



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

ADDRESS BOOK

The West Australian Branch of the Association after quite a few months of preparation is about to embark on the publication of an address book covering the known addresses of all those members in the various States of whom we are in contact.

The book will be arranged in States and will be of convenient size to fit into your pocket. Members will readily appreciate the immense value of such an address book as a contact medium between members. There probably has been many occasions when you, the reader, would have liked to write to one of your mates and were frustrated in your excellent intention for lack of address. The book

will, to a large extent, overcome this difficulty. Also when members are travelling inter-State or even intra-State, it will give them the opportunity of looking up old mates and enjoying social intercourse, which would perhaps otherwise have been impossible.

The main difficulty has been to provide a book which would be accurate to a reasonable degree and would include the addresses of the greater proportion of members throughout Australia. It was hoped that the eventual product would be in the high 90 per cent in these two factors. However it has been found that quite a lot of the addresses he'd have not proved to be correct and that members had left

SPECIAL MENTIONS:

Don't forget the March Meeting. This will be a General Games Night—darts, quoits, table tennis, etc.—and there should be something you can indulge in and have a bundle of good fun. Remember—Tuesday, March 6th.

Start polishing up those medals for ANZAC DAY!!! Make certain you have no other engagements on April 25th.

Your Empire Games Organiser is still awaiting replies to that questionnaire and would also like to hear from inter-state potential visitors of their intentions and needs. All members are especially requested to advise of their ticket requirements for the Opening Day.

that address many years before. Also quite a few members have not found their way onto the addresser at any time.

To provide the best possible record is the aim of the Branch, and with that end in view you, the reader, can assist by advising of any members you know who are not receiving the "Courier" and checking the lists published recently in this paper of addresses required for certain nominated members, and advising of their whereabouts if these be known to you.

The cost of producing this book and its distribution will in this initial instance be borne by the W.A. Branch.

Changes of address will be published in a special space in subsequent "Couriers" after the issue of the book and members are requested to keep their book up to date by cutting out these changes of ad-

dress and pasting them in the address book in the appropriate place.

When it has been found that the book becomes "over pasted" to a degree which makes it unworkable thought will be given to re-issue, but it is hoped this will not be for quite a long time.

This is just another of the many services your Association is providing for members and will probably be unique among such organisations as ours.

This could prove to be one of the really big things done by the Association—as the preservation of contacts is probably the most important function of an organisation such as ours.

Anything you can do to bring this work to fruition would be appreciated and you are requested to treat the matter as one of urgency as the Branch hopes to get the book published as soon as possible.

West Australian Whisperings

Committee Comment

A most successful Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at Anzac Club. A review of previous events showed that things were proceeding excellently.

Messrs. Epps and Doig advised that work on the Address Book was now well under way and it mainly remained to round up some outstanding addresses and have proofs checked and the work could be published.

Mr. Epps also brought up the matter of having the area in Kings Park rolled and a small working bee was arranged to have this done.

Great satisfaction was expressed at the two working bees that had been held at K.P., especially the more recent one, when an excellent roll up made the task of spreading loam most easy. Committeemen were most happy at the results of the previous working bee and the effect of the loam on the area top dressed.

Mr. Doig outlined what had occurred to date regarding the Empire Games Re-Union and said that organisation was proceeding apace and

satisfactorily. A discussion on finance for the purchase of tickets then took place and arrangements made to enable the Association to book the necessary tickets.

It was decided that as the March meeting followed hard on the heels of a long weekend it would be best if this took the form of a Games Night as this could be made quickly to suit the convenience of the number who turned up.

The matter of a cricket match at Harvey between Town and Country members was brought up for discussion and it was decided that Secretary obtain further information from Arthur Marshall and find out the most suitable date for such a match.

President suggested that a further talk on gardening with appropriate slides as suggested by Mr. Wilson at his last visit, be arranged for a meeting early in the autumn, possibly April or May.

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

Association Activities

SOCIAL BOWLS EVENING WITH MAIMED AND LIMBLESS ASSOC.

A hastily organised social evening was held at the Comm-st. headquarters of the above association on Friday, Jan. 19.

Due to the fact that this function had to be organised quickly there was no chance of contacting all members and so giving them a chance to be in it.

It proved, as usual, to be a most enjoyable evening and we were overwhelmed with hospitality from the time of arrival until the wee small hours of Saturday morning.

Bowls took up most of the time and this was organised so that each rink had a proportion of us mugs, ladies from M. & L. and our gang, and of course the M. & L. bowlers themselves. Don't think scores largely mattered as it was in no manner of means a contest. All present had a wonderful time whether they played bowls or not.

