



# 2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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## *Editorial*

### OBLIGATIONS

This Editorial is primarily aimed at members in the West, but can equally apply to members wherever they may be.

Very shortly (the first Tuesday in July to be precise) the Branch in W.A. will hold the Annual General Meeting and as you are aware this is where the Association stock-take of the past year takes place and also it is where the basic planning for the future **should** take place. Unfortunately these Annual General Meetings have too often proved to be something to be avoided like a plague in case some character should suggest that there is a berth on the Committee which could be adequately filled by the person concerned. Consequently over the years too much has fallen on too few who are prepared to do the toil because it is a labour of love and to some extent their particular hobby.

As you the reader must be aware there comes the time in everybody's life when they wear out or some material change in family set-up happens that means that one must give up ones hobbies and interests and go to other fields.

Luckily for the Branch in this State this has not happened to many of the more ardent workers and so despite lethargy by the many the Association has prospered.

It can't go on for ever!

Others must be prepared to share the burden of office and take upon themselves the tasks that make for an organisation such as ours.

There is plenty of work and scope for all. We have but scraped the top of the soil as far as finding useful things to do.

This particular year it is more important than at any time in the past to get into the collar. We are to be host State for the Empire Games Re-union and we have just got to make a big show of it.

When the Annual General Meeting is held there will be a bare five months before the Games are under way and there will be a ton of work to do.

Be assured that your services can most certainly be used in some capacity, so please be on hand to offer your best offices.

The real big plea is for you to roll up to the Annual General Meeting and if you can't do anything else offer constructive criticism of what has been done or is intended to be done. Let those who are doing the job know that at least you are interested and appreciate what is being done or are aware that it is being done.

Treat attendance at the Annual General Meeting as your obligation to your Association.

# West Australian Whisperings

## Committee Comment

Your Committee met for the usual monthly meeting on May 15 at Anzac Club.

A financial statement furnished by the Treasurer showed that the Association was still in a healthy if not flourishing, state.

It was decided after considerable discussion that the Annual Sweep be held once again on the Kalgoorlie Cup on the same lines as last year.

Bob Smyth gave an outline of the proposal to erect signs in Kings Park and this met with the approbation of the Committee who thanked Bob for his efforts. Ken Bowden also was to be thanked for his promised part in this project.

It was suggested the Editor bring to the attention of members the necessity to make savings if possible advance payments, for Association functions.

A post mortem on Anzac Day by those present indicated that the day went off very well and a vote of thanks was placed on the minutes to the good work of Jack Carey for his organisation and also for the catering.

A welcome visitor to the meeting was Jim Barnes, who is now domiciled in W.A.

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## SPECIAL MENTION:

### JUNE MEETING

Is An Absolute Command Performance

The Guest of the evening will be Bernard Callinan, erstwhile C.O. and good bloke extra-ordinary. Roll up in your hordes and give him the big welcome West. Remember: Anzac House Basement, Tuesday, 6th June, 1962

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It is your Bounden Duty to attend. Come along and bring your bright ideas for Association advancement. The place: Anzac House Basement. The Date: 3rd July, 1962

## Association Activities

### ANZAC DAY

Despite an early threat of rain the day went off without a hitch from our good friend Jupiter Pluvius. It is truly remarkable that year in year out the weather seems to be in the best of moods for Anzac Day.

The Dawn Service saw President Bob McDonald lay a beautiful wreath in a most prominent position on the State War Memorial.

A greater attendance than is usual of Unit members made the trek to Kings Park in the cold grey of the morning for this impressive service which so epitomises the Spirit of Anzac and that it is a purely personal affair with no pomp and ceremony. The whole affair is **yours**, it is what **you** give it.

The long weekend for so many made for a slightly smaller number of members on the main parade. But with some assistance from other squadrons we managed quite a respectable muster.

The hop, skip and jump from Anzac House to the Esplanade was accomplished in quite good manner this year and we probably only had to change step a hundred times in the half mile in spite of the efforts of the band in our immediate rear trying to turn the march into a rock and roll jam-boree.

The march off was accomplished in excellent style.

This year Colin Doig, as senior officer on parade, headed the march (Tom Nesbit a resplendant figure in Brigadier's uniform, was O.C. uniformed troops for the day).

As usual Mick Morgan carried the banner and made certain no-one missed the Double Red Diamond.

After the march the assembly moved rapidly to the 16th Bn. Drill Hall where thirsts were quickly slaked. Thanks to Jack Carey and Jerry Maley a sumptuous finger meal was available. Where do those crays come from each year, and those glorious poloneys and brawn, etc.? If anyone went hungry it was not the fault of our catering duo.

It was not long before the ear-bashing was well under way. The topics ranged from occupations to families, football, and of course, inevitably back to war-time reminiscences. Won't say we were knee-deep in Japs by the time the last keg was tapped but at least it was ankle deep.

A most orderly gathering all told and shows that we are growing old. Now for a few personalities.

Pleasing to see Joe Poynton looking so well. Says he is doing most of his building in the bush these days. Ted Monk once again made the long trek from up at Latham and thoroughly enjoyed himself. Doug Fullerton came from the other direction down at Donnelly River and was certainly having the time of his life. Tom Foster delayed his departure back to Victoria to be in it and certainly took a lashing and is a hog for punishment. Harry Sproston and Jack Cary seen pounding the ears. Jim McLaughlan made it again this year and says he finds ordinary meetings no good as he is a country traveller.

