



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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## Editorial

### WHAT NOW?

After a prolonged "bally hoo" campaign such as is unknown in Australia or British politics, America has now selected a new President. The youthful Mr. Kennedy has won what could prove to be the toughest assignment ever handed to a Western style statesman. The United States in its new-found role of leader of the Western World, has floundered about in considerable confusion since 1946 and possibly a younger man such as the President-elect could have the solution to the new world leadership, bringing as he should, a 20th century outlook to 20th century problems completely uninhibited by the past.

What happens in U.S. is definitely of paramount interest to Australia in the modern scene as whether we like it or not we are most definitely tied to Uncle Sam's apron strings. To the Australian outlook it was very difficult to decide any difference between the rival candidates as there is no vital divergence of policy such as we know between Labor and Liberal in this country. The whole matter gets right down to personalities between Mr. Nixon and Mr. Kennedy.

One possibly large factor in Mr. Kennedy's favour is that his dealings with the Russian dictator will not be inhibited by past efforts which could have been a handicap to Mr. Nixon.

What will be the new President's approach to the idealistic clash between the rival policies of Capitalism and Communism? Will he be able to solve the urgent problems of Cuba and Central America and of the Congo?

What will be the U.S. approach to the ever-present European problem? The answers to these questions only the future can tell and whatever the answer we in Australia are going to be vitally affected.

One thing will be certain, the U.S. can never again stand aloof in isolation from world affairs, like it or not, with U.N.O. Headquarters in New York, she is stuck with the paramount task of supporting United Nations to the utmost.

We can only wish the new incumbent all the wisdom of a Solomon and all the best wishes of a vitally interested nation and leave the rest in the hands of providence.

**DECEMBER MEETING — BUCKS' NIGHT**

**MONASH CLUB, 6th DECEMBER 1960**

**Get the Christmas Feeling Early**

**Bring a Mate and Enjoy Yourself**

## West Australian Whisperings

### Committee Comment

The monthly Committee Meeting was held at Bob Smyth's office on Tuesday, Nov. 15, when the opportunity was taken to prepare for the Children's Christmas Party. A good roll up of Committee members hopped in with a will and a marvelous amount of work was disposed of in a very short time.

The main part of the evening was taken up with arrangements for the Children's Party and this was organised down to the most minute details.

After much discussion it was decided that the December meeting be held as usual on the first Tuesday, namely Dec. 6, and it would be a Bucks' Night at which members would be entitled to bring a friend. The evening would take similar form to that of last year with entertainment of a musical nature. The reason the evening was changed from the third Tuesday was that on this occasion it would fall in Christmas week and members would probably be tied up in affairs of their own.

Committee members were more than satisfied with the Working Bee at King's Park held on Nov. 6, and reported a lot of work done and one side of the Avenue practically planted with grass. It was decided to call a further Working Bee for Sunday, Nov. 27, to enable the rest of the area to be planted. Members to be advised by circular.

Much discussion took place on the question of the advisability of the Association purchasing a mower to keep the area in good condition. It was finally decided that various Committee members make enquiries on this matter and report at a later date.

Meeting closed at 11 p.m.

\* \* \*

### Heard This?

"Oh, and he's so romantic," she gushed. "When he addresses me he always calls me 'Fair Lady'."

"Don't kid yourself," advised the candid friend. "He's a tram conductor."

### Association Activities

#### NOVEMBER MEETING

This meeting, held at Monash Club on Nov. 18, proved to be of outstanding interest and once again it was unfortunate that the roll up was below par.

Gerry Haire came along and gave a talk on Secondary Education as it applied to parents. Just to give an indication of the interest engendered, what was expected to be a brief talk of about one hour extended to 2½ hours and even after the formal meeting broke up Jerry was still having his ear pounded by those present. All present agreed they had learned plenty in regard to just what a parent can do to assist his child when the time for Secondary Education looms up. A lot of misconceptions on the subject were cleared up and it was a wiser lot of parents who left the meeting. This is a subject which could be safely repeated to advantage to a much larger gathering.

Our thanks to Jerry for a most informative evening.

#### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

As stated in last month's issue, this party will be held at South Perth Zoo on Sunday, Dec. 11. It will only be necessary for parents and children to pay the normal entrance fee and then the rest of the day will be on the Association, except that wives are requested to bring along a plate of eats for afternoon tea.

Our area at the zoo will be close to the Labouchere Road entrance and quite close to the area where the zoo scenic railway runs.

The party will start at 3 p.m., thus enabling any parents who wish to take the children around the zoo an opportunity after arriving say at 2 p.m. There will be plenty to occupy the kids after 3 p.m. so parents should be able to have a bit of a break.

Remember the date, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m., at the Zoo, Labouchere Rd. entrance. Bring a plate of eats.

#### DECEMBER MEETING

DEC. 6

This will be a good night's fun for all so roll up and if you feel so inclined bring along a friend with you. There will be a quiz session and there will be a pianist present so you will be able to sing your heads off. Items will also be arranged during the evening. Get that Christmas feeling good and early in the month!

#### WORKING BEE KINGS PARK

Nov. 6, 1960

Quite contrary to the previous effort this was a real good Working Bee and the roll up quite equal to previous years. Those present hopped into the work with a will and practically the whole of one side was planted.

Ron Kirkwood did a sterling job of organisation and Jack Carey, as usual, saw to it that there was an abundance of fertiliser to give the newly planted grass a kick along. Possibly the best worker among those present was Bill Epps's wife, Jess, who never let up for a minute. I don't know whether it was the fact that a small amount of liquid refreshment was available that accounted for the better roll up but if it was it was well worth the price.

Thanks a ton to all who made it and it is hoped that everyone will do all they can in future to get this area into the condition that all the money that has been expended upon it warrants.

#### EMPIRE GAMES RE-UNION

Don't forget this function which was so fully described in the previous issue of the "Courier". This is your great chance for a real slap-up holiday at the minimum of expense as accommodation is there for the asking and all the hard graft of obtaining those "hard to book" seats will be done for you. Give this your consideration and if you haven't already started to save there is no earlier date than the present.