Among those who enjoyed the hospitality were: President Bob McDonald and his good wife, Bill and Jess Epps, Geo. and Dot Boyland, Percy and Val Hancock, Harry Sproston, Geo. Strickland, "Dusty" Studdy, "Mick" Calcutt, Ron Kirkwood, "Merv" and Les Haskell, Tom Gardner and Col Doig.

All in all a beauty and we thank our good friends of the M. & L. for their hospitality and hope to reciprocate in a big way when they come our way.

FEBRUARY MEETING

This meeting, held at Anzac Club on Feb. 6, was scheduled to be a bowls night but due to unforeseen circumstances and the terrific heat prevailing at the time, the bowls did not take place.

Those present, and it was quite a good roll up considering the weather, had a most enjoyable and informal evening which was given over mainly to "ear bashing".

Arrangements were made at this meeting to hold a working bee at Kings Park on Sunday, Feb. 18, to spread more loam around the area as it was considered that the previous experiment had proved more than effective.

Our thanks are due to the manager of Anzac Club for his kind attention to our group as he went to the trouble of providing a mobile Temprite and gas cylinder to keep the fluid in gloriously drinkable condition. Much more service like this and we will break out in boils.

Everyone present voted it a good night's fun and couldn't understand why more do not turn up to enjoy it.

WORKING BEE AT KINGS PARK JAN. 20

As our area in Kings Park was getting a bit bedraggled owing to falling bark and leaves it was decided that a small working party could with a bit of raking, etc., make the job of mowing the area a bit easier.

Bob Smyth took advantage of the working bee to get some loam spread over the area he has adopted. One large load of loam, plus a bundle of raking and the mowing of the area for seven bodies practically didn't go especially as the thermometer decided to try and do a bust trick and go right through the top. Boy, was there some pooped jokers at the end of that mid summer's afternoon! Only the thought of a respite at the nearest tavern saved the bacon.

It is good to relate that the effort expended has been more than successful and the area which was loamed, fertilised and seeded came on with a "ruddy blush". To quote our Warden, John Burrige, who wrote in the following terms: "The immediate reaction of the grass in K.P. to top dressing of loam is so good that the I.A. is obvious. Enclose a cheque towards more loam." Brief and to the point and sums up the feeling of all who have seen the area since the experiment.

We may have at last achieved the solution to the area in Kings Park and if so great credit is due to Bob Smyth for his initiation of the move.

Arrangements to adequately water the area have also been made with a Boy Scout Group who are attending to necessary mid-week watering until the area is adequately covered. We will subsidise the funds of the group in what should be reasonable recompense for effort expended.

WORKING BEE KINGS PARK FEB. 18, 1962

Probably the most successful working bee conducted at K.P. took place on Sunday, Feb. 18. The main purpose was to spread further loam on further areas as the experiment conducted earlier had proved successful.

Bob Smyth arranged to have approx. 10 yards of loam delivered.

The writer arrived at about 9.45 a.m. to see a bundle of jokers as busy as beavers with wheel barrows galore, utilities and trailers, flat out with the loam and the job more than half completed. In a little over an hour the job was finished and the gang then proceeded to do a bit of weeding and other minor chores to get the area spick and span.

Those present included "Sprig" McDonald, Arthur Smith, Jack Carey, Geo Boyland, Bob Smyth, Ron Kirkwood, Percy Hancock, Gerry Green, Ray Parry, Alby Friend, Bill Epps, Joe Burrigge, Colin Hodson, Gerry Maley and Col. Doig, with assorted growing lads of the various families to make the workers up to about 20.

It was a great effort and showed the truth of the maxim that many hands make light work. It is a pleasure to attend such days as dedentary types like the writer have only about one hour's good work in them and to try and slog it out for about four or five hours is just too much and makes one have furious thoughts when future bees are under discussion.

Thanks a million to all with special mention to Bill Epps for his great efforts in this area with work and mowing and to Bob Smyth for his driving force in getting the area under control.

If you haven't had a trip through the Park recently I suggest you head up there shortly just to see for yourself how well it is coming to hand.

EMPIRE GAMES RE-UNION

Planning is going ahead apace with regard to this function and all who attend can be certain that it won't be for lack of effort on behalf of the Committee and the Organiser if this isn't the greatest function ever conducted.

The co-operation of all who are interested wherever they be, is still required. Anybody interstate should advise as early as possible if they intend to make the trip. There will be no difficulty with accommodation or with tickets for the various games events as these are already teed up.

West Australian country folk are also requested to advise urgently if they require accommodation or tickets.

