



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

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

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Editorial

Every year in this particular issue, your long-suffering and perspiring Editor attempts to survey the effects of the year just departed and express hopes for the year just born.

The year 1961 has gone into oblivion completely unlamented, personally it must rank as one of the worst years ever and on the major plane of world affairs it can't be regarded very much higher. Whether this is a jaundiced view it is difficult to say but events throughout the year were most disturbing.

The Congo burst into bloody war and is still far from being resolved. Laos was also in the nature of a cock pit. Angola was ready to flare up and only ruthless suppression kept events from developing Congowise, and the whole effect appeared to be only a postponement rather than a solution.

The withdrawal of South Africa from the British Commonwealth of Nations and India's seizure of Goa has put stresses on this wonderful organisation which could be the beginning of the break-up. Britain's

FEBRUARY MEETING:

at Anzac House Basement on 6th at 8 p.m.

INDOOR BOWLS NIGHT

Come and try and take the title off Len Bagley

EMPIRE GAMES RE-UNION:

Interstaters please advise as soon as possible of your intentions. Let us know for how long you will be staying, when and how will be arriving and how many of you there will be in your party.

Country Members in W.A. please advise if you require assistance with accommodation and how many tickets you will require for the Opening Day.

Metropolitan Members please answer that questionnaire as soon as you possibly can.

ly and the kids had the time of their lives, soaking up ice cream and cool drinks like blotting paper.

Children's sports took up most of the afternoon and Frankie Fenn did his usual marvellous job of keeping the children entertained.

Afternoon tea assumed sumptuous proportions thanks to all the good women folk who so adequately provided plates of refreshments.

Sufficient to say the day was voted a great success by all concerned and with all the young children still on the books and a sneak preview of the possibilities of increase in the future, this children's party looks like going on for many more years.

The one weakness in the whole set up has been that our records of children despite years of persistence, are still not 100 per cent. In a final effort to get these records up to scratch the names of all children at present held will be published in alphabetic family groups in the "Courier" and parents are asked to correct any information printed and thus enable the Association to achieve the result desired. If you note that your little gang has been completely missed, please forward particulars and we will rectify it immediately.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Monthly meetings will be resumed after the holiday break on Tuesday, Feb. 6, at Anzac Club Basement. This will take the form of an indoor bowls night and should be a great bit of fun. Please do your utmost to be there and make the evening as representative as possible.

EMPIRE GAMES RE-UNION

Don't know whether it was the hand of fate or otherwise, but one of our bookings, that of the A.N.A. Aquatic Centre for the projected Ladies' Night, has had the misfortune to be burnt down and we are forced to look elsewhere for a suitable booking. It is somewhat fortunate that we still have plenty of time up our sleeves to rectify the position and it appears that an even better venue is to be booked, so we need have no qualms in this regard.

It does not appear that a great deal of difficulty will be experienced by the Association in obtaining bookings for the major games events thanks to "knowing a man". It is still essential that members advise their requirements with special regard to the opening day when we hope all members and their wives will be able to get together in a block booking. To make sure we don't underbook for this particular day please let the organiser know (Box T1646 will find him) **as soon as possible** if you intend to be present and how many tickets you will require (each ticket will cost £1).

West Australian metropolitan members are requested to return the questionnaire sent them as soon as possible to enable accommodation to be sorted out. There have been quite a few acceptances by Eastern States members already and all things being equal Bert Tobin, Harry Botterell, Gerry O'Toole, Darby Munro and wife, Bruce McLaren and wife, Max Davies and wife, and a couple of friends, will be certain. This gang will most certainly be added to in the near future.

All the venues for the various events are now well under way and the success of the Games is practically assured. This could be the best time for you to plan that highly desirable holiday to W.A. so please do your best to be with the lads in the West in Nov.-Dec., 1962

"LEST WE FORGET"

DECEMBER

- Swift, Dvr. R. R., accidentally killed, Timor, Dec. 15, 1941. Age 22.
Davies, Tpr. J. M. O., died of illness New Guinea, Dec. 31, 1943.
Moule, Spr. L. C., 2/11 Field Coy., killed in action New Guinea, Dec. 6, 1943. Age 30.