Bill Epps, Fred Sparkman, Fred Napier, "Curly" Bowden, Ray Parry, Len Bagley, Bob Smyth, Arthur Smith, "Bloss" Lawrence (in uniform, having marched with the 10th Light Horse in which he is now a Captain), Clarrie Varian, "Rip" McMahon, Ron Kirkwood, Percy Hancock, Ray Aitken, President "Spriggy" McDonald, Dave Ritchie, Dick Crossing, Gerry Maley, John Burrridge, Jack Hasson, "Ping" Anderson, Arch Campbell (O.C. Leg-acy Wards for the day), Dick Dar-

lington, Eric Dindoowdie, Alby Friend, Dick Geere, Jerry Haire, and Col Hodson. Some notable absentees who are usually present were Mick Calcutt tripping up north, George Strickland, "Slim" Holly, "Slim" James and Jack Penglase on holidays at Kalgoorlie.

Gordon Hislop was seen briefly but he had to head back to work at the Cottesloe Golf Club where he is bar manager.

Jack Sweet, 2/7th, Jim Menzies, John Lillie, both 2/3rd, were also with us once again.

I believe the party went on many hours after the last kegs cut out at the hall and many are the tales that could be told if only some scribe was game to put pen to paper.

To sum up the usual excellent Anzac Day if anything a little better but certainly more subdued as the years go by.

### MAY MEETING

A very average attendance at this meeting probably due to the fact that it was so close to Anzac Day but once again a lot of fun.

We tried ourselves out with a little target practice, thanks to the good graces of the City of Perth Sub-Branch R.S.L., who supplied the rifle, ammo and targets and told us to go for our lives.

It was certainly proved that any enemy would be perfectly safe as far as we are concerned now. The shooting, to say the best, was atrocious. The target wouldn't stay still or was it that rifle had a fit of the "wobbles".

Sufficient to say Keith Hayes proved the eventual winner and didn't have much to beat. Jack Penglase showed early promise but fell away rapidly after three good shots. Jack Hasson probably was the champion at "rapid fire" but like the rest the target was never in any real danger. John Burrridge was determined to show that at least he had not lost that old skill but believe me he still wants plenty more practice. Percy Hancock showed some promise but couldn't maintain it. Col Doig to say the very least, was vicious with shot sprayed in every corner of the target. Jack Carey could, if he took it seriously, be as good as he ever was but he refuses to treat these things seriously. Gerry Maley and brother Mike also

were among those present both as to being there and as rifle shots.

All in all: "Thank God we've got a navy". Still I don't think I have ever seen a gang enjoy themselves more and all reckoned there should be more of it, sentiments this writer heartily endorses.

### JUNE MEETING

As the Association is most hopeful our erstwhile C.O. Bernard Callinan will be able to attend this meeting on June 5, at Anzac House it is hoped that everyone will make every endeavour to be present to give him the welcome he so richly deserves on this his first visit to the West. Bernie was one of our greatest soldiers and has been a great worker for the Association in Victoria despite the busy business career which he, as a leading Civil Engineer, has to lead. You all turned up in vast numbers to welcome Kev Curran so please do the same in just as big a way for Bernie Callinan.

### EMPIRE GAMES RE-UNION

The time is fast approaching as far as this Re-union is concerned and there is not a lot more that can be said that has not already been said. Enough for me to reiterate that all inter-state visitors will have no difficulty regarding accommodation. They can be assured of a wonderful time so if you can possibly make the trip you would be most welcome. Don't be afraid if you are in a position to make a late decision to put off coming on account of accommodation, **we will fit you in.**

The Organiser would be most pleased to hear from country and town members who will be requiring tickets for the Opening day. To date the response has been a bit on the dull side. You should make your reservations for other sporting events as soon as possible after the opening of bookings which is expected later in May or early in June.

Another point to keep in mind is that quite a lot is going to happen in a short while what with the Games and also the Association functions. This will of course cost you money. There is nothing in this world for free except the air we breath. You will most certainly want to be in all that hap-

pens within your ability to finance it. It is suggested in all humility, that you embark on a savings campaign from now until Games time so that you won't feel the strain so much when the actual occasion arrives. If you save 10/- a week from now until the Games in November, you will have a nice tidy sum available. If you feel it burning a hole in your pocket remit it to the Treasurer as an advance against any commitments you wish to meet, such as the Re-union Dinner, Ladies' Night, etc.

This is not written as a joke, the writer was never more deadly serious as finding say, a tenner to be in things is often very difficult but a little fore-thought now will have you in easy street when the big occasion arises.

The Association will be having tickets printed for the various functions that it will conduct and these can be purchased in advance and so save you embarrassment at a later date.

Please give this aspect your most serious consideration boys—it is well worth it.

### KINGS PARK HONOUR AVENUE

Bob Smyth and Bill Epps who have been keeping a fatherly eye on the Park area report a considerable lessening in the vandalism which was occurring but it is still going on.

There will be a couple of notices erected in our area, one either end and thanks to Bob Smyth, Mr. Jack Watson and Dr. Beard of the Kings Park Board, these should be a thing of beauty and we hope a joy forever. The proposal is not yet completely concrete but the outline plan under consideration should enhance our area in a big way. Ken Bowden has promised to co-operated in the actual inscription of the notices and we have the highest hopes of something not only outstanding but unique in this area.