City folk in Perth are requested to answer their circular as early as possible to enable the Organiser to get down to brass tacks as far as allotting accommodation.

The big problem at the moment is the ticket requirements for Opening Day. This could be a brilliant opportunity for a re-union type day with wives and families and it is definitely possible to book a large block of tickets in the one area of the stadium. As a matter of cold fact the Association has taken steps to book 200 seats in a block for this day.

Please advise your requirements (these tickets are £1 each) so that if further tickets are required we can get on the job immediately. This is definitely a matter of urgency so do your best to oblige. There is no need to send any money at this juncture as the Association will finance the purchase of tickets and you can pay at a later date.

STILL LOST

The addresses of the following personnel are urgently required to make our address book as complete as possible.

If you know of any of them treat the matter as urgent and write to Box T1646 G.P.O. Perth.

South Australia:

BACHE, H. E.
WOODHEAD, L. J. (Lionel).
JORDAN, M.
MARCHANT, L. E.

New South Wales:

BAGNALL, K. (Skeeta).
DIXON, D. (Douglas).
HANSON, J. (Jackie).
HARRISON, P. J. (Kiwi).
HOGG, D. (Dave).
JONES, A. F.
MAHER, C.
MARTIN, R. D.
MORRISEY, J. W. (Joe).

PRESS, F. A. (Frank).
PRIOR, J. (Jack).
SIPPLE, J. (Jack).
THORPE, F. J. (Slim).
WATERS, K. (Keith).
WEIR, B. J.
WILCOX, E. C. (Wally).
WILSON, K. G. (Keith).
TIERNEY, T. (Tom).
O'BRIEN, T. L. (Tom).
LAFFY, Capt. J.
ANDERSON, W. S. (Bunny).

West Australia:

COUPLAND, A. (Alf).
McLAUGHLIN, J. R.
BRADY, N.
COOPER, W. G.
DODGE, C.

Queensland:

CUBIS, C. F. (Col.).
VANDERLEUR, G.

Victoria:

ADDISON, A.

Last State Unknown:

BURTON, R. A. (Dick).
PERKINS, A. L.
CARRIER, G.
PICKERING, C.
PALMER, C.
VERNEDE, C.
CHOPPING, C.
LARNEY, R.

Personalities

Bob Smyth has become a father for the third time. Another boy, making two boys and a girl, nicely spaced too, with the girl in the middle. Hearty congrats from the mob, Bob. Hope it brings you and your good wife all the happiness you deserve.

Down in the Big Smoke for Country Week Cricket is Arthur Marshall and despite creeping age is still managing to get his fair share of wickets and an odd run or two. Sufficient of a snob these days to resent playing on concrete or malthoid wickets. Arthur was the instigator of getting a turf wicket at Harvey quite a few years ago now and definitely relishes playing on turf. "Marsh" is doing well at Harvey both with his carrying business, hay baling and also with a new type of super spreader for which he and his partner hold the patent rights. It is always a sheer pleasure to run in with the "Marsh" and have a bit of a "chin wag".

Saw "The Brooker" for the first time for quite a few months the other day and had a good old "wongie" about old times. To add to the pleasure we had hardly moved into the "lager hole" for a beer than who should be the next door neighbour than Jimmy Ritchie. Afraid a short session was inclined to lengthen quite a bit. "Brook" looked very well although he did admit to being an "ulcer" man, but he could have tricked me as he did not look any different to old days in the army. Jimmy Ritchie also looked very fit and he told me he was about to head for Esperance on a railway job which looked like lasting for quite a while.

Also in the city for his annual holidays was Peter Barden and it was my pleasure to meet him on a couple of occasions and have an odd beer or so. Peter looks as though the wife is a good cook and he a good sampler of her wares. Geraldton will never lack for an advocate while Peter is about the place. Peter had a most enjoyable stay in the city and appeared to get around to a remarkable degree.

Don Turton dropped in to see me recently and was as usual a ball of energy. Now has young Ian attending Christ Church where he is a class mate of Ian Nesbit so he will not be without a mate or two. Maxine is continuing at St. Hildas so Don is up to his ears visiting every time he hits the city.

Good to see Ray Parry at the working bee at Kings Park on Feb. 18, and looking such a ball of energy. Still battling it out with W.A. Newspapers and living at Salters Point. As everyone was flat out working did not have much time for any light badinage to get up to date on the latest gossip on the Parry front.

