



2/2 COMMANDO COURIER

(Registered at the G.P.O. Perth, for transmission by post as a periodical)

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

Vol. 17. No. 167.

JUNE, 1963

Price 1d.

SPECIAL MENTIONS:

ANNUAL MEETING

ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT
TUESDAY, 2nd JULY, 1963

This is a MUST. Be in it and try to persuade a member or two to come along and so give the meeting the attendance it deserves

ANNUAL RE-UNION

ANZAC HOUSE BASEMENT
SATURDAY, 17th AUGUST, 1963

COMMANDO CABARET

COTTESLOE SURF PAVILION
TUESDAY, 1st OCTOBER, 1963

Book up the wife immediately and advise other Squadron members of this wonderful function

Editorial

The Annual Sweep

By the time that this edition reaches readers they should have received their share of tickets in the annual sweep to be conducted by the W.A. Branch on the Kalgoorlie Cup. Although the Branch finances appear to be in pretty good shape it is essential that the sweep be a resounding success, otherwise the position will smartly move into reverse.

Over many years it has only been possible to stay in front by making a good profit on the sweep. This applies equally to the Victorian Branch as to W.A. This is the transfusion which makes it possible for the Branches to continue to provide all the things that make an association such as ours tick.

The W.A. Branch, together with contributions from Victoria, are responsible for the cost of publishing and mailing the "Courier". For this reason tickets in the W.A. sweep are sent to all States other than Victoria to allow members to help to defray the costs. To put you completely in the picture an issue of the "Courier" costs something like £15/10/- to get into the readers' hands. Admittedly this does not seem much but a minimum of ten issues per year costs £155 which adds up to a considerable sum. If you, the reader, can do your small share by selling those tickets sent to you then there will never be any doubt that the "Courier" will continue to flow in your direction.

There are many other things which W.A. members enjoy and they are the major ticket sellers, which cost the Association a lot of money such as the Annual Re-Union, Ladies' Night, and the Children's Christmas Party. These are in the main financed by the profit from the sweep as even those functions which provide for an admission charge are usually run at a considerable loss.

Surely you have sufficient friends

who can assure that you are able to dispose of the tickets forwarded to you as the prize value is not inconsiderable judged by other raffles of a similar character. Even if you decide to take the tickets yourself the burden on the pocket won't test it to breaking strain.

Please do your level best to ensure that this money raising effort bears the fruit that the Association deserves. Also do everything you can to make the Organiser's life a little more bearable by returning your butts and the cash as soon as possible. This is quite a big thing as follow up action to see that books are returned is quite a bit of work and in these days of high postage adds considerably to the expenses of the sweep.

The Organiser is sure that this year's sweep will be just as successful as such efforts in the past, so please don't let him down.

* * *

Heard This?

EASILY PLEASED?

Little girls want an all-day sucker; big girls want one just for the evening.

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

**When in Town
Make The
DON CLOTHING CO.
Your Rendezvous For Mercery**

**Meet Dave Ritchie and Say
Good-day**

10% Your Way on All Purchases

**Remember
DON CLOTHING CO.
William St., Perth**

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

West Australian Whisperings

Association Activities

JUNE MEETING

This meeting was held at Anzac House on Tuesday, June 3. Unfortunately it followed a public holiday and the attendance was very poor, so much so that the President in his wisdom decided that it would be better to adjourn to the Club and have a discussion.

As so often happens in these cases late comers built the attendance up to a figure that would have easily warranted a rifle shoot or something of that nature, but by that time it was too late to re-organise. However, those who attended had a good old wongie and the floor of the Club was soon littered with all sorts of debris such as dead Japs and football heroes. It was firmly resolved that in future irrespective of attendance, some sort of meeting would be held as programmed.

JULY MEETING

This meeting will be held at Anzac House Basement on July 2 and is the Annual General Meeting when the various reports, financial statement and election of officers for the year will take place. This is the most important business meeting of the year and it is hoped that members will accept the responsibility of being present. Too often in the past this meeting has been avoided like a plague by many members and the hard work of your Committee over the year has passed without the notice taken of it that should be taken.

This is also a golden opportunity for members to come along and air their ideas on how the Association should be run. If you can't accept executive office that is O.K. but don't stay away on that account. Your ideas might be truly valuable. Please make every effort to be there and if possible bring along a member who you can contact that has not attended for a while.

KINGS PARK MEMORIAL AREA

Should like to draw your attention to the fact that the fund to kerb this area in Kings Park is still open and we hope before the end of this calendar year to have sufficient funds in hand to go ahead with the project. At least £200 is required and if you have a spare quidlet then we will be happy to receive it or any small sum at all as it is from little drops of water that great oceans are made. We think that this is a worthwhile project and it will make our area into the thing of beauty we all desire.