The area is in good shape and we have the highest hopes for the future if only the good work can be kept up.

Write to Your Editor:

Col. Doig,

Box T1646, G.P.O. Perth

## Personalities

From all over the place we have intelligence of the "Great Adventure". Yes, the reference is to "Curly" O'Neil following, in the footsteps of John McDonald Stewart. First on the scene was the "Mayor of Jerilderee", none other than Jim Griffin with a cutting from the Sydney Mirror. The inevitable Jim says: "Of course he won't make it. Only a bushie boy could, but show it to the boys in the West." Thanks Jim, for your interest but my dough is on the O'Neil, if only for sheer patriotic pride in anybody who wore a Double Red Diamond with such distinction. Then up came Jack Carey with the same cutting. Then of course it had to be Paddy Wilby who, I will bet, wishes he had thought of the idea first. We will all be agog for the next exciting episode in the saga from the pen of the one and only Curly O'Neil. My suggestion is what about getting the "Courier" into the syndicate of the articles, Curly?

Jim Barnes recently of that remote metropolis, Alice Springs, is now in the West and it appears it will be for keeps. Jim is by profession a Veterinary Surgeon and he is now with the leading vet in this State and says there is plenty to do and he enjoys it in a big way. Jim is determined to get into Association affairs and can assure him he will be most welcome.

Tom Foster has returned to Victoria after quite a lengthy stay in W.A. Although the initial reason for the trip West was the sad one of the death of his father, he managed to have quite an excellent holiday and thoroughly enjoyed his first Anzac March in this State.

Now in the city after an age in the sticks is Gordon Hislop (better known as "Slops" to you). He is managing the bar at the Cottesloe Golf Club and his wife attends to the catering side. He looks a real bunch of bananas and hardly changed a scrap. We hope to inveigle him into a few Association activities before much longer.

The big news of the month is the visit of Bernie Callinan to this State. We hope to give him the treatment before he gets back East. Hope his business commitments do not take up too much of his time.

Don Murray is reciprocating by having a trip to Sydney where he is currently attending a school or something or other conducted by Ampol.

Mick Calcutt has now returned from his trip to Darwin and am looking forward to seeing him and gleaming all the local news from up that way.

Ron Kirkwood has been in hospital to have a minor operation. We understand he is going along O.K. and we hope that ere this is printed all is well and he is returned to his usual good health.

Stan Payne dropped in to see me quite recently and looked real fit. The long dry spell had got on his goat so he and his good wife decided to rush into the city for a minor splurge. Had quite a few noggins with him and a good old ear bash. Stan said he would like to attend an Anzac Day in Perth but finds himself torn between two loyalties of being in the parade in his own district to back up the chaps who organise it, and to be with our mob.

Good to see Jim McLaughlin on parade Anzac Day. He is a country traveller for Cyclone and is in the bush most of his time. Found out that he is a near neighbour of mine living at 26 Shann-st., Floreat Park.

Doug Fullarton looked as fit as a fiddle on the Big Day. Apparently work in the timber mills agrees with Doug and he certainly doesn't need any cheer up society if his big friendly grin is any indication.

"Dutchy" Holland got himself mangled up in a car accident and I believe had about 30 stitches in the head piece. I understand he is now well on the way to recovery and we wish him a speedy return to the best of health.

One we haven't seen for quite a while is Geo. Bayliss. We know he is kept more than busy with his job and also as Secretary of the Bayswater Sub-Branch R.S.L., but it would be good to see him along at an odd function or so.

"Curly" Bowden and the writer had a good old ear bash on Anzac Day and naturally in no time flat the conversation got around to boats and sailing. "Curly's" oldest boy, Don, is a most active member of the East Fremantle Yacht Club sailing a trainer built by Ken with considerable success. The tally this year was in the vicinity



of four wins and fourth place in the Club Championship.

A letter from Jack Denman to Jack Carey gave quite a bundle of most useful information including Charlie Vernede's address, also Neil Brady's latest address. Thanks a million Jack, for your trouble in this matter and these leads will be followed up smartly.

Out of the blue came Dick Darlington to the Anzac Day parade. Dick was a ball of silence as usual and an easy mark for the "lug punishers" to exercise their skill upon. Looks a ball of muscle and says good luck to everyone.

Noticed Ray Aitken getting in some telling work on the ear drums as Anzac Day drew on. Was in the act of reaching for the comforter, the "bullsh" protector, when Bob Smyth rescued me and subjected me to a steady tirade on signs in Kings Park. Must admit I gave as good as I got with both of these "champs". Wish I was the raconteur that Aitken is. Wouldn't have any trouble filling the "Courier" twice a month.

Making their first appearance was the Unit tie. A nice emblematic tie with a small red double diamond on a grey woollen tie. Dave Ritchie, the instigator, and they sold like hot cakes. More will soon be available so bung in your orders.

Jack Hasson now working in the metropolis at the Yellow Cabs garage. Rumour has it that it won't be long before he is joined by Arch Campbell who is to manage this up and coming taxi set up which is a subsidiary of Ampol. Good luck to both of you.

One missing from the fold lately is "Slim" Holly. Would like to see you make a re-appearance "Slim" after all your good work for the Association.