Alby Friend was another seen at K.P. and he looks as though he is his own best customer at the butchers shop. Never seen a bloke so gushing with rude health. He could have turned out to be our best friend (no pun intended) as he cold bloodedly informed us that he had a glorious cold "five" in his butcher's cold room but nobody asked him to bring it along. How naive can you be? Fancy requiring an invitation to bring along a "nutmeg" to our gang.

"LEST WE FORGET"**FEBRUARY**

Airey, Pte. Donald H., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 21.

Alford, Pte. Frank J., killed in action Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 21.

Gannon, Sig. B. I., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 29.

Lane, Pte. A. J., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 21.

Murray, Pte. R. H., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 23.

Pollard, Pte. J. A., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 22.

Simpson, Cpl. J. F., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 36.

Walker, S/Sgt. J. W., died as P.O.W., Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 23.

Chalmers, Pte. R., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 23.

Chiswell, Sgt. G. A., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 23.

Stanton, Pte. C. L., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 22.

Marriott, Pte. H. W., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 35.

Hogg, Pte. K. T., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 22.

Crowder, Pte. F. T., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 25.

Alexander, Pte. R. G., killed in action, Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 24.

Smith, Pte. Fred C., killed in action Timor, Feb. 20, 1942. Age 20.

**ASSOCIATION REGISTER OF
CHILDREN'S NAMES AND AGES**

Check this list to see that your children are on the Association Register. These names will appear month by month in strictly alphabetical order of family surname so that if your little group has been excluded when your section of the alphabet is printed you will know we have not got your particulars. Then is your chance to write in and advise the names, sex and dates of birth of your family. If we have not got your particulars correctly then write in and put us on the right track so that our register is 100 per cent correct.

Alexander, Nola, F., 1949.
Margaret, F., 1951.

Anderson, Leonard, M., 1949.
Trevor, M., 1950.
Kevin, M., 1952.
Margaret, F., 1956.
Bagley, Gavin, M., 1958.
Barden, Rex, M., 1949.
Bateman, Jeffery, M., 1949.
Michael, M., 1951.
Judith Anne, F., 1954.
Bayliss, Rooney, M., 1948.
Maxwell, M., 1950.
Pamela, F., 1951.
Allison, F., 1952.
Joanne, F., 1954.
Boyland, Robyn, F., 1951.
Bowden, Betty, F., 1949.
Rosanne, F., 1950.
Kenneth, M., 1956.
Julie, F., 1961.
Brown, Gail, F., 1956.
Burridge, Richard, M., 1948.
Terry, F., 1950.
Kathryn, F., 1957.
Bowers, Antoinette, F., 1950.
Timothy, M., 1954.
Linda, F., 1956.
A girl born about 1960.
Bingham, Phillip, M., 1950.
Shirley, F., 1952.
Cary, F., 1953.
Burns, Brian, M., 1949.
Bobbie, M., 1951.
Bruce, M., 1958.
Campbell P. W., John, M., 1950.
Mark, M., 1954.
Julie, F., 1955.
Cantrell, Judith, F., 1948.
Robert, M., 1952.
Linda, F., 1954.
Cash, Peter, M., 1948.
John, M., 1949.
Merry, F., 1951.
Cooper, George, M., 1950.
Pamela, F., 1952.
Julie, F., 1955.
John, M., 1957.
Craghill, Frank, M., 1950.
Kenneth, M., 1952.
Allen, M., 1953.
Patricia, F., 1955.
Raymond, M., 1961.
Criddle, Gregory, M., 1948.
Brennan, M., 1950.
Crossing R. W., Jamie, M., 1952.
Mick, M., 1955.
Anne Marie, F., 1956.
Crossing W., Susan, F., 1955.
Sally, F., 1957.
Ralph, M., 1959.
Cunningham, Francene, F., 1949.

Address All Your Correspondence:

Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth

Random Harvest

ROBBIE ROWAN-ROBINSON, of Woodborough, Bridgetown, writes

The family are all away and I'm batching for a fortnight. Have a little time before I get myself a cold lunch so thought I would drop you a few lines as I have a few odd pieces of news.

Just written a letter to my two boys who are enjoying a Y.A.L. tour of the Eastern States. They left at the end of December and won't be back until the end of this month. They tell me in their letter that Dexter Fowler, who they have met before, is also on the tour (I hope he is enjoying himself, Chook).

To go back a bit, Gordon Rowley was to be seen at the local show demonstrating his chain saws and periodically loosening up at the local bar. I understand things are a bit harder now as he has sold nearly everyone in the district a saw has over 300 out. He keeps a mechanic in the shops and a salesman on the road. He has retired. (That is correct, isn't it, Gordon?)

