



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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AUGUST, 1961

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Editorial

NUCLEAR MADNESS

Recently, we the innocent bystanders, have had the deep dissatisfaction of reading in the daily press two of our world leaders threatening one another with nuclear warfare over the issue of Berlin.

This is nothing but sheer madness. War with atomic weapons is completely unthinkable, just as the use of chemical warfare was unthinkable in 1939. You will all remember the wave of utter revulsion which went round the world when Italy used gas on the helpless Abyssinians. Nothing so solidified public opinion right around the world against the Axis powers as

this act of barbarism. Compared with the nuclear weapons gas is but as a mouse to an elephant.

To talk glibly or even pseudo seriously of the use of nuclear weapons, "If we are forced," is to bluff with serious intent. "Dicing with death," "Russian Roulette," "Juggling with live Generals," are trite sayings which spring to mind and still fail to cover the subject of nuclear warfare adequately. The first bomb dropped of this nature means practically world obliteration as nothing, repeat **nothing**, can stop retribution.

All the years of advancement from the Stone Age forward will be

ANNUAL RE-UNION

ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT
SATURDAY NEXT, 19th AUGUST, 1961

Conviviality Assured. Starts 6.15 p.m.
Your Opportunity to Meet Most of Your Mates!

DON'T MISS IT!!

wasted by just one week's, nay, one day's atomic warfare. Let the world leaders who think this way remember that one salient fact that they alone will bear the responsibility for obliteration of the whole human race.

Nothing will ever convince me that it is the will of the ordinary person, wherever he dwell, that this weapon be used.

Are we so bereft of the power to negotiate that it is necessary for our leaders to have to descend to senseless mouthing of atomic threats? Always remember when a bluff is carried too far there comes the time when it is face losing to have to retract. No such power should be nationally in the hands of one man whether he be British, American, French, German or Russian. This evil thing should at least have to be the decision of parliament and not left to the vagaries of the liver of the national leader. I am supremely sure that no parliament whether it be American, House of Representatives or Russian Presidium would sanction the use of such a weapon.

If our world leaders find they are unable to negotiate in such a way that stark and stupid threats are their only answer then the time has come to resign and give someone else a go.

One looks back with nostalgia to the bargaining ability of the British Foreign Office between wars when they had a finger in a thousand pies and managed to out-negotiated most of the rivals and keep the world on a fairly even keel until such time as the two megalomaniacs, Hitler and Mussolini, went

berserk and even then the war was fought without recourse to the then twin evils of gas and germ warfare.

The highly synthetic situation that has occurred in Berlin should never have been allowed to develop. At the time of the armistice much better understanding could have made the situation solvable. It has been allowed to go on too long, which shows how inane it is to attempt to meddle over long in the affairs of other nationals. The present talk of peace treaties is highly out of date, what will signatures on a piece of paper solve that can't be solved now?

The big thing is the realities of the question which to my mind is Russian hatred of Germans. We have come to the forgive and forget stage but Russia quite definitely have not and this is the crux of the matter. If the right negotiation to bring this hatred within bounds were made I am sure the situation could be solved.

To my mind an interchange of sporting and cultural relations between Russia and Germany over a reasonable period, would do more to solve the present difficulties than all the threats of atomic bombs that were or will ever be mouthed.

The time has definitely arrived when every thinking person should stand up and have his say on this matter as it will be his family that will be obliterated by indiscriminate actions. —C. D. DOIG.

(The views expressed in the above article are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Association.)

SPECIAL MENTIONS

COMMEMORATION SERVICE

**KINGS PARK — LOVEKIN DRIVE
SUNDAY, 20th AUGUST, 1961, at 3 P.M.**

This Is Your OBLIGATION

SATURDAY, 30th SEPTEMBER, 1961

**LADIES' NIGHT
ANZAC HOUSE**

Book Up the Long-Haired Mate Immeriately

West Australian Whisperings

Association Activities

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This meeting was held at Anzac House basement on July 4, 1961. Attendance was adequate without being spectacular. The lads seem to avoid this meeting like a plague probably not desiring to be thrust into office.

A perusal of the various reports published in this issue will put readers in the picture regarding the Association's financial and social status so it is not desirable to write in lengthy fashion of the presentation of reports.

The election of officers resulted as under:

President: R. McDonald (re-elected). Vice President: A. Smith. Secretary: J. Cary (re-elected). Treasurer: G. Boyland (re-elected). Editor: C. Doig (re-elected). Auditor: Dick Geere. Warden Kings Park: J. C. Burridge (re-elected). Committee: Messrs. R. Smyth, W. Epps, C. Varian, D. Murray, R. Kirkwood, P. Hancock, J. Maley.

As you will see a most reliable team of **old stalwarts**, the only changes from last year being A. Smith, D. Murray and Gerry Maley, all of whom have served the Association in one way or another for many years.

During the evening Honorary Life Membership was bestowed upon Arthur Smith in recognition of the immense amount of work he has done for the Association during many years in various offices. I can think of no one more worthy of this signal honour than Arthur Smith and our most sincere congratulations go out to him.

It was decided that the Committee be instructed to prepare an Association Address Book which will be forwarded to all members provided that it can be printed at a reasonable cost.

A motion that the Association take steps to have its own Memorial erected in our area of Kings Park was heavily defeated as most speakers were of the opinion that the avenue as it stood, with the

necessary improvement in the grassed area, was a fitting memorial in itself.

The business of the evening concluded at about 11 o'clock and those present then proceeded to enjoy themselves as best they could.

It is an extreme pity that more members don't get along to the Annual General to give their opinions of the manner in which the Association has been conducted in the past and how it should be run in the future.