### "LEST WE FORGET"

#### MAY

Lilya, Sgt. D., killed in action Timor, May 17, 1945. Age 21.

#### Write to Your Secretary:

Jack Carey,  
Box T1646,  
G.P.O., Perth.

### NAMES AND BIRTHDAYS REGISTER OF CHILDREN'S

Scott, Ian, M, 1950.  
Ann, F, 1952.  
Graham, M, 1956.  
Sproston, Donald, M, 1953.  
Kerry, F, 1956.  
Strickland, Joanne, F, 1954.  
Noel, M, 1956.  
Dene, M, 1958.  
Swann, Geoffrey, M, 1951.  
Kerry, F, 1953.  
Timms, Lewis, M, 1949.  
Lindsay, M, 1952.  
Georgina, F, 1953.  
Clive, M, 1958.  
Thomson (A), Diann, F, 1950.  
Robert, M, 1953.  
Kay, F, 1954.  
James, M, 1959.  
Towers, Kim, M, 1949.  
Mark, M, 1951.  
Thornton, Colleen, F, 1952.  
Ross, M, 1953.  
Roslyn, F, 1954.  
Turner, Noel, M, 1951.  
Turton, Ian, M, 1949.  
Dianne, F, 1951.  
Heather, F, 1955.  
Varian, Maxine, F, 1951.  
Warren, M, 1961.  
Waddington, Dennis, M, 1950.  
Terry, M, 1950.  
Walsh, Gerald, M, 1951.  
Watson, Graham, M, 1949.  
Leonie, F, 1955.  
Coralie, F, 1958.  
Pamela, F, 1960.  
Wheatley, Meryl, F, 1951.  
Wicks, Gary, M, 1951.  
Christine, F, 1953.  
Jennifer, F, 1956.  
Wilkerson, Suzanne, F, 1952.  
Royce, M, 1953.  
Glenda, F, 1956.  
Gavin, M, 1958.  
Williams, Bevan, M, 1949.  
Mark, M, 1953.  
Deborah, F, 1959.  
Vaughan, M, 1960.  
Willis, Margaret, F, 1952.  
Steven, M, 1955.

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## Random Harvest

**PETER BARDEN, of Box 310, Geraldton, writes:—**

First of all, hearty congratulations on your excellent Editorial. I have discussed the subject with Jack Denman and he and the rest of the boys up this way agree wholeheartedly with your sentiments and also say "pity help the culprit if he's caught or we get a whisper who he is."

Jack and I met Mick Calcutt on his way north with his old mate, Skipper Jack Richmond, of the "Koojarra," and we had a nice little midday session with Mick and three of his mates off the ship. Both Mick and Jack agreed with me that it would be a good idea to give the vandalism some wide publicity, in the hope that the person responsible for the desecration might have his conscience pricked and refrain from repeating the act of vandalism of the highest degree. I therefore compiled the following news item and used it over my regional news session from 6GN on Anzac Day and also sent it to the A.B.C. news room in Perth, where it was used over the Regional news:

"Members of the 2/2nd Commando Association are irate at the vandalism which has occurred at their section of Lovekin Drive in Kings Park as a result of the activities of irresponsible motorists. They describe this vandalism as nothing less than desecration of ground which is sacred to the memory of members of this Unit who paid the supreme sacrifice while serving in Timor, New Guinea and New Britain or have since died.

"A member of the Association, Mr. Jack Denman, of Geraldton, who was the original President in 1946, said the Association and individual members had spent a lot of time and gone to a lot of expense in getting their area of Lovekin Drive cleared and grassed, and memorial plaques placed on trees for about 80 deceased members of the Unit. They were just getting somewhere with the establishment of couch grass when vandals in cars had turned the area into 'skid alley' and had done untold damage to the young couch grass which was becoming firmly

established after many years' perseverance.

"Mr. Denman said it was realised that to attempt to beautify the verges of what amounted to a public thoroughfare was somewhat of a risk, but surely the fact that the roadway was flanked by trees bearing memorial plaques should be sufficient to ensure its safety from vandals.

"The Kings Park Board has undertaken to erect appropriate notices."

And now on to a more cheerful subject.

We had a memorable Anzac Day at Geraldton, with Jack Denman, Nip Cunningham and myself marching together in the parade and then enjoying a few noggins later. Nip was in good form, and I noticed him close to the rum-issue section at the dawn parade earlier in the day; I suppose Nip reckoned that with a name like Nip it was appropriate that he should have a nip or two of rum.

As executive members of the R.S.L. Sub-Branch at Geraldton, Jack Denman (a former President) and myself as Publicity Officer, were delighted to see yet another record attendance of adults and children at the civic observance on Anzac Day. For some years now we have been conducting a non-denominational civic commemoration at Geraldton in conjunction with the Town Council, and we were interested to note that Perth and other areas this year followed Geraldton's example with a non-denominational commemoration.

Jack Denman was a very proud father during Easter when competing against some of W.A.'s best swimmers his son John finished 12th amongst nearly 40 swimmers in the marathon 1½ mile swim through Geraldton. John is one of Geraldton's most successful swimmers.

Jack tells me that Eric Smyth has been on holidays at the Abrothos Islands, which he described as a "Fisherman's Paradise". I can't remember this one, because I scribbled it down on Anzac Day (a very heavy day), but someone told me something about Eric having been associated with the capture of 350 lb. of fish, at the Abrothos.