Work has proceeded at a tremendous rate on the earth works for the stadium (my shattered eardrums are here to testify to that). Huge "Euclid" prime mover scoops shifting 30 cubic yards at a bite, have excavated the amphitheatre in six weeks (something like 200,000 cubic yards of sand have been removed) and the area is now almost ready for grassing. This will be a beautiful site based right on the edge of Alderbury Lake and skirted on all sides by natural bushland. Probably no site in the world could be more ideal and at the same time within reasonable proximity of the heart of the city (a mere four miles).

Chevron-Hilton Hotel is under way with minor earthworks commenced. The major portion will get cracking immediately.

The Perth City Council have agreed to start the new Town Hall within sufficient time for completion of the major portion prior to the Games.

A further bulletin of news on this subject next issue.

Remember, make up your mind to be in it in 1962.

#### DECEMBER MEETING — BUCKS' NIGHT MONASH CLUB, 6th DECEMBER 1960

Get the Christmas Feeling Early  
Bring a Mate and Enjoy Yourself

#### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

SOUTH PERTH ZOO, SUNDAY, 11th DECEMBER, 1960  
Labouchere Road Entrance

Bring the Kids and a Plate of Eats

## Personalities

It was good to see "Slim" (?) James at the Working Bee at Kings Park. The real bloated plutocrat and still able to raise a ready laugh on the drop of a hat.

Tom Towers complete with two able bodied boys, was there making a three man team to assist with the planting.

Bill Epps capped the lot by nagging the wife and son into it and thus trebling his usual efforts.

Those working bee stalwarts Keith Hayes, Jerry Haire, Harry Sproxton, "Curly" Bowden, "Spriggy" McDonald, were noticed doing their usual stint of toil.

Ron Kirkwood, Geo. Boyland, Jack Carey, Col Doig and Arthur Smith also contributed their modicum to the morning's effort.

Seen in town during the month was Fred Growns, from Ballidu, who unfortunately is still having hospital treatment for the leg he broke many months ago. Says he finds it difficult to do much about working the property but has a

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## "LEST WE FORGET"

### NOVEMBER

Kemp, Tpr. L. B., killed in action, New Guinea, Nov. 12, 1943.  
Thomas, Pte. J. E., killed in action, Timor, Nov. 11, 1942. Age 29.  
Smeaton, Pte. A., killed in action, Timor, Nov. 11, 1945. Age 24.  
Ludlow, Cpl. Stanley, killed on service, W.A., Nov. 18, 1945. Age 28.

growing son who is quite capable of driving a tractor.

Our good friend and helper, Mick Calcutt, is in hospital at present, doing a stint in R.G.H., Hollywood. If any of you chaps have an hour to spare slip down and see Mick and give a word of cheer.

Saw Don Turton for a while during the month and he looked real well. As usual had about a week's work to do in a day. When seen he was arranging for a front-end loader for his tractor to lighten the burden of the manual work on the farm.

Rumour has it that "Doc" Dunkley is now doing duty with the Commonwealth Dept. of Health so look out if you are looking for a pension as he will know all your old tricks.

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# Historically Yours!

## CHAPTER NINE

### COMMUNICATION REGAINED

It was during this breathing space that probably the most important achievement of the early stages of the campaign took place. As told earlier when the Signallers from the R.A.A.F. took off with their set the radio link with Australia was severed and there was no set on the island capable of making contact with Australia.

We had the necessary brain power and technical ability within our Sig. group to build a set capable of reaching anywhere but the main essential of mechanical parts was sadly missing. With such men as Sigs. "Joe" Loveless, Keith Richards, Jack Sargent and "Saus" Tiverside, Capt. Geo. Parker, of the 8th Div. Sigs., not forgetting operators such as "Happy" Greenhalgh, Don Murray, Vic Pacey, Jack Servante and Harry Botterill, we were in a strong position if only we could lay our hands on the necessary material.

Even providence had been on our side as "Joe" Loveless had applied for a transfer to the Armoured Division when we were camped at Wayville, and this transfer was blocked at the time as it was considered that competent Sigs. would be badly required by the Unit and the Armoured Division were in a better position to train personnel than we were.

Capt. Callinan smartly realised that it was essential that communication with the mainland be re-established but no one knew better than he as an engineer, that the necessary gear had to be obtained before a set could be built. This was the prime reason for his trip to Dutch Timor as he desired to lay hands on the only set on the island capable of contacting Australia. His disappointment could be imagined when he arrived at Atamboia and was given to understand that the set had been irrevocably destroyed on the Brigadier's orders.

A survey of resources at command showed a 104 Station set quite capable of receiving from Australia but not sufficiently powerful to transmit beyond a very limited range. As a matter of fact we used to say: "Out of sight out of range."

The first acquisition to the stores available was a set brought in by a Dutchie who thought it was a transmitter when in actual fact it was a normal American pattern receiver and truly out of order.

It was not long before all concerned realised that "Joe" Loveless was the No. 1 man in this project and he was a very sick man. His experience as a wireless mech. with the P.M.G.'s Dept. was invaluable. Many were the circuits plotted and discarded. "Joe" knew exactly what he wanted but, and a big "but" was, could he do it with the stores available? Cpl. Donovan had scrounged parts from a set at Atamboia so at this time the main stores available were our 104 set, the set brought in by the Dutchie and Donovan's set.

These were ripped down and the wiring and parts carefully husbanded. At this stage the No. 2 man was definitely Keith Richards whose ability with a soldering iron was uncanny. Batteries were available but in a low charging condition and it was realised that a battery charger was essential.

A charger was taken from an abandoned car and rigged to a series of wooden wheels with a master wheel about 4 ft. in diameter which a native was persuaded to turn.

The first effort at a set was completed late in March, 1942, but would not work. The whole thing was turning to bitter aloe in the mouth.

Cpl. Donovan made another trip to Atamboia and returned with a power pack from a Dutch transmitter, two aerial tuning condensers, 60 ft.

of heavy aerial wire, and short lengths of wire and another receiving set.