AUGUST MEETING

This again was held at Anzac House on August 1, and owing to many and varied counter attractions and the fact that it fell on the first of the month, made for a very poor attendance. The main counter attraction was of course the exciting conclusion to the Fourth Cricket Test. Thanks to Bill Holder, secretary of City of Perth R.S.L., we were provided with a radio set and were able to keep closely in touch with Test scores.

As the Annual Re-Union is our next function to be held at Anzac House Basement the opportunity was taken to go into a few details of administration such as table set out and overall placement so that we can assure a good Re-union. Members present were asked to give any ideas they may have to improve the style of the evening, but most agreed that the present method was not capable of much improvement and should be interfered with in the least possible manner. All in all a most pleasant evening what with the excitement of the cricket to be enjoyed in good company.

ANNUAL RE-UNION

This will be the event of the year and being nicely placed in the city there should be no excuse for non-attendance. Most of you have attended at least one Re-union over the years and are aware of the quality of the night and what a great pleasure it is to meet your old mates and litter the floor with dead Japs and cowyard confetti. What

about making a firm resolve to be at Anzac House Basement on Saturday, August 19, and have the time of your life. Country folk are especially entreated to try and make up a car load from their particular area and swell the crowd to record proportions. We have been aiming for years to get at least 100 present but to date have not reached that figure. This is a year of records and it's the 20th year of our founding at Wilsons Promontory on July 11, 1944, so make it a Re-union to remember.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE

If ever a function merits your attendance it is the Commemoration Service at our area in Lovekin Drive on the Sunday following the Re-union, this year August 20, at 3 p.m. Your President puts in a tremendous amount of work to conduct this service and the least we can do is to back him up. This quite apart from the fact that it is not asking a great deal from members to give an odd hour to solemn remembrance of their good mates who paid the supreme sacrifice. You are entreated to make the very best effort to be at Kings Park on the 20th at 3 p.m.

ANNUAL SWEEP

Please do your best to get your butts back to Box T1646, G.P.O., Perth, as soon as you possibly can and most certainly before August 29 when the sweep is to be drawn. If you can sell a few more tickets there are still a few available and the organiser will be pleased to forward them to you immediately upon application. This is your big moment as a member to assist the Association in a most practical manner, so please sell all the tickets you can and get the butts back as soon as possible.

EMPIRE GAMES RE-UNION

Not much to report on this front this issue except that work is proceeding apace on both the village site and also the Stadium which give promise of being really something. The aquatic centre has now been planned and tenders will be called for construction within a month. Work is proceeding to dredge the Canning River course

for rowing events and experts agree this could be the finest course of its type anywhere in the world. The cycling road race course has also been determined and Kings Park was agreed upon as being the most suitable and riders and spectators alike should have a beautiful scenic view as well as a sporting event. This course was described by the late Russell Mockridge as the finest he had ever ridden on and it was largely as a result of his praise that this area was selected.

The Association has its planning well under way for the reception and entertainment of visitors and we would like potential visitors to let us know as soon as possible so that more specific arrangements can be made.

This still remains your best chance of a holiday of this type in your lifetime so make the big decision as soon as possible and be in it with your good "China Plates" at Perth in Nov.-Dec., 1962.

Committee Comment

The first Committee meeting of the current year was held at Anzac House on July 18, and the President opened proceedings by welcoming new Committee members Gerry Maley, Don Murray and Arthur Smith.

Most discussion took place on arrangements for the Annual Re-Union and after a very full review the details were hammered into shape.

Mr. Epps was requested to obtain a quote for the production of the Address Books as instructed by the Annual General Meeting. As a guide to how it was suggested that the proposed book be of similar dimensions to the Rules and Constitution so that it would be of a convenient size to carry in the pocket.

The organiser reported that the sweep was well under way and initial results indicated that it would be quite successful.

It was decided that the Ladies' Night should be held on the Saturday of Royal Show Week, namely, Sept. 30, if Anzac House Basement could be booked. This was brought about by a suggestion from one of the women folk who thought that

the Tuesday was getting a bit late in Show Week nowadays with the earlier opening of the Show. It was resolved that final details of this function be worked out at the next meeting.

The Secretary was instructed to go ahead and arrange a Country Convention at Geraldton for the Queens Birthday holiday in November as it was considered that a Convention should be held this year and this was the best available date.

The matter of a field day at Don Turton's property late in October 1964 was discussed and it was decided that this offer be availed of and further discussed with Mr. Turton and Committee endeavour to find the best possible children such as an orphanage or such like to make the trip so that they would make a real gain from the field day.

Personalities

Saw Tony Bowers since last issue and he looked as usual as big as the side of a house. Said he was experiencing a good season on his farm and also with the saw mill. Said Geo. Timms was also going like a bomb on his farm. Tony was in the city as his youngest child was in Princess Margaret Hospital. We hope the matter has resolved itself successfully ere this, Tony.

Doug Fullarton dropped in for a minute the other day and he also looked particularly fit. Is managing the yard for Bunning Bros. Mill at Toone River. Said he hoped to make the Annual Re-Union.

Another to be in the city recently was Ted Loud who had a short session in Hollywood. Said the doctors had decided against further bone grafting so he was out within the week. Had a couple of minor sessions with him and Eddie Craghill and the second time Ray Aitken also joined in. It is always good to see the Loud and bash his ear unmercifully as he is such a quiet listener.

Ray Aitken still enjoying his long service leave but due to start work again this week. Thanks to his leave the Editor has been able to scrounge a couple of episodes for "Historically Yours!" out of Ray

for which he is everlastingly grateful.

Don't think I have ever seen Eddie Craghill looking better. Still the old steady grin and looks happy with the world in general.