I have just heard that Bill Drage and Jack Denman have something very much in common, as far as the Easter swimming carnival was concerned. Bill's daughter Rosemary, and Jack's son, John, and daughter, Jenny, were all disqualified for breaking their times on a handicap basis.

Jack has also heard that Gordon Hislop has moved on from Carnamah and that he has a job similar to Irish Hopkins (who is in charge of the Morawa Golf Club) for a golf club in the Cottesloe area.

Well, I must be away now, as duty calls. Kind regards to all the boys, and if you see Bob Burns tell him to drop me a line or two.

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

I'm almost too frightened to start writing to a chap that considers a page and a half of foolscap size paper "a brief note", but feel I must get a reply to you as soon as possible re the accommodation.

That place of Gerry Green's sounds just what the doctor ordered as far as we are concerned. One of the chaps coming with me has a house at Monnington, some 36 miles from town and we made that practically every weekend while the weather lasted, so you will see Safety Bay will be just lovely for us.

Thank you ever so much, Col, for all you have done for me and would you mind passing on my sincere thanks to Gerry Green for the house and Gerry Maley for suggesting it would suit us.

As far as Games' tickets are concerned we have bookings for Opening and Closing ceremonies, plus three days athletics and two days swimming, so consider we won't have time for anything else. Should we change our minds when we get there we will take pot luck. If anything like the Games in '56 in Melbourne the only things one had to book for were the Athletics and Swimming.

I will let you know later just when we will be arriving and how long we will be able to stay.

One chap in our party is a P.M.G. engineer and as yet he isn't too sure how long he can wrangle off from slavery. I am in a somewhat similar position but hope to have plenty of time as I've asked for a month long service leave to

be tacked on to my annual so that should be plenty if I can convince the big boss I need it. He is a returned serviceman and when I saw him last November I hammered the fact that it was an army Unit Re-union so hope he saw the light.

Thank Don Murray for the maps please Col. We have just about worn the W.A. one out poring over it. My wife was born at Kanowna on the goldfields so she is looking forward to this trip no end, and of course I'm not. Not much!

Well Col, I must not do what I did last time. Kept thinking there was something else I wanted to write about so decided to leave the letter open and see if I could get an inspiration.

From what you say I apparently didn't get round to finishing it at all. Old age, lad, that's what it is.

Well, Col, I'll drop you a further line when I know dates, etc., so until then regards to all the boys.

**From SISTER KATE'S CHILDREN'S HOME, Queens Park:**

I am just writing a few lines to thank you on behalf of the boys for giving us a good outing on Oct. 15. We all enjoyed ourselves very much indeed and we all hope we could do something in return for you one day.

Gary thanks you especially for 10/- you gave him for catching a sheep. We all thought it great fun riding the black horse and once again we, the boys of Sister Kate's Children's Home, wish to express our appreciation for the kindness you have shown.

B. DAVIS.

ADRIAN BAUMGARTEN.

ARNOLD RYDER.

ROBERT WINNING.

DORIS.

JAMES.

DORIS.

DES MILLER.

GARRY PHILLIPS.

KENNETH GOLDIES.

**RON DOOK, of Capital Hill, A.C.T. writes:—**

Sorry for the delay in answering your letter but I have realised that it is a little more difficult than I envisioned to make the deadline for the Games. Robyn sits for her intermediate this year and I have been to see the Headmaster to clar-

ify the date of the final examinations. It appears that Friday, Nov. 23, is the last exam., so if we could get away on the Saturday, Nov. 24, I think the best that we could hope for would be to see the finals of the swimming on Friday 30th, and final day on Dec. 1. I would appreciate bookings for Agnes, myself and the two girls for both of these sessions, so hope you will be able to help in this respect.

I look like having to be back in Canberra early in January so probably will be able to sneak Christmas at home.

I ran into Merv Niven the other day and although I have found out where Jack Walsh lives I have not as yet seen him.

Pass on my best regards to all.

**J. P. KENNEALLY, 28 Wilkins St., Yagoona, N.S.W., writes:—**

It is many moons since last I wrote. News in this part of the world becomes scarcer every year. Most of the chaps are flat out earning a living and only see each other on special occasions, Anzac Day of course being the most important. It was a glorious day, not a cloud in the sky. Eric Herd and myself stood in Martin Place watching the old A.I.F. march past. There were about 30 or 40 Boer War veterans marching, one was 91 and another 92. The 91 year old did the distance which in my book makes him a better man than bundles of 20 year olds at present.

Back to the march. We watched all the old Bns. from the 1st to the 5th Div. march by and they are thinning out now. Some, or most of them, wouldn't muster a company. Then came the 2nd A.I.F., the same colour patches, plus a few new ones. Same old cockiness in the men, except these were a bit younger and more numerous. All the Commando Units marched as one. Things were a bit different this year. We were up in the front ranks and right there in the front rank was Gordon Hart, ex 2/4th. I hadn't seen him since September, 1942. I well remember the jaunts he took us on at Foster, plus P.T. swinging a rifle. I was in his section then, before being shipped off to Timor to the 2/2nd. We had a few men we hadn't seen for years, Cliff Paff, Angus Evans, Kiwi Harrison, Bill Hoy

Ward, Snow Went, Jack Hartley, Ron Trengrove, Blue Harris, Merv Clarke (alias Squint Johnson), Jack Keanahan, Alfredo de Santos, Johnny Martin, Bill Coker, plus a few more we picked up at Arncliffe. Ron Trengrove has all the names and I'm sure he will be forwarding an interesting review of all persons and events.