Have not seen the Langridge family for several weeks. Bernie judged the dairy cattle at the Bridgetown show and he had some rams in at the ram sale, which incidentally I bought. His family had rather a dull Christmas as the children had a run of the usual children's complaints before and during Christmas. They are all off at the coast now, the eldest having swimming lessons, as also are my two daughters.

Boxing Day, no I think it was the day after, the Timms family all arrived over here for the day. Last year we paid them a visit.

All are well and like other families the eldest are growing up. Nancy was not too well during the year, but has her eldest daughter to help her at home, for a bit anyway, which will be a big help to her. George is looking well and tells me that he has just bought the farm next door. Good luck to you George, and hope all goes well with it.

In finishing may I congratulate those members who were responsible for the Turton Field Day, truly a Christian act.

MAX DAVIES, of Box 202, Cobram, Victoria, writes:—

I have been trying for some time to get around to this note but some how something always crops up.

We intend to make the trip to the West for the Games, and at the moment this is our intention.

The party will consist of my wife and self, plus two chaps, very good friends of mine, namely Peter McCracken and Jack Thomas. We are coming over by car and hope to spend about a fortnight in Perth arriving a day or so before the start of the Games.

Whilst in Melbourne recently Bert Tobin showed me your letter regarding Games tickets so to ease the pressure on you I have arranged for our tickets for opening and closing days plus a couple of days athletics and swimming which I think should be just about all we will require in that direction.

Must leave a bit of time for yapping and an odd snort or two.

To say that I'm looking forward to this trip would be the understatement of the year.

I would deem it a great favour if you would let me know about accommodation. I do hope I'm not putting too much strain on you asking for four people but we have been going away together each year now for some time and I can't very well leave them out of this trip. Four together would be the ideal arrangement, of course, but if this is a bit too much two pairs would suit us O.K.

Anyhow just let's know what you can do and we will work it out from there.

One thing for sure. We're coming! So just you tell Freddy Sparkman, Jack Carey, Gerry Maley, Arch Campbell and anyone else over there to get into training. I'm down to 13 stone and have got a lot of beef to put back on.

JOHN BURRIDGE, of 36 Phillip Rd. Dalkeith, W.A., writes:—

I am writing to thank you for the lovely Christmas present you gave me.

It is a very lovely tie and I have found it a great asset to me this holiday.

I am sorry that I missed the Unit party but I had not yet broken up from boarding school then.

My small sister Katie cannot write to you so I will say thank you for her.

RICHARD BURRIDGE writes:—

I'm writing this letter to thank you for the lovely book and compass you gave me.

I'm sorry I missed the Unit party but Dad was away and therefore we couldn't make it.

I hope it will be the last time I miss it because I like the Unit party so much.

The Ken Holt mystery you gave me has a beautiful story in it and I read it in two days.

Once again thanks for the lovely present.

TERRY BURRIDGE writes:—

Thank you very much for the lovely bag you sent me. I am sorry that I could not be at the Unit party but my Dad was away in Melbourne and returned too late to be there. I have used the bag many times. It is the first time I have missed the party and I hope it will be the last time.

Historically Yours!

As the Dutch moved into the area it complicated the situation and Doig requested orders from H.Q. as to the role to be adopted by each of these forces. It was obvious the Dutch troops were only here because they were slowly running out of island. A more melancholy bunch would be hard to discover anywhere. The war was a hopeless situation for them. Holland had gone and their beloved "Yava" was also overboard and here in Timor they could see the room to run in was at a premium. This criticism did not apply to all but was pretty general.

One of the Dutch officers, one Jan Zyestra, was an excellent type and would have been a good man in any situation but Capt. Braemar was very much in command and Zyestra was not given much opportunity.

Another Sgt. known to our gang as the "Besok Professor" because of his thick glasses and goatee beard, was also an exception to the rule and had a fund of good light humour not normally associated with these Hollandese.

Major Spence decided to allocate the role of guarding the road from Bauca to Beaco to the Dutch and "H" force was to continue its "recce" role over the rest of the area.

About this time there happened an incident in which "H" force played a significant part.

A Hudson (or it might have been a Beaufort) bomber was shot down in flames near Lacluba.

Apparently in this type of plane when it catches on fire the only crew member with any chance of survival is the pilot who could eject himself from his seat. The Bomber and Tail Gunner had no chance whatever of "bailing out".

In this instance the pilot was Flying Officer Wadey, of Adelaide, and he successfully bailed out but not before he was badly burned. He was dressed in tropical shorts and shirt and flying boots and the exposed portions of the body, notably the legs and arms, were frightfully scorched. He had presence of mind enough to put his right arm over his eyes and this saved his eyes but this arm was very badly burned.