Ran in with Kev Waddington the other day and he is still having more than his fair share of strife. Kev's wife has been critically ill for quite some time now and we hope that the long lane has a turning very shortly.

Nice to see Charlie Gorton, Charlie King and Tom Bateman at the August meeting. Hope they are able to make these appearances with plenty of frequency in the future. Charlie Gorton still trying to hide the fizzogg under a heavy growth of mousache which would make Professor Jimmy Edwards green with envy.

Bert Burges forwarded an article written by Bernie CaMinan in a magazine which with Bernie's permission we may print in a later issue. Thanks very much for your efforts Bert. (Unfortunately since you supplied Spencer Chapman's address have noticed in the paper that he has rebelled against the South African Government's education policy and has resigned from his previous position as Headmaster of a leading public school.)

A few pen portraits of the new Committee men.

Arthur Smith. Elected a Life Member this year. Served for umpteen years as Secretary of W.A. Branch and has been a Committeeman for practically every year since formation. This year has been made Vice President and with his meticulous mind for detail should be a tower of strength to President Bob McDonald.

Gerry Maley. A most welcome addition to the W.A. Committee, after a great session with the Branches in N.S.W. and Victoria. Shares with Arch Campbell the distinction of serving on the Executive of every Branch. Gerry was a wonderful Secretary in both N.S.W. and Victoria and was in that capacity when the Olympic Re-union was held in 1956.

Don Murray. Back in the city again and pressed once more into duty. Was Vice-President to John Burridge in 1948 and soon after that went on various appointments

with his employers to the country. Has assisted the Association at every opportunity and on a couple of occasions operated the opening prologue at Annual Re-unions.

"LEST WE FORGET"

JULY

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

EDITORIAL REPORT

1960-61

Mr. President and Gentlemen,
It is my pleasure to report on the activities of your journal, the "2/2 Commando Courier" for the year just past.

Once again it can be reported that some progress has been made although the ultimate is a long way from being achieved. Contributions were in excess of past years, namely owing to many letters from the Eastern States as a result of including Queensland, N.S.W., Tas. and S.A. in the annual sweep.

Generally speaking the coverage from most areas was better than in previous years.

For the year just completed only eight "Couriers" were printed, this was due largely to the inability of the Editor to find time on quite a few occasions to compile a copy. The months not issued being July, December, March and April. Total cost of printing was approx. £112. The cost of bulk postage has risen and is now approx. 10/- per issue. I think it must be admitted that the Association is receiving excellent value for money expended.

The paper is still delivered throughout Australia and the mailing list is as follows: W.A. 193, S.A. 16, N.S.W. 128, Qld. 26, Vic. 117, Tas. 9, A.C.T. 2, Overseas 3.

The feature "Historically Yours" commenced in October, 1958, still continues but the Editor is experiencing much difficulty in arranging for adequate copy and it behoves readers to assist with this feature to make it as accurate and readable as possible. The feature has evoked a considerable amount of favourable comment but this is not enough as articles are what are required.

A perusal of the addresses produced by the addressing machine indicates that quite a number are now in a poor condition. It is recommended that a typewriter capable of good reproduction be hired and the stencils rejuvenated.

My thanks to Bill Epps for his excellent co-operation in dealing with the printing, wrapping and also the addressing of the "Courier". I really don't know how I could perform the Editorship without the excellent assistance given unstintingly by Bill Epps.

Thanks also to Ron Trengrove in N.S.W., and Harry Botterill in Vic. for providing news and views of the doings in those States. It must be stated here that for the "Courier" to do its job the news from other States is essential and Ron and Harry have helped considerably in this sphere.

I would also like to extend my thanks to my regular correspondents, especially Peter Barden, of Geraldton, who has contributed faithfully to practically every issue with news from the northern port, to Jim Smailes for his news from N.S.W. and also Peter Mantle from Queensland. To all who have written to the paper at any time I thank you sincerely and hope you will continue in the ensuing year.

To our publishers, "The Swan Express" of Midland, I would like to say a sincere thank you for a job well done and a paper well produced. It has never been one of my bothers to have publisher trouble over deadlines and we can only be thankful for such a fine firm to be undertaking our publishing.

I have found it increasingly difficult to perform the onerous task of Editorship but if the Association thinks fit to re-elect me to the office I will continue to do my best which unfortunately is not all that it should be at present.

Mr. President. I wish the "Courier" all success in the years to come.
—C. D. DOIG, Editor.

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

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

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED MAY 30, 1961

RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURE	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Com. Savings Bank	8 13 10	Annual Re-Union	97 5 10
Com. Reserve Account	190 2 8	Less Receipts	58 0 0
Com. Bonds	550 0 0	Courier	153 8 5
Cash on Hand	19 0 0	Less E:States Payments	70 13 0
Loans	45 0 0	Meetings	111 2 8
Kalgoorlie Cup Sweep	334 5 0	Less Receipts	43 16 0
Less Prizes and Expenses	76 13 7	Christmas Tree	107 10 0
2/5 Commando Sweep	136 0 0	Less Donations	10 10 6
Donations Received	10 0 0	Ladies' Night	68 1 0
Less Given	10 0 0	Less Receipts	37 0 0
Subscriptions	47 10 0	Administration	31 1 0
Interest	41 14 3	Kings Park (inc. Mower Purchased)	8 0 0
Anzac Day, Receipts	41 14 3	Funds as at 31/5/1961:	50 3 0
Expenses	5 15 9	Com. Savings Bank	85 17 5
		Com. Reserve Account	194 9 9
		Com. Bonds	550 0 0
		Loans	45 0 0
			875 7 2
			£1,250 18 7

Historically Yours!