Tom Martin gave us the old V.I.P. treatment. He is President of Hurstville R.S.L. Branch, so big Cliff, Ron Trengrove, Eric Herd, Kiwi, myself, Jack Hartley and Bill Coker went along. They dished up the finest bloody steak in Sydney. I ought to know. I polished off three of them before they hid the bullock. They treated us like lords and to show his appreciation Cliff Paff extracted barak dough from the poker machines. He did not strike the jack-pot but it was one continuous jingle as the bobs came tumbling down. Don't know how the others fared but we tore them back to Arncliffe to continue the revels. There was a lady singer there (at Hurstville). We could not understand a word of her songs she came all the way from Prague. Her dress was so damned tight got me beat how the blood circulated. Didn't go much on her singing but as a scenic addition to the stage she held all eyes.

Curly O'Neil was absent this year. I believe he and a black tracker are on the track somewhere between Darwin and Adelaide. He must be looking for "Mertha".

Jimmy Hallinan was not there either. It wasn't Jim's fault though I believe he went down with an acute attack of quinsy. Here's hoping he's right by now. We missed him. He's a regular. Of course there were many more we didn't see and we would like to. The years are rolling on and no matter what you did with your youth, the day you signed on to play for Australia and continued to for as long as you could, was the most outstanding one of the lot.

There was another march here started yesterday. A protest march against the Yanks banging away up in the Pacific. These were the peace marchers most of them quite sincere but as usual being expertly and ruthlessly used by the comrades to further the cause of the

hammer and sickle. Apparently all Russian tests are for peace, goodwill and no poisonous fall-out, and Uncle Sam is a dirty, war mongering b——, because when Kruchev was letting off his super bombs some time back the bums didn't let a bleat out then, let alone organise protest marches.

We have a new addition to the family. I'll append the list at the end of the book. You can put me down as a starter for the Games. There's no harm in being an optimist but between you and the gate post, it will be a miracle if I make it. Whilst I live, or I should say, we live, reasonably and manage to meet our bills, surplus cash and myself aren't even on a nodding basis. However here's to Perth and St. Christopher the patron of travellers. Like the legend, I may finish on his shoulder. It will be close to being the last Games held anyway. The jolly old Empire is only a memory and the European Common Market will just about buy that.

Can hardly blame John Bull though. His existence depends on that market now and he always was good at looking after himself. Anyway about time we went off on our own. We are getting to be a big boy now and we had better get bigger if we are going to hang on to Terra Australis, because brother, there's an awful lot of hungry people away to the north and hungry people have a habit of migrating (read Irish history from 1846 to 1900 odd) and you can hardly blame them, particularly when surplus food is destroyed to keep the prices up.

I'm off. I'm going to see Ron Hilliard. He sends his regards to Keith Dignum, Ron Gurr, Norm Thornton, Alf Blundy, Mick Morgan, Tom Nisbet, and all the rest of No. 4 Section. So do I, plus yourself, Joe Poynton, Merv Ryan, Mick Calcutt, Jack Cary, Ted Loud Alex Thompson, Drage, and bundles of others. I'd better stop or it will look like a Unit roll call.

Here's the family: Helen Ann, born 1953; Michael Joseph, 1955; Sean Patrick, 1957; Gerald Finbar, 1962. Don't know where I was or what happened in 1959.

Enclosed is 10/- subs. Jack Hartley said send 'em West now, so West it is.

**RON TRENGROVE, of 46 Hillcrest Avenue, Mona Vale, N.S.W., writes:—**

To start with I will give you a list of those who turned up for the Anzac Day march, also I see amongst them the name of Tom O'Brien and his address.

It was a quiet day all round. I was late as usual getting to the starting point which this year was in Elizabeth-st., south of Martin Place. However I got into the act before they reached Martin Place. Some of the boys missed getting in until the boys were coming down Martin Place because of the changed starting point.

When we got to the south end of St. Mary's Cathedral we marched out of the column and proceeded to Hasting Deerings Service Station in Crown-st., five minutes' walk from the Cathedral.

Jack Hartley had his cab parked right outside the service entrance and, as usual, Jack had a large supply of the amber oil in a huge dish about four feet in diameter filled with ice and bottles. Glasses appeared for some and those who didn't get one couldn't wait, me included, raised the head up to the sky with an angelic look and smack ed the neck of the oil bottle right in the north and south.

Spending some time here before we all piled into cars, and half went to Alfredo's place and half on out to Arncliffe. Incidentally Alfredo was at the march and at Hasting Deerings and came on out to Arncliffe with the team who went to his place.

Jim Hallinan was absent this year because of illness. However later in the early evening some of the boys left to go out and see him. I hope they didn't raise the blood pressure by taking any oil.

Billy Hoy has had a parcel of bad luck since last Anzac Day with a very serious operation. As I asked Bill for details I don't think he will mind me telling you about it.