He was picked up by some natives and because of his dreadful condition, was taken to the Porto capital of the province Manututo. The Administrator was one of the few Portos on the island who had not espoused our cause by active assistance and although not pro-Jap he was most definitely anti-us. He refused any form of assistance to Wadey until he signed a paper that he would take no further part in the war and would be treated as a prisoner of war or suchlike, similar to the treatment offered by Switzerland to escaping P.O.W.

Wadey in his weakened condition had no option but sign but as it was signed under duress he knew it had no standing under International Law.

He was made to hand over his pistol, the only armament he carried, and only then was he given medical attention by the "Infirm-cera," a sort of R.A.P. type common on Timor.

To digress a moment to account for these "Infirm-ceras". Because of its remoteness from the homeland, Timor had difficulty in attracting sufficient doctors to staff the island and to offset this weakness the resident Doctor in Dilli used to train the more intelligent type of islanders, both Timorese and half caste, in some of the medical practices, such as giving injections, and some nursing practices. Their training appeared to be about on a par with a well trained St. John Ambulance Brigade member and because of constant practice at the various Postos they were quite adept up to this standard and would be considered quite good at giving all types of injections, including the "boo gee" which they would give at the drop of a hat.

Back to Flying Officer Wadey. He had his burns dressed quite capably with the medicines available to the Infirm-cera but unfortunately these did not contain the newer type Tonic Acid Jelly substances at that time the most modern thing for treatment of burns. His morale was not good as he was on tender hooks all the time because of the attitude of the Administrator and he felt that it was only a matter of time before the Japs discovered his presence (remember he was shot down by a Zero who would have noticed him bail out and would have to some extent pinpointed his position), and he would be handed over to the tender mercies of the Sons of Heaven.

Word of the airman's presence at Manututo had filtered through to "B" Platoon and Lt. Tom Nisbet of 4 Section, and Spr. "Tex" Richards who was attached to "B" Platoon for demolition and other duties, set off to try and find him.

This they rapidly did and Nisbet on seeing the set-up at Manututo decided this was a good place for

a sick man not to be. Despite protestations from the Porto he decided to move him as quickly as possible to a safer area.

Knowing the Administrator of the neighbouring province, while not actively espousing our cause, was to all intents and purposes in our bag, Nisbet decided to move Wadey to Baucau.

Lt. Piries, the Administrator, considered it would be safer if he were taken further afield to Bagia where there was quite a good hospital and an excellent Infirm-cera. The move to Bagia was effected without incident and Nisbet left the aviator in "Tex" Richards' care and headed back to his platoon, contacting Doig at Viqueque on his way back and putting him in the picture.

Things were O.K. for a while at Bagia but word got through to Doig by Porto "Muiga Wire" that it was the Japs' intention to go to Bagia in force and grab the airman.

There was no time for elaborate plans so Doig and Rowan-Robinson set off for Ossu to discover the most rapid method of getting to Bagia and rescuing Wadey before the Nip moved in. At Ossu they were able to get an old Chev 6 (remember the first model brought out by Chev with a six cylinder engine about, 1930 model I think) with a pretty good motor but the tyres were in crook condition. This car was run on a wood alcohol distillate and got in about one back fire for every firing motion and it sounded as if it were jet propelled. The driver was the usual Porto type probably a desperado with a reckless disregard for his own or anybody else's life as he hooted and back-fired his way to Baucau. Here they were to contact Piries and he was to tell them where they could obtain some petrol. It was also decided that the tyres on the car wouldn't be much good for the trip from Baucau to Bagia and another Chev 6 was found with good tyres but the engine of doubtful quality.

There was no time to make a change of wheels so it was the second car or nothing. Piries surreptitiously sneaked the party out of Baucau at nightfall to, of all places, the local cemetery. We "dug up" two five gallon cans of petrol which had been "planted" there.

A most appropriate place to plant things if it can be so recorded.

Doig and Rowan-Robinson, with the driver and a friend, then set off on the tortuous trip to Bagia. Robbie was in the front with the driver as he had a Tommy Gun and Doig was in the rear seat with the other Porto.

The road to Bagia had to be experienced to be believed. It was more like a switch-back or a funicular railway than anything else as it wound its way up, down and around mountains. At times it appeared we would disappear up our own grummit on some of the hair-pin bends. All the while the driver kept up a running flow of conversation with his mate in the back seat, turning round every second or so to punctuate his remarks with appropriate hand actions.