Loveless was overjoyed at receiving this extra gear and Richards set to work once again painstakingly with the soldering iron to give Joe the necessary lengths of wire, etc., for his circuits.

At this stage a rumour of Jap movement threw all into a panic and they had to move locality.

"Baldy" Garnett and a gang of his boys moved back in the direction of Dilli and with the assistance of several Portos managed to recover a petrol driven battery charger but best of all they were able to lay hands on a set that had been used by Dave Ross to contact Australia on many of his espionage messages. This was a Qantas aeroplane set which had suffered from the vicissitudes of the weather while buried.

Native carriers brought this set back to Mape and Joe and his gang were able to get going once again.

The second effort was once again a failure and Joe Loveless was in the depths of despair. His health was at its lowest and his morale was suffering damnably from these set-backs. All in on the project realised it was necessary to get Joe into the right frame of mind for another effort.

Callinan issued orders to all that success was imperative. Parker, who had charge of operations, was the right man for the job. He knew exactly how to handle Loveless and get the maximum effort from him.

Loveless at this time had a brilliant idea. He would hook up the powerful uncalibrated transmitter from Qantas to a weak set with a range of only 30 miles. To do this he needed more batteries. Four were scrounged. The details of the scrounging elude me at this late date, but probably some reader can assist. Then hell of helms—petrol ran out for the charger.

Another raid into Jap lines was required to replenish supplies.

From Dilli, with the assistance of Porto helpers, tins of kerosene and some diesel were snatched and returned to H.Q. This was mixed together and the charger was kidded into starting and once started it was no trouble to keep it going.

With batteries at full strength the third set was ready for trial.

It worked!!!  
On the night of April 18, 1942, a signal was despatched to Darwin. Horror! No reply!

Little were we to know the panic we set Nor Force at Darwin into when this message was received. All stations in the area were told to keep off the air and listen the following evening.

On the night of April 19 they got through again and this time they got an answer.

The little gang on the project went wild with joy. They were through! It worked! Loveless was nearly overcome with excitement! But damn it all the bloody batteries had gone phut again!

On the day of the 20th everyone worked like merry hell to get those batteries up to strength again.

The night of the 20th was it or else we were like Barney's Bull!

The signal got through again to Darwin. (Remember, all this time they were using an obsolete code which was current when Parker was at Penfoei about three months before.) Darwin was still suspicious, was this the Japs pulling a fast one? They demanded proof of identity. Back came the message:

"Do you know Geo. Parker?"

"Yes, he is with us."

"What is his rank? Answer immediately."

"Captain!" went back over the ether.

"Is he there? Bring him to the transmitter. What is your wife's name, Geo?"

"Joan!" He practically screamed realising success was imminent.

"What is the number of your street of your home?"

"94," said Geo via the morse code.

Darwin was satisfied. We were in business once again.

Christ, what a feeling! To be in contact again after two months in the wild!

The big job would be to stay in business now we had got started. A battery charger and petrol were imperative. A new set a matter of urgency. But at least that was Darwin's problem.

The major credit must go to Joe Loveless for his technical planning and radio skill but Keith Richards

for his outstanding ability to make something out of nothing must be a very high second on the list. Jack Sargent as the initial instigator. Bernie Callinan for demanding that this project succeed and giving any priorities required to make it succeed. Geo Parker by the impress of his personality to get the overall team to work also must merit high praise.

The set was immediately nicknamed "Winnie the War Winner," and never was a name more aptly coined. Today it rests in the War Museum at Canberra, a permanent memorial to the ingenuity of men and to Joe Loveless and Keith Richards in particular. To think that Keith Richards was to die on his return from Timor after removal of an impacted wisdom tooth at Larimah is luck gone all awry.

The big thing was we were back in contact and the fighting ability was lifted a 100 fold. As word slowly trickled through to the various outlying sections who in the main were unaware that the project was even being worked on, the jubilation was terrific. The very thought that we were once again somebody's baby and were not right out on our own was most comforting.

Thank God for Winnie the War Winner!!

(To be continued)

#### A letter from Ron Trengrove to Col Doig,

Here are some names I have in mind of the Maliana mob you received from Lebos besides those you have mentioned: Arch Macrury, a dental mechanic; Geoff Woods, a sgt. from the 2/40th; Sgt. Jack Le Strange, artillery; Peter Cannon, 2/40th; Harry Fredericks; Cpl. Jack Archer, 2/40th; Paul Simmonds, 2/40th. There are two more that I can only recall by a surname—Bennet, known as Benno, also from 2/40th, and Chicka, presumably Charles, but that was his Christian name. When we received our first Bren I was made his number two. Max Davies would remember them as they were both infanteers. Benno was round of face and figure. Chicka was about as tall as a small jockey but as firey as 40 bastards. I should know as I walked in front of his cocked

Bren and talked him out of shooting Geoff Woods, later on at Nuna Mog, from Hata Balico, when our section was split up for the second time.

We also had another bloke from the 2/40th, Bluey, whom Johnny Rose would remember as he took some films of Johnny's when he was sent home on one of the boats but John never saw his films again.

Le Strange was the bloke who said he didn't have to do guards and Woods backed him up, because he was a Sgt. What with so many of us getting sick the guards were falling on the same ones every night but with these two in it, it would have given us a break every two or three nights. Eric Herd said if they couldn't do it neither could he, and Peter Cannon and I backed him up. As sick as you were you old bastard, you said we would do as we were told and threatened Eric with a march to Bobanaro but when the heat died down and we explained our point to you, the two lordly Sgts. did their trick for two hours same as everyone else, and you made Max in charge including those two who were made acting blank files and took orders from you and Max. I can still remember that night like it was yesterday. That was the best thing you did, making Max your 2 I.C., because we all knew Woods and what a weak bastard he was. Had you backed him up as rules and regs. demanded I don't think you would have thought so well of us as we wouldn't have had a bar of him or Le Strange although I liked him but his place was on a barrack square.

You may not remember but I did daily patrols, Eric and I. I should say, when I had weeping time in the crutch. I did them without my shorts and only the tops of my boots and goat skin tied underneath. I got staked in the left foot on one of these patrols. We were so short of men fit enough that we went out in two's. Two in the morning and two in the afternoon, and occasional large numbers to the river on the Balibo and Memo tracks.