This episode recounts the incident of the "Singapore Tiger" which received such publicity when the journalists from the Australian and British press visited Timor in September, 1942. This incident is handled in this issue firstly by the man in charge, Ray Aitken, and then by one of the participants, "Paddy" Kenneally. If the accounts vary slightly just put it down to the vagaries of memory over a period of nearly 20 years.

THE SINGAPORE TIGER AMBUSH

After the raid on Dilli, No. 4 Section established an O.Pip at the village of Daralau. Mick Morgan started work there with his sub-section on the morning following the raid.

Daralau was not a lovable place. Five or more tracks led into it and were screened from view until they entered the village. The natives were few and poverty stricken though intensely loyal. The view of Dilli was excellent commanding the aerodrome, the anchorage, long stretches of the main road east and west, and the Comoro Bridge. Food was very sketchy and operators were dependent on what they could carry in from more fertile areas.

The post was never manned at night as this was considered much too dangerous. The plan was always to pull out at dusk and camp in the bush beside the track, re-opening the O.Pip at dawn. Three or four days was the normal period for operators as longer seemed like cruelty to nervous animals.

The O.Pip itself was a particularly good one as far as cover from view was concerned. A hole had been made in the rear wall of a hut which overlooked the whole clear portions of the coastal plain and two operators, one with the glasses and the other with the notebook, could sit in the dark interior with a bird's eye view of our Nipponese neighbours. Despite the smug self satisfaction mountain-based onlookers get under these conditions, it is probable that no one in "B" Platoon ever looked forward to a tour of duty on Daralau. It had its mo-

ments, however, and there was an occasional visit from Juan Vierra to liven the proceedings.

It was from this source and per native rumour that we began to hear of a certain intrepid Japanese officer who was to be imported to eliminate the Company from Timor. This citizen had apparently distinguished himself in Malaya and had earned the name of the Tiger of Singapore. He was expected to remove the "bandits" from the mountains in a very short time.

It was the impression of those who were unfortunate enough to serve on Daralau that he wouldn't have much trouble in removing a few of them from the nearer hills, particularly as the main river track from Dilli disappeared three quarters of a mile away under the lee of the ridge and re-appeared without further warning at the foot of the village square. The fine track along the ridge from where the east road proceeded to Hera did the same at our back door.

As has been noted, tours of duty at Daralau were short and for food economy reasons and because at this time we had few fit men, it was normal to work it with sub-section strength or slightly less than that.

The O.Pip was operated by the two sub-sections of No. 4 Section changing on the fourth day.

The sub-sections were a little confused as regards personnel, for each often had one or two of each other's men interchanging to keep up numbers.

On the early afternoon of June 21, No. 2 sub-section, consisting of Cpl. Aitken, L/Cpl. Thornton, Ptes. Smith, Pickering, Kenneally and Lacey, relieved Mick Morgan's sub-section and operated the O.Pip while visibility lasted. At dusk the squad pulled back for about 400 yards and camped in a well known spot above the track.

At dawn Aitken and Thornton moved back to re-open the post, leaving the others to follow if things were quiet. It was a beautiful clear morning and Thornton and Aitken were ready to start the daily round of recording the do-

ings of our Nipponese neighbours.

The usual routine was to sweep the visible parts of the valley and ridge before getting down to serious business, leaving the Japs who might have been screened from view in the two three-quarter mile stretches of dead ground to chance and good luck.

On this occasion the final sweep down the ridge revealed a column of the enemy en route for Daralau's back door at a good rate and just entering the dead ground. Cpls. Aitken and Thornton have long since congratulated one another on the wordless speed with which they evacuated the observation hut and pushed through the village and up the track towards Remexio meeting the other four just as they turned into the village.

Good time was made up the track as it was necessary to put a fair distance between themselves and the enemy column in order to have time to lay an efficient ambush.

All creados and surplus gear were sent off to Platoon H.Q. together with a message to Laidlaw acquainting him with the situation.

This proved an unfortunate decision. At the time it appeared to Aitken that the ambush he planned was likely to be over long before any assistance in numbers could arrive and under these circumstances he was not prepared to risk unarmed natives in a situation certainly not of their making.

Suitable ambush positions were few and far between on this track. Places were seen where something might have been set up with 20 or 30 men but were considered useless for the needs of half a dozen. After travelling for a little better than a mile with no sign of enemy on a track visible almost to Daralau a smoko period was called during which it seemed the general impression that the Nips might have been on a circular route march up the ridge through Daralau and back to Dilli via the valley. Under these circumstances the sub-section's duty to re-open the O.Pip, was clear.

At this moment a native not seen before or since, came flying up the track. He was in extremis from exhaustion and for a time could only gasp, "Japan, Japan." This did not disconcert anybody and it

was with some amusement that everybody concentrated on calming the poor chap. Then he dropped his bombshell.

Unknown to the squad there was another track uphill, parallel to the main track, leaving it at Daralau and rejoining it much nearer Remexio than their present position. The Japanese were using this and would soon have the Aussies in a very neat trap. We are mighty grateful to that Timorese.

The sub-section now set off on the run up a one in three grade and did not draw breath until it passed the intersection.

This piece of bad luck further restricted the choice of ambush positions and it now became clear that the engagement was going to be close enough to home to have permitted of the possibility of reinforcements. However Aitken was not prepared to squander the services of a rifleman on a possibility, so no move to pass a message was made. Lack of creadoes was now most unfortunate.

The position chosen was in the tiny coffee plantation of Laurissa, about 40 yards above the track with a noisy waterfall on the right flank and bridge across the creek directly below. Cover from view was excellent but cover from fire practically non-existent. The weapons consisted of four rifles, a mark 1 sniper's rifle (Pickering), and a Tommy gun (Thornton). No one would have thought it worth carrying a Bren to Daralau unfortunately.