This soon proved too much for Doig who could see that R.S.L. badge receding into the dim distance and with a splurge of the best bullock driver Australian told the driver to keep his eyes, thoughts, mind and everything else on the unmentionable road. The idea apparently penetrated through the Porto's mind as from then on he did pay a bit more attention to his driving.

Bagia is situated in a fabulous rice growing area and whole mountain sides are terraced to provide paddies for the growing of rice and it was through this that the road wound—a truly magnificent sight with the water spilling from paddy to paddy as it came down the mountain side.

Eventually we reached Bagia and had the first sight of our quarry. He looked frightful. Never a robust type he looked absolutely bloodless and his burns were terrific. "Tex" Richards and the Porto Infirmiera had done an outstanding job in dressing his wounds and caring for him.

Wadey, not unnaturally, was in a panic at being moved as he was in a highly shocked condition and his previous journeys had not inspired him with confidence. Doig bluntly gave him the alternative of coming with the party of his own free will or being brought out forcibly as it was not the party's intention to leave him to be an easy capture for the Jap.

The move next day was not all that difficult. The spare Porto was left behind and Wadey and "Tex" given the back seat while Doig and "Robbie" were with the driver in the front seat. Luckily the Chef de Post at Bagia spoke some English and Doig was able to get him to impress on the driver the necessity for care and haste in the task ahead.

Remember this time the party was returning towards the direction from which the Jap was expected and no news had been heard of possible Jap moves since the party left Ossu. The telephone from Baucau to Bagia was still in operation and we knew that at least the Jap was not yet at Baucau.

Robbie and Doig were on a constant alert for any signs along the road but the trip to Baucau was uneventful if such a trip could ever be called uneventful. Wadey was in a daze as he peered over the side of the track and it could be seen that in his shocked condition the trip was doing him a power of "no good".

Time off to dress the patient's seeping wounds at Bagia and to give him some nourishment in the way of chicken broth thoughtfully arranged by the wonderful Peries. Peries was a marvellous man, the very best type of Porto who had been on the island some 20 odd years and had married a Timorese woman and had a tribe of children. He was wise and understanding and had a gentle nature and was beloved by all the Timorese in his area. He was said to be the least strict as a disciplinarian but achieved outstanding results without the use of excess "palmatory," the Porto method of corporal punishment.

The trip from Baucau to Ossu should have been fairly easy. The road was more or less easy going after the Bagia-Baucau section, but the car was starting to show signs of wear and tear and was only running on about four cylinders as we left Baucau. None of this was assisting the patient who began to look like a frightened child and complained bitterly.

As the party neared Ossu they were heaving sighs of relief that the job had been accomplished without undue incident when it was discovered that the "bloody Dutch"

had blown the bridge over the river just north of Ossu and the car would not be able to ford the river. Apparently when the Porto rumour that the Japs were on the move got to the Dutch they panicked and blew the bridge and set up a defensive position. Thank God Zyestra was in charge and in no time flat he saw the predicament his O.C.'s precipitate action had placed the rescue party in and he set about to rectify it. He got onto Olivera, the Chef de Post for both Ossu and Viqueque and between them they got a car of type to go to the river on the Ossu side. As far as the writer remembers this was a big sedan possibly a late model Chev, but the engine was hors de combat and it had to be pushed or pulled. Zyestra arranged for his men to act as stretcher bearers to carry Wadey over the fordable portion of the river and he was placed in the car, then all and sundry pushed and pulled it into Ossu.

By now it was dark and the patient required dressing and food.

The Infirmiera at Ossu although competent, was not the same gentle type as his counterpart at Bagia and this was not at all to the patient's liking and once again Doig had to take a firm stand for the patient's own good.

After a few days at Ossu it was decided that it was too prominent a position to have a stretcher case, as a quick swoop would have the Japs right on us before the patient could be moved, also our wireless contact might be compromised. A move was made into the bush to a native village called Ossu Rua (Ossu Two) and huts were quickly erected by the natives so that the patient would not lack comfort.

All the time patrols and recon groups were going on and the work of "H" force was not sublimated to the necessity to look after the badly shocked and burnt airman. He was not the best patient in the world and poor old "Tex" Richards had a hell of a time as his personal attendant. It was eventually necessary to tell him to act up man size and point out to him that the Company had had some pretty bad casualties in the way of Alan Hollow, Keith Hayes, Eddie Craghill, Jerry Maley and others who had had tougher times than Wadey with

out requiring the full time assistance of a nurse maid. This proved to be the start of the road back for Wadey as his morale rose from that day and although his burns were still terrific he threw off his shocked condition and started to help himself.

To complete the Wadey story it is necessary to tell of his departure.