Two other characters come to mind but only their short names or nicknames. One a 2/40th cook, Ace, who later at Hata Balico, went

walkabout and was sent home. I believe he never recovered and some years ago I heard was still in a mental home. He was traffed by planes at Baboe in Dutch Timor and escaped with Eric Herd and Co. The other was Mac, a N.S. Welshman about as tall as Max Davies and was well known at Maliana for his farts which shook the Posto and when on patrol farted every 30 seconds.

Do you remember the old boong on the phone? "Dar Bobinaro, Dar Bobinaro, Dar Bobinaro."

Incidentally I was never intended for your section. I was one of the Brig's bodyguard and the night that the party was picked out to go to Maliana I was not allowed to go. Laurie Ross, at my request, rang Lolitoi and asked Capt. Arnold if I could go with them to you, but he said no so next morning I rang and told his corporal I was going anyway as I wanted to go with Eric and join the 2/2nd. Then I ran out with my gear and caught them up some two miles or so down the track. Laurie Ross was told by some Major at Lolitoi to send a party after me and arrest me which he did but just as they caught up with us another party came after them and said that Capt. Neave had rung and said that he had fixed it up and I was to be allowed to carry on. That's how you got another no-hoper in your gang.

## Random Harvest

**MAL HERBERT, of Box 41 Nun-garin, writes:—**

Many thanks for the good wishes re the Tasmania trip. No one was more surprised than me when the team was announced, as while I am at present shooting at least as well as I ever have, the competition is so much keener now than it was say 10 years ago. You need all good scores to stay with the leaders nowadays. The overall standard in W.A. has improved immensely lately and I am very confident that the team will do well at Hobart.

The Neil Scott mentioned is not the "B" Troop Scotty, though is

## Heard This?

A man whose wife was about to have her first child found that there was no doctor available in the small village where she was staying.

"But we've got a good Christian Science practitioner here," said a friend.

The urbane practitioner arrived. "Of course I can handle the case my friend. Pain is a mere error of mortal mind. Your wife will feel no pain at all. We remove the pain entirely, and it usually settles on the father of the child."

The husband looked sceptical. "That is a little rough on me. But —anything to keep the little girl from suffering."

So the husband walked backwards and forwards in the next room, expecting every moment to feel dreadful pain. Moment by moment he felt better. "Why," he thought, "women have been exaggerating all this stuff about pains of childbirth. I feel fit as a fiddle."

Just then the maid ran in with a frightened face. "Oh, master, come to the garage quickly—the chauffeur's dying."

\* \* \*

Film Censor: "You describe this picture, 'Beaches and Peaches,' as an educational film. What does it teach?"

Producer: "Anatomy."

probably well known to many of the boys being at present Rural Bank Manager at Merredin and has been in several country centres including Narrogin and Pemberton.

As I am hopeful of meeting some of the boys at Hobart and Melbourne, could you please let me have Pat Haywood's address, also Jock Campbell's and Charlie Brown's?

My movements are: Arrive Hobart Dec. 26, 10.20 a.m. (by air); depart Hobart Jan. 4, 11.45 a.m.; arrive Melbourne 1 p.m., depart 6.15 p.m. Together with any of the team members who are free I

will call at Young and Jacksons at 2 p.m. and will be delighted to have a beer or two with any of my old mates (if I have any).

Am at present flat out trying to get the harvest off in time to have it finished before leaving for the trip. Have 1,200 acres to do with one machine, but should make it O.K. unless held up too much at the bin.

(C. Browne, 30 Mointainview Pde., Rosanna, Vic.; J. Campbell, 69 Service St., Hampton, Vic.; no address for Pat Haywood. —Editor.)

**RON TREN GROVE, of 46 Hillcrest Ave., Mona Vale, N.S.W., writes:**

If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes I wouldn't have believed that old bastardian Eric Herd in print. So shocked am I that I thought, well here goes. That's the first letter he has written since 1946 when he wrote and thanked the army for being so kind to him all those previous years.

I haven't had time in the last 12 months to know whether it was Christmas or Easter but things are starting to slow down a bit now and by the time my holidays come around in January hope to be able to take my wife and two boys away for three weeks' holiday.

Just recently I paid two visits to Bill Coker's home and drank all his beer, got a heap of lights and despite unveiled hints by Bill that I should go home, stayed to watch T.V., mainly because I couldn't stop my wife and Bill's talking about Bathurst, etc. Thanks to Bill we have some very nice lights. One in particular is called a "Prawn Lantern," which will greet one and all if you call to see us and we let you in the front door. Don't be like a certain O'Neil named Curly, who leaves his car in the next street and walks up to see me (badly dented from poor, inattentive driving, I suppose) but drive right up—all welcome.

I had a letter from Doug Fullarton earlier in the year but like all letters I have received this year, including ones from my young sister who is in Europe and England, they have remained unanswered. I have been too occupied trying to make a war service loan stretch and stretch.

Bill Bennet fixed me up with a very good front door lock and although I haven't seen Bill since I expected to see him now that he has sported himself a car, but like us all, by the time we do our chores and keep up appointments, business and otherwise, we haven't much time to visit.

The Jones's only live on the next point from us but I haven't seen them since I last called in February.

By the way if any of you Sydneyites are interested in orchids and don't already know it, Bill Coker has some beauties, in fact hundreds. My wife received an armful from Bill, probably to try and make us go home, but I just can't refuse good hospitality and anyway I thought Coral would never put supper on and you folks know how I hate a cup of tea. Bill has some very fine examples of stonework and concrete in his yard. How the hell he has done so much and ruin a business, play cricket, take the family out weekends, I am mystified.

It is very easy to understand how Neil Hooper has been Mayor of Roma. Probably went round in the dead of night firing bursts from a Tommy Gun then yelling: "Vote for Hooper, or else." As he did one quiet evening when passing a spur a short way down from Fatu Cork where a particularly tired section was camped not far from the river where recently the Japs had come out.