Thornton was given the extreme left flank, closest to the enemy with instructions for a prolonged burst if possible as a final get away tactic.

Owing to the sound of the waterfall a fire order could not have reached Thornton or Kenneally so that they were dependent on the sound of fire from the right.

The position was good, but not ideal in that a main spur to the right meant that the track went into dead ground so that it was not possible to permit the enemy to cross the bridge as the squad could then have been outflanked. This meant engaging him at a hundred yards or more which also meant that as he was over 130 strong, some of his troops would be a very long way away. However down

the track the view was unimpeded to the point of a spur about 600 yards away.

It was a leisurely affair in that there was time to lay out spare charger clips on flat rocks and wipe sweaty fearful palms on the seat of swift drying shorts.

A monkey crossed the track below. A few minutes later a goshawk killed a rat at the same place and then, or so it appeared at the time, to half a dozen of your Unit, the whole bloody Japanese army burst round the spur in single file.

The formation was four forward scouts, a gap of 20 yards, four more, another gap and then the main body led by a nuggety lad with crossed straps and a sword. Naturally enough when fire opened these scouts and the boyo with the sword copped most of the attention. Those uninjured in the van flopped on the track, disconcerted by the noise of the waterfall and evidently thinking the lead was coming from up the track rather than from above.

One of these fellows bore a charmed life with strikes all round him until he leapt to his feet and dived for cover only to be rolled in the process. Five or six took shelter under a flame tree in a rock hole on the uphill side of the track. They would have been perfectly safe had not Norman Thornton been sitting above it and he proceeded to remove the leaves from the tree with systematic sub machine gun fire. The main body did the only possible thing, which was to run like hell back down the track.

Rifle fire was shifted to these runners with some effect. Just as it appeared that all targets had disappeared there was an attempt to mount some kind of unidentified lethal weapon on the track near the spur. Geordie Smith discouraged this with a couple of well placed shots. No further targets were offering.

At this stage Pte. Lacey shot at a wild pig which ran down the track, remarking that he hadn't got many yellow bastards so he'd get a black one.

From memory the strike of the round appeared to be 20 feet or so to the rearward of the animal but it certainly took off with reckless

abandon. This was the last shot of the Laubissa ambush. The sub-section withdrew up hill and was over the first crest before the enemy brought machine guns and mortars into play.

One remembers a sense of dissatisfaction throughout for there were only three bodies of certain kills visible. The squad was not pleased with itself. Subsequently we felt better when Vierra was able to let us know that we got the Tiger and further that the score was quite creditable. This must have been attributable to Thornton's well placed bursts and to the execution of those retreating down the track at long range. Some of them who appeared to be jumping off the track were in fact falling off.

On the score of fire power it had been a pretty good show. Even Pickering, who was naturally handicapped in bringing his scope to bear on moving targets, was into his second issue and the rifles were either into the second ten or through it. Pride of place would have to go to George Hamilton hyphenated Smith, little as either Thornton or the writer like to admit it, for on that day he worked a one-man single shot machine gun disguised as a service rifle.

The sub-section came in contact with Laidlaw and the rest only a few hundred yards above the ambush position, and indeed he had only been a few minutes away when the fire order was given. Bad luck indeed but had the Japs elected to use the main track there would have been no possibility of all the troops combining as the ambush would have taken place under less favourable conditions almost an hour before it did.

Subsequently the Japs came over the ridge and mortared Guicraca and entered it watched by all of 4 Section and attached personnel. That evening we reached Lilitai after a sensible retreat.

A very few days later "B" Platoon was firmly established at Remixio and Mick Morgan was sitting in a hut at a place called Daralau, observing Japs just like old times.

The Tiger was not apparently dead. He was carried via Remixio and the Hera road to Dilli and is reputed to have died while being carried over the final ridge.

May I mention here that he died of multiple wounds. Now this was a good thing because when Geordie lays claim to shooting him on August 19, please remember that he's entitled to one of the holes. Now if you leave one for Paddy, the Duck, Charlie, a big one for one of Norm's .45s, you will see that it is only to prevent the poor bloke from becoming a posthumous colender that the writer modestly foregoes his claims to even the smallest hole.

Anyhow they must all have shot him because he was such an important target damn it, if he had a notch in his ear like the one Eddie got at Bazaar Tete I want it.

Final warning. If two members of the half dozen at Laurissa fail to make the 1961 Annual Re-union it is the writer's intention to lay a more lethal ambush than Laurissa "somewhere in Denmark".

J. P. KENNEALLY, of 28 Wilkins St., Yagoona, writes:—

Seeing that I can't pound your lugs I'll test your eye sight and ingenuity insofar as I believe amongst other people that my writing is practically unreadable and as a secret code unbreakable. However do your best.

I was most interested in Ray Aitken's description of the Dilli raid. Admittedly I could not place some of the incidents mentioned. I can however name every man that took part in the actual raid into the town. I think one name only escapes my memory of the men who took part in the diversion on the coast road. Firstly the men who entered the town, practically in the order in which they entered: Geoff Laidlaw, Tom Nisbett, Mick Morgan Norm Thornton, Geordie Smith, Bob Evan, Pady Kenneally, Slim Holden, Don Lacey, Alf Blundy, Bill Holly, Ray Aitken, Charlie King and Julie Madera. Stan Ludlow was not there as he had not arrived at Remixio prior to our leaving for the raid. He was suffering from the wog at the time. One other on the raid, not mentioned by Ray, was "Gig," No. 4 Section's dog and mascot. He had been securely tied up at Cumeer but being a dog of independent character, he chewed his bonds through and so took part in our stunt.