He was working last winter down at Cooma and laying in snow under a truck when he thought his left ear was frozen or frost bitten. Later he noticed an eruption on the ear which wouldn't heal up, tended to it himself for some time and then when it wouldn't stop weeping he eventually went to a doctor who wasn't at all pleased with him for waiting so long as he

informed Bill that it was a cancer. Well, to cut a long story short, Bill had a long trot in hospital with operations and convalescences. He is minus an ear and his voice has been slightly affected. The latter is mainly noticeable over the phone. However he is the same Bill Hoy, as it didn't affect his drinking.

Now after 12 or 14 years who should turn up later in the day but Sid Duher. It was a great pleasure to me and the others that knew him of yore. He has promised to turn up next year. He has been rather busy as he has five children, or is it six? That's a good enough excuse to be A.W.L. on Anzac Day any way.

Curly O'Neill was A.W.L. and we were informed that he was on a walkabout up near Alice Springs. We all decided that the management had sent him out there, as he had probably told Lockarno what a son of a son he was (did you think I was going to say bastard) and the best thing would be to put him on solitary to keep him out of mischief on Anzac Day. Any way Curl, we will see you next year. I hear that you may be going to England. The Blitz now you.

Kiwi Harrison was another surprise turn up and tells us he is surveyor for the Lands Dept., Goulburn. Suppose he will connect us up with N.Z.

Tom Martin invited as many as wanted to go up to his club at Hurstville for a steak and a few drinks. Boy what a steak? Paddy had two or was it three? I know he had Kiwi's as well as his own. However I wouldn't mind one right now.

Later we returned to Arncliffe and then at six o'clock I think, as usual, well it was six o'clock last year, why shouldn't or wasn't it six this year? Anyway we all adjourned to H.H. What's that? Hilliard House, of course. Where we had, yes, you have guessed it, Mum English's soup. Boy, what that does to a man's somewhat befuddled and scrambled nerve system only the partakers can tell you. Ask Squirt. Once again Mum and the girls we thank you all for the effort and I guess a lot of us would be wrecks only for you, especially next day. I missed out on a few cups of tea this year but I guess one cuts down on everything as you get older. How

about you old once-a-fortnight fellows, yea or nay?

We had a couple of country boys turn up this year. Angus Evans and Cliff Palf. The latter doesn't seem to have lost a pound in weight since I last saw him on an Anzac Day some years back. Angus, Cliff and I had a very interesting talk on cattle. I did most of the listening but as I am interested in such things I enjoyed it. Cliff assured me that the address he gave me would find him so anyone going north just ask in Gloucester (and thou shalt receive).

Mr. A. Evans, Councillor what have you, is a very well known man in his area as he seems to be on and in all the things that make a country life so full and when he goes to the Games will have a lot to talk about and listen to from his counterparts in the West. One more reason why I would like to be going to the West, but alas poor Yorich, in this case, alas poor Ron, Angus paid me a visit with his wife Jean and Fiona and John, their two children before he left for home on Friday.

Well while others haven't done so well and others have it would seem that those who prayed for Pauline English may have had a little improvement granted to her as she is home for a while with her good parents, Jim and Jean, and as yet the operation has been stayed for some time and possibly will not be necessary. However, all you Protestants, Catholics, Calthumpians, Orthodoxists, Preriquites and all us heathens, let's have more prayers and buy a candle instead of putting it in those murdering handits.

Bill Coker, Bill Bennett, a friend of Bills, Vic, Taffy Davies, Angus Evans, Eric Herd and Yours Truly left Ron Hilliards home. We dropped Taffy first, then Eric, then Angus at the Metropole to meet a friend. Well that left the four of us who wanted some more oil, so Bill C. decided we would call in at the Willoughby Pub where I was talked into singing over the microphone and I found out why everybody was smiling. I couldn't be heard because of the chatter as the mike was out of order 10 seconds after I started. That's why everyone clapped so hard. They never heard me. From there we went to Blue Harris's home. Incidentally he

was with us since we left Arncliffe. There Mavis gave us a bunch of flowers each and we had something to drink. Bill then talked me into taking his station waggon after he drove home, and me to drive Bill B. and Vic home, then myself and bring the waggon back next day. I said talked me into it. I didn't argue. That's what I call friendship. I didn't take my own V.W. because I didn't want to tie myself down, but I had no hesitation taking anothers.

It seems that Jack Hartley has settled in up at Cabramatta way, but is causing a bit of domestic trouble in other family circles by doing so much in his garden and you don't need me to tell you any more than: "If Jack can do that around the house, why can't you?"

Well I guess this is all for now as I don't seem to remember much more than I have already mentioned except that it was suggested by the Cabramatta boys that we all might come up to their club one night and have a little party, wives included, of course.

#### P. WILBY, of Durong, Queensland, writes:—

I didn't get down to Brisbane for Anzac Day as promised. I had a breakdown with my car when only 60 miles from the city. However some of the other chaps might do the right thing and let you know what happened down there on Anzac Day.

I've got the car fixed up again, but some of my other plans have gone awry. I was a certain starter for the Games Convention, and now you'll have to put me down as a probable starter and one out at that, as I'm still a bacheior, no encumbrances like the rest of the hen-pecked mob. I usually please myself what I do and where I go but this time I've struck a snag. I'll find a way of getting around it.

I have a couple of newspaper cuttings here and in one there's a photo of a bloke sitting on a horse he calls himself "Frank O'Neill". I think it might be our Curly. He is riding a horse 2,100 miles from Darwin to Adelaide. He has covered 70 mile so far and if it is our Curly I'm sure we all wish him luck in his quest for news of the outback for an insatiable public. We can expect some literary gems from him. That is if it is our man.