**COL KNIGHT, of 188 Ballina Rd., Goonellabah, via Lismore, N.S.W. writes:—**

It is a while since I have had any "Couriers" but as I have been moving about they have probably gone astray. It is anyhow good to see the Association still in progress. I myself am well and kept fairly busy. The wife and two kids are O.K. We live three miles out of Lismore. I bought five acres about 18 months ago but I still go to work in Lismore.

Arthur Birch is here in Lismore and often see him down at the R.S.L. Club. Russ Blanch is at Bangalow and see him now and again.

Well, I will say cheerio for the present and wish all members best of health and luck from me.

**DON MURRAY, of Wagin, writes:—**

Sorry about this, but I've been away so much lately they've slipped my mind. I've just returned tonight to find they are almost due. If they miss out I'm practically the only one affected so it serves me right.

**J. J. ENGLISH, of 5 Bamford Place, Seven Hills, N.S.W., writes:—**

Please find enclosed postal note for payment of sweep tickets. Also please take note of my new address.

Although you would not remember me I remember you quite well. But the last time I can remember seeing you was in hospital at Ainaro, among other names and faces I can remember Tom Crouch, Nip Cunningham, Keith Hayes, Babe Teague, Nev Muzer, Skeeter Bagnall, all in hospital at the same time. I find many names from time to time in the "Courier" that bring back memories and I try to picture what they would look like today. Judging from the two characters we have entertained here recently from other States no one has changed very much. The two I refer to are Bloss Lawrence and Kev Curran. We also had a visit from Gerry Malley not long back. I can assure you all three got the works. A special treatment we allot to all 2/2nd Commandos from other States.

Although the works is only a small word, if you care to ask Bloss you will find it has a very big meaning. I also know that the lads in this State have been planning a super duper for the first time you appear in this State, so don't keep them waiting too long.

Some names you may like to hear after many years—Snow Went, Irish O'Brien, Frank (The Cure) O'Neill, Paddy Kenneally, Jack Keenan, Taffy Davis, Shadow Olde, Jim Hallorhan, Bill Coker, Ron Hilliard, Roy Harris, Merv Jones, Alfredo Dos Santos and the ever willing Jack Hartley and many more too numerous to mention all turn up to our Anzac Day functions and other outings during the year. I'll bet Kev Curran, Bloss and Jerry would shudder and shake if they read the above names. Please tell any of the lads coming to N.S.W. to get in touch with Jack Hartley or Frank O'Neill so we can give them

the works. Had a letter from Bloss the other day. He suggested that we elect O'Neill to the House of Parliament. I wrote back that we had already decided to elect O'Neill to the house but we had a much smaller house in mind.

As for myself I'm an old married man now. Beside my wife, Jean, I have a boy, Gregory, who is nine years old and a girl, Pauline, who is three years old. Pauline, unfortunately has been a very sick girl and has been in hospital for eight months suffering from "Transverse Myelitis," a spinal complaint which has paralysed her from the waist down. There has been very little improvement in the eight months and we are not sure what the future holds for her. I'm afraid it doesn't seem too bright, but we are hoping and praying for some miracle to turn up.

Well, I must close now but will write again soon. Keep up the good work you are doing and best wishes to all the 2/2nd boys.

**ALAN LUBY, of Crafton District Ambulance Service, Crafton, N.S.W., writes:—**

Enclosed sweep butts and cash and an extra 10/- for subs, or any other purpose.

Pleased to see some response from N.S.W. in last edition. Only news I have is that Norah Fredericks has another son, total now is four.

Everything fine with us and trust this finds all well. Will write at greater length when time permits.

**BILL COKER, of 11 Kameruka Rd., Northbridge, N.S.W., writes:—**

Just a line to let you hear news I have of some of the chaps.

Saw in the paper last night of a £6,000 win for Ron Hilliard. Congratulations Ron, and nobody deserves it more than you and Pat.

Had a letter in from Johnny Rose after a couple of years. He has at last moved out S.W. and is now selling hardware in the retail set-up. Better I suppose than when we used to go to Newcastle, John, and get trapped by our C.O.

Have not seen Curly O'Neill since he returned from a trip to New Guinea, so he should have a good story to tell when we get hold of him.

Roy Harris has settled in his place only a mile from here and is still talking about his trip to the West. We both hope to see you all over there at the Empire Games.

Anzac Day is long past and every year we always manage to see a new face amongst our regulars. 'Tis a busy day as we hold it at Arncliffe and Tom Martin being in charge at Hurstville, one is shuttling back and forth all day. Master No Grass (Martin) has not changed one bit, in fact, his hair line remains the same.

To Gordon Rowley, was pleased to have your sister-in-law here the other night with a promise of further visits and am very pleased to hear you doing so well down your way. Well, chaps, beers and cheers.

**HAROLD BROOKER, of 110 Goodwood Pde., Rivervale, writes:—**

Am enclosing sweep butts. Am afraid I got caught off balance this year. Have been on long service leave and just got back to work. Everyone seems to be broke, paying off T.V. Afraid I'm the same after three months off. Didn't get to the Re-union, just got over the flu and at the moment feeling a wreck, so will sign off.

**PETER CAMPBELL, of Gibson, writes:—**

Late as usual with sweep tickets, but I suppose better later than never. Have taken the two books, £2 enclosed, the rest for subs.

Am enjoying an excellent season. Down our way crops and stock all in good order and should be a bumper year all round.

In 1957 approx. 20,000 bushells of grain grown. 1960 the general estimate 1,000,000 all on private enterprise. With a small government assistance and the backing of development bank should add to the State as a whole a big boost over the next 10 years.

Hoping that the sweep is a big success. Regards to all.

**DOROTHY WENT, of 32 Wyong St., Canley Vale, N.S.W., writes:**

I held off sending the sweep butts hoping Snowie would have returned from a job in Queensland by now. He will be home in a few days and will be writing you then. We met Charlie Mills in South-

port and he's very keen to be on the "Courier" mailing list. His address is Ann St., Southport, Queensland. Hoping the sweep is a huge success.