The names of the men in the party creating the diversion were: Lt. "Baldy" Garnett, Merv Meiser, "Curly" O'Neil, "Squirt" Johnson (real name Merv Clarke), "Porky" Thomson and "Blue". Blue's name eludes me, but he was one of us Reos and came, I believe, from the south coast of N.S.W. There were only 14 men in the party that entered the town.

On our way back to Remixio The Bull detailed Mick Morgan's sub-section to man the O.P. at Daralau, the rest of us returned to Guicraca and slept our heads off.

Ron Kirkwood, with Julie Madera and the International Brigade, and Sgt. Tomasetti in charge, moved to Cumier to man the O.P. there. Ray Aitken's sub-section, with Charlie Pickering attached, moved to Daralau to relieve Morgan and his men. That would be Saturday morning if memory serves me correctly.

We gave ourselves a feast of looking over Dilli, the harbour and the aerodrome that day. Got the creados to kill a goat that evening to ensure our meat supply for the next three days. (The way men plan.) Ray Aitken arranged the guards for the night, and so to the sleeping bags. We were awakened well before dawn by a fusillade of rifle fire. We didn't know what it was all about. We were however most adept at rolling the swag in a hurry by now and sending the creados off with our few possessions to a place of safety.

At daylight Ray and myself went on to the O.P. The Corporal took one look and said: "Come on. It looks like the entire bloody Jap army coming this way."

I said: "Give me the glasses for a look."

He promptly said: "Look be damned. You'll see all you want before the day is over."

How right he was. We got back on the track, picked up Norm Thornton, Geordie Smith, Don Lacy and Charlie Pickering, and headed back towards Remixio. Ray was not breaking any records though. He sent a message back to Laidlaw about the Jap movements. He then dawdled along the track looking for a good ambush spot and being in no hurry as he said, we better be sure those

bastards are coming or we'll look awful bloody foolish if we race back to Remixio.

A native came racing up to say one party of Japs were racing round a top track to get in behind us. We then moved in a hurry to beat them to the junction. We won.

Ray Aitken then selected one of the best ambush spots I've ever seen. High up on the side of the hill looking straight down the track for a distance of a couple of hundred yards.

Not long after the Japs swung round the far bend, first a party of four, a space of 10 yards, then another four. A further space then a party of two. A further space and then a sight to gladden the heart of any ambusher. Bundles of Japs, single file and a pace behind each other. Soon the whole length of that straight stretch was filled with targets and Aitken wasted no time. "Fire!" he yelled, and we fired, but the one who must have fired with the most effect was Norman Thornton. There were only six of us there but from reports later on the number of Japs killed alone, exceeded 30. We never could find out the number wounded.

The Singapore Tiger did his last patrol that day. He was mortally wounded in that ambush.

We headed for Giucraca, met The Bull, Tom Nisbett and the rest of the section, pulled back to some high ground overlooking Giucraca and stood to all day, but the Jap didn't come.

Next morning they did a bit of mortaring, a few bursts of machine gun fire and headed back for Dilli by another track, going back via Hera.

We pulled back towards . . . damned if I remember. Aitken's sub-section was pretty hungry by this time as their last meal had been Saturday night and it was now Monday morning.

Geordie Smith could quite possibly have been the boy that laid the Singapore Tiger low. However we'll never know for sure, but I'd like to know for sure what Norman Thornton's score was that morning. He had the only automatic weapon, a Tommy gun, and he must have run up quite a tally.

Charlie Pickering missed the raid on Dilli but he must have had some good target practice with his sniper's rifle that Sunday morning.

Full marks to Ray Aitken in his selection of the ambush site. If the rest of the section had got up in time it would have been a massacre for the Japs with three more Tommy guns and a Bren, plus the added number of men. We could have infiltrated the track from both ends. Oh well, it meant a few more Japs survived the war and after the lapse of years, good luck to them. There were enough good men died on all sides and the world does not seem to be much better off and I suppose if the occasion arose again things would be no different. There are jobs that have to be done. I, however, take a power of convincing that we are always 100 per cent right. As against that we can't tolerate the domination of the world by one power, or by totalitarian methods.

I'm off to do some work now, or prepare for it. I'm contracting now. Concrete work, and believe me with credit restrictions on it's a tough old proposition. I have one more job to do and nothing in sight. However God is good and something will turn up before it's finished.

It's been raining and there's bedlam in the house with the kids confined to quarters. There are three of them, two boys and a girl, and the youngest the worse of the lot. An argumentive, yelling, fighting, red headed devil.

P.S.—The credit restrictions finally caught up. No more contracts. The timber stacked at home and I'm back working for a boss and believe me I was lucky. I turned up a week after the bloke was looking for a man. He said he had all he wanted. We stood talking shop for about ten minutes when he ups and says: "Ah, bugger it, be here Monday. A couple of these blokes are a bit weak." So I was on. How ever this job practically closed down last Friday and he sent another four on their way. He's down to five men now and his son, so if he shortens up any more I'll be lucky to survive. Believe me the competition is fierce in the concrete work now. Blokes who have worked for themselves for years

are looking for work and the majority of them are good men at their job, so a man has to keep right on his toes. However I'll be in it again when things pick up. I've got a couple of hundred quids worth of farm work, plus other gear, a couple of good men, and we're in business again. However I'm getting no younger and this is really tough work, so I reckon I'll have to make my fortune pretty soon or retire broke.

Good luck to you and all the boys in the West. I have nothing but happy memories of your 1,000,000 square miles and sure I drank enough over there to irrigate most of it.