JANUARY

- Cole, Tpr. A. J., killed in action, New Guinea, Jan. 7, 1944. Age 33.
Hopper, Lt. P., killed in action, New Guinea, Jan. 27, 1944. Age 28.
Ramshaw, Tpr. D., killed in action, New Guinea, Jan. 10, 1944. Age 20.
Beardman, Tpr. R. L., killed in action, New Guinea, Jan. 10, 1944. Age 22.

decision to make overtures to join the European Common Market added again to the tension within the Commonwealth of Nations.

Among our near neighbours the Indonesian threat to West New Guinea poses deep problems for Australia in diplomatic approach to the subject.

At home the credit squeeze had a retarding effect on the growth pattern and was probably the greatest contributor to the high unemployment figure that emerged towards the end of the year. The Federal Elections have shown that Australia is in a mood for change but not to the extent that the present Government is considered unwanted.

The whole adds up to a pretty gloomy picture and shows that apart from the scientific achievements in space the world at large and Australia in particular, has not achieved the tranquility and peace for which World War II was fought.

What of 1962?

The opening is far from propitious. The flare up in New Guinea has to some degree worsened, the Congo is far from being resolved, Portugal is in true trouble as far as Africa is concerned especially after

the success of India with Goa. Red China remains the great unponderable and Russia is just as big an enigma as ever. Leadership from the United States shows no signs of strengthening. Australia has its greatest unemployment since the War but generally speaking the economy is buoyant and there are no real signs of a true recession.

The discovery of oil in Queensland must help to boost our stocks throughout the world and possibly the even division of Parliament could ensure a higher standard of government with such a powerful Opposition to keep the Government up in the collar.

We can only hope that a bad start will mean a good ending and that 1962 will see the start of a world crusade for peace that is the desire of all the normal people in the world.

Let your Association be a watchword for the year to come and let your resolution be to put more and bigger efforts into making it the great organisation it shows all the earmarks of becoming.

Your Editor, and the "Courier" wishes all readers the health, wealth and prosperity that is the desire of all for 1962.

West Australian Whisperings

Association Activities

DECEMBER MEETING

A most enjoyable social evening was held at Anzac Club on Dec. 5, taking the form of a Bucks' Night in which members were asked to bring along a friend and the Association also took the opportunity to repay hospitality to the Maimed and Limbless Association.

Owing to the Christmas season the Anzac House Basement was booked to overflowing and we were forced to use the alcove, but this probably was a blessing in disguise as it forced everyone into an area that made for mixing in a big way.

A panel game conducted by Col Doig in which visitors and members alike co-operated, got the night away to a good start and provided the means of a lot of fun.

Thanks to Jack Carey we were

able to have a pianist in the person of Des Brown who provided quite a musical interlude. "Story time" carried the evening on into the wee small hours and everybody left in a happy Christmassy frame of mind. Definitely one of our better performances and the good roll up added materially to the success of the night.

There seems no reason why such meetings couldn't occur every month with a bit of effort on the part of members.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The above function was held at South Perth Zoo on Sunday, Dec. 10, and the usual good roll up of parents and children occurred.

Thanks to the good work of the sub-committee comprising Ron Kirkwood, Bob Smyth and Clarrie Varian, arrangements went off smoothly.

Committee Comment

A most successful Committee meeting was held at Anzac Club on Tuesday, Jan. 16, when a full muster of 12 Committeemen took part and Bert Burges who was in town also came along.

A review of various functions which had previously been held was carried out and many recommendations to improve these in the future were brought forward.

A report by Mr. Epps on the area in Kings Park was given and it was decided to hold a small working bee on Saturday, Jan. 20, to get the dead leaves and bark off the grass. The question of watering the area adequately was discussed at length and it was finally decided to try and employ some person or group to assist us by watering in the mid-week. This was left to Mr. Doig to arrange.

A further discussion took place on arrangements for Empire Games and many important decisions taken. Members expressed themselves as well pleased with arrangements at present under way.

Personalities

Vale Neil Alexander (Ning) McCaig. It is my sad duty to record the death of "Ning" McCaig on Dec. 15, 1961. "Ning" had been a patient sufferer for many months, but bore his lot with the fortitude with which we were accustomed to accept from him. It was most pleasing to see such a good roll up of members to pay their last respects to one who was one of the very best. Our sincere sympathy goes to Mrs. McCaig on her sad loss.

December was not a good month for members and it has carried on into January as in this period Ron Sprigg lost his father, Jack Fowler his mother and Alf Blundy his father. We extend our sincere condolences to each of the above and hope that time will make the burden easier to bear.