**FRED JANVRIN, of 10 Nanowie St., Narmie, N.S.W., writes:—**

Fred's about to write for the very first time and it isn't before time either. I've been receiving the "Courier" for years now and have enjoyed every copy I've received, more so this month because there are a couple of letters in it from No. 1 section boys and it's good to read about them and what they are doing. Jim Went I haven't seen since the war, but would like to very much. If when he writes again, he would say exactly where Wirrin-ya is, who knows, one of these days I might get around to getting up there, or down there. Good to see your name in the "Courier" Jim. If you get to see Ken Jones remember me to him and tell him I'd love to hear from him. Thanks for the best wishes Les Isenhood. It sure has been many years since you saw some of us jokers. Was good to read about you also. Would be a good idea if we wrote a little more often, don't you think? While we are up your way have you seen anything of the one and only Chapman? Give him my love if and when you do see him, and how about the Bee Man, Fred Otway? You want to keep your hat on Fred they tell me bees like to have a go at hairless heads and the last time I saw you, you were getting pretty thin up there. Also nice to read about you, mate. In fact it's nice to read about the doings of everyone who writes in to the "Courier". You boys over there do a great job. If it was left to jokers like me there never would be a "Courier" and I'm not the only one. There are quite a few of us who enjoy reading the "Courier" but never do anything to help. Let's hope in the future us fellows in N.S.W. can do a little to help make it a bigger success. Poor Jack Hartley has tried often enough to get things going over here but like always no support.

Enclosed are the butts for the sweep. I'll just about make the deadline. Sorry I've left it so late but I forgot all about them. If

I'm too late for the draw then do not let it worry you as I've taken most of them myself and odd few that I sold my mates weren't paid for anyway.

Will close now, but before I do so would like to say how much I've enjoyed reading about all the boys from one section, so how about it, you blokes, if we write for the "Courier" we can all read it.

**ALF BLUNDY, of Smith St., Beverly writes:—**

As I have left this sweep ticket selling too late I'm afraid I cannot drop you too many lines as if this does not go tonight I'm afraid it will miss the sweep which I would not wish to happen. Wet weather has mucked up the shearing and we have been trying to work weekends so have been mucked up considerably.

Please find cheque with some added for my sub. Hope this keeps me financial for another year.

**A further letter says:—**

In a hurry last night posted the cheque but missed putting in the sweep butts. I sincerely hope you will receive this before the sweep is drawn.

Well as I'm racing to go to work now will wish you the best.

**TOM CROUCH, of "Burnside," Donnelly Mail, Manjimup, writes:—**

I can't locate the tickets at the moment but am enclosing a cheque for you to add to the sweep funds.

It's raining like hell at the moment, seems to have been raining since the middle of June and it's been bitterly cold as well.

Well, rain or no rain, I've got to go to town so I'd better get on my way.

**TONY ADAMS, of A.N.Z. Bank, Longreach, Queensland, writes:**

I have been going to write this for ages and now find I have to rush it as tomorrow I leave for a three or four day trip into Heartbreak Corner—Windorah area in S.W. where it hasn't rained for three years and if I don't get this away I'll be on your follow-up list.

Business first. Cheque enclosed to cover loss of tickets, would you apply balance to purchase further tickets in the kids names, Paul and Judith. If no tickets available I'll

leave it to your discretion as to how to apply the money.

The "Courier" is the most important thing to us who seldom see old faces. I can honestly say it is one paper I read from cover to cover. We owe you all a lot for the trouble you take for us.

The years seem to fly. Can't remember when I wrote to you last but on our return from holidays we moved into a new bank house which has the added attraction of being air cooled in the living room.

In April we moved into the new bank premises which are very modern and completely air cooled and do we need it?

Last summer was the longest and hottest for many years and we were temporarily housed in a galvanised iron shed. The temperature repeatedly reached 108 deg. by 10 a.m. and 118 by 3 p.m. With beer at 6/- a bottle it was a mighty expensive summer.

Paul goes away to school next year so I suppose we may as well say he's left home. We are sending him to Churchie in Brisbane. You would remember Dad was head of the prep there so the family ties are strong. He has been doing well with his work this year so we hope for a decent scholarship result.

My mother recently had the misfortune to be mixed up in a car accident and broke her wrist. She had to go all the way to W.A. to have her last accident. She seems to still find it difficult to use her arm as before, so I hope it will soon mend properly.

I was interested to read Stan Sadler is to visit Queensland. What does his brother Ron do at Birdum and will he be in Brisbane at Christmas? We plan to be in Brisbane in January.

I'm sorry this is so rushed but I promise you a good epistle at Christmas.

Give my congratulations to "Spriggy" on his election as president and regards and best wishes to all the boys.

**FRED WILKES, of 8 Heppingstone Rd., Brunswick Junction, writes:**

Just a few lines to let you know I'm still in the land of the living at Brunswick Junction and still work on the railways as an examiner of wagons. I don't see too many of



our old gang these days and never seem to be able to make the Unit functions though I like to receive the "Courier" and the news about the results and about the news of our gang. I hope to make the annual Re-union in the near future and meet up with the boys again.

There isn't much news down here at Brunswick to write about though I did see Ken McIntosh down here one day as he was passing through. He looks just the same.

I'm enclosing my sweep butts and subs.

**R. T. YATES, of 224 Kyogle Road, Kyogle, N.S.W., writes:—**

Just a few brief lines to say "thank you" for the "Courier," which I have received during these past numerous years. It has been my main source of information on what the mob has been doing. Although Jim Cullen lives only a few miles out of town I only seem to see him each Anzac Day when I am able to catch up on a little extra news.

As for myself I have been leading a fairly quiet life. I have a small shop near the school and work at the local plywood mill, so you can see that I am fairly well tied down with shop work of a night and weekends and the mill during the day.

Over the years my family has grown to four boys, Bruce 13 years Warren 11, Ken 8, and Terry 3.

I'm afraid that this is all the news that I have so I will finish off, once again saying thank you.

Jean, my wife, has reminded me that she does the shop work during the day while I am at work so that I am really not over worked.