P.P.S.—"Blue" Beresford was the other bloke in Garnett's diversion party. Neill Scott was also missing from No. 4 Section, ill health. Neill was having a tough trot at the time but joined the Section later at Remixio.

DULCIE RYAN, of 30 Wrexham St., Bicton, writes:—

Merv said he hopes the enclosed letter is what you wanted. Sorry it is running a bit late but with a new addition in the family (a dear little daughter) have not much spare time for letter writing.

Incidentally you might take note that we have caught up with Milly and Ken Bowden **once more**. We each have three daughters and two sons. Merv and I have decided to withdraw from the Stork Handicap and let the Bowdens carry on alone. What do you think, Milly?

About the Ladies' Night, I have

a suggestion to put forward. As the Royal Show now commences earlier think we might get a bigger roll up if the big night was held on the Saturday. A lot of the country folks are up earlier and miss out on the night because they can't spare the time to wait around till Tuesday. Also a lot of Mums and Dads think of spending a day at the Royal Show after a late night is a bit much now the years of age are catching up with us.

My preference for the order of entertainment is as follows:

1. A barbecue at a private home or our usual social. Think with a combined picture night or a night at the Patch Theatre we would not get much time or opportunity to chat to each other and some of you men can really talk so if we went to a theatre we might politely be asked to leave as there would be too much nattering.

Regards to all and hope to see most of you in October at the DO.

MERV RYAN writes:—

May 15, 1942, was being held a prisoner of war by the Japanese at Dilli. About midnight Peter Alexander and I were asleep in a house with about 30 soldiers of different nationalities, when all of a sudden hell broke loose. We had a window open to let some air into the room. I dived over and closed it so no silly bugger would throw a grenade in. The bullets were really flying around the place. .303s and Tommy guns could well be heard. After about a quarter of an hour the world around us became quite calm

SPECIAL MENTIONS

**ANNUAL RE-UNION
ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT. SATURDAY, AUGUST 19
KEEP THIS DATE IN MIND**

SWEEP BOOKS

Please sell these as soon as possible and return butts quickly to Box T1646. Return butts well prior to 29th August, 1961. Help Your Organiser to Help You!

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

until the Nips started to have their say. They sure gave us a headache that night. Pete and I were repeatedly woken up to make sure we had not gone A.W.L. They came and checked on us every hour. (Do you think I hated the army then?)

The raid certainly worried the little ape men. They raced through the town like mad things, bringing anything that would roll on wheels for we could count the carriers and trucks going up and down the road all night long. For a long time after they would patrol at night so the raid gave them a lot of sleepless nights.

May 16, 1942, 5.30 a.m.

We were all made to stand under a big tree and were told by Gorilla

Pete that the Australians who made the raid were all wiped out. They produced one hat and one rifle but we had found out that it was a Jap body so we all started to laugh. The Japs didn't appreciate our mirth so they made us face each other and told us to slap our mate's face. (That Alexander sure can throw a good right.) After the show had quietened down I went out the front of the house to have a look. Was I pleased to be behind a 12 inch stone wall in that raid for the verandah was just riddled with bullet holes. I spent a whole day digging out .303 bullets and Tommy gun rounds.

The raid on Dilli certainly had its effect for the Japs put a curfew on the town and posted more sentries about the streets.

Random Harvest

R. H. TURNER, 25 Norman Street, Waratah, N.S.W., writes:—

Enclosing 10/- for sweep tickets and hope you receive the money O.K. It is some time since I wrote, approximately three to four years. I know we should do so more often but I work shift work and we don't get much time for anything but sleep. I enjoy reading the "Courier" getting the news from everybody.

A couple of chaps from the 2/4th live in Newcastle and I pass the "Courier" on to them. As a matter of fact the President of our R.S.L. came from the 2/4th.

A couple of years ago I met with an accident in a car which I was off work for nearly 12 months with a broken ankle and knee and a couple of ribs and head injuries. I never will be any good as my leg and head gives me hell, but thank goodness I can still go to work. I had to change my style playing bowls, which was to the good, as last year I won the club championship (singles) and the pairs, also the fours. The fours are run from Newcastle to score for a cup valued at £25, also we get a replica of the cup as a trophy. This year we are going well. We are in the semi-final up to the time of writing.

Saw Les Isenhood last Anzac Day and he looks well.

In September I am going on holidays up towards Queensland, so could you give me the address of Russel Blanch. If I can get the time I will call in and see him.

(R. F. Blanch, Byron Street, Bangalow, N.S.W. —Ed.)

V. P. WILBY, c/- P. Swain, "Kemsdale," Durong, Qld., writes:—

I am now receiving the "Courier" and find it a very interesting booklet. The Editorials are most inspiring with the result that I have written a project that embodies most of the aims that your Editorial writers have written about over the years. And as far as I know the pages of that project are down in Victoria, and are being cleaned up and knocked into shape so that it can be presented to you fellows in the West for your perusal and consideration between now and the Empire Games Convention.

When I first wrote this project I was on the verge of throwing it in the fire as I doubted whether the chaps would be interested in it. Then I thought of Bernie Callinan. So I sent it down to him for his advice and guidance.

As you all know Bernie is a Con-

sulting Engineer of no mean repute with a string of titles as long as your arm and any of you chaps who were in Timor will know that Bernie's opinions certainly count for something. This is his verdict.

As we advance in years the calls for assistance will become more frequent and some practical solution as you have outlined may be of assistance, if it can be made to work.

Now, without implicating Bernie too deeply, all this has been done by correspondence and it must be recognised that I live in an isolated part of the country and don't very often come into contact with the rest of the chaps. Logically there will be a few flaws in the project, and when I get round to talking to a few of you I'll be able to explain any points which may be in doubt.

I also have another project in view but first I'll see what sort of a reception the other one gets. It might be unpopular.