ANNUAL RE-UNION

The time is rapidly approaching for the Annual Re-Union. This will be held at Anzac House Basement on **SATURDAY, August 17.**

Remember what a quilter it was last year and there is no reason why it can't be just as good this year if you come along in sufficient numbers to make the show really worth while. You country folk make up a car load and head for the city on this night and you can be assured that you will never regret it. City folk should have no trouble in making a firm date of it and thus ensuring a bumper roll up.

Committee Comment

The Committee met as usual on June 18 and this was the final meeting of the present Committee.

Several recommendations to be forwarded to the Annual General Meeting were brought up and approved including a recommendation for Life Membership for one of the members.

Correspondence was received from Kings Park Board in answer to our request that the Board take over a small plot in our area to experiment in the growing of couch. The reply was not altogether what we would wish but the Board did promise to assist us where possible with advice and did suggest that buffalo grass would probably be a better proposition

than couch under Sugar Gums and suggested liberal interplanting of this grass in the present couch for best results.

A letter was also received from War Graves Commission advising of the burial places of our dead from Timor. This will be published in a later edition of the "Courier".

The Treasurer was able to give the Committee a preview of the financial position of the Branch and this revealed a much more healthy state of affairs than was anticipated at this stage last year. This statement is published elsewhere in this issue.

The President took the opportunity of thanking members for their efforts in the past year and paid a special compliment to Mr. Bob Smyth for his terrific efforts at Kings Park over the past two years.

After the meeting closed the Committee got down to the task of envelopeing and getting the sweep tickets under way.

Personalities

It is with regret that we advise of the death of Alf Hillman's father during the month. We had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Hillman senior on quite a few occasions and especially at one of our dinners. He was a returned soldier from World War 1 and served with the 10th Light Horse. He took a great interest in civic affairs in his home county of Broomehill and will be sadly missed by many people in that area. We take the opportunity of extending our sympathy to Alf in his loss.

Probably due to the heavy rain and generally terrible weather haven't had the chance of meeting many of the boys in the last month so news in this section is going to be very scarce.

Managed to meet Merv Ryan and Ping Anderson in town one day and had a most enjoyable couple of drinks and an ear bash on various things. Both looked well although Merv had recently had a stint in Hollywood and Ping was going along to see the doctor that day.

Ted Loud is at present on a holiday to Singapore on the Gorgon. Had a wonderful evening

with him prior to him going away and we really fought those battles once again. Hope you have a good trip, Ted, and enjoy yourself no end.

Dave Ritchie tells me that Alf Blundy was in to see him the other day and looked extra well. Alf still domiciled in the Beverley area.

As usual saw Don Turton for a while and had a talk. It is a poor old month that I don't see Don at least once.

Tom Nisbet was involved in a car accident at Gnarrangerup the other weekend and was hors-de-combat for a few days. I am pleased to say that he was not as bad as press reports stated and has now returned to work.

As Editor will be most pleased to see the sweep under way as letters that come in with butts will help fill the next two or three "Couriers" and so save me drawing on my imagination to get enough copy.

Heard This?

RELIEVING ONLY HIS MIND

Grandpappy Longbeard, close on to 92 years old, was taking it easy in the village store when a smart-looking young officer came in and addressed the clerk:

"We'll need another order of 12 bags of saltpeter for the camp," he said. "Please send them up as soon as possible."

When the officer left, old grandpappy came over from his seat near the stove.

"What was it that the young feller ordered?" he asked his friend the clerk.

"Saltpeter, gramp," was the reply.

"Saltpeter? What'n tarnation is that fer?"

"It's for the boys down at the camp, gramp. They put it in their food so the soldiers won't have any amorous desires."

"I get you," responded old gramp. "How about lettin' me have 10c worth of that stuff?"

"Why, gramp!" roared the clerk. "You wouldn't be having any need for the stuff!"

"Mebbe not, but I thought if I could take a pinch through my nose I could get it off my mind."

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MAY, 1963

RECEIPTS:	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE:	£	s.	d.
Funds as at 31/5/62:				Annual Re-Union	149	17	9
Com. Savings Bank	77	11	1	Less Receipts	87	0	0
Com. Reserve Account	150	10	2				
Com. Bonds (Face Value)	550	0	0	Courier	149	15	6
Loans	45	0	0	Less Proportion by Victoria	60	0	0
	823	1	3	Meetings	94	1	2
Kalgoorlie Cup Sweep	322	12	6	Less Receipts	47	15	8
Less Prizes and Expenses	77	1	6				
Donations	245	11	0	Cabaret	312	2	4
Subscriptions	102	4	9	Less Receipts	245	11	3
Interest—Bank Accounts and Bonds	64	10	0				
Sale of Games Tickets	20	11	9	Picnic — Turtons			
(Received in Advance as at 31/5/62:	293	10	0	Purchase Games Tickets			
£27/1/-)				Games Entertainment (at Col. Doigs)			
Kings Park Kerbing Fund Donations	12	15	0	Kings Park			
				Administration			
				Anzac Day	63	13	3
				Less Receipts	59	10	0
				Deposit, Hall for Cabaret 1/10/1963			
				Loss on Sale of Com. Bond Face Value	£350		
				Funds as at 31/5/63:			
				Com. Savings Bank	161	18	4
				Com. Reserve Account	157	9	4
				Com. Bonds Face Value	500	0	0
				Loans	45	0	0
					864	7	8
					£1,562	3	9