Seen in town recently was "Big Bill" Drage who was holidaying at the Continental, Claremont. Bill was in wonderful form. Afraid his prize remark as to his prosperity cannot be reprinted here but can

assure you it was a pithy summing up of how to achieve affluence. I can assure readers that if they are interested in a drinking competition they want to be in good form to take on the Drage. Bill assured me that Joe Brand was also going well and that "Bruss" Fagg was as well as could be expected.

Ron Kirkwood cooked up a small party for the Drages while they were in town and Geo. Boyland and his wife, Ray Aitken and his wife, together with Mick Calcutt, got together for a good old ear bash. Bill took delivery of a new Dodge car while in town.

Don Hudson was down from the north on holidays and looked on top of the world. The outback life seems to agree with "Huddy" as never seen him look better.

Saw Doug Fullarton during the month and he too looks in the pink. He gave me details of his famous contest with a mate of his down at the timber mill. Doug had to walk or run 18 miles while his mate (16 years younger) had to do 28 miles. Doug won by a thick lip but rumour has it he was "swanking" a bit at the finish. The stakes? A 10 gallon keg of the doings to be bought by the loser. Doug says that it brought so much interest to the town that the publican eventually turned on the "10" free of charge. Must be a bit fitter than Yours Truly to even contemplate marching 18 miles. My greatest exercise is to take three deep breaths and collapse.

Nice to see Bert Burges once again. Bert is in town for a Farmers Union Conference. Says he will have to curtail his civic activities a bit with increasing family responsibilities. Seems a pity as Bert is a tower of strength to any organisation of which he is a member. Bert said the recent fires in the Katanning district were pretty bad but fortunately were mostly in bush country and were brought under control without a great deal of damage. Bert said he saw Bernie Langridge recently and that Bernie has a beautiful property at Donnybrook which is a sheer delight to see. One would expect such perfection from Bernie.

Another new car owner is Mal Herbert, who, I am told, recently took delivery of a new Ford Fair-

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.
SNOWDEN, T. (Tom).
CARRIER, G.
PICKERING, C.
PALMER, C.
VERNEDE, C.
CHOPPING, C.
LARNEY, R.

DOUBLE ADDRESSES

We also have two different addresses for the following: F. P. Krause and L. R. Adams, both of Victoria. Please write and let us know which is correct.

lane. Hope you have a bundle of luck with the new bus Mal. See you the next time you are in town.

A little bird tells me Geo Strickland has become a father once again. This time a girl. Our very best wishes Geo, and hope all is well.

Ralf Finkelstein has recently opened a new furniture factory at Bassendean. This I believe is one of the most modern factories in this city and should be able to cater for his clients' needs for many years. Ralf went in for the full flavour in his opening ceremony and all sections of the furniture trade were invited. He was good enough to extend an invitation to Yours Truly but by bad luck I couldn't take advantage of his kind offer. Thanks all the same Ralf.

There was a photo in the daily press recently of one Eric Smyth but you could easily have missed out if you didn't know Eric. It was a photo of a sheet hand on a yacht at the Cockburn Sound Regatta and was really a glorious view of a large posterior. Wouldn't say it was an improvement on the normal posed position but not having laid eyes on Eric for some time I'd only be guessing.

Another of the photogenic types is Bill Epps who had his picture in the "Daily News" as a baseball umpire. Bill has taken up the baseball umpiring again this year after a lapse of four or five years. His lad Terry is a top lad at the baseball game. Mrs. Epps (Jess) scores for the junior team and on top of that Bill and family work like beavers at our area in Kings Park. Don't tell me he is not a busy man!

Ran in with Jim Cantrill the other day operating a huge dragline excavator dredging the lake at the stadium site. He looked a bundle of sun-tanned energy and said that his family were all in the pink. Jim has been with Bell Bros. ever since the war, operating big earth moving plant.

Mick Holland is another sighted recently and he also admitted to being very fit. Said he was not experiencing any difficulty in obtaining work in his trade as a painter.

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

Historically Yours!

THE STORY OF "H" FORCE

Late in July, 1942, it was decided by the powers that be that it was essential to have a small reconnaissance force established in the east end of Portuguese Timor in the provinces of Manututo and Lore. This area was served by quite a useable motor road from Dilli and again from the town of Baucau on the north coast to Beaco on the south coast.