Now that I have surrounded myself with an armour-plated alibi I think that I am well protected from anyone who may be inclined to throw stones, and if you wish, I would like to write an appeal for projects in the pages of the "Courier". So much for that for the present.

As I can never ever remember paying any subs to the Association please find a fiver enclosed. It may bring me up somewhere near the mark, but for God's sake let me know how I stand in regard to subs. It worries me a little. If I'm on the wrong side of the ledger I'll try and rectify things.

I'd like to be remembered to my old pal of the early pack trains—Blue Pendergast. May the reflection from his fiery red hair light up the western sky for many years to come. Plus regards to all.

BERYL GRIFFITHS, of 166 London St., Joondanna, writes:—

I have two suggestions for Ladies' Night.

1. A combined barbecue with dancing on a portable dance floor with items such as the Withells do so well. I also remember a famous fashion parade and ballet which caused great hilarity. The music for dancing would have to belong to the past—barn dance style.

2. Eliminate the barbecue and have as above.
One is definitely for summer and the other in the cooler months.

W. A. DRAGE, of Box 117, Northampton, writes:—

Well, here we are again. I don't seem to get around to writing very often. We hard working farmers haven't the time you city slickers have, what with our golf and our ale drinking, no time for writing.

How are things down there in that neck of the woods? Hope they are O.K. with yourself and the rest of the boys. I was down last Easter for a week but the only one of the boys I saw was the one and only Kirkwood, and of course we managed one or two ales.

Things up here are very good, an excellent season. The old sheep are really good and the crops are about the best I have ever had, so far.

See the old Brand and old Fagg pretty often and we have a few ales.

Had a few beers with Bill Howell the other day as he was passing through. He had been up Sharks Bay way doing a spot of fishing.

You will find enclosed butt tickets and a cheque for three guineas, and extra pound for subs if I owe any, if not donate it to the Association.

SLIM JAMES, of Beatrice Street, Scarborough, writes:—

Enclosed please find cheque for £4 consisting of £2 for sweep tickets and £2 for subs., etc.

Have been living a fairly quiet life since the Hitler regime ordered me from my shop on May 20.

Have since gone to work back at the markets (casual) and each Saturday endeavour to relieve the ledger patrons at the races of an occasional fiddly did. The day I started swinging the bag would probably be one of the greatest initiations any soul could wish to have—five favourites and one second favourite scoring from seven races.

However as old Mr. Hoyle would say, "Never win the first hand, or early ripe early rotten," or something like that. The last couple of meetings have been a little more lucrative.

Victorian Vocal Venturings

There has been very little happening of late in these parts of the wood—have not heard much news.

Margo Maley rang me up a couple of weeks ago to say that they had at last been able to sell their house and that she was leaving with the family the following Wednesday to join Gerry in the West. Said Gerry was in the best of health and settling in nicely back in his old stamping grounds.

I was invited recently to a party given to David Dexter in appreciation of the work he had put into his book, "The New Guinea Offensives" and coincided with the publishing of his book. Unfortunately I was unable to go, but Ken and Margaret Monk who were also invited, said it was a terrific night. Geoff Laidlaw, Gerry McKenzie, Rolf Baldwin, Tommy Foster and Kevin Curran were there with their respective wives. Bernie Callanan was unable to get there.

Tom Foster is manager of a Government experimental farm down Sale way. I believe he was in the same kind of job in South Australia. Ken said he is looking very well.

Alan Luby was over in Victoria end of April and beginning of May. He was doing a Civil Defence course (what to do in case of nuclear warfare) at Mt. Macedon. Alan was able to spend the second weekend with us and it was very nice to have him with us again. He spent the first weekend at Bendigo and saw Kevin Curran a couple of times. I managed to get Alan round a bit to meet a few of the boys before he went back. Saw Bernie on Friday night as he was going away for the weekend. Found out that Baldy was up in Melbourne on Saturday morning with a team of footballers from Geelong Grammar. Tracked him down in real army fashion and managed to squeeze in about an hour with him, and Baldy was real pleased to see Alan. Went to a football match with Bert Tobin in

the afternoon and we had made a hasty meeting at the London Hotel for Saturday night, where Geoff Laidlaw and Gerry O'Toole managed to come along. On Sunday we went down to see Pete Krause and called in on Gerry McKenzie in the afternoon. Kept us on the move but Alan was very pleased to get the opportunity to see these boys as he had not met some of them since the end of the war.

Bert Tobin, Gerry O'Toole and self are definitely going over to the West next year for the Games and Re-union and we are going to go over by train leaving on the Sunday Nov. 18, arriving in Perth on Wednesday, Nov. 21, the day before the opening of the Games. Bert and I are going to return by plane on Sunday, Dec. 2. Gerry, who has a longer leave will probably come back by boat.

We would welcome the company of any of the boys here or in other States and who know that they will be going over. The bookings for the train open in November of this year and we want to get in early to ensure a seat and I would like to hear from anybody who is interested in going over by train. (My address: H. Botterill, 19 Baldwin St. Highett, Vic.) The fare from Melbourne is £29/15/- single, return fare by train £57/16/- subject to price rise between now and then. We think it would be a good idea to go over together and the more the merrier. I would like to get an idea of how many will be going over to the West as the information will be very much appreciated by the organisers over there. From our experiences during the Olympic Games we know just how valuable and helpful this information was. I know it is hard to say that you will be definitely going as a lot of things can happen between now and then but if you know you can get over there apart from these unforeseen happenings let us know.

Until next time, yours as always.
HARRY BOTTERILL.

Heard in the Commerce lobby:
"Just think, John, we don't have to pull down the shades; we're married now!"