Victorian Vocal Venturings

Our Anzac Day Re-union was a good success although it would have been better if we had seen more of our own members. Quite a few familiar faces were missing, and it appears that having sports on this day is making a big difference to our attendance which is a great pity. From the point of view of the weather it was just a day, but the rain didn't start until the march was over.

The break-up of attendance was as follows: 29 of our own members, five associate members, nine guests of members, etc., eight No. 2 Coy boys, 27 from other Independent Coys and M.Z. Special. So you can see that only 29 of our own members was a poor response especially when a lot of work goes into this function and it is also the main one each year. It's not very encouraging to the organisers and I only hope that we get better support in future.

It was good to see Boy Coates. He came down from Culgoa. Hitched his way down to Bendigo where Kev Curran brought him down. Boy brought me up to date with his family for our Christmas Party. I had a couple missing. Good to see the steady production. Incidentally what happened to you, Kevin? Your party made the re-union but you were very conspicuous by your absence. Did you drown your sorrows in Hawthorn's defeat elsewhere?

Stan Wepner also came down from the country looking as well as ever and it was good to see him again.

Geof Laidlaw had his father (down from Sydney) with him. He is 83 years old and an amazing old chap, bright as a button and held his own with the drinkers and it was good to talk with him.

We played the tape from the West which was taped at their re-union dinner last November and it was a great success, but a lot of the chaps who were mentioned in messages were not present so we will play it again later.

The following were present of

our own and associate members: Bert Tobin, Jim Wall, George Humphries, Johnny Roberts, Freddy Broadhurst, George Kennedy, Bruce McLaren, Bill Tucker, Major Love, Geoff Laidlaw and Dad, Dave Dexter, M. A. M. Smith, Paul Costello, George Veitch, Norm Baxter, Ken Monk, Leigh Cooper, Johnny Southwell, Pete Krause, Alex Boast Alan Munro, Boy Coates, Des Williams, Stan Wepner, Baldy Baldwin, Bill Davidson, Ray Splatt, Wally Wiggins, Alf Grachan, John Robertson, Vin Bristow, Dick Ellem, John Jennings (Uncle John on 3UL) of 1st Coy.

Geoff Laidlaw gave the address at our little ceremony and gave a very good history of our Unit from its inception till the end of hostilities and our thanks to Geoff for his fine effort. Major Love laid the wreath. He is a grand old man and looks forward to this event every year. Bruce McLaren did the honours of looking after the Major, and also a very able job of the ceremony.

Jim Wall who is doing a mighty job as Treasurer, has given me a statement of receipts and expenditure on the Anzac Day function which is included below and our members will be able to see just what is involved in organising this day, bearing in mind that we do not plan to make a profit on this day, but that every member should be able to come along and enjoy himself, regardless of cost.

Ray Spatt would like the Editor to note that his address is 460 Toorak Road, Toorak, and would also like to have an Address Book sent on to him. Also please note that Johnny Roberts' address is 75 (not 57) Nicholson St., East Coburg.

I received a telegram from Lionel Newton of Broken Hill, as follows: "Best wishes for successful Re-union tomorrow." Thanks Lionel, and I only hope that you may be able to come down one day and say hello.

Well folks, that's all the news for now so until next time all the best.
—HARRY BOTTERILL.

VICTORIAN BRANCH ANZAC DAY RE-UNION 1963

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE

	£	s.	d.
RECEIPTS: Contributions towards cost of refreshments	50	14	9
Less EXPENDITURE:			
Cost of Catering, Liquid Refreshments	30	0	9
Food	10	17	1
Less sale of surplus food	1	12	0
Table Decorations	9	5	1
	11	10	
Profit on Catering	39	17	8
Profit on Raffle, Bottle of Scotch	10	17	1
Receipts	10	2	3
Less cost of prize	1	15	9
Profit on sale of Cigarettes	8	6	6
Receipts	1	5	0
Less cost of cigarettes	1	2	9
	2	3	
	8	8	9
NETT PROFIT	£19	5	10

J. P. WALL, Hon. Treasurer.

Random Harvest

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

As you are probably aware by this letter writing is not my greatest virtue by a long shot but this note is a must.