It was considered that should the Nip decide to move he could occupy this area very rapidly and the flank of the whole show would thus be exposed. Also this area was quite rich in most of the food commodities and could easily be the granary of the force if we were pushed away from our present productive areas in Frontiera and Sao Domingos.

The small force was to comprise two officers and 10 other ranks to be supplied two from each platoon and the rest from H.Q. The original force was Lt. C. F. G. McKenzie, O.C.; Lt. C. D. Doig, 2 I/c; Sgt. A. Coupland, "B" Plt.; Sgt. J. Walton, from the 2/40 Bn. Group; Cpl. Jones, Postal Cpl. from 2/40 group Ptes. Harold Newton, "B" Plt.; Harold Rowan-Robinson, "A" Plt.; Jack Carey, "C" Plt.; Geo Timms, "C" Plt.; Sig. Keith Richards, Sig Tarzan —, 8th Div. Sigs.; Jimmy —, who had been batman-driver to Brig. Veale. For code purposes the name chosen was "H" Force.

The gang were to assemble at Mape for briefing by C.O. Major Spence, and were then to move as rapidly as possible to a suitable point on the Baucau-Beaco road.

The object of the force was to completely reconce the whole area and establish O.P's and listening posts with the aid of area Portos and natives and keep H.Q. advised of any Jap movement in the area. It was essential that all members familiarise themselves with the whole of the area and be in a position to provide guides should the major body of the whole show be forced to move to the east end of the island.

A survey of the resources was also to be made with a view to

supplying food or material to the main force in emergency.

The party arrived at Mape just as the first of the air raids for the August show were taking place and discussions with the C.O. took place between flying visits to air raid slit trenches. I well remember one raid in which Spr. Browne took Chef de Poste "Joe" Fostimo's little boy to safety under the floor of the Posto building. This little fellow was about 4 or 5 years old, very small for his age and was still being breast fed by his mother and at the same time smoked evil looking cigarettes rolled from the native tobacco and "barto Culics".

The party was to be equipped with a transceiver radio set of the same type used by Flying Doctor Service in Australia in which the power was generated by a set of pedals. A special cypher was to be used and Doig and McKenzie and Walton were instructed in the use of this prior to leaving Mape.

The party set off from Mape in the early hours of the morning, early in August with a line of carriers to portage the radio set and what few stores were being carried.

Fatu Cauk was the first staging point and this was made by mid-afternoon the same day. The Jap bombers and reconce planes were over the area all day and it was obvious that Mape, Bobinero and other postos were getting a good doing over. Efforts were made to contact H.Q. by radio but all efforts failed. Lt. McKenzie decided to go back and try and contact H.Q. and find out if there was to be any change of orders. After a most eventful trek he did eventually contact Major Cape who was B.M. of the force but apparently he did not know what was going on and was on the run.

It appears that the initial bombs had fallen on the signals set up at Mape and put all the sets capable of contacting Australia out of business in one fell swoop. Chaos reigned supreme with H.Q. out of contact with Australia and also out of contact with the Coy. The Japs

had made a landing at Sui on the south coast, had pushed in from Dutch Timor behind a screen of Dutch Timor natives and had also thrust out from Dilli. This appeared to be the major push to rid the island of the nuisance value of our Coy.

McKenzie got caught up in this maelstrom and was pressed into service by Capt. Callinan to sort out a bit of the chaos and never rejoined "H" force.

In the meantime what was happening to "H" force at Fatu Cauk?

Doig was in a dilemma, McKenzie had left to try and clarify orders and it appeared that the group should await the outcome of McKenzie's mission.

The following morning the bombers and fighters were particularly active and were shooting up and bombing every posto in sight. The carriers promptly shot through and the only natives in the area were the local villagers.

All the morning the Jap planes flew up the road to Fata Cauk and each time we thought it would be our turn and we dived into the local gaol to use it and the coral fence surrounding it as an air raid shelter. Each time it was only a scare and no bombs or bullets happened in our direction.

Eventually Doig and Timms decided to try and get something to eat and went to the Posto and cooked some rice and were in the process of filling dixies when planes were heard flying directly in the vicinity of the posto. The main body of the force was down the hill planted in the scrub. Doig and Timms took off out of the posto down the hill in the direction of the planes, being quite certain that the bombers couldn't possibly miss the posto, which, although perched on a hill with a sheer drop to one side, was a perfect target. Four planes flew in and appeared to be right over the posto when the silver glint of bombs dropping could be seen. This was it!! Doig and Timms were in distinct trouble and right in the middle of the target!

The bombs missed the posto by about two chains, one stick falling square on the gaol. The other on the opposite side of the posto. A cloud of dust flew up and the two men appeared to be right in the mid

dle of it. The gang thought they had had it! Then all of a sudden both came out of the cloud of dust still with their dixies in their hands and travelling at a speed that would make Jesse Owens look like a tortoise!

Leaves and limbs were sheered off trees right above their heads and the coral wall was blown to smithereens but apparently took up all the metal shapnel and bomb blast as neither Doig nor Timms received a scratch.

Two natives who were on the other track were not so lucky as the stick of bombs dropped on their side of the porto fell right among them and sheered them clean in half and lopped the tops of paw paw trees as if they were butter.

The planes circled and returned to the task but apparently were fresh out of bombs because they went for the shoot up of the posto. The coral walls were turned into a sieve by the .50 bullets but apparently the planes did not achieve the right elevation as the wireless set and gear which were on the verandah were untouched.

When the raid was over Doig decided this was no place to tarry in and the boys grabbed all the gear and carried it into the bush for safety sake. Doig then tried to round up some natives to act as carriers as he had decided that as no information had been received to the contrary that the force should go ahead with its initial task. He reasoned that if the Jap push was really on the reconce of the east end to receive the main force was more imperative than ever. Natives were just not available and it was not until some pressure was brought to bear on the local chief that he reluctantly assented to rounding up a few creados to carry the loads and then only with the object of getting the force out of his area!

The next morning the group set off along the un hospitable south coast with a minimum of carriers to try and reach the Baucau-Beaco road and decide on a suitable base for operations. There were very few native villages in the south coastal area and the food consisted of boiled pumpkin leaves and a bit of maize.

Carriers were always a difficulty

as most Timorese were reluctant to move very far from their own village areas.

The country was either swampy creeks or high sarannah grass of the kunia type and travel was most sweaty and uncomfortable.

After a couple of days the party came upon habitation and a village of sorts could be seen in the distance. As they had not eaten much for about 48 hours or more the boys spread out among the oomahs to try and acquire some eggs or any thing edible.

They soon acquired about 10 dozen eggs and headed in the direction of the small village. This proved to be Luca and a more unprepossessing place never was ever sighted. Small broken down oomahs, dozens of skinny looking dogs, and half the women suffering from elephantiasis, a disease which causes the legs to swell to colossal proportions and the toes look as though they are affected with dry rot. It is a sure sign that the area abounds in mosquitos.

The chief greeted the party like long lost friends and immediately sent for his cuisinero (chef) to prepare a meal. It was then that the group was in for the shock of their lives as with the advent of the cuisinero complete with all his kitchen utensils, knives, etc., a dozen or so fowls lost their heads, the eggs the boys had scrounged went into the cook pot and a meal fit for a king was soon on its way. Then from these poor huts appeared a table, snowy white damask table cloth and good quality cutlery and about 120 piece willow pattern dining set.

All was set up and in readiness for a feast as to call it a meal would be a masterly understatement.

The food consisted of roasted green bananas, omelettes made up from the eggs impregnated with prawns and then followed up with poultry. What a meal for hungry men!

Needless to say it went off in no time flat. Apparently even in the meanest of villages the chief was always ready to do honour to his Portuguese master when he deigned to visit his area on a census or such like visit.

After a good night's rest the party set off next morning with a

good carrying party and guides for Viqueque the main Porto Posto in the area. Viqueque was a lovely spot right up in the middle of a most productive area and the post itself was large and adequate. The Chef de Post was one Olivera quite a young chap who was the son of a Chef de Posto in another area.

He welcomed the party and helped them to settle in. Immediately attempts were made to contact H.Q. on the Traeger Transceiver but all the efforts of Tarzan and Keith Richards failed to get a signal out of the set.

Doig immediately set about getting the survey of the area under way. Rowan-Robinson and Cary were sent off in the direction of Baucau and Coupland and Newton were sent off to Beaco on the south coast and from there to recce to Aleanbata further to the east but still on the coast. Here the force was in a fix. The radio set out of commission and the last knowledge of the Coy. was that the Japs were pushing in on them from three directions. It was decided that until McKenzie arrived with further orders (he was still nominally O.C. Force and Doig was not aware that McKenzie had been detached for other duties at this time) that the work of survey would carry on.

After about three days mucking about the radio set was got into working order as it was discovered to be incorrectly wired at the pedal end. When the Sigs went on the air of course H.Q. did not answer. There was only one thing to do, despatch a runner to H.Q. to advise that we were in working order and request they grant us schedules for working.

Jimmy — was sent off with a guide and on a Timor pony to ride poste haste and discover where H.Q. was now in business and if possible get further orders.

H.Q. was now at Alas it was found and were back in business. They had overcome their wireless trouble by use of a set provided by "Z" Force and Australia had sent forward further sets. It was also found that the Jap push had petered out but the Coy. had been driven from the good areas of Frontiera province and that with quite a large concentration of troops in Sao Domingos province food was a problem.

Jimmy arrived back at Viqueque in about three days with a schedule for the sigs. and another cypher as the previous one had been compromised in the quick shift from Mape. He also brought news that McKenzie would not be rejoining the force and that Doig was to continue with the original programme.

There then followed a couple of weeks of intense recce work with parties of two going in all directions doing track reports and surveys of resources.

About this time an urgent message came from H.Q. to despatch as much rice and other food stuffs as could be gained in the area.

With the assistance of Chef de Post Olivera a terrific team of natives were put to work gathering rice and pumpkin and a pony train of about 100 ponies got together and within about a week were despatched loaded with about a peco (68 lb.) of rice per pony to Alas.

The next request was for as much rope as could be quickly obtained as this was to be sent to Darwin so that all supplies could be made ready for immediate despatch by pony while being packed at Darwin. This was quite a major operation as the rope at the time of receipt of request was still in the form of sisal plants growing in the area. The big leaves of these plants had to be plucked and the pulp beaten out until only the fibre remained. This then had to be dried in the sun and then hand twisted into rope.

Olivera got together at least 1,000 natives (this area was one of the most densely populated parts of the island, at a pinch at least 10,000 natives could have been assembled) and set them to work and within a very brief period 100 pony loads of rope was despatched to H.Q. and from there back to Australia. All the time food in the way of rice, maize and pumpkin was being sent on and was proving a boon to the troops in the fighting areas.

As Viqueque seemed a bit far away as a base for operations it was decided to move to the next Posto which was Ossu. This move was made late in August, 1942, and when the force arrived it found that a small section of the Portuguese army was installed there under one

Sgt. Martens and also Zeko Rebello the guitar playing ex-member of the International Brigade (Zeko was later killed in Timor while operating with "Z" Force).

Of course as soon as we moved into the company of Portos the rumours of all descriptions started to fly madly and the intrigue was on with a vengeance. Martens was probably ack willy from the main body of the Porto army and had very little intention of rejoining.

By this time most of the area had been covered in a cursory manner and track reports and surveys had been despatched to H.Q. The Nip had not yet decided to move to the area for some obscure reason but unfortunately a band of Dutchmen had moved into Viqueque as soon as we moved out. These were under the command (if you can call it command) of one Capt. Braemer a tall saturnine character with the gloomiest personality in the world.

(To be continued next month)

Heard This?

PHYSICIAN'S PHYSICAL

The army doctor was examining a candidate for the AWAAS. As he filled in the routine report, he fired the usual questions at the pretty candidate.

"Name?"

"Jones."

"First name?"

"Jane."

"Date and place of birth?"

"June 21, 1935. Perth."

"Eyes?"

"Blue."

"Hair?"

"Red."

"Sex?"

At this question she hesitated, then blushing, said: "Infrequently."

* * *

JUST A FALL GUY

George received face lacerations and a broken collarbone fighting for a woman's honour. Seems she wanted to keep it!

* * *

Women's styles may change, but their designs remain the same.

Random Harvest

EVELYN MURRAY, of 49 Hastings St., Scarborough, writes:—

This is a short note thanking you very much indeed for the lovely book you kindly sent out to me for Christmas.

It gives me hours of enjoyable reading. Once again thank you very much.

VICKI MURRAY, writes:—

I am writing a short note thanking you very sincerely for the book of "Sally Baxter" you sent for me.

As I didn't go to the party I received the book on Tuesday, Dec. 12. Thank you once again.

B. J. (Peter) BARDEN, of Box 310, Geraldton, writes to J. Carey:—

We are all so sorry that the Convention had to be postponed. A few days before receiving your letter I wrote to Col Doig to see how many would be coming from Perth, as Jack Denman and myself had met and discussed the accommodation side of the Convention, as well as other aspects. In addition I had personally made quite a number of our members in this area aware of the convention, and they were all looking forward to seeing the boys from "down under".

Jack Denman has now told the two hotels and the motel with whom he had made tentative inquiries, that we will not be needing any accommodation as the convention has been cancelled.

Jack says he's sorry he will not be seeing you, and that if you ever feel like a week at Geraldton you are welcome to stay at his home.

Irish Hopkins phoned me from Morawa the day after I got your letter, and was disappointed to hear the news as he was looking forward to meeting all the boys.

Will you please make certain that there is reference in the next issue of the "Courier" that the convention is off, that is, if the "Courier" comes out before the date of the now-cancelled convention.

Eric Smyth recently returned from a trip to Canberra during which he put Geraldton's case for inclusion in Income Tax Zone "B" and I'll be writing soon to Col Doig about all the boys he saw in Mel-

bourne, so that it can appear in the "Courier".

J. E. BARNES, of Box 254, Alice Springs, N.T., writes:—

I realise that it is naturally my own fault that my name appeared in the paragraph headed "Lost" starting on page four of the November issue of the "Courier". I should have written long ago and frequently since then.

Since January, 1951, I have been in the Northern Territory working as a veterinary officer with the Animal Industry Branch of the Northern Territory Administration and as you can imagine have found plenty of interest in that job. Some of my trips have even taken me into Western Australia, at least into the Kimberley region of your State.

Being fundamentally lazy I have accepted very gratefully the monthly issues of the "Courier" without doing anything whatsoever about it.

The wheels of fate keep turning and at this moment I am seriously considering a very good offer from Perth and expect to be over there within a few months. Details are not yet finalised so this is only a tentative plan as yet.

I find it much easier to talk than to write, so if and when I get there I will be only too pleased to bash your collective and individual ears at great length about this fascinating part of Australia, its present problems and its potential.

My present address until you hear from me again is as above.

With very best wishes to you all.

JIM SMAILES, of Box 7, Guyra, N.S.W., writes:—

If I don't get a line away to you soon I'll be put into that list of yours which from time to time come into an awful lashing from your editorial pen, and I certainly would not like to be classed as a defaulter in your cause. There is no doubt the little "Courier" is unique in its function of keeping the old gang together, and I do not know of another such Unit and Association. We had the advantage of not being too big, yet big enough to matter, and of course a

rather tough baptism in conditions that tended to make men value friendship and the dependence of true mates. Reading between the lines of the sheaf of mail brought in by the sweep however, I can see that time is beginning to take its toll in health of many of the boys, and all have certainly calmed down into rather staid middle age, and only a shadow of the devil-may-care team of Foster in 1941. This Christmas just past jolted me into the realisation that it is 20 years since the landing in Dilli, and a lot of water and amber fluid has passed down the drain in that time.

Have just had three weeks down in Concord again, and managed to get out for Christmas. Will have to go back in February for a board and further treatment. Am now 80 per cent disability and think I will be 100 per cent next board. I have three or four dislodged discs in the back, all arthritic, and gives me larry doodle at times. Have to wear a leather corset all the time, and limit all activities to supervision and management. Luckily I have got my qualifications for that class of work and am able to carry on really well. I have a very good staff of off-siders in engineer, accountant and underground manager, and a first class board of directors above me. They are most sympathetic and won't hear of me turning it up. They have just embarked on a large development programme involving many thousands of pounds and as it was all done on my recommendation, I do want to see it through. It is all going very well too, and ahead of schedule.

The price of our product is improving and if Canberra Bob wakes up and puts the tariff back on the importing of the stuff we will be in the box seat. Some of our patriotic comrades in Sydney import antimony from China cheaper than we can produce it. We can easily supply all Australia. The printing trade, battery plates, and match making are the chief consumers.

My eldest boy is 17 now, left school and apprenticed to the engineer here, and doing well too.

The second boy goes back next year to fifth year leaving and looks like doing well.

Anne, our youngest enters High

School in 1962. Makes me feel old.

I will not be over for the games I'm afraid. The only chance I might have is a business trip later this coming year, and may convince the powers that be that November is an ideal time for the trip to W.A.

Had a wonderful trip last year. 7,000 miles and two punctures. Did 500 miles per day for seven days, Armidale to Perth. Good old Zephyr station waggon and not a hitch. The company now supply me with a car, all furniture, wood, light, etc.

Well, all the best to yourself and any of the boys that you tangle with. Who could I contact in Sydney in the Association when in Concord next time? Nothing like getting to know some of the flock over here.

Regards and cheers for now.

TONY ADAMS, of Mooloolaba, writes:—

Another year has nearly passed and we seem no closer to seeing you—perhaps one of these days I'll be able to save enough to get to the West.

Last week we were advised of our transfer to Southport—am due to report there about the end of January or early February. We are of course very happy with the news. It is a 10/11 hardened branch and a good move for me and of course the location can't be complained about. Paul is at school in Brisbane and we will be nice and handy to see him at long weekends, mid term, etc.

We have had three years in Longreach and whilst we enjoyed the people and our stay there it is a hell of a long way from Brisbane, our people and our friends.

Moved here on holidays last week. We were on our way when we heard of the move. It is a great spot and we have a very nice flat with all conveniences. Am lapping up the loaf as it has been quite a strenuous year.

Haven't seen a single 2/2nd fellow but hope to meet a few round Brisbane next year. The "Courier" loses nothing of its lustre. I think it is the best thing I know of to keep fellows in touch but I don't envy you your job of marshalling the news. You do a mighty job.

Victorian Vocal Venturings

Once again we have had our Melbourne Cup Sweep and as in other years we have sent tickets to New South Wales and as usual they have carried off the first prize. It went to Crafton in N.S.W., so I suppose Alan Luby sold the ticket and he also drew a horse himself. Details are not yet finalised so get a final figure on the profits of this sweep but it appears to be better than last year. Ticket sales were up in Victoria which is a healthy sign.

We had a very enjoyable night on the Thursday when we drew the sweep at the No. 2 Commando Drill Hall. The numbers were down quite a lot from previous years which was a bit disheartening and a lot of well known faces were missing and it was only because we invited the Commando boys to join us after their parade that it made the night go off properly, and helped to dispense with all the refreshments we had supplied.

We played the tape that the W.A. boys had made earlier in the year at their annual dinner, and Gery O'Toole brought it back with him when he was over there on holidays. Unfortunately the tape was spoiled because there was too much background noise and it drowned out the voices of the boys as they were speaking and we could not understand what they were saying.

Gerry O'Toole had a great time over in the West and met quite a few of the boys and brought us up to date with the news on the Empire Games Re-union, etc. The big thing now is to let them know over there if you are going to make it or not. Even if you are not quite certain but have hopes of going tell them now so that they can get a fair idea how many to billet. It's better to arrange for a lot and know you can manage even if some have to pull out later, than to cater for a few then have too many coming over at the last minute.

Taffy Davies sent a little note with his butts saying the repat has got him 100 per cent incapacitated and he is now trying for T.P.I. Hope you make it Taffy. He sends his regards to all the boys.

Unfortunately the N.S.W. boys are copping a double issue of raf-

fle tickets, first from W.A. and then ours, which makes the going tough for some of them but is good to see the majority of them selling their tickets.

Harold Newton, of Westmead, N.S.W., writes he is at the moment on holidays restfully building a carport, says he will be glad to get back to the mill to relax.

Was nice to receive a few lines from Shadow Aulde. He does not see many of the boys up this way but sends his regards to all the boys down here. Thanks Shadow and all the best to yourself and family.

Also Tom Snowdon from Canberra, sends his regards to all from self, wife and three children. Asks about arrangements for Perth Games. Well, Tom, you will be kept up to date re Perth Games through the "Courier". They are trying to get an idea at present who are likely to make it. How many, how you plan to travel (train, air, car, boat), and approx. time of arrival, how long you plan to stay and if there is any particular mate you'd like to put up with.

Bluey Sargent brought to our notice his change of address which we pass on to W.A. so that he will receive his copy of the "Courier". It's Laanecoorie Weir, Laanecoorie, Victoria.

Charlie Brown brought along some cuttings relating to Mal Herbert's fine Queens Prize win in W.A. There's a very good photo of Mal and son Geoffrey (3 yrs.) being chaired at Swanbourne. Congratulations Mal, you have certainly earned this prize for all the time and devotion you have put into this sport.

We received quite a few apologies from members who were unable to make it and we thank you one and all for writing. We are now looking forward to our Christmas party at Bonbeach Life Saving Club on Saturday, Dec. 2, and hope for a bumper turn up.

—HARRY BOTTERILL

Write to Your Editor:

Col. Doig,

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