**BOB PALMER, of Cowaramup, writes:—**

Just a hurried line to return the sweep butts which are almost overdue as usual. Have to go to town tonight so will post them and they will reach you in time. Have intended sending them for weeks, but always leave it one more day.

Had a note from Marsh the other week with a reply paid envelope enclosed so will use it up one of these days so will leave what little news I have until then.

Will not be able to make the

Re-union as am tied down with the cows.

Enclosed find cheque to cover the tickets and a bit extra. Do what you like with that.

Regards to all the gang.

**DON MAY, of 52 Anstey St., Sth. Perth, writes:—**

Herewith please find enclosed cheque for sweep tickets and funds.

It is regretted that my position as Public Relations Officer with the W.A.G.R. at times precludes attending meetings, etc., but can assure you I look forward to receiving the activities of the Association from time to time.

Kindest regards to everyone and it is sincerely hoped that I may shortly be in a position to take a more active part in Association matters.

**A. G. BRADY, of 120 South West Highway, Donnybrook, writes:—**

Just a few lines to you and I do hope they find you and the boys in the best of health. Not much to write about in this place although it is much better than Wongan Hills. Soon be crabbing time and I spend most weekends at Bunbury estuary chasing these 'er little beauts and I might add getting my fair share of them too. Well I guess that is all for this time as I can't think of anything else that would interest you, except to say I have enclosed butts and cheque, so now cheerio for the time being.

**REG HARRINGTON, of "Ainaro," Wyining, writes:—**

Herewith sweep butts and cheque to cover.

Once again I will have to miss the Re-union on account of golf. We have our championship finals starting this weekend. Also I have been out of action with this queer type of flu for some time and haven't recovered yet, so mightn't even make it to golf yet. Mind you I only ended up about eleventh on the list so my golf hasn't improved much.

Saw Tom Martin at a pig sale not long back when he paid 100 guineas odd for a boar from our neighbour. He never changes at all. Also ran into Charlie and Stan Sadler at Wongan recently.

The season seems to be well on

the way to being above average. In fact judging the crops as now I'd say it will be our best yet. We just trucked 11 baby-beef off this morning so should be able to pick up a couple of bob this afternoon.

Wish the boys well on my behalf. I'm sorry I can't make the trip. Even if I hadn't been playing golf I doubt that I could make the trip as this flu takes a fair bit of shaking off.

**FRANK SHARPE, of 5 Martin Pde., Lithgow, N.S.W., writes:—**

Please find enclosed butts of sweep tickets also £1 for the sale of same. Also I have enclosed my subs or dues owing to the Association by me. I have only been in contact with the "Courier" and you chaps since a visit to Victoria last year.

During my annual holidays in '59 my wife and son journeyed across to Melbourne and spent several very enjoyable weeks with my old mate Freddie Broadhurst and his good wife. The first night was a surprise welcome party with a nice roll up of the boys from Six Section, those being present were: "Seedy" Charlie Brown, Ron Eastick, Jack Campbell. Much drinking and talking took place. The women left us to it in Fred's garage and it was just like old times when we sat down with our Lady Blameys and issues of bottled beer after settling in at Rabaul.

We enjoyed our visit very much as the boys took us everywhere advertising old Melbourne on the banks of the muddy old Yarra as we knew it, but all jokes aside we did appreciate the welcome that was given to us.

Seeing that I have lost contact with all the boys from the 2/2nd since our discharge and leaving New Britain a line by me to your paper is long overdue.

I returned to my home town, Lithgow, when I received my discharge and commenced employment as a fireman with N.S.W. Govt. Railways. After eight years I was appointed a driver here so have settled down and am quite happy with everything.

I attended one Anzac march in Sydney and met Paddy Kenneally and the Hilliard brothers but see very little of any N.S.W. members.

Have noticed several good articles in one of Sydney's leading daily papers by Frank O'Neill. I have been told that it is none other than old "Curly". I understand that he is attached to the Journalist staff of Consolidated Press in Sydney.

Many thanks once again for sending me the news each month. I do enjoy the articles and the news submitted by the boys from time to time.

Please extend my best wishes to all the boys in W.A. particularly Joe and Jack Poynton, the Crossing brothers, Harold Brooker, and "Youngie" and not forgetting our old favourite corporal and barber, Tommy Martin.

Cheerio for the present and keep up the good work.

**G. F. (Happy) GREENHALGH, of Moulamein, N.S.W., writes:—**

Enclosed is one quid and the butts. I hope you receive sufficient quids to quieten that ulcer of yours and keep the "Courier" solvent. Along with all your correspondents I find myself looking forward to receiving my copy each month! It's a great refresher of memories. I would appreciate it if you would have my address noted as Moulamein, N.S.W., as it has been going to Maclean for years.

Am looking forward to being in W.A. in 1962 with any luck at all, and to this end my wife is very cunningly socking the odd quid away. It appears by deduction then that she also desires to see this fabulous land.

Not having corresponded to the West before you may find it of some interest if I tell what I've been doing since 1946. In that year I resumed with the P.M.G. Dept. and have been with them ever since. I resumed at Camden and after 12 months there attended a school in Sydney. After two years in the big smoke I moved on to Maclean near Grafton. A lovely spot where I spent seven years before coming to Moulamein. I have been Postmaster here now for almost five years and am beginning to look for another move.

I'm interested in playing golf in the winter time and bowls in the summer and have been on the committees of both clubs for some years now. Am hoping to get a

game at both sports in W.A. Play off 11 handicap but, like the old colonel, never seem to be able to play my usual game at all.

Best wishes to all in W.A.

**COLIN CRIDDLE, of 124 Nanson St., Wembley, writes:—**

Please find enclosed ticket butts covering the Kalgoorlie Cup and cheque, any extra covering subs overdue.

I guess this seems the opportune time to relieve the burden off the shoulders of the Editor, to save him from scratching his noodle for scarce news. It sure is a credit to you. How you so admirably supply enough news scoop for the "Courier". However your efforts are not wasted. I sure look forward to each copy coming.