O.C. Sparrow Force advised that it was now possible to evacuate the patient and that he was to be at Beco on a particular date (the actual date escapes the writer but possibly some reader can oblige) and he would be sent to Australia. Details as to how this would happen we did not know but surmised it would be on the little "Kuru".

Olivera got together quite a big line of stretcher bearers and "Tex" Richards and (I think) Geo Timms set off for Beco with the patient. Wadey was in good spirits at this time and thanked all in "H" Force for what had been done for him. The carry to Beco was arduous but largely uneventful, but trouble started when they arrived at the beach head as this was the time of the unfortunate beaching of the destroyer "Voyager". The patient was forced to hang around the beach until taken aboard one of the Corvettes which tried to refloat the "Voyager" and was eventually landed in Darwin and so from our point of view ended the Wadey incident.

He did regain his health and his strength and it is understood returned to flying duties and thanks to the wonderful nursing attention by "Tex" Richards and two or three excellent Porto Infirmieras, he has little bodily to show for his terrific ordeal. He featured in a movie made during the war to publicise a Loan Campaign and from this he looked extra well and gave our show quite a rap up with an extra special mention for "Tex" Richards which is how it should be.

Heard This?

Teacher: "Frank, what is a cannibal?"

Frank: "I dunno."

"Well, if you ate your father and mother, what would you be?"

"An orphan, mum."

Victorian Vocal Venturings

We had the best day it was possible to have for our Christmas party at Bonbeach. It was a glorious sunny day and it was good to see so many in swimming and really enjoying it. We had a very good roll up and it looks as though this day will go on for a good many more years yet as there seemed to be a lot of kids around the 4, 5, and 6 years old group and also a few babies too.

I am able to have more time outdoors this time and we made full use of it by having plenty of races for the boys and girls to show their paces.

A very noticable family of fleet-footed runners were the Browns, "Charlie's flock", judging by their form. I'd say that they had plenty of practice in getting out of Dad's way.

The kiddies came into the life-saving hall and received their gifts and made short work of the ice cream, lollies and drinks and thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and it is certainly a pleasure for those that organise this day to see the kiddies enjoying it so much. Also the Mums and Dads have a good opportunity to get together too and we appreciate them bringing the kiddies along.

Ken and Margaret Monk made the trip up from Poowong, and George Veitch and family also kept up their attendance record. Our thanks to Jock and Fay Campbell for their work in doing up the lollies in bags and supplying the drink which they had kept nice and cold. Jock has a mixed business at Seaford and was unable to make the party as he had his shop to attend to.

Max Davies was down in Melbourne late last year on his way to Tasmania for a holiday. He is a new look man these days. The hepatitis he suffered a year earlier had really ripped the weight off Max and he is looking very slim but has the same old cheerful countenance. Says he feels much better without the extra weight but does not want to go through that sickness again. Max was saving that he was being transferred to Cobram after his holidays and would like to see any

of the boys who may happen to be going to or through this town. Max is manager of the States Savings Bank. Said that his wife Grace was well and all being well they will both be going over to Perth for the Re-union. Hopes to make it by car. Sends his regards to all the boys.

Jack Reattie from Tamworth, N.S.W., came through Melbourne on his way to a holiday in Tassie. Stayed with Bert and Wilma Tobin for three days then caught the Princess of Tasmania and spent a very enjoyable four weeks touring around the "Apple Isle". Jack is a school teacher hence the nice long holiday. His wife also does some teaching. They have a boy and a girl to complete the family. They enjoyed their time in Tassie so well that they would have liked to stay longer.

Jack met up with Bill Davidson and Jim Wall while in Melbourne. I was looking forward to meeting Jack myself but I went down with a wog just before he arrived. Bert went down to see Jack off on the Princess of Tasmania and they bumped into Jack Renehan, but said he has put on a lot of weight and looking very well. Jack only had a very short stop on his way back as he had to get back in time for the school opening.

I had my usual trip to Tassie last month and managed to bump into Ivan Brown looking just the same as ever and still painting Hobart up big on his job as signwriter. Saw Vic Pacy and had a very enjoyable evening with him and family. Tried hard to talk Vic into coming over to Perth but it's another case of the £.s.d. which makes it very hard to save enough when bringing up and educating a family.

Spent two enjoyable evenings with Blue and Joan Stanley and family in Launceston. Also managed a very interesting afternoon with Blue on a trip up the coast to Burnie. Saw a lot of the island I had not seen before.

Well, that's all the news I have for the moment so until next time a very prosperous New Year to all

—HARRY BOTTERILL