I'll send these two cuttings over to you and as his other despatches come to hand I'll send them on also provided that someone else is not already sending them.

Some blokes might ride horses for pleasure, but I have to earn a living with mine and now I have to go out in the chilly night air and saddle "Spotlight," my old night pony and ride around the bullocks and soothe them down for the night with that old cowboy refrain, "Come away with me, Lucille, in my merry oldsmobile". On second thoughts that melody would cause a stampede. "Silent Night" would be more suitable. Tonight it's the sky for a roof and the ground for a bed. I haven't got that on my own as Curly is under the same treatment, if it's any consolation to anyone.

And now regards to all the Sappers, and especially that thorough old gentleman Lew Thompson.

Will send some more newspaper cuttings next month, all success stories about the boys of science, art, literature, and invention.

I remain your unofficial, unelected, Queensland bush scribe.

(Yes, Paddy, that's our "Curly" doing the "Epic Trek" as you will notice elsewhere in this issue. Like you we all wish him luck. —Ed.)

### Heard This?

The most popular girl in our town is the manicurist. She gives all the boys a freehand.

\* \* \*

"And I believe Mrs. Jones is going to have another operation."

"No! Really! What's she got?"

"Money!"

\* \* \*

"Darling," the young man pleaded, "will you marry me?"

"No, Roger, but I will always admire your good taste."

\* \* \*

The husband who knows where his wife keeps her nickels has nothing on the fellow who knows where the maid's quarters are.

\* \* \*

Why pay solicitor's fees, when we can convince you you are guilty for a damned sight less.

## Victorian Vocal Venturings

The weather really turned up trumps and we had a wonderful day for our Anzac Day march, but unfortunately our own numbers were down. This I hope was due to it being a very long holiday break and not lack of interest. A lot of work went into making this a good day and it was disappointing to see so few of our boys there. A lot of very familiar faces were missing and it was left to visitors and quite a few of the "Z" Force boys to keep up the numbers.

The march was completed in bright sunshine, a very unusual sight as we very seldom get a good day, and a very impressive ceremony was held at the Shrine where Sir Dallas Brooks made his last address as a representative of the Queen. After the ceremony we made our way to the Commando drill hall and enjoyed a very nice glass of beer to lay the dust and there was plenty to eat, where Bruce McLaren in his usual thorough way had catered for our wants.

As I said before we had quite a few visitors especially members of "Z" Force, and they were very welcome indeed. Also a roll up of 2/1st boys. Wally Wardie was made very welcome as we had not seen him for quite a while. Looking particularly fit and now that he is residing in the metropolitan area we hope to see a lot of him in future. He wishes to make his present address made known so that he can receive the "Courier". W. Wordie, 14 Lewis Street, Glen Roy.

Kev Curran came down from Bendigo and brought a few of his soldier mates with him and they had a very good time. Kev just doesn't change at all. Still loves the football and is doing television work at Bendigo on football games, and keeps a good look-out for likely recruits to send to Hawthorn.

Baldy came up from Geelong, looking his old self and really set to and enjoyed himself. It's a real pleasure to see Baldy and he is still hoping that we will have another outing down Geelong way.

Geoff Laidlaw was present, looking a picture of health.

Ken Boast brought along his tape recorder and made a tape of our

little service and messages from the boys which I will be sending over to the West. We thank Alan very much for doing this and it's a very good idea to have these tapes.

Bernie Callanan sent his apologies. He had to go down to Portland and give an address at the R.S.L. service there and as it's six hours travelling from Melbourne he didn't have time to get to our show.

Bruce picked up Major Love and he gave a short address at our service and laid the wreath. Major Love is crowding 80 years but he is a wonderful fellow. Feeling his years a bit now, but has a wonderful memory and really enjoys coming along and talking with the boys.

Ken Monk, from Poowong, came up. I don't think Ken has missed one yet. Also Sandy McNabb from Athlone (not far from Ken) was present.

Jim Wall was doing a sterling job taking the subs, etc., from the boys. Jim is doing a wonderful job as treasurer and his heart is really in our show and sees that everything goes along nicely on the financial side.

Charlie Brown and Ron Eastick did a great job as barmen. Helped by Bill Davidson and one or two others.

George Kennedy, Bill Tucker, Pete Krause, George Veitch, Jim Roberts, Pancho Humphries, George Robertson, Jim Robinson, Bert Tobin and Gerry O'Toole, were present and I apologise if I have missed anyone out, but as I said earlier a lot of familiar faces were missing.

Myself and family spent a very enjoyable Easter holiday with Ken, Margaret Monk and family at their farm at Poowong. Unfortunately Margaret was not too good and hadn't been for a while, and since we have returned she has been diagnosed as a victim of hepatitis, and the rest of the family had to have a needle for precaution and apparently Margaret was worried about our family. Ken rang us up and told us the news. So we went along and had a needle too. So don't worry about us Margaret you just take it quietly and get well.

Well, that's all the news I have for the present so until next time, all the best.—HARRY BOTTERILL



WELCOME  
BERNIE  
CALLINAN  
TO W.A.

**Meet Him on Tuesday, June 5**  
**at Anzac House Basement**