Recently I had a trip to Geraldton on company business, the first for quite a while as I am now a shiny bum, and the first person I should meet in one of the leading hotels was Jack Denman. Quite prosperous looking and full of friendship. We had quite a lengthy talk over a few noggins and Jack was saying how Brush Fagg was having trouble with both of his legs, but it did seem to Jack he would eventually get them right. The medical men were doing all they knew how. Never saw any of the other boys in the day and a half I was in Geraldton but Jack assured me they were all in the pink.

Ran into Percy Hancock the other day and he drilled me about not getting along to the meetings. The only excuse I have now is T.V. and that's feeble, but I have just got to get off my fat buttocks and get along. I'll make it yet.

Trusting these few lines will help out.

**TED LOUD, of Forests Dept., Pemberton, writes:—**

Enclosed sweep butts and money for my subs. Pleased to hear by information of the "Courier" that all the boys seem to be doing O.K.

Had the pleasure of meeting Arch Campbell a couple of months ago when he was in Pemberton with the Ampol show and a very good evening's entertainment was had by an appreciative full house.

Also met Arch a couple of weeks

ago in Perth. Jimmy Ritchie and I paid Geoff Laidlaw a visit at Ampol and later met Geoff and Arch at the Grosvenor where we did a bit of ear bashing over a few beers. Others I met were Merv Ryan, Joe Poynton, 'Ping' Anderson and Dave Ritchie, all were very fit and not a care in the world.

Alec Thomson was in Pemberton for a holiday from Dunsborough a few months ago. He was very fit except for self inflicted. So much so that after a week here he was sure that he had arrived only two days before.

I am quite well and still working as an overseer in the Forestry Dept. My wife also well and still running a tea rooms in Pemberton.

I wish everyone the very best.

**JIM FOOT, of 68 Faust St., Proserpine, Queensland, writes:—**

Enclosed please find butts and postal note for the tickets in the cup sweep.

At present I am busy. Will drop you a few lines later on in the year. The crushing has started so I don't have much spare time. I am working at the mill sometimes we are called back so I don't get much spare time.

**O. K. DIGNUM, of Seaton Park, S.A., writes:—**

A lot of water has flowed down the creek since I last penned a line to the West, so I thought that on the occasion of returning the sweep butts may also be the chance to let any of the boys from 4 Section know that I am still in the land of the living and managing to live O.K. I am in the motor crash repair game. Have been for quite a few years now, and if I do say so myself I am a very tolerant person. I take a very tolerant view of the idiots, no hoppers and what have you that use our highways. I have yet to meet the cockies moaning about good wheat prices or the sheep man bucking oh account of high wool prices. My outlook may be slightly ghoulish, the greatest setback our trade suffered was when the interfering police clamped down on the noble art of chicken and drunken drivers.

Dud Tapper lives about 1½ miles from here and we visit quite frequently one another. Dud is still

in the building game. I couldn't know if it is booming or not, but there seems to be quite a lot of it going on but possibly slower than the birth rate. Dad is an asset to the barbecue and he is mounding me to build one, in fact he has obtained the hot plate for me, offered to build it, and I think if I can hang off a little longer he might even guarantee to supply the steak.

There is one good point in meeting Tapper frequently, it is the fact that I can always get him to boost my failing confidence and agree with me that I was in, I will repeat, was in the 2/2nd. I get the "Courier," read it, and there would not be a bugger in it I know. Then a name would crop up that looked vaguely familiar and I would say to Tapper: "Who's that?" "Oh him! He left us at Darwin or Timor," and then it's over the "saddle," it's on again.

I have come to the conclusion after years of silent pondering, I mean silent, 4 Section must have been the greatest mob of illiterate no-hopers you could find in a day's march. Take Thornton for instance. How the hell he got three hooks I'll never know. A fine example he has set us blokes. I can't recall ever seeing anything that he has written in the "Courier". Come to think of it I never saw anything that he had written in the army either. The bugger can't write. I wrote a nice letter and sent him a Christmas card in 1946. Now I know why I haven't received a reply. At odd times in the "Courier" I have noticed an item, Thornton sends his regards from Denmark. I'll bet pounds to peanuts the regards are sent word of mouth. If my few passing remarks to Norman doesn't send him racing to hire the services of a scribe, all I can say is the West ain't what it used to be. Perhaps a smoke signal will get through.

Ron Gurr, "The Old Gent", has a sheep property in the south east, and looks very prosperous. I hope to see him on Sept 3 at an annual dinner held by the 39ers in Adelaide.

As you can see by Shorty Stevens address he has moved outside the radius of my nuisance raiding ability so now I have to rely on pen and paper to worry him.

Well I think I will end now, these biros do not last forever. I wish you every success with the sweep and remember me to any of the lads who can remember me. I think 4 Section would be in the minority in the West, including Mick Morgan, Don Hudson, Alf Blundy, Ray Parry.

**EDITH AND GORDON PENDER-GRAST, of Box 93, Collie, write:**

Just a few hurried lines for now. Always have good intentions about writing but that seems to be as far as we get. However we do hope to be able to make the trip for Ladies' Night. Our thoughts were with you last Saturday night (hope those who attended behaved themselves, well, within reason, anyway). All the sweep tickets are to be in our name and hoping once again the sweep will be a huge success.

**JIM SMITH, of 11 Mt. Pleasant Ave. Normanhurst, Sydney, writes:—**

As an old member of your platoon I was delighted to receive your circular with sweep tickets. Herewith butts together with a cheque.

Hoping that the sweep is the success you wish it to be and with kindest regards to all the crew.

\* \* \*

## Heard This?

Waiting to board the transport plane were some army families. A hostess announced: "Pregnant women will board first."

At this a new colonel pushed forward. "Ranking personnel board first. I order you to check me on," he said.

"Certainly, sir," replied the hostess. Then as the colonel strutted by she enquired: "If there are any other pregnant colonels, they may also board now."

\* \* \*

Recently an old gentleman of 70 married a maiden lady of 65. The next day many friends called to enquire after them, and the housemaid's reply was invariably the same: "The master is as well as can be expected, and the mistress is the same as she was yesterday."