay and Jan. Vic says Joe Loveless is going along nicely and is very fit. Sorry I never had time to look him up. Up at Launceston I called on Mark Conroy, a 2/40th member who joined us in Timor and was in D Troop. Hardly recognised him he has put on a lot of weight and got a little greyer. Sends his regards to all the boys. Mark is on the switch board of H.E.C. He would like to get the "Courier" so here is his address: Mark Conroy, 19 Legana St., Launceston, Tasmania. Mark has a family of three, two boys and a girl, and keeps very good health now. He says that Tex Richards is still going strong.

Had a very enjoyable evening with Blue Stanley and family. Joan, who had a bad accident some time back is going along nicely although it is just a matter of time before she loses the use of her right arm. Helen, their eldest girl, had had her tenth birthday that day.

Unfortunately my mother passed away whilst I was in Launceston which came as a great shock to me as she had been very well and I take this opportunity to thank the 2/2nd Commando Association of Victoria for the beautiful wreath they sent along and their wishes of sympathy. HARRY BOTTERILL

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**Have You Returned  
YOUR  
SWEEP  
BUTTS  
?**

**DO SO BEFORE  
FRIDAY, AUG. 26**

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