Thanks muchly for the Esso booklet. It is a real beauty and we sure have used it up these last couple of weeks. As you say it will serve as a memento of the trip but believe you me we don't need anything to remind us.

That is one trip we will all remember. In fact I'm sure some of our Eastern friends are getting a bit sick of the way we rave on about the West. That is those that have never been there.

You started your letter by thanking us for making the trip West. Boy! You take it from me the boot is on the other foot. It is our place to offer heartfelt thanks for the wonderful time you gave us.

We have had quite a few nights with pictures of the trip. Some good, some not so good, but all of them bringing back a little of the wonderful time we had.

You will be pleased to know that the Swan and Emu didn't completely spoil our taste for Vic and we all can still take a little medicine now and then.

We managed to get a few cans back as far as Adelaide and, rather cruelly perhaps, had a few with the mighty Tapper. It did seem to me that he had a faraway look in his eye as he sipped.

After leaving Perth we headed south and had a look at the big timber country. Unfortunately we holed our petrol tank and the only place we could get a replacement was at Albany so we had to hurry our trip a bit more than we intended.

That, and a couple of blowouts, were the only bits of trouble we had in over 7,000 miles so we were quite happy with that side of the show.

Gee, Col, I hope you and Jack can make the trip over next year. I am some 150 miles from Melbourne but if you have the time would love to have you both up for a few days. We are only an

afternoon's ride from Jim Griffin so if you can make it we could dig him up perhaps.

I am enclosing a small cheque for the Kings Park Scheme funds to try in some small way to show our appreciation of the great job you chaps have done. This is a community show from Grace, Pete, Jack and self. It is not much but may help.

Well, guess I had better not tax your eyes too much so will sign off now.

Please give our regards to your good wife, Gerry and Lal Green, Bill and Jess Epps, Jack Carey and any others that you happen to see.

Grace sends her love and hopes your garden has recovered from the battering it took during the Games.

PETER BARDEN, 6GN, P.O. Box 310, Geraldton, writes:—

Referring to the sudden death of W/Officer Jack "Gunner" Brown, at Singleton, N.S.W., his sister (Mrs. D. Curley) lives almost opposite us and is often visited by her mother who naturally was very interested in your reference to the cigarette lighter when she and my wife Joan got into conversation earlier tonight. Mrs. Brown would appreciate any information concerning the cigarette lighter (including where it was found), and, of course, would be delighted to receive it, if this is at all possible. Perhaps you will be in a position to reply direct to Mrs. Brown, c/- 3 Dampier St., Geraldton, before the next "Courier" is printed.

We experienced a very enjoyable weekend during the May holidays when for the first time since leaving Harvey at the end of 1952, we met Arthur Marshall and his family who were on holiday at Geraldton. We had them around home for a noggin or two on the Saturday night and then met them at the football the next day. Arthur and his wife Audrey, don't look a year older, except that their family is springing up. Arthur helped us "urge on" my team, Brigades (I'm their Immediate Past Secretary and my eldest son, Ross, plays for them) to an easy win over Towns (captained by former State player Ray Richards). Incidentally, last

Sunday we annihilated Irwin with an all-time record score of 39.19 to 2.3.

Arthur Marshall was able to have a good yarn with some of the Geraldton and Northampton chaps against whom he played Country Week Cricket. I heard him recalling when he took eight wickets for not many runs.

The Marshall family made my regional news bulletin when their daughter (I'm a terrible one for names) came within inches of a shark when swimming. Arthur, too, hit 6GN radio station headlines when I arranged for him to be interviewed by our rural officer.

You no doubt will have heard about the discovery of an ancient wreck at the Abrolhos Islands by the President of the Geraldton Skin Diving Club, Max Cramer. It is a story with which I had a complete news scoop and as a result of which I made the National news bulletin a full day before it came out in the newspapers. I actually had the story five days before I came out with it, but was working in with Cramer on the understanding that it would be a news scoop for me when he was ready to make the announcement. I can tell you now, that it is the wreck of the 334 year old Dutch trading ship "Batavia". The copper cannon they brought back is a beauty, and the fact that it is the only copper cannon found in a wreck off the Australian coast makes the discovery a truly historic one. We know plenty more about relics found by Max Cramer's expedition, but these details are being kept quiet for the time being. A human skeleton unearthed by the same expedition was no surprise, because 133 men, women and children were murdered by would-be mutineers after the "Batavia" had been wrecked.

I had a few noggins with "Irish" (John) Hopkins when Brigades foot ballers defeated Mullewa at Mullewa a few weeks ago, but he has since shifted back to Morawa. It's up to you now, Irish, to let Col Doig know your correct address for the sake of the valuable Address Book (as evidenced by the 16 changes of address notified in the last "Courier").

I must be away now as duty calls. Kind regards to